



# Up To Now!

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



Issued Bi-Weekly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3040

November 24, 2010

## ENCLOSED FOR ALL

Enclosed for all recipients of this *Up To Now* is a letter from the VAVS Hospital Representatives encouraging everyone to help make the holidays as pleasant as possible for all our veterans cared for at the VA Medical Centers in South Dakota.

Also enclosed for all recipients is a copy of the Post-by-Post membership statistics as of the National Membership Target date, November 17, 2010.

## HATS IN THE RING

William P. Huntimer of Dell Rapids has been endorsed by George A. Fitzgerald Post #65 of Dell Rapids as a candidate for Department Master-At-Arms for 2011-2012.

Wayne G. Rohde of Brandon has been endorsed by Brandon Post #318 as a candidate for District 1 Commander for 2011-2013.

## 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.

South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee Chairman Earl Schultz of Aberdeen has announced the selection of Twin City Fan Companies, LTD. of Aberdeen as the recipient of The Department of South Dakota American Legion's Employer of the Veterans Award in the medium category (51-200 employees). Twin City Fan LTD., Aberdeen Branch, was established in 1993. The company currently employs 187 persons, 26 of whom are veterans. Twin City Fan Companies LTD. of Aberdeen was nominated by Sidney L. Smith Post 24 of Aberdeen.

South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee Chairman Earl Schultz of Aberdeen also announced the selection of Sky Ranch for Boys of Sky Ranch, SD, 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). Sky Ranch for Boys has been in business since 1960. The company currently employs 29 persons, 8 of whom are veterans. Sky Ranch for Boys of Sky Ranch, SD, was nominated by Lammison Post 147 of Buffalo.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Ø A flag patch, when placed on an American Legion uniform, may be placed at the shoulder of either sleeve as long as the blue field is forward. No emblem, name or patch shall be worn above the flag patch on the same sleeve.
- Ø The number of women veterans enrolled in the VA system is expected to expand 33% in the next three years.
- Ø 670,000 service members served in the Southwest theater of operations during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Aug 2, 1990-July 31, 1991).
- Ø The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the Army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P.

## MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Wednesday, November 17 was the deadline for membership dues to arrive at State Headquarters in Watertown in order to qualify for any of the Veterans Day Target Membership Awards.

Veterans Day Target Membership Awards include:

- The awarding of a desk size set of flags (5 service flags and the US Flag). One flag set will be awarded to a lucky Legionnaire in each District who has paid his/her 2011 dues by this target date. The winners were chosen by a drawing from all members who have paid within the District. Dist 1-Don Facile of Garretson Post 23, Dist 2-David Albert of Lake Preston Post 63, Dist 3-LaVern Kranz of Clark Post 60, Dist 4-Larry Bosse of Kidder Post 298, Dist 5-Bernard B. Casavan of Wessington Post 110, Dist 6-Alfred J. Wells of White Lake Post 96, Dist 7-Curt Zeeb of Menno Post 152, Dist 8-John Baxa of Herrick Post 220, Dist 9-Kenneth Claussen of Martin Post 240, Dist 10-Bernard Duffy of Ft. Pierre Post 20, Dist 11-Robert Mollman of McIntosh Post 139, Dist 12-Thomas Dewey of Sturgis Post 33, Dist 13-William Eagle Heart of Kyle Post 265, Dist 14-Jerry Frailing of Mobridge Post 4.
- One lucky recruiter will receive a Legion wristwatch. Again, the winner was chosen by drawing a name from all the names of recruiters of new members that have been reported to State Headquarters by November 12. The winner is Lanny N. Olson of Lake Preston Post 63.
- Each District Membership Chairman who has reached a target of 75% of his/her District's membership, with no "goose egg" Posts, will receive a desk size set of flags (5 service flags and the US Flag). Winners are: Wayne Rohde-Dist 1, James Rentschler-Dist 2, Charles Greenfield-Dist 3, Neil Long-Dist 4, Catherine Hine-Dist 6, Roy King-Dist 7, Jeff Hrabanek-Dist 8, Ronald Le-Beau-Dist 10, Ken Mowrer-Dist 12, Ken Orrock-Dist 13, Gary Oster-Dist 14.
- Each Post that has attained 100% or more of its 2011 membership goal will receive a plaque attesting to this achievement. Winners are Davis Post 176, Badger Post 260, Erwin Post 241, Lake Preston Post 63, Oldham Post 158, Ramona Post 216, Colman Post 278, Gary Post 109, Grenville Post 267, Rosholt Post 48, Polo Post 299, Tulare Post 292, Plankinton Post 5, Alsen Post 44, Freeman Post 248, Fairfax Post 187, Witten Post 167, Draper Post 301, Wanblee Post 269, Hermosa Post 303, Herreid Post 170.

