HATS IN THE RING
There have been no endorsements received from Posts that are supporting candidates running for any State Officer positions. Endorsements can be sent by mail to Dept. HQ or e-mailed to the Dept. Adjutant at adjutant@sdlegion.org.

ENCLOSED IN THIS UP TO NOW
The nomination for recognizing employers of disabled workers is enclosed. The forms for all employment recognition awards are available on the www.sdlegion.org website.

THANK YOU FROM DEPT. ADJUTANT FAMILY
The Flisrand family would like to sincerely thank all those who reached out to my family after the passing of our son Eric. We were humbled by the amount of support from the community and the Legion family. We cannot express the amount of gratitude we felt. Thank you to the Legion family for thinking of us at this time.

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.

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

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@midstateds.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 5th, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 12th, same time and place.
DIST. 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Hunter, 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.

NOVEMBER 14TH TARGET DAY AWARDS
Below is the first list of awards that Posts, Individuals, Districts are eligible for:
Individual Award - Every member who has paid his/her 2020 membership dues and has those dues into State Headquarters by November 14th will be eligible to be entered into a drawing for an award. One name from each District will be drawn and presented with this award.
Recruiter Award - Everyone who recruits a new 2020 member by November 14th will have the recruit's name entered into a drawing for the award of a Legion wristwatch. The recruiter's name will be entered into the drawing one time for each new member recruited. The Post adjutant or membership chairman will be responsible for reporting the names of the recruiters to State Headquarters for all new members recruited. If memberships and recruiters’ names are not forwarded in a timely manner, the recruiter’s name will not be in the drawing.
District Membership Chairmen's Award - An appropriate award will go to each District Membership Chairman who has no “goose egg” Posts and has enrolled at least 75 percent of his/her District’s 2020 membership goal by the above target date.
Post Award – An award plaque will go to all Posts that have met their assigned 2020 membership goal and has that membership transmitted to State Headquarters by the above target date.

OF THE YEAR AWARDS
For the past few years the competition at the State level for Firemen/EMT/Policeman/Samaritans/Educator/Employer awards has been very sparse. Posts are requested to find people/businesses in their communities who exemplify The American Legion spirit of giving back to their communities. This is a neglected resource for our Posts, by acknowledging what these citizens are doing for their community, local Posts will benefit by having another advocate to help support Legion Programs. Do not miss this opportunity.

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.

CONTINUED ON BACK
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.

**POST SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media (example: Facebook / Twitter) can be a beneficial part of a Post’s 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.

**LEGAL 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.

**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, they 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.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

The National Emergency Fund is available to Legionnaires and SAL members after a declared disaster has displaced them from their primary residence. With the recent bout of severe weather in Eastern SD, be on the lookout for updates regarding the “declared” status of these disasters. Applications can be found and donations can be made by visiting this website: [https://www.sdlegion.org/emergency](https://www.sdlegion.org/emergency). Additionally, donations can be sent to State HQ and forwarded to the NEF. Completed NEF applications should be sent to hq@sdlegion.org for review.

**TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Legionnaires with dependent children can apply for temporary financial 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. The TFA application can be found on the department website at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org).

The need of the veteran will determine if money is pulled from both the National and Department TFA funds. All grants are a case by case basis. Completed applications can be forwarded to the Department Children & Youth Chair, Miranda Krumm, at joshroran-dakrumm@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 there 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.

**POSTS INCORPORATED WITH STATE OF S.D.**

Legion Posts who are incorporated with the State of South Dakota have to renew their officer list yearly with the State. Incorporating of a Post protects the Post officers personal assets (homes) from civil suits of liability if something were to happen involving the Posts. Posts are strongly encouraged to consider becoming incorporated and maintaining that status just as you would your Tax-exempt status with the IRS. To verify if your Post is incorporated and up to date with the State, you will need to go to South Dakota Secretary of State website [https://sosenterprise.sd.gov/BusinessServices/](https://sosenterprise.sd.gov/BusinessServices/) and search for a business.

**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](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.

**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.

**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](https://www.legion.org/memorials)

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Posts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
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<td>District 2</td>
<td>238, 265, 294, 297, 302</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>30, 237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

2020 Membership: **11,169** or **56.56%** of goal of 19,747.

Membership Chairman Ed Stringer’s theme is: "**Membership is strength, let’s get stronger**!"