No. 3266    July 9, 2019

COMMANDER NELSON’S HOMECOMING A SUCCESS

The homecoming of South Dakota American Legion State Commander Fred Nelson, hosted by Spearfish Post 164, on Saturday June 29, 2019, has been declared an enormous success. Attendance was estimated at approximately 200 members of The American Legion Family.

The day began at the High Plains Western Heritage Center with registration at 1:30 p.m. and the ceremony began at 2:00 p.m. in the Theater. Master of Ceremonies was Mike Kain of Post 164. Featured speaker for the homecoming was Brian Dean, Past Post 164 Commander. The State Commander Banner presentation was done by PDC Denny Brenden of Watertown.

FINANCE & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Department Finance Committee will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 12, at the Pierre Post 8 home in Pierre. The business of the Committee is to frame a budget for the 2019-2020 American Legion year and to handle any business pertaining to finance for the Department.

The Department Executive Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 13, at the Pierre Post 8 home in Pierre. The business of the Executive Committee is to approve the budget, for 2019-2020, be updated on American Legion programs and any other matters concerning The Department of South Dakota.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT HOMECOMING SET

Teresa Huntimer has announced her homecoming will be Saturday, July 20th, Reception Hour 2:00 p.m. at the Dell Rapids United Methodist Church, program at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come and honor the new American Legion Auxiliary President.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

The schedule for The American Legion 2019 baseball tournaments is as follows:

- **State “A” Senior**—July 26-30, hosted by Mitchell Post 18.
- **State “A” Junior**—July 26-30, hosted by Rapid City Post 320.
- **State “B” Senior**—August 2-6, hosted by Lennox Post 174.
- **State “B” Junior**—August 9-11, hosted by Groton Post 39.
- National Regional- August 7-11, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

STATE “B” SENIOR STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Lennox Post 174 is hosting the State B Senior Legion Tournament and are requesting Posts to send their color guards on Friday August 2nd at 4:00 p.m. for a large massing of colors at the opening ceremonies. This is in celebration of the Centennial year of The American Legion.

HIGHWAY 281 CENTENNIAL RUN

August 1-4, 2019 the National American Legion is planning a ride on the “American Legion Highway” starting at the Canadian and Mexican borders with banners that will be taken along the ride and displayed at Posts along the way; they will be meeting at Great Bend, KS. The ride through South Dakota is August 2nd.

The two Banners will be presented at the National Convention in Indianapolis. Each Post Commander visited will sign the banner.

Rider Limit for the Department is 18, more riders can join in, but will need to find hotels as needed. A National Vice Commander will be riding with the banners from Start to Finish. The ride will be be tracked via GPS app on the Nation Vice CDR’s phone with updates every 3 minutes, so it will be easily tracked.

Any Legion Rider interested in participating should contact the DSO at dso@sdlegion.org or calling (605)868-8750.

Here is the rough schedule of the Post visited and times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location (Starting Aug. 2nd)</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Arrive</th>
<th>Depart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota Border</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>8:09</td>
<td>8:39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen—Harley Davidson</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9:08</td>
<td>9:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warner</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>9:53</td>
<td>10:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redfield (Meal &amp; Gas)</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>10:57</td>
<td>11:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulare</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolsey</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>13:06</td>
<td>13:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil</td>
<td>268</td>
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<td>14:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wessington Springs</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14:48</td>
<td>15:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plankinton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15:54</td>
<td>16:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickney (Meal &amp; Gas)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16:38</td>
<td>17:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corsica</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>17:51</td>
<td>18:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armour</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>18:36</td>
<td>19:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickstown</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>19:36</td>
<td>20:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Randall Casino</td>
<td>20:21</td>
<td>20:21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

Delegates, Alternate Delegates will be representing the Department of South Dakota at the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN, on August 23-29, 2019.

The delegates elected are as follows:

- NEC Jim Huls, PDC Denny Brenden, Commander Fred Nelson, Dept. Adj. Travise Flisrand, Dist 1 CDR David Booze, Dist 2 PDC Rick MacDonald, Dist 3 CDR Leroy Madsen, Dist 4 Tom Perrizo, Dist 5 Noel Cummins, Dist 7 Ed Stringer, Dist 8 Dan Hunhoff, additional Delegates were Kevin Hempel of Sioux Falls, Rod Smith of Chester and State Vice CDR Kevin Morello of Black Hawk.

National Call-ins:

- PDC Paul Evenson, PDC Larry Price, PDC Gunner Baattrup, PDC Byron Callies, PDC Mark Weimann, PDC Perry Hanson, PDC Hugh Holmes, PDC Tim Jurgen, Warren Aas, and Dist 6 CDR Doug Feltman.

The alternate delegates: Ken Sabers, Dist. 2 CDR Eugene Iron Shell Jr., PDC Wayne Vetter, PDC Charemon Dunham, Tom Henley, SAA Verle Whipple and Annette Dunham.

The schedule for the National Convention will be similar to that used for the past several years:

- Fri, Aug 23- Resolutions Screening Committees
- Sat, Aug 24- Standing Committees and Commissions
- Sun, Aug 25 - Convention Committees
- National Chaplain’s Breakfast
- Patriotic Memorial Service
- National Convention Parade
- Tri Stack Social – (South Dakota Hosts)
- Mon, Aug 26 - Department Caucus
- Tue, Aug 27 -National Convention General Assembly
- National Commander’s Banquet
- Wed, Aug 28 -National Convention General Assembly
- Thur, Aug 29 -General Assembly continues
- National Commander elected

EIGHT TO ATTEND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP

Department Commander Nelson of Spearfish, Department Adjutant Flisrand of Castlewood, Department Membership Chairman Stringer of Hartford, District 1 CDR Booze of Piedmont, District 1 Vice CDR McDonald of Box Elder, District 2 CDR IronShell of Rosebud, Dis-

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district 7 CDR Smith of Chester, will attend the National Membership Workshop at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN, on August 8-10, 2019. DSO/ASST Adjutant VanZanten will attend the Service Officer school from August 7-10, 2019.

