No. 3273  October 16, 2019

HATS IN THE RING
Post 15 of Sioux Falls has endorsed Ed Stringer as candidate for Department Commander for 2020-2021.

ENCLOSED IN THIS UP TO NOW
The Department Children and Youth program information sheet and the NEW education scholarship brochure.

DEPT. COMMANDER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS
Commander Nelson announces the following appointments:
Dan Sudbeck of Parkston for a 1-year appointment as Athletic Chairman.

SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL TO MEET
The South Dakota Veterans Council will meet October 23, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Paralyzed Veterans of America Headquarters in Sioux Falls to finalize the planning and agenda of the South Dakota Legislative Roundtables to be held in November.

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ED SCHOLARSHIP
The new application deadline for Education Scholarship program is December 5th. Applications can be found at: https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SDAL-Scholarship-Apppl-2019.pdf

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION FORMS
It is that time of year for Posts to look into their communities for businesses who need recognition for what they do for their communities. The Older worker form is due by October 20, the Veteran Employer form is due by November 1st and the rest are due by December 15th to State Headquarters.

A proactive local Legion Member looking at businesses who had a good community reputation asked questions to the management and found a great store that won the top spot Nationally. Do not overlook your local stores, they all have a shot to win.

Three sized categories for each award; Small, Medium, and Large, based on employees.

SDAL APPAREL NOW AVAILABLE
During the July 2019 Dept. Executive Committee meeting a standardized South Dakota American Legion emblem was accepted by the DEC to get approval by the National American Legion to use. On the front page of the UTN you will notice the new emblem in black and white. The DEC also has approved a temporary partnership with Sign Design in Colton, SD to create apparel with this emblem on it.

The goal is to allow South Dakota American Legion members to show their pride in their State and be easily identified at National events. Sign Design is a veteran/American Legion member owned business who gives money back to non-profits from orders to help support their programs. Ordering is done online through this website: https://americanlegion.signedesign1977.club/. This business will handle all inventory/ordering of materials. Apparel can be picked up in Colton, mailed or have bulk pickup and delivered to MidWinter/Convention by State HQ staff. Posts can customize jackets/shirts/hats to reflect Post pride.

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.

MIDWINTER MYLEGION TRAINING FOR POSTS
The training surveys completed during Fall District Meetings identified MyLegion as the most needed training for Post Adjutants. Adjutants who plan on attending MidWinter conference for this training need to have an active MyLegion account and a laptop or tablet as hands on training will be done during the training session. If you need assistance in setting up a MyLegion account contact Dept. HQ.

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.

Recreuter Award - Everyone who recruits a new 2020 member by November 14th will have the recruiter'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 Chairman’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/Police/Good Samaritan/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.

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.

CONTINUED ON BACK
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, (phototoday@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 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 Hunterman, wph€j@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/place.

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.

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.

LEGION NEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSION
Has your Post been doing great things in your community? Take up a unique project? Submit your pictures and stories to dso@sdligion.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.

POSTS INCORPORATED WITH STATE OF S.D.
Incorporation of a Post protects the Post officers personal assets (homes) from civil suits. Date of liability if something were to happen involving their Post. Posts are strongly encouraged to consider becoming incorporated and maintaining that status just as you would your Tax-exempt status with the IRS. Legion Posts who are incorporated with the Secretary of State (SOS) for South Dakota have to renew their officer list yearly with the SOS office. To verify if your Post is incorporated and up to date with the SOS office, you will need to go to South Dakota Secretary of State’s website https://sosenterprise.sd.gov/BusinessServices/ and search for a business. This is different than certifying your Officers with the State Headquarters of the South Dakota American Legion.

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 adjuntat@sdligion.org.

IRS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS
In the last few months we 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.

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@sdligion.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.

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 officers to Department Headquarters in Watertown is found at https://www.legion.org/memberships.

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS
District 1 posts: 124, 239
District 2 posts: 238, 265, 294, 297, 302
District 8 posts: 30

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2020 Membership: 11,519 or 58.33% of goal of 19,747.

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