No. 3275
November 11, 2019

STATE COMMANDER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS
State Commander Fred Nelson has announced additional appointments:
Appointed Legislative lobbyists are:

1. Dept. Adjutant Flisrand, of Post 250 Castlewood
2. Doug Feltman of Post 3 Chamberlain
3. Kim Hallock of Post 20 Fort Pierre
4. Chris Van Delist of Post 22 Rapid City

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-Appl-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.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLES SCHEDULED
The South Dakota Veterans Council will be hosting the legislative roundtable meetings during the month of December. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, Noon on December 4, 2019 at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls, SD.
- Thursday, Noon on December 5, 2019 at the American Legion Post 17 in Watertown, SD.
- Saturday, 10:00 A.M. on December 7, 2019 at the VFW in Rapid City, SD.

The South Dakota Veterans Council is made up of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. A representative from each organization will inform the legislators of the legislative agenda for their respective organizations.

We would like to invite all members of the American Legion family to these events and urge you to contact your representative and invite them personally.

OF THE YEAR AWARDS
For the past few years the competition at the State level for Firemen/EMT/Policeman/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. Deadline to submit applications is January 10, 2020.

DEADLINE FOR SPORTS BIDS
Posts interested in hosting the 2021 sporting events for The American Legion Department of South Dakota have until Friday, January 10, 2020, to submit their bids and invitations to State Headquarters in Watertown.

Bid forms for the State “B” and State Championship Tournaments can be obtained from State Headquarters in Watertown or the Department website under “Programs” then “American Legion Baseball”, link is labeled “POST BIDDING TO HOST...”

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY HAS ANNOUNCED CHRISTMAS PARTIES:
Below is the schedule for the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Christmas parties. All are welcomed to attend
December 11 2:00 p.m. Human Service Center Yankton
December 12 2:00 p.m. Sioux Falls VA (2nd floor)
December 14 2:00 p.m. Hot Springs VA
December 15 2:00 p.m. Hot Springs Veterans Home
December 16 2:00 p.m. Ft. Meade VA

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, Sullivan, 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 Melgard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 8, 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 (photos todavía@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 Huntermer, wphq@siouxcityvalley.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.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS FOR 2020 ONLINE
CPR’s are now available for Posts to fill out online through MyLegion. Posts can fill this report out as often as they would like to and update it all the way to June before they close it out. A proactive Post Adjutant documenting the Posts activities eliminates the headaches of trying to remember everything you did for the past year.

CONTINUED ON BACK
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 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.

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.

MIDWINTER BANQUET
The 2020 MidWinter Banquet menu will be: Steak & Walleye, baked potato, carrots, salad and coffee or tea. Cost is $30 / person. Send checks to: John Payer / 25120 344th Ave / Chamberlain, SD 57325 by January 31, 2020.

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 Shores. For hotel reservations, please call 605-734-6376 or 888-697-6363. Be sure to ask for the American Legion block.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MIDWINTER
“The meeting room assignments are tentative. We will announce changes as needed when the meeting room assignments are confirmed.”

Friday, February 21, 2020
10:00 a.m. – Dept. Finance Commission Meeting—Howe
12:00 p.m. - Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
1:00 p.m. - Dept. Executive Committee Meeting—Howe
6:00 p.m. - No-Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
7:00 p.m. - Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet—Oacoma/Wheeler

Saturday, February 22, 2020
7:30 a.m. – Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
8:00 a.m. - Joint Opening Session - Hale/Oacoma
8:25 a.m. – Bill Oxford, National Commander Remarks
10:00 a.m. - Recess Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
10:10 a.m. - BREAKOUT SESSION:

(A) MyLegion – Wheeler Room
(C) Constitution & Bylaws – Howe Room
11:00 a.m.

(C) Legion Resources, Structure and Delegation-- Glass Room
12:00 p.m. - Noon Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. - BREAKOUT SESSION:

(A) Awards/Reports – Hale/Oacoma
(D) Public Relations/Social Media - Wheeler Room
(C) Legion Programs – Howe Room
2:00 p.m.

(C) Conduction a Meeting – Glass Room
2:55 p.m. - All assembly in Conference—Hale/ Oacoma
3:45 p.m. –Membership Report/ Awards/Turn-In
4:15 p.m. - Popcorn Fund Turn-In
4:20 p.m. - Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
4:30 p.m. - American Legion Riders – Executive Board Room
5:00 p.m. – Dept. Membership Committee Meeting—Hale/Oacoma
6:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Reception, Chamberlain Community Center
7:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Smorgasbord, Chamberlain Community Center
8:00 p.m. - Hospitality Rooms, Arrowwood Resort Hotel rooms

Sunday, February 23, 2020
8:30 a.m. - Non-Denominational Service—Wheeler Room
10:30 a.m. - SD American Legion – State Finals – High School Oratorical Contest—Wheeler Room

SAL: meet Saturday morning in the Missouri Winds Room following joint session.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVIEW
All American Legion District / County / Post should review their Bylaws annually along with their Form 990 submissions to the IRS. After review, updated copies of the Bylaws should be sent to Dept. HQ to be retained on file in case of fire / theft / loss of the hard copy retained by the those entities. Multiple times each year Dept. HQ does get requests for copies of Bylaws and often the response is “there are none on file”. Please help us in helping you. Send in your Constitution and Bylaws today.

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.

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.chub/ . 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.

SAL SQUADRONS CAN PROCESS ONLINE
Effective immediately all Detachment of South Dakota SAL squadrons can process memberships online through the MyLegion website. This is the same way Posts can renew their members. The money is transferred by EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) the same way most people pay bills online. This eliminates the need to send in money and membership cards to the Detachment Adjutant saving you time, office supplies and postage.

SAL DEC TO REVIEW SQUADRON MEMBERSHIP #’s
The SAL Detachment Executive Committee will review squadron’s whose membership does not meet the Constitution minimums. Posts that have SAL squadrons are reminded that their squadrons report to the Post on their activities and membership numbers.

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2020 Membership: 13,216 or 66.93% of goal of 19,747.

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