No. 3278 January 8, 2020

All candidates for Department Officer positions, please forward your post endorsements to State Headquarters by January 17, 2020 so it can be published in the February Legion News.

ENCLOSED WITH THIS EDITION OF UTN
2019 Department Convention Proceedings.

HATS IN THE RING
Greer Post #11 of Wagner has endorsed Greg Geiman as candidate for 2020-2021 Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

STATE COMMANDER EXTENDS PERSONAL INVITE
Commander Fred Nelson is inviting all Post Commanders and Adjutants, along with future leaders in the Posts to attend MidWinter Conference on Saturday February 22nd. The training that will be conducted is focused on the Post Commander and Adjutant Positions. The training surveys completed during Fall District Meetings indicated a large demand for this type of training.

Post Adjutants who plan on attending 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.

OF THE YEAR AWARDS
For the past few years the competition at the State level for Firemen/EMT/Policer/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. For deadlines see forms on www.sdlegion.org/forms webpage.

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...”

ATHLETIC COMMISSION TO MEET JANUARY 12 IN PIERRE
The Athletic Commission will meet at the Pierre Post 8 home on Sunday January 12 at 1 PM. Business to be conducted will be 2021 State Tournament bids along with review of the State Legion Baseball rulebook. Posts who are bidding on the 2021 State Tournament or the 2020 Golf Tournament should be present to answer questions and present their Posts Bid. Athletic officers from Posts are encouraged to attend, this provides an excellent environment to network with the coaches / athletic officers from around the State American Legion baseball program.

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.

GO-GETTER CERTIFICATION DEADLINE
All Posts are reminded that the deadline for certifying Go-Getters to qualify for Early Bird Go-Getter status is Wednesday, February 14, 2020. All Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters will be entitled to attend the Go Getters reception and dinner at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma. Post Adjutants must certify Go-Getters using the Go-Getter Certification