



Up To Now!

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ENCLOSED FOR COMMANDERS

Enclosed for Commanders is a copy of the entry form for the 2007 American Legion Baseball season. If your Post will field a baseball 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, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201, by May 15, 2007. The fee will be \$150 for registrations received May 16-31, 2007 and \$200 for registrations received June 1-15, 2007. Teams not registered by June 15, 2007, will be ineligible for post-season tournament competition.

Teams will not be allowed to register until they provide proof that they have insurance, which is mandated by Department and National Rules. All teams sponsored by the Post must be registered and must have insurance.

Also enclosed is a brochure "April is Children & Youth Month". "Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource" is The American Legion's national theme for Children & Youth Month. We encourage your use and support of this theme in the promotion of all Children & Youth programs.

The American Legion and Auxiliary have been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1900's. In many instances, we have been the driving force on the federal, state and local levels representing their interests and voicing our concerns.

ENCLOSED FOR ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for Adjutants is a blank copy of the 2006-2007 Consolidated Post Report which should be filled out by ALL POSTS and returned to State Headquarters in Watertown.

The Consolidated Post Report is one of the most important documents that your Post can complete and submit. The form may appear complicated and look like it takes a lot of time and effort to complete – but if your Post has kept fairly good records during the course of the past year you will find that it is quite easy to compile the information required. Your Post is not expected to have something to report in each and every category or on every line of the report. We only ask that you report on the information that pertains to your Post.

REMINDER: The submission of the CPR is one of the seven mandatory items required to be designated as a Dakota Dream Post. The deadline for submitting Consolidated Post Reports to State Headquarters in Watertown is June 1, 2007.

Also enclosed is a letter and entry form from Department Historian Charemon Dunham for Posts entering the One-Year Post Narrative History and One-Year Post Yearbook Contests. The deadline for entering the contest is Friday, June 1, 2007. If you are unable to meet the deadline, please contact Historian Dunham at the phone number included in the letter.

DISTRICTS WIN MEMBERSHIP PLEDGES

In July of 2006, Commander Baatrup asked each District Commander to make a pledge as to where their individual District's would be in their membership drive by the 2007 MidWinter Conference. Commander Baatrup announced that he had divided the Districts into five categories based on their membership goals and that the District that pledged the highest percentage of membership by the February 24th date, and met that pledge could receive \$250 in cash - to be used for any pur-

pose that the District desired. If the District that pledged the highest percentage did not attain the percentage pledged, then the award would default to the next highest District within that category. If none of the Districts in a particular category reached their pledge, then the award would not be made.

The winners are: Category I, District 7 at 96.66% (surpassed their bid of 95%); Category II, District 2 at 96.53% (surpassed their bid of 93%); Category III, District 14 at 94.48% (surpassed their bid of 94%); Category IV, District 13 at 94.41% (surpassed their bid of 92%); and Category V, District 12 at 98.96% (surpassed their bid of 92%).

The winner amongst the Vice Commanders is Bernard Rolstad at 94.71% (surpassed his bid of 93.6%) for the area comprised of Districts 3, 4 and 14.

Congratulations to the winners. The \$250 awards will be presented at the Spring District Meetings.

REACH THE SUMMIT AWARDS

72 Posts within the Department have attained 100% or more of their 2007 Membership Goal. Each of these Posts will receive a special "Reach the Summit" membership award at the 2007 Department Convention in Spearfish.

DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE HAS NEW CONTENT

The *Up To Now* and the Department Memberships Statistics are now available on the Department webpage at www.sdlegion.org. Membership statistics are updated weekly, on Thursday. The statistics are Post by Post within the Districts and also provided District and Area standings.

LEGION BIRTHDAY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

District 12 is the only District to qualify for the District Membership Award that is a \$250 cash award for the District in each of two goal-size groups that has enrolled the largest percentage over the District's 2007 membership goal. The \$250 cash award will be presented at the 2007 Department Convention in Spearfish.

Membership statistics as of the Legion Birthday Target Date are used to determine State Convention Hall Seating and parade positions. District 12 will be entitled to the best seats in the convention hall for having the highest percentage of their membership goal by this target date. The remainder of the Districts will be seated in the following order starting immediately behind District 12 to the back of the convention hall: Dist 8, 13, 7, 2, 3, 1, 14, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 9.

One hundred and twenty nine Posts within the Department have qualified for the awarding of the Post Go-Getter Medallion that is awarded to each Post that reaches or exceeds 95% of its assigned membership goal by The American Legion Birthday.

Parade banners have been won by 5 Posts and one District. These banners will be awarded at the State Convention in Spearfish in June to be carried in the convention parade this year. New Underwood Post 256 will lead the parade and receive the "Leading the Way" banner in recognition of having attained the highest percentage of goal of all Posts within the Department by the Legion Birthday Target Date. New Underwood attained 130% of goal.

Other banners to be awarded to the highest percentage of goal in each of the four other goal-size groups include: Volga Post 114 with 106.98% in the 75-124 goal-size group, Piedmont Post 311 with 117.71% in the 125-199 goal-size group, Webster Post 40 with 105.10% in the 200-299 goal-size group, and Winner Post 169 with 101.27% in the 300 and larger goal-size group.

CONTINUED ON BACK

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mark Ridder of Sioux Falls who has been selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota Eagle Scout of the Year for 2007. Mark is a senior at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls and has been involved in scouting for 12 years.

Mark Ridder qualifies for nomination as The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year based on the membership of his grandfather, Norman Kube, an American Legion member for 6 years in Post 128 in Nebraska.

Active in school activities, Mark was Homecoming King, member of the National Honor Society, National Forensics League, lettered in cross-country and track, and plays percussion in the concert band, marching band, jazz band and drum line.

