



Up To Now!

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ENCLOSED FOR ALL RECIPIENTS

Enclosed for all recipients of this *Up To Now* is a copy of the Official Call for the 2007 Spring District Conventions of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

Please ensure that all members are aware of the fact that District Commanders will be elected for two-year terms in **odd-numbered** Districts, County Commanders will be elected for all counties that do not have established county organizations, and two delegates and two alternate delegates to the National Convention in Reno, NV will be elected in each District.

ENCLOSED FOR ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for Adjutants is a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Department Administrative and Executive Committee which were held at the Midwinter Conference in Huron, February 23 and February 25.

Also enclosed for Adjutants is a copy of the entry form for the 2007 American Legion Baseball season. If your Post will field a team this year, the yellow-colored entry form must be completed with the name, address and phone number of the Post Athletic Officer.

The completed form, \$100 entry fee and certificate of insurance must be sent so that they reach State Headquarters by May 15, 2007. The registration fee will increase to \$150 for entries received between May 16-31, and \$200 for entries received between June 1-15. Teams not registered by June 15, 2007 will be ineligible for post-season tournament competition.

Teams will not be allowed to register until they prove that they have insurance, which is mandated by Department and National rules. As a reminder - your team should not even commence practice until they have the required insurance. All teams sponsored by the Post must be registered.

Once a team is registered, State Headquarters will send a copy of the National and Department Rule Books, plus pertinent information to the person named as the Post Athletic Officer.

MIDWINTER IS DECLARED SUCCESS

Members of The American Legion Family converged upon the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Event Center in Huron, SD February 23-25 for the 36th Annual Midwinter Conference.

State Commander Gunner Baatrup has declared the conference a success. Despite the threat of a heavy snowstorm, the dedicated members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion came out in sufficient numbers to ensure the success of another Midwinter conference.

David Rehbein of the Department of Iowa, candidate for National Commander of The American Legion for 2008-2009, conducted his campaign visit to the Department of South Dakota in conjunction with the conference. Rehbein attended the Go-Getters Social, Smorgasbord and the Past Commander's Banquet on Friday; the Joint Opening Session and the full general session of the Legion on Saturday and served as the keynote speaker for the Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Banquet on Saturday evening.

The Department Administrative Committee met on Friday and the Department Executive Committee met on Friday and again on Sunday

at this year's conference. Minutes of all meetings of the Administrative and Executive Committees are enclosed with this *Up To Now*.

The Department wishes to express its gratitude to William F. Reaves American Legion Post 7 of Huron for hosting the event and extends a special Thank You to Post 7 Commander Keith Schrader and Unit 7 President Mavis Leif.

IN MEMORY OF RON KAZMIERCZAK'S MOTHER

Department Headquarters is saddened to report the death of Stella Piwkiewicz, mother of Department Membership Chairman Ron Kazmierczak.

Stella Piwkiewicz was a Past President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 369 in Indiana and was a member of The American Legion Auxiliary for 48 years. Membership Chairman Kazmierczak has requested that a donation be made to The American Legion Department of South Dakota Children and Youth Fund in her memory in lieu of flowers being sent.

Condolences, cards and messages of sympathy can be sent to Ron Kazmierczak at his home at 23569 Camp 15 Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.

IN MEMORY OF BOB BENDER'S MOTHER

Department Headquarters is saddened to report the death of Violet Bender, mother of SAL Detachment of South Dakota Commander Bob Bender.

A donation has been made to The American Legion Department of South Dakota Children and Youth Fund in her memory in lieu of flowers being sent.

Condolences, cards and messages of sympathy can be sent to Bob Bender at his home at PO Box 64, Hartford, SD 57033.

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORY CONTEST FINALS

The 2007 South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Contest Finals were postponed from February 25 until March 4 due to a snowstorm the weekend of February 24-25. The final competition was held March 4. The results were as follows:

First Place – Zoey DeWolf of Lead, a senior at Lead-Deadwood High School, receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

Second Place – Meg Henrickson of Yankton, a sophomore at Yankton High School, receives a \$500 scholarship.

