



# Up To Now!

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## PDC SCHNEIDER TRANSFERS TO POST EVERLASTING

State Headquarters has been informed that Past Department Commander Joseph Schneider passed away Saturday, March 24, 2007 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, March 27, at Christy-Smith Morningside Chapel in Sioux City. Burial and services will take place at a later date in Mitchell, SD.

Joe was born on October 10, 1912 in New York, NY. He traveled on the Orphan Train to the Midwest at the age of two and was adopted and raised by Nick and Susie Schneider near Conde, SD.

He served in the US Army during World War II as an Army Medic on the 144<sup>th</sup> Medical Train in Europe. Upon returning from the war, he began his career with Standard Oil which he pursued until his retirement in 1973.

Joe Schneider was a 62-year member of The American Legion. He served as Department Commander of The American Legion Department of South Dakota in 1967-68. Active in many Veteran Service Organizations, he also served as Commander of the Mitchell VFW and the DAV.

Survivors include his daughters, JoAnn and Joe White of Omaha and Noreen Eskildsen of Sioux City, IA, three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; his adopted daughter, Sandy Rehan; two sisters, Eva Trize of Los Angeles and Gertrude Waldner of Baker, California. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55-years, Lillian.

## DISTRICT CONVENTIONS ARE UNDER WAY

2007 Spring District Conventions commenced at the end of March when the first of the 14 District Conventions was held in Wagner on Thursday, March 28. By week's end, the conventions had been held in 3 of the Department's 14 Districts.

This week, the Spring District meetings will be interrupted by Easter week and then recommence on Wednesday, with 6 additional District meetings; on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> District 10 will meet in Pierre; Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> District 14 will meet in Roscoe; Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> District 11 will meet in Isabel; Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> District 12 will meet in Sturgis; Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> District 13 will meet in Hot Springs; and, Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> District 9 will meet in Martin.

Following a few days off to rest and relax, the traveling team will then return to the road on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> when District 5 meets in Conde, followed by Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> with District 2 in Volga and Saturday, April 21 when District 1 meets in Hudson.

The final week of Spring District Conventions will find Legionnaires from District 3 meeting in Watertown on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and District 4 meeting in Big Stone City on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## DISTRICT AND COUNTY ELECTIONS

This year at the Spring District Conventions, District Commanders and Vice Commanders are being elected to two-year terms in the odd numbered districts. Additionally, County Commanders are being elected to one-year terms in all districts unless those leaders have already been named by an established county council.

Wesley Rye of Yankton (member of Irene Post 193) and James Hornstra of Springfield Post 132 were elected to two-year terms as District Commander and District Vice Commander, respectively, March 29<sup>th</sup> during the annual District 7 Convention in Wagner.

Elected as County Commanders were the following individuals:

March 29 (District 7 at Wagner) – Leonard Cimpl of Tabor, Bon Homme County; Jay Youngbluth of Wagner, Charles Mix County; Rich-

ard Stensaas of Vermillion, Clay County; Roy King of Armour, Douglas County; Clarence Lehr of Tripp, Hutchinson County; and Don List of Yankton, Yankton County.

March 30 (District 8 at Dallas) – Vic Hoffart of Gregory, Gregory County; Wayne Monson of Reliance, Lyman County; and Art Gealow of Winner, Tripp County.

March 31 (District 6 at Wessington Springs) – Stanley Bult of Corsica, Aurora County; Eugene Hamilton of Mitchell (member of Kimball Post 130), Brule County; Charles Summers of Mitchell, Davison County; George Tapken of Alpena (member of Wessington Springs Post 14), Jerauld County; Joe Christensen of Spencer (member of Bridgewater Post 111), McCook County; and Howard Moore of Artesian, Sanborn County. Buffalo and Hanson County were not represented at the convention and County Commanders for those counties will be elected and reported at a later date.

## DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRES OF THE YEAR

Department Commander Gunner Baatrup is recognizing those Legionnaires who have been chosen by their Posts for providing outstanding support to the programs and projects of The American Legion as he travels the State of South Dakota conducting the Spring District Conventions. One of these outstanding Post Legionnaires is being selected by the leadership of each District to be recognized as the District Legionnaire of the Year. Those selected thus far during the Spring District Conventions are:

District 6 – Clyde Puetz of Ethan

District 7 – Verlin VanderWal of Corsica

District 8 – Don Ring of Colome

Congratulations to the above listed individuals who are now eligible for selection as Department Legionnaire of the Year at the State Convention in Spearfish, June 7-10.

## RESOLUTION DEADLINES ARE NEARING

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

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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. Post 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.

#### **CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS**

National Commander Paul Morin and Department Commander Gunner Bastrup are both urging more Posts to submit the Consolidated Post Reports this year. Historically, less than 50% of the Posts in the Nation and this Department submit the annual report. This report is utilized by National Headquarters to compile the annual report that is provided to congress to report on the activities of The American Legion.

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.

The Consolidated Post Report form was sent to all Adjutants with the last edition of the *Up To Now*. Additional copies of the form may be downloaded from The American Legion Department of South Dakota webpage at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

#### **SIX ARE CALLED TO INDIANAPOLIS**

Six South Dakota Legionnaires will be at National Headquarters in Indianapolis during the period May 6-10 for Spring Committee/Commission meetings.

Called to Indianapolis were, National Chaplain Stan Gruneich of Flandreau, National Executive Committeeman Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls, Alt NEC Larry Price of Redfield (Vice Chairman of the National Americanism Commission), National Convention Committee Member Glenn R. Green of Pierre, Internal Affairs Commission member Don Mason of Platte and Ron Tolrud of White (General Member of the Children and Youth Commission for Region 6).

#### **DAKOTA DREAM POST**

Enclosed for all recipients of this *Up To Now* is a copy of the application that must be submitted to document that your Post has satisfied the requirements to be designated a "Dakota Dream Post".

The requirements are outlined on the enclosed application. The deadline for satisfying the qualifications is June 1 and the deadline for submitting the applications is June 15. Due to the fact that the State Convention is scheduled for early June this year, the Dakota Dream Post plaques will

be awarded during the Fall District Conferences.

Additional applications may be obtained by visiting the SD American Legion Webpage at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org) and clicking on the menu choice for "FORMS".

#### **CERTIFICATION OF 2008 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 SD American Legion Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Immediately behind page 11 in that manual there is a white sheet that explains the certification process and the very next page is the green-colored Post Officer Certification Form.

Newly elected Post Officers will not be placed on mailing lists by 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 form is required. All blanks must be filled in. We cannot certify officers without their dates of service (enlistment and discharge dates). We must have complete mailing addresses, phone numbers, Legion membership ID #, and would appreciate having the officer's email address if they have one.

All members being certified must be members in good standing – this means they must have already paid their 2007 membership dues. If any information is missing, including the payment of 2007 membership dues, your officers will not be certified.

#### **PARADE AT STATE CONVENTION**

It has been brought to the attention of Department Headquarters that the article in the March edition of the *SD Legion News* caused some confusion regarding the parade for the State Legion Convention in Spearfish this year. The parade was mentioned in two different sections of the article and each section had the parade being held on a different day.

The parade will be held on Friday, June 8, after the convention committees have adjourned. It is scheduled for line-up at 3:30 p.m. and step-off at 4:00 p.m.

State Headquarters apologizes for any confusion this erroneous reporting may have caused.

Those Posts wishing to have an entry in the parade should contact the Parade Chairman, Dave Bertch at 642-2321 or drop him a note at 619 Custer St., Spearfish, SD 57783.

#### **HEADQUARTERS TO BE CLOSED**

South Dakota American Legion State Headquarters office, located in the Codington County Court House in Watertown, will be closed for Good Friday, on April 6. The office will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 and reopen for business on Monday, April 9 at 8:00 a.m.

The staff at State Headquarters wish all of you a Happy Easter.

#### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2007 membership stands at 24,490 or 94.11 percent of the Department's 2007 membership goal.