



Up To Now!

Dennis Brenden – Department Adjutant
www.sdlegion.org – Email: sdlegion@dailypost.com



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ENCLOSED TO POST COMMANDERS

Enclosed to all Post Commanders is a nominating form and letter from State Employment Chairman Gary Warne requesting that your Post nominate an Employer of the Disabled. Nominations must be in the hands of Chairman Warne by December 15, 2009.

KEEP YOUR TAX EXEMPTION

Post officials are reminded to file IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, for the fiscal year. In most cases, a Post's fiscal year is from election to election, or April to April. If the form is not sent to Posts, the forms are available from your nearest IRS office.

IRS Form 990 requires a general exemption number, or GEN. The blanket GEN for all American Legion organizations, including Posts, is 0925.

One of the items requested is the Post's Federal 501(c) (19) Federal Employer Identification Number, which in most cases is unknown to Post officers. This is a nine digit number that normally starts with the digits "46". This Federal ID number should be on all of your Post's financial records and data. If your Post Federal ID number has been previously reported to Department Headquarters, we will have a record of that number.

Although Posts have previously been exempt from filing the Form 990 if their total income for all sources other than membership had been less than \$25,000, all Posts are now advised to file the form to ensure that your tax exempt status is not lost.

TAX REMINDER

All Posts enjoying tax-exempt status with their real estate should check with the County Director of Equalization between now and the end of the year to ensure that the proper forms and information are filed on a timely basis.

Post officials are reminded again that they may have to complete an application for property tax exemption as required by law.

COMMANDER MARTENS MAKES APPOINTMENT

Commander Rod Martens has appointed Clarence Kooistra of Sioux Falls as the Homeless Task Force Chairman.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND TABLES SCHEDULED

The South Dakota Veterans Council comprised of The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, The Retired Enlisted Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars will be hosting Legislative and Veterans Round Table Sessions at the following locations:

November 14, Saturday at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls at 12:00 p.m.

December 3, Thursday at the VFW in Brookings at 12:00 p.m.

December 5, Saturday at The American Legion Post Home in Piedmont at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, Friday at The American Legion Post Home in Watertown at 1:00 p.m.

Please encourage all State Senators and State Representatives to attend any of these meetings. All Legionnaires and veterans are also encouraged to attend. Members of the veteran's organizations will give a brief summary of the veteran's issues and concerns.

BOY SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

On February 8, 2010, the Boy Scouts of America will celebrate 100 years as an organization. Founded as an outlet to prepare every eligible youth in America to become a participating citizen and leader, the Boy Scouts of America has more than fulfilled its mission.

The American Legion voiced its support of the Boy Scouts of America at its first National Convention in 1919, making it the first National youth activity officially recognized by The American Legion. The Boys Scouts of America is one of the nation's foremost youth programs of character development and values-based leadership training, and teaches the core values of duty to God and Country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism and interdependence with the environment, principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health.

NEC Resolution 45, May 6-7, 2009, recognized the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and their positive influence on millions of young men and women across the country. The resolution also calls for The American Legion at all levels to encourage and support the Boy Scouts of America in conducting their program "A Century of Making a Difference".

AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO MEET

The ad-hoc committee set up to establish an American Legion Foundation will hold its next meeting Wednesday, November 18, at 2:30 p.m. at State Headquarters in Watertown to discuss the formation of an American Legion Foundation. Committee members are Chairman PDC Jim Huls of Madison (member of the Salem American Legion Post), NEC Paul Evenson of Sioux Falls (member of the Garretson American Legion Post), Burdette Solum of Watertown, Dale Christensen of Watertown, Tom Sanes of Webster, Commander Martens, and Adjutant Brenden.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIREFIGHTER/EMT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for The American Legion Department of South Dakota Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter/EMT of the Year are due to State Headquarters by January 11, 2010. One nominee from each of the two categories will be selected as the Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year. These two individuals will be recognized at the South Dakota American Legion Department Convention in Spearfish in June 2010. The nomination for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will be forwarded to National Headquarters as the Department nominee for the National American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Recognition at the Department Convention will include; one night's lodging at the convention hotel, free tickets for the individual and his/her spouse/guest to the Joint Banquet and the presentation of a suitable award from The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize well-rounded public servants who have exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the positions held and who exemplify the virtues of professionalism and dedication and have demonstrated a distinct

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pattern of public service to the community, state and nation; and also have proven personal dedication to societal security and protection.

Recognition of the individuals nominated for this award should commence at the local Post level. After the individuals are selected at the local level, the Post should sponsor some sort of recognition program and make a presentation to the individual. Certificates are available from Department Headquarters, signed by the Department Commander and Adjutant. Additionally, these certificates require the signatures of the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to presentation. Press releases should also be sent to the local media along with photographs noting that the individual has been nominated for higher levels of competition and recognition.

