



# Up To Now!



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## ENCLOSED FOR ADJUTANTS

Enclosed for all Adjutants is a copy of the Proceedings for the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual South Dakota American Legion Department Convention. A copy of the Proceedings is also enclosed for all members of the Department Administrative and Executive Committees.

## HATS IN THE RING

Frank J. Brune American Legion Post 140 of Salem has endorsed James J. “Jim” Huls of Madison for the office of Department Commander for 2008-2009.

Peden-Cole American Legion Post 109 of Gary has endorsed Albert Bekaert of Canby, MN for the office of State Vice Commander for the Area encompassing Districts 3, 4 and 14.

Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 has endorsed G. D. “Hoot” Gibson of Sioux Falls for the office of Department Master-At-Arms.

## DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS

District Contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical – “Constitutional Speech Contest” will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

- Dist 1** - Beresford Legion Post, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 2** - Arlington Legion Post, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 3** - Cornerstone Methodist Church, 1350 11th St. NE, Watertown, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 4** - Milbank Visitor Center, Jan. 13, 2:00 p.m.
- Dist 5** - Wolsey Elementary School, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 6** - Ethan Public School, Jan 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 7** - Yankton Middle School, Jan 13, 1:30 p.m.
- Dist 8** - Gregory American Legion Post, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
- Dist 9** - Club 27, Kadoka, SD, Jan. 5, 2:00 p.m. MST.
- Dist 10** - place in Pierre to be announced, Jan. 6, 1:30 p.m.
- Dist 11** - Lemmon Legion Post on Jan. 12 at 2:00 p.m.
- Dist 12** - Piedmont Legion Post on Jan. 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- Dist 13** - Rapid City Post 22 Home, Jan. 13, 2 p.m.
- Dist 14** - Aberdeen VFW Post Home, 812 Circle Drive, Jan. 6, 1:30 p.m.

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The 2008 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference will be held Friday-Sunday, February 8-10, 2008 at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. The schedule of events is outlined below – specific details of the Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. portion of the conference schedule will be provided at a later date.

### Friday, February 8

- 10:00 a.m. Administrative Committee Meeting – River Run Room
- 12:00 noon Registration Desk Opens – Pre-function area
- 1:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting – River Run Room
- 6:00 p.m. Go-Getters Reception – Oacoma Community

Center

6:30 p.m. Go-Getters Smorgasbord – Oacoma Community Center

7:00 p.m. Past Department Commanders Social and Dinner – Missouri Winds Room

### Saturday, February 9

8:00 a.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-function area

8:30 a.m. Joint Opening Session – Hale/Oacoma Rooms  
VA&R

Children & Youth

IRS briefing

10:30 a.m. Legion Conference Session – Hale/Oacoma Rooms

Auxiliary Conference Session

SAL Conference Session – Room 213

6:00 p.m. Social Hour/No-Host Cocktails – Pre-function area

7:00 p.m. Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet – Ballroom (Wheeler/Glass/Howe Rooms)

### Sunday, February 10

8:30 a.m. Non-denominational Service - Ballroom

12:00 noon Department Finals - Ballroom  
American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Constitutional Speech Contest

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote speaker for the 2008 MidWinter Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet will be Mr. Paul Bockelman, Director of the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. Bockelman previously served as the Associate Director for Resources and Operations at the VA Central Iowa Healthcare System. An experienced health care executive, Bockelman began his career with the VA in 1981 as a kinesio therapist and came to VISN 23 in June 2003 after serving as the Senior Health System Specialist at the VISN 7 Network Office.

He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Education from the University of Toledo in 1980 and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University in 1998. He completed Leadership VA with the class of 2000 and is a graduate of the Executive Career Field (ECF), Class of 2002. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a member of the Senior Executive Association.

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

All American Legion Posts are reminded that now is the time to select your Post Legionnaire of the Year. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize one Legionnaire from within your Post for his/her special efforts, initiative, and performance during the past year.

Forms for nominating your local Post Legionnaire of the Year for District Legionnaire of the Year competition are included in

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the 2007-2008 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual. Rules require Posts to submit nominations to the District Commander at least 15 days prior to the Spring District Conventions.

