Up To Now!

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MIDWINTER MYLEGION TRAINING FOR POSTS
The training surveys completed during Fall District Meetings identified MyLegion as the most needed training for Post Adjutants. ADJU-
TANTS who PLAN to attend the MidWinter conference for this training NEED TO HAVE an “active MyLegion account” and a laptop or tablet,
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 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.
Friday, February 21, 2020
10:00 a.m. Department Finance Commission Meeting—Howe
SAL Det. Executive Committee Meeting—Missouri Winds
Blood mobile -- In front of Convention Center (10 am – 4 pm)
12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting —Howe
4:30 p.m. SDAL Foundation 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 - Conference Center State Commander Fred Nelson / Auxiliary President Teresa Hunter and SAL Detachment Commander Terry Hanson Remarks—Hale/Oacoma
8:30 a.m. Bill Oxford, National Commander Remarks
9:00 a.m. Dept of Veteran Affairs - Telehealth
9:30 a.m. Youth Trooper Academy, SD Highway Patrol
9:45 a.m. Emblem usage – Dept. Adjutant
10:00 a.m. Process Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
10:10 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION:
(A) MyLegion – Wheeler Room
(C) Constitution & By-laws– Howie Room
11:00 a.m. (A) 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 assemble in Conference—Hale/Oacoma
3:00 p.m. NEC Jim Huls Remarks
3:15 p.m. PDC Rod Martens, Department Legislative Chairman
3:30 p.m. David Booze and Eugene Ironshill Jr., 2019 National American Le-
gion College
3:45 p.m. Ed Stringer – Department Membership Chairman Membership Re-
port/ Awards/Turn-In
4:15 p.m. Ken Van Kekerix, VAVS Chairman, Popcorn Fund Turn-In
4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
5:00 p.m. Dept. Membership Committee Meeting—Chamberlain Community Center
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 – Oratorical Contest—
Wheeler Room
SAL: Meet Saturday morning in the Missouri Winds Room following joint session.

LEGION DAY AT THE CAPITOL
The day selected to host the annual Legislative Reception is Wednes-
day, February 10, 2020.
This day will begin with a luncheon for the Boys State Governor Johnathan Smith of Sioux Falls and Girls State Governor Success Suehne of Sioux Falls along with their parents and Department leader-
ship. Following the luncheon, the governors will be taken to the Capitol to visit and take pictures with Governor Noem at TBD in her office, if she is available. At 2 p.m. they will be at the Senate Cham-
ber and the House of Representatives for introductions. A Commemora-
tion will go through the Senate and House honoring them and the American Legion and Auxiliary for sponsoring the Boys State and Girls State Programs.

At 3:30 p.m., the Department Legislative Committee will meet and review the legislative session and make any decisions on whether to support any statutes that have been brought before the legislature. Followed by the Legislative Reception.

The reception will be held at the American Legion Pierre Post Home and will run from 5:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Legislators will receive an invitation from Commander Nelson and the Commander will be at the door greeting them as they arrive. Please spend the day and attend all events wearing your Legion cap. Legislators that attend the Legislative Reception are always looking for Legion members from their respective Districts.

DISTRICT ORATORY CONTESTS
District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties un-der 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 (pwdouglas@gmail.com), 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 time.
DIST. 3 – (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commer-
cial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church, 2604 Hwy 22, 77th Ave., Gettysburg, January 12, 2020 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 19, same time and place.
DIST. 4 – (Broom, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aber-
deen, 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, Kings-
bury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Tim Thomas, (phototoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merril St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorenson Dr., Chamber-
ber, 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 Huntrill, wphet@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 Li-rary, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date February 1, 2020, same time/place.

CONTINUED ON BACK
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVIEW

Due to changes in eligibility by Congress through the LEGION Act, all American Legion District / County / Post are required to review their Bylaws 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.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETING DATES SELECTED

Dates have been scheduled for the Spring District Meetings with locations being published after January 1st. 2020 is an “even numbered” District Commander /Vice Commander election year. Districts can write resolutions to change their Constitution and Bylaws to allow for more than one District Vice Commander, this is a new change due to 2019’s resolution passed at State Convention. Here are the dates for each district:

- March 28 Saturday District 1
- March 29 Sunday District 2
- April 3 Friday District 7
- April 4 Saturday District 8
- April 5 Sunday District 6
- April 17 Friday District 3
- April 18 Saturday District 4
- April 19 Sunday District 5

POST DONATIONS

Department programs within the South Dakota American Legion have been funded by Posts who have donated throughout the past century. These programs have significant impact upon veterans in our State and have no administrative cost. The following programs can be considered by Posts and/or individuals if they would like to donate to them:

- VAVS Popcorn Fund: The money goes to a VAVS hospital Representative to be used for veterans in the VA Hospitals for their basic needs.
- Dept. Emergency Fund: The money goes to veterans in need, for major events such as tornadoes, floods and fires. Similar to the National Emergency Fund, but does not need a declared emergency from federal government.
- Temporary Financial Assistance: The money goes to veterans with Dependent children in the household. With assistance from the National TFA fund, the needs to provide shelter, food and transportation. Almost $7,000 has been granted out this year alone from State TFA Funds.

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.

START TODAY—Make your online purchases worth while by having 1% of your purchases go to SDAL Foundation.

NO “UP TO NOW” FOR CHRISTMAS

Due to the next edition of the UTN falling exactly on Christmas day, the next edition will be published after the holidays on January 8th.

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2020 Membership: 14,693 or 74.41% of goal of 19,747.

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