Third Place – Toby Harter of Colome, a senior at Colome High School, receives a \$300 scholarship.

Fourth Place – Alex Robertson of Watertown, a senior at Watertown High School, receives a \$100 scholarship.

Fifth Place – Ben Kantack of Brookings, a junior at Brookings High School, receives a \$100 scholarship.

Zoey DeWolf will now represent The American Legion Department of South Dakota in the National American Legion High School Oratorical Contest which will be held at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis Conference Center & Hotel in Indianapolis, IN, April 14-15, 2007. DeWolf will be eligible for up to \$18,000 in additional scholarships depending upon how she places in the national finals competition.

SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

CONTINUED ON BACK

The schedule for the 2007 Spring District Conventions of The American Legion Department of South Dakota has been set. The following information is provided for planning purposes:

Dist 1 - Saturday, April 21 in Hudson at the Hudson American Legion Post Home. Meetings will be held at 2:00 p.m.; Legion at the Post Home, Auxiliary at the Lutheran Church. There will be a luncheon after the meetings.

Dist 2 - Friday, April 20 in Volga at the Meadow Creek Golf Course. There will be a social at 6:30 p.m. and a banquet at 7:00 p.m. at the Meadow Creek Golf Course. Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m.; Legion at the Golf Course, Auxiliary at the Volga Community Center.

Dist 3 - Thursday, April 26 in Watertown at Watertown American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Post Home. Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m.; Legion at the Legion Post Home, Auxiliary at the Watertown VFW Post Home.

Dist 4 - Friday, April 27 in Big Stone City at the Big Stone City American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:00 p.m. and a banquet at 6:00 p.m. at the Post Home. Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m.; both Legion and Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post Home.

Dist 5 - Thursday, April 19 in Conde at the Conde American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:00 p.m. and a banquet at 6:00 p.m. at the Post Home. Meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m.; both Legion and Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Post Home.

Dist 6 - Saturday, March 31 in Wessington Springs at the Wessington Springs American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 6:00 p.m. There will not be a banquet. Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m.; Legion at Post Home, Auxiliary at the Community Room in the Court House. Coffee and snacks will be served after the meeting at the Legion Post Home.

Dist 7 - Thursday, March 29 in Wagner at the Wagner American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 6:00 p.m. and a banquet at 7:00 p.m. in the Legion Post Home. Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m.; Legion at Post Home, Auxiliary at the Wagner United Methodist Church, 406 1st St. SW.

Dist 8 - Friday, March 30 in Dallas at the Dallas American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:15 p.m. and a banquet at 6:00 p.m. All events and the meetings will be in the American Legion Post Home.

Dist 9 - Monday, April 16 in Martin at the Martin American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Legion will meet at the Post Home; Auxiliary will announce the place for their meeting at the banquet.

Dist 10 - Wednesday, April 11 in Pierre at the Pierre American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:00 p.m. and a banquet at 6:00 p.m. Meetings will be at 7:00 p.m.; Legion at the Legion Post Home, Auxiliary in a place to be announced.

Dist 11 - Friday, April 13 in Isabel at the Senior Citizen Center. A banquet will be held at 5:30 p.m. Meetings will be at 7:00 p.m.; both the Legion and Auxiliary meetings will be at the Senior Citizen Center.

Dist 12 - Saturday, April 14 in Sturgis at the Sturgis Vets Club. There will be light lunch, snacks and beverages available at the Vets Club starting at 1:00 p.m. There will not be a banquet. Meetings will be held at 2:00 p.m.; both Legion and Auxiliary will meet at the Vets Club.

Dist 13 - Sunday, April 15 in Hot Springs at the Hot Springs American Legion Post Home. The lounge will be open for socializing prior to the meetings. Meetings will be held at 2:00 p.m.; Legion at the Legion Post Home, Auxiliary will meet at the State Veterans Home or at Brookside. There will be soup, sandwiches, and bars available for donations after the meetings at the Post Home.