Within the community he is a member of the Sioux Falls Youth Advisory Council, participates in the Sioux Falls Community Foundation, and the Sioux Falls Banquet. He is active in his church in the Saint Mary Youth Group, Saint Mary Youth Choir and Cantor, the O'Gorman Students for Life Group, and was a nominee for the Generosity Award and the recipient of the Spirit of Michael Sieverding Leadership Award.

Mark's Eagle Scout project was to create a cement patio that would be available for church and school gatherings in a steeply graded area of lawn adjoining the Church pastor's rectory. Enlisting the assistance of his dad, his pastor, two other men and a group of his friends, he designed and built a ¼ circle patio with a 20 foot radius. The area around the patio was landscaped with grass, perennials and shrubs. With the assistance of his father and another adult, he designed, built and installed a metal railing around the circumference of the patio.

Mark's nomination has been forwarded to The American Legion National Headquarters for competition in the National American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.

BOYS STATE DEADLINE RAPIDLY APPROACHING

April 2 is the deadline for all fees and registrations for delegates to the 2007 session of The South Dakota American Legion Boys State to be in the hands of the Registrar, Gene Schumacher of Aberdeen.

The fees and registration forms should be sent to Schumacher at 924 N. Main St., Aberdeen, SD 57401. The registration fee of \$150 is required with the registration of each boy this year.

Boys selected for Journalism City at the 2007 Boys State session do not count against the regular quota system, which is based upon enrollment figures sent in January with information and registration forms to all schools and directly to those American Legion Posts which are located in a community that does not have a local high school.

RESOLUTIONS DADLINES

The deadlines are also approaching for resolutions that are to be considered during the 2007 State American Legion Convention in Spearfish, June 7-10.

Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Dakota American Legion Constitution and By-Laws must reach State Headquarters at least six (6) weeks prior to the convention. To meet this deadline, those resolutions must reach Watertown by Friday, April 27, 2007. This will allow adequate time for the Department Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws to consider any proposed changes and transmit that committee's recommendations to the local Posts from State Headquarters.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be scheduled to meet at State Headquarters on Saturday, April 28, 2007 to consider any resolutions that are submitted.

General resolutions should be submitted to State Headquarters by Monday, June 4, 2007. All general resolutions will be reviewed by the Convention Resolutions Committee, which will then assign the resolutions to the appropriate convention committee. The Convention Resolutions Committee will have its initial meeting to assign resolutions during the morning of Friday, June 8, 2007 in Spearfish.

All resolutions must be typewritten, double-spaced and two copies must be submitted to State Headquarters. Post officials must certify that each resolution was adopted during a regular Post meeting, with the date of the meeting in the resolved clause of the resolution, and the resolutions

must be signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant.

INVITATIONS TO HOST STATE CONVENTION/MIDWINTER

Invitations are being accepted from Posts wishing to host the 2010 South Dakota American Legion State Convention and the 2008/2009 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conferences.

The offers must be submitted in writing by the prospective host Post, signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant. Invitations must reach State Headquarters in Watertown by Monday, June 4, 2007.

Invitations should consider all available facilities and accommodations. The Convention Next Meeting Place Committee will consider the invitations during its convention meeting at the State Convention in Spearfish on Friday afternoon, June 8, 2007.

Information for compiling an invitation and actual bid forms are available from State Headquarters in Watertown. Posts must follow the directions provided to be eligible to bid for these activities. Verbal invitations will not be accepted at the Convention Next Meeting Place review of the bids/invitations.

Invitations should be submitted to the State Adjutant, American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201.

SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS START MARCH 29

Spring District Conventions are scheduled to commence on Thursday, March 29, when Legionnaires from District 7 assemble in Wagner. The first segment of the District Convention tour will continue through Saturday, March 31. Other District Conventions scheduled during the first segment include: District 8 in Dallas on Friday, March 30; and District 6 in Wessington Springs on Saturday, March 31. For a detailed schedule please refer to the March 7 edition of the *Up To Now*.

There are no District Conventions scheduled during the following week due to Easter.

District Conventions will re-commence on Wednesday, April 11 when District 10 meets in Pierre; Thursday, April 12 with District 14 in Roscoe; Friday April 13 with District 11 in Isabel; Saturday, April 14 with District 12 in Sturgis; Sunday, April 15 with District 13 in Hot Springs; and Monday, April 16 with District 9 in Martin.

CERTIFICATION OF POST OFFICERS

Post Adjutants are reminded that they have a responsibility to certify the Post's 2008 officers to Department Headquarters in Watertown. This certification process is one of the last official duties of the outgoing Post Adjutant. The form for certifying your 2008 Post Officers can be found in the 2006-2007 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual. Immediately after page 11 in that manual there is a white-colored page that explains the certification process and the next page is the green-colored Post Officer Certification form. This form will also be available on the SD American Legion webpage – www.sdlegion.org - in the not-too-distant future.

Newly elected Post officers will not be placed on mailing lists at State or National Headquarters, nor will they be recognized as Post Officers by either headquarters until they have been certified. Additionally, Posts will not receive their 2008 membership cards until this certification process is completed.

Complete information requested on the Officer Certification form is required. All blanks must be filled in. We cannot certify your Post Officers without their dates of service (enlistment and discharge dates). We must have complete mailing addresses, phone numbers, Legion Membership ID #, and we would certainly appreciate having the officer's email address if one is available. All Post Officers who are being certified must be Members In Good Standing – this means they must have already paid their 2007 membership dues. If any of this information is missing, including the payment of 2007 membership dues, your officers will not be certified.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2007 membership stands at 24,413 or 93.81 percent of the Department's 2007 membership goal.