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program continues with national level competition. The Firefighter/EMT of the Year program does not. The individual selected as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will receive a trip to the National Convention, to include hotel and travel expenses. The award also includes the presentation of a suitable award and a letter of commendation signed by the National Commander.

Copies of the governing instructions and nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters. Nominations should cover the calendar year from January 1-December 31, 2009. Nominees do not have to be veterans or members of The American Legion. The nomination package must include a recommendation from their commanding officer or supervisor.

MIDWINTER BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the MidWinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. No tickets will be available at the event. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner will feature Prime Rib Steak with Dessert. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from the Chamberlain American Legion Post. Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to Potter American Legion Post 3, P.O. Box 348, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

HOTELS/MOTELS IN OACOMA

The Headquarters Hotel for the South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be the Cedar Shore Resort, located on Shoreline Drive in Oacoma. The phone number for the Cedar Shore Resort is 605-734-6376.

Additional lodging facilities in the Chamberlain/Oacoma area which may be considered by those wishing to attend the MidWinter Conference who do not yet have reservations would include the following:

West River Inn & Suites – W Hwy 16, I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma

605-734-4222

Days Inn – I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-4100

Super 8 Motel - I 90 Exit 263, Chamberlain 605-734-6548

Oasis Inn – W Hwy 16, I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-6061

Holiday Inn Express - I 90 Exit 260, Oacoma 605-734-5593

AmericInn - I 90 Exit 263, Chamberlain 605-734-0985

SD AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES EMPLOYERS

Two South Dakota employers have been recognized for their efforts in employing veterans. The awards are sponsored by The American Legion National Economic Commission. The first American Legion National Economic Commission Award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. In 1969 additional categories were added to include awards to confer recognition on one small, one medium and one large employer in each state for outstanding records in the

hiring and retention of veterans.

South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee Chairman Gary Warne of Aberdeen has announced the selection of Dakota Granite Company of Milbank as the recipient of The Department of South Dakota American Legion's Employer of the Veterans Award in the medium category (51-200 employees). Dakota Granite Company has been in business since 1925 and has an average of 70 employees over the past 5 years. The company currently employs 70 persons, 12 of whom are veterans. Dakota Granite Company of Milbank was nominated by Birch-Miller Post 9 of Milbank.

South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee Chairman Gary Warne of Aberdeen also announced the selection of Farmers Elevator Coop of Hudson as the recipient of The Department of South Dakota American Legion's Employer of the Veterans Award in the small category (50 or fewer employees). Farmers Elevator Coop has been in business since 1993 with an average of 11 employees. The company currently employs 14 persons, 5 of whom are veterans. No new veterans were hired last year. Farmers Elevator Coop of Hudson was nominated by American Legion Bergstrom-Bodeen Post 128 in Hudson.

Chairman Warne also announced that South Dakota Department of Labor of Rapid City has been selected as The Department of South Dakota's Employment Service Local Office Award winner. The Rapid City Department of Labor Office is the only office in the state which has 1 full-time Veterans Employment Representative and 2 full-time Veterans Outreach Representatives. As an employer the Rapid City Department of Labor has 40 employees with 10 of the employees veterans.

BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD

South Dakota American Legion Boys State Director Tom Tyrrell has called for the annual planning meeting of the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Corporation members and Board of Directors which will be held in Pierre at Pierre American Legion Post 8 on Thursday, November 19th. This will be the initial planning meeting for the 2010 American Legion Boys State Session.

If you have an interest in Boys State and would like to get involved in a program that offers great rewards, contact State Headquarters about the opportunities available through Boys State.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The forms for nominating local area teachers for The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2010 Educator of the Year Program are now available from State Headquarters in Watertown.

This program, sponsored in conjunction with the National Education Week (November 15-21), is an excellent opportunity to provide valuable recognition to an educator from your community. Each Post should sponsor a nominee from a local school. That educator is then recognized by your local American Legion Post as your community's American Legion Educator of the Year and the nomination package is submitted to your District Commander.

Each District then selects a District Educator of the Year who is recognized by the District organization. The District selection is then nominated to the Department for competition in the Department's 2010 Educator of the Year competition. All District winners must be certified to State Headquarters by March 30, 2010. The educator selected by the Department is recognized at the Annual Department Convention; this year in Spearfish, SD.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010 membership stands at 18,794 or 76.68% of the Department's 2010 membership goal. Thank you for your hard work.

The next Department and National Target Date is November 17. Check you Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual for all the awards available.