Dist 14 - Thursday, April 12 in Roscoe at the Roscoe American Legion Post Home. There will be a social at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Post Home. Meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m.; Legion at the Post Home, Auxiliary at the Fire Hall on North Main St.

TEN TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Seven South Dakota Legionnaires have been called to Washington, D. C. to attend the Forty-Seventh Annual Washington Conference of The American Legion. The conference will open at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday,

March 4, 2007 at the Renaissance, Washington D.C. Hotel.

Those called to participate in the conference include NEC Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls, PDC Bill Dolan of Beresford (Public Relations Commission), PDC Gerald Goetzinger of Martin (Vice Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee), PDC Don Mason of Platte (Internal Affairs Commission), Alt NEC Larry Price of Redfield (Vice Chairman of the Americanism Commission), PDC Gene Schumacher of Aberdeen (Employment Committee), and PDC Ron Tolrud of White (Children and Youth Commission). Also attending the conference will be Department Commander Gunner Baatrup of Huron and Department Adjutant Ron Boyd of Watertown. DSO Warren Aas of Watertown is already in Washington, attending the Annual Department Service Officer School.

Tuesday, March 6, has been designated as Hill Day. On that day, the members of the SD American Legion Delegation will travel to Capitol Hill where they are scheduled to meet with the three members of the SD Congressional Delegation - Senator John Thune, Senator Tim Johnson, and Representative Stephanie Herseth. Due to the health of Senator Tim Johnson, the Legionnaires will meet with members of his staff. During these visits, the Legionnaires will provide the members of the Congressional Delegation with a listing of The American Legion's legislative priorities for the coming year.

HATS IN THE RING

The following Post endorsements have been received, in addition to those previously reported, for candidates for offices in The American Legion Department of South Dakota:

William H. Crippen American Legion Post 62 of Humboldt has endorsed Doug Meyer of Humboldt for the office of State Vice Commander for the Area comprised of Districts 1 and 7.

Codington County American Legion Post 17 of Watertown has endorsed Byron Callies of Watertown for the office of District 3 Commander.

Battle Creek American Legion Post 303 of Hermosa has endorsed LuVerne Boes of Hermosa for the office of District 13 Commander.

FROM PIERRE

The 2007 South Dakota Legislative Session 39th day will be March 6. The legislature will then go into a two week recess prior to returning to Pierre on March 26th for the final (40th) day. This day is reserved for dealing with vetoes from the Governor. January 30th was the final day to introduce individual bills and joint resolutions; January 31st was the final day to introduce committee bills and joint resolutions. February 16th (28th day) was the final day for a bill or joint resolution to pass the house of origin; March 1st is the final day for a bill or resolution to pass both houses of the legislature.

In order to save space a full description of the legislative bills is not being printed in this *Up To Now*. Bill titles and descriptions of the bills can be found on the SD Legislative Research Councils webpage or the reader can reference the *Up To Now* No. 2942, dated February 7, 2007.

HB 1003 - Signed by the Governor.

HB 1010 - Signed by the Governor.

HB 1011 - Signed by the Governor.

HB 1012 - Signed by the Governor.

HB 1081 - Signed by the Governor.

HB 1187 - Passed both the House and Senate - sent to the Governor.

HB 1192 - Tabled in House Appropriations Committee.

HB 1202 - Failed to pass the House (25-42).

HB 1204 - Signed by the Governor.

HC 1002 - Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

SB 96 - Passed the Senate and House - sent to the Governor.

SB 179 - Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 185 - Amended in House Appropriations (decreased for \$1,000,000 to \$800,000), passed the Senate and House - sent to the Governor.

SB 196 - Killed in House Health and Human Services Committee.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2007 membership stands at 24,202 or 93 percent of the Department's 2007 membership goal.