DEPARTMENT CONDOLENCES
The Department of South Dakota offers their sincere condolences to Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand and family on the loss of their son, Eric. Cards may be sent to Department Headquarters at: PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201.

NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY
Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitals, schools and veterans’ facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year, falling on September 20th, 2019.

DISTRICT 8 MEETING RESCHEDULED
The District 8 meeting is rescheduled for Friday, September 20th in Wagner, SD at the American Legion hall. Social at 5pm, Meeting at 6pm, with light supper to follow. Auxiliary to meet at the Methodist Church.

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT
The State Legion Golf Tournament, co-sponsored by the Humboldt and Hartford American Legion Posts, will be held on the weekend of September 21-22, 2019 at the Hartford Golf Course. Entry fee for 4 person scramble is $440. Entry fee covers 18 holes of golf on Saturday and Sunday. Free use of golf cart and catered meal on Saturday night. Top prize is $10,000 for those who get a hole in one! Contact Fred Lee at 605-413-9451 to secure your slot.

FALL DISTRICT MEETING DATES/Locations
- District 1 — Sept 29 @ Eagle Butte, Social 10 am, joint meeting 11 am, lunch 11:45, Legion meeting 1 pm.
- District 2 — Sept. 28 @ Post 71 Hot Springs. Social 9 am, Meeting 10 am. Meal $10/person following the meeting.

SAL DET. COMMANDER CALLS FOR FALL MEETINGS
SAL Commander Terry Hanson requests that all SAL Squadrons 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 are Charters, supporting the Legion programs and membership.

DISTRICT ORATORY CONTESTS
District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:
- DIST. 1 — (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (ksabers@rushmore.com) 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 12, 2020, 1:00pm. Storm date, January 19, same time and place.
- DIST. 2 — (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Paul Douglas, 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at Rapid City American Legion Post 22, 818 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City, January 12, 2020 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 19, 2020 2:00 p.m. same place.
- DIST. 3 - (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 12, 2020 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 19 same time and place.
- DIST. 4 — (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 5, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 12th, same time and place.
- DIST. 5 — (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shelli Romeu (shelli.romeu@gmail.com) PO Box 284, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Watertown Post home, Jan. 19, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 26, same time and place.
- DIST. 6 — (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorenson Dr., Chamberlain, SD, 57325, January 8th, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 12th, same time and place.
- DIST. 7 — (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Huntimer, wphjhi@siouxvalley.net, 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. District Contest to be held at Humbolt American Legion Post Home, Humbolt, SD 57035, January 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 19th same time and place.
- DIST. 8 — (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Chair: District Contest to be held at the Yankton Public Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date February 1, 2020, same time and place.

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

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.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Legionnaires with dependent children can apply for temporary finan-
cial assistance grants through their posts. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment. National and Department Applications can be found on the department website at www.sdlegion.org. Please fill out the National form first; department second. The National program has a much larger fund to draw from. Completed applications can be forwarded to the Department Children & Youth Chair, Miranda Krumm, at joshmirandakrumm@gmail.com.

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.

IRS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS
In the last few months I have had a few questions concerning Post’s IRS tax-exempt status or revocations of that status. Posts are required by the IRS to submit a 990 form every year. If the IRS does not receive this form, they will revoke the tax-exempt status of the Post. To get your Tax-exempt status back you have to apply and pay a sizeable fee. This process takes time (months) and can challenge even the most patient of individuals. Posts must be proactive on this.

ELECTRONIC UP TO NOW AND LEGION NEWS
 Legionnaires can sign up for the Up To Now and the Legion News to be delivered by e-mail by going to https://www.sdlegion.org/request-emailed-newsletters/ and filling in the form. After they submit the request they will need to check your e-mail and confirm they had requested to be added to the distribution list.