**FALL DISTRICT MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS**
- District 1—Sept.29 @ TBD
- District 2—Sept. 28 @ Post 71 Hot Springs. Social 9 am, Meeting 10 am. Meal $10/person following the meeting.
- District 3—Sept. 7 @ Pierre Post 8. Social-noon. Meeting-1 pm
- District 4—Sept. 8 @ TBD
- District 5—Sept. 6 @ White. Social at 2:30 p.m. with Coffee/cookies/ice cream. 3:00 p.m. meeting.
- District 6—Sept. 14 @ Wessington Springs
- District 7—Sept. 15 @ Madison Legion at the VFW, Social 2:00 pm, Meeting 3:00 pm meeting Coffee, cookies bars after. Auxiliary place TBD
- District 8—Sept. 13 @ TBD

**SAL DET. COMMANDER CALLS FOR FALL MEETINGS**
SAL Commander Terry Hanson requests that all SAL Squadrions send representation to the fall meetings. He will have a SAL meeting in each District, the SAL will do the opening with the Legion and then break off into a separate group. Topics to discuss is Charters, supporting the Legion programs and membership.

**SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT**
The State Legion Golf Tournament, co-sponsored by the Humboldt and Hartford Legion Posts will be held the weekend of September 21-22, 2019 at the Hartford Golf Course. Top prize is $10,000 for those who get a hole in one!! More information to follow.

**ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES**
The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests.
- Post contests completed by January 19th
- District contests completed by February 2nd
- State contest on February 23 at 10:30

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER AWARD**
The application deadline for the Physician and Provider of the Year Awards has been extended to September 1, 2019. Thanks to our media staff in Indy, the online application has been converted to an online fillable form, which you can access at [https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare](https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare). Both awards can be located at the bottom of the page.

**BIDS TO HOST 2024 STATE CONVENTION**
No bids were submitted to host the 2024 State Convention at the 101st State Convention, the DEC will now have to decide the host/location. Bids are being accepted from Posts wishing to host the 2024 South Dakota American Legion Convention. The offer must be submitted in writing by the prospective host Post, signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant. Bids must reach State Headquarters in Watertown by January 17, 2020. The DEC will decide where to host the 2024 Convention during the 2020 MidWinter Conference.

**UPDATE OF LEGION MEMBER INFORMATION**
With MyLegion becoming a important tool in our Department, there is a need to update the information inside MyLegion as it is not accuate. POST ADJUTANTS are requested to update members information inside MyLegion. This is a slow process overall. Addresses, phone numbers, branch of service, war era, e-mail addresses and dates of birth are needed. Please take the time during meetings, signing up new members and renewing members to be sure the information recorded is correct and fully filled out. Post Adjutants can update information on members through MyLegion. If a Post adjutant does not have experience with computers, the Post can appoint someone in their Post to take on this role. Access to MyLegion allows updates to information on members, and the ability to renew members, sign up new members without having to mail anything in

**STATE CONVENTION SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**
The following individuals are the winners of our State Convention sweepstakes that was drawn on June 29, 2019 by our State Commander Fred Nelson.
- Duane Riedel of Aberdeen, SD $1,000
- Barry Deem of Alcester, SD $500
- Perry Schmidt of Redfield, SD $300
- Howard Caylor of Ethan, SD $200
- Eugene Kocer of Yankton, SD $100

**FOUNDATION DONATIONS**
Remember the South Dakota American Legion Foundation when your Post considers donations / gifts. This foundation will be used by future generations of Legionnaires to fund the American Legion programs. Donations can be marked as a memorial to those Legion members who have passed onto Post Everlasting. If the Post knows someone who wants to make a larger donation and needs assistance with ensuring the endowment goes to the programs they want to support, please contact the Dept. Adjutant at adjutant@sdlegion.org.

**HONOR FLIGHTS**
The South Dakota Honor Flights from years ago has been replaced with the MIDWEST Honor Flights. The main office for them is out of Sioux City, IA. The flights go out of the Sioux Falls airports and is a non profit organization run by a SAL member from Iowa. For more information, please go to the MIDWEST honor Flight website: [http://www.midwesthonorflight.org](http://www.midwesthonorflight.org).

**DID YOU KNOW?**
- The more active a Post is in the community, the more support they get, the more members attend monthly meetings and the stronger the membership is in the Post is.
- There are 66 accredited Veteran Service Officer representatives across the state.
- The fun auction raised $8,070 for the SDAL Foundation.
- There was over $282,000,000 in compensation, pension, and educational benefits paid out in South Dakota for FY2017.
- There are 9,261 members signed up for the FREE LIT accidental death benefit of $1,000. Sign up here: [https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legendicare](https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legendicare)

**CERTIFICATION OF 2020 OFFICERS**
Post Adjutants are reminded that they have a responsibility to certify the Post’s 2020 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 2020 Post Officers can be found in the 2018-2019 SD American Legion Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual. One sheet explains the certification process, and the very next page is the Post Officers Certification Form.

Newly elected Post Officers will not be placed on mailing lists by State or National Headquarters or receive their 2020 membership cards until the Post is certified.

**POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS**

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**
2019 Membership: **18,244** or **91.22%** of a goal of 20,001.

Membership Chairman Ed Stringer’s theme is: **“MEMBERSHIP IS STRENGTH, LETS GET STRONGER!”**