These awards will be presented at the 2011 MidWinter Conference in Oacoma in February.

The Department membership awards are outlined in the *2010-2011 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Copies of this manual have been provided to all Post Adjutants and Post Commanders. Also target dates and membership award criteria are listed on The American Legion Website, [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

CONTINUED ON BACK

## **SD AMERICAN LEGION 2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The 2011 Legislative Agenda for The American Legion Department of South Dakota was set by the American Legion Legislative Committee at the November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, meeting in Pierre. The Agenda is as follows:

To support the creation of a Department of Veterans Affairs.

To support the makeup of the South Dakota Veterans Commission to include members of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

To support the construction of the West River State Veterans Home in Hot Springs and also to support a 50 bed nursing home in the Eastern part of the State.

Continue to press for more emphasis to be placed on veteran's preference in the hiring of persons within South Dakota state government.

To support dedicating and naming the US Highway 16 Bridge at Chamberlain, SD, as the "American Legion Memorial Bridge", when it reopens.

## **NEW BOYS STATE DIRECTOR**

At the Boys State Board of Directors meeting held in Pierre on November 16, 2010, Boys State Director Tom Tyrrell submitted his resignation. Tyrrell has 40 years of service to the Boys State Program and had served as Director the last two and a half years. After accepting Tyrrell's resignation, Gene Opbroek was elected as the new South Dakota American Legion's Boys State Director.

Director Opbroek made the following appointments: Corey Rabenberg as Dean of Counselors; Dan Heil as Assistant Dean of Counselors; Gene Schumacher as Boys State Registrar; Todd Otterberg as Executive Officer; Allan Vogel as Camp Director. Don Meyer, due to health reasons, submitted his resignation as Boys State Treasurer. It was noted that Don Meyer had served Boys State for nearly twenty years. Rich Kezar, member of Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post 24 of Aberdeen, was elected as the new Boys State Treasurer.

At the Boys State Corporation Meeting, held following the Board of Directors Meeting, the subject of late registration fees was addressed. The Corporation approved the assessment of a \$25.00 late registration fee per boy if registration is not received by the April 1st deadline.

## **VETERANS FORUMS FOR 2010-2011**

Department Service Officer Warren Aas has been conducting the South Dakota American Legion Veterans Forums across the State, informing veterans and families of benefits they may be entitled to. The start time for all the forums is 6:30 p.m.

The schedule for the remaining veterans' forums is as follows:

**District 1:** Wednesday, January 5, 2011, American Legion Post Home, Dell Rapids, SD.

**District 4:** Tuesday, January 4, 2011, Milbank Visitor Center, Milbank, SD.

**District 5:** Tuesday, December 7, American Legion Post Home, Redfield, SD.

**District 14:** Monday, December 6, Ipswich High School Cafeteria, Ipswich, SD.

## **LEGISLATIVE ROUND TABLES SCHEDULED**

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

locations: December 2, 2010, 12:00 p.m., VFW Post Home, Brookings; December 4, 2010, 12:00 p.m., DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls; December 10, 2010, 1:00 p.m., American Legion Post Home, Watertown; December 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m., American Legion Post Home, Piedmont. All veterans are encouraged to attend.

Letters of Invitation have been mailed to Legislators requesting their presence at the veterans roundtables. The purpose of the round tables is to inform the Legislators of the concerns of the veterans of South Dakota.

## **LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION SET**

The South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2011 American Legion Legislative Reception for Tuesday, February 1, 2011. The reception will be held at the Pierre American Legion Post 8, located at the south end of Pierre Street. The reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until approximately 9:00 p.m.

American Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre and visit with their legislators. Please extend a personal invitation to your legislators to attend the reception.

## **LEGION NEWS AND UP TO NOW ONLINE**

*The Legion News* and *Up To Now* are online at the South Dakota American Legion website, [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org). Post Commanders and Adjutants make your membership aware of this.

## **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 265, Chamberlain 605-734-0985

## **GO-GETTER CERTIFICATION DEADLINE**

All Posts are reminded that the deadline for certifying Go-Getters to qualify for Early Bird Go-Getter status is Thursday, January 20, 2011. All Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters by Thursday, January 20, 2011, will be entitled to attend the GoGetters reception and dinner at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

Post Adjutants must certify Go-Getters using GG Form No. 1 -2010, Go-Getter Certification Form, which is located between Pages 7 and 8 in the *2010-2011 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual*. Go-Getter cards may be picked up at the registration table at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Membership stands at 18,723 or 78.89% of the Department's 2011 membership goal. Remember to "Just Ask" and get one more new member for The American Legion.