HAVE YOU WROTE YOUR POST’S HISTORY YET?
If you haven’t written your Post’s History and posted it on the Centennial website, please do so. Chairman Jurgens has requested that all American Legion Posts write up a brief history and put it on the Centennial Page on the National website. In writing the history, you’ll get a sense of pride in what Legionnaires have gone through in maintaining the local Post. Also, if your Post is named after an individual, you’ll gain a feeling of satisfaction in letting the world know why. Deadlines are running short and this needs to be in place so other events surrounding the 100th Anniversary can be accomplished.

CENTENNIAL CONVENTION MEMORABILIA
Post 15 has convention t-shirts and 100 year pins for sale. T-shirts $20.00 and pins $5.00. E-mail Post Adjutant Mike Driscoll at jarhead99999@gmail.com to request your Centennial memorabilia.

CENTENNIAL MEMORABILIA
Have Centennial memorabilia at your Post? The Legion News is putting together a central list for Legionnaires to peruse. Email information about your products to dso@sdlegion.org by mid-November for inclusion in the December 2019 edition.

POST SOCIAL MEDIA
Social media (example: Facebook / Twitter) can be a beneficial part of a Posts communication methods for their community. Properly implemented it can increase support from the surrounding communities and American Legion Posts. DSO/Asst. Adjutant Courtney VanZanten can assist Posts on best practices on this. It is strongly recommended for Posts that run businesses from their Post home, should have two Facebook accounts to separate the business from the American Legion. Communities and the youth that attend our programs have difficulty understanding that the business is not what the American Legion is about. The social media accounts are a direct representation of the American Legion Post and should reflect the four pillars and what the Post does for its community.

LEGION NEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSION
Has your Post been doing great things in your community? Taken up a unique project? Submit your pictures and stories to dso@sdlegion.org. Additionally, if your local paper has published an article, the Legion News can ask for permission to reprint. Share your successes! Upcoming deadlines for Legion News submissions are as follows: December 2019 Edition, November 15; February 2020 Edition, January 15; April 2020 Edition, March 15.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL DATABASE
Across the country and around the world, U.S. war, military and veterans memorials stand to honor those who served in uniform and the battles they fought to protect our nation’s freedoms. The American Legion is now establishing a database to identify the locations, document histories and share photographs of our nation’s monuments and memorials to those who have served.

Key points for each submission include:
• A photo or photos (required), easily taken with a smart phone (no persons shall be in the photos)
• Location of the memorial, mapped if possible
• Purpose of the memorial, such as who it honors and why, in just a sentence or two
• Date of the memorial’s installation /who originally installed it
• A brief assessment of its condition today

To date, South Dakota only has 5 memorials recorded on the website. To submit your town’s memorial, please visit https://www legion.org/memorials

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
The 2020 Midwinter Conference is just around the corner, February 21-23, 2020. Start planning your trip to Chamberlain now! The conference will be held at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center at Cedar Shore. For hotel reservations, please call 605-734-6376 or 888-697-6363. Be sure to ask for the American Legion block.

UPDATING OF MYLEGION
With the new membership year comes an opportunity to update your memberships information in MYLEGION. An important piece of information that can be entered is e-mail addresses. When Posts Certify their officers, we send updates to Post Officers based on their information that can be entered is e-mail addresses. When Posts Certify their officers, we send updates to Post Officers based on their positions in MYLEGION. The recent Americanism e-mail had a large amount Americanism Officers with no e-mail address or a fair amount of returned e-mails with bad addresses.

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
District 1 posts: 124, 239
District 2 posts: 75, 238, 265, 294, 297, 302
District 3 posts: 77
District 4 posts: 57,
District 5 posts: ALL CERTIFIED GREAT JOB!
District 6 posts: ALL CERTIFIED GREAT JOB!
District 7 posts: ALL CERTIFIED GREAT JOB!
District 8 posts: 30, 237

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2019 Membership: 18,267 or 91.33% of goal of 20,001.
2020 Membership: 10,593 or 53.64% of goal of 19,747.

Membership Chairman Ed Stringer’s theme is: "MEMBERSHIP IS STRENGTH, LET'S GET STRONGER!"