District Legionnaires of the Year will be recognized at the Spring District Conventions and at the Annual Department Convention in Watertown in June, 2008. District Legionnaires of the Year will be eligible for competition in the Department Legionnaire of the Year selection process. The Department Legionnaire of the Year will be announced at the Department Convention in Watertown in June.

### **JOURNALISM CITY**

Materials for application to participate in the 2008 South Dakota American Legion Boys State Journalism City program will be mailed to all schools in South Dakota this week. Application forms for boys selected to attend the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Journalism City program must be sent to the South Dakota American Legion Boys State Registrar, Gene Schumacher, at 924 N. Main St., Aberdeen, SD 57401.

The deadline for submitting applications is February 2, 2008. The registration fee for Journalism City is \$150 per student. Do not send registration fees with the application forms. After the applications are screened, those students selected for the program will be notified and the local American Legion Post will be informed of students selected from within your local Post area. Journalism City students do not count against the school or local Post's quota for South Dakota American Legion Boys State.

### **AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

The South Dakota American Legion Department Legislative Committee has set the date for the 2008 South Dakota American Legion's Legislative Reception for Tuesday, January 15. The reception will be held at 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 9:00 p.m. Legion Family members are encouraged to come to Pierre on that date; come to the capitol and visit with your local legislators and extend a personal invitation to them to attend the reception that evening with Legion Family members from all across the state of South Dakota.

### **SPORTS AWARDS TO BE MADE**

Posts interested in hosting the 2009 sporting events for The American Legion Department of South Dakota have until Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, to submit their bids and invitations to State Headquarters in Watertown.

The State Golf Tournament has normally been scheduled for either the third or fourth weekend in June; however, there seems to be increased interest in changing the date to a weekend later in the year. Submit your bid with your proposed schedule and see what happens.

Please note that the Chairman of the Athletic Commission has advised State Headquarters of a change in the schedule for the 2009 State Baseball Tournaments as reflected below:

The dates for the Class B State Baseball Tournament will be July 22-July 26, 2009.

The dates for the State Championship Baseball Tournament will be July 29-Aug 2, 2009.

All bids will be reviewed by the Department Athletic Commission at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Athletic Commission in Pierre. The Commission's recommendations will then be presented

to the Department Executive Committee at the MidWinter Conference on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT BIDS**

In an effort to increase the number of participants in the South Dakota American Legion State Bowling Tournament, the following changes will be made starting in 2009.

Two bowling allies will be selected to host the tournament; one east river and one west river. One site will bowl March 21-22 and March 28-29. The other site will bowl March 28-29 and April 4-5. The committee will determine which consecutive weekends will go with which site at their January meeting, so sites that are bidding should indicate their date preferences in their bids.

The bowling center which has the last weekend will be responsible for final score results. Sponsoring Posts and Units will be responsible for payouts and secretarial costs. The bowling fee per event will be \$18.00 based on \$8.50 Prize Fund, \$8.00 Lane fees, and \$1.50 expenses. Total handicap will be 80% of the difference between 0 and 200. USBC rules will apply. You must be a sponsoring Unit or Post to assist with the tournament.

Bids should include the following information:

- Choice of dates as outlined above
- Location – Hosting Bowling Alley – description of facility and area
- Sponsoring Post or Unit

Bids should be submitted to American Legion State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201. Deadline for bids is January 21, 2008.

### **MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE**

January 3, 2008 is the last day to submit membership to qualify for the "End of the Year" Membership Target Date Awards. These membership awards include:

- Early Go-Getters – entitled to attend the Go-Getters Reception at the MidWinter Conference.
- First-Time Go-Getters – Same as above and a First-Time Go-Getter Cap Pin.
- Special Awards to those Posts with five or more consecutive years at or beyond 90% of membership goal, including 2008.
- Post Honor Ribbon for all Posts whose 2008 membership exceeds the Post's 2007 total membership.
- Meritorious Service Certificate for all Posts that equal or surpass the Post's previous all-time high membership.
- District Commander Award to all District Commanders whose District has at least 95% of its 2008 membership goal and no "goose egg" Posts.
- Area Vice Commander Award to all Area Vice Commanders whose area has enrolled at least 95% of its assigned 2008 membership.

### **HEADQUARTERS HOURS FOR NEW YEARS**

State Headquarters will be closed from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 28, until Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. for New Years.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2008 membership stands at 21,697, or 83.53 percent of the 2008 membership goal.