ENCLOSED WITH UP TO NOW
Letters from VAVS Committee Chairman and VA Hospital Volunteer Services representatives.

TAL DEPT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FUNDRAISING
Most members have received the Holiday labels fundraising mailout. Recently the Sweepstakes for the MidWinter Conference mailed as well. The sweepstakes pays $1,000 for first place, $500 for 2nd, $300 for 3rd, $200 for 4th and $100 for 5th place. Revenue generated from the sweepstakes stays in South Dakota.

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-App-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 organization. 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/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. 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.
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.

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.

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 Arrowood 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.

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 & By-laws – 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

DONATE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

The ability of shopping from your home online is easier than ever. Did you know you could also have money donated from your online purchase? Amazon donates 1% of all sales to non-profit organizations as long as the customer uses https://smile.amazon.com/ address. Once there you can select your charity of choice. South Dakota American Legion Foundation is on this list and can benefit from your shopping. You MUST use the smile.amazon.com address to make it happen. If you use www.amazon.com it will not enable the donations to your non-profits organization you have selected.

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 2 posts: 238, 265, 294, 297, 302

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2020 Membership: 14,119 or 71.50% of goal of 19,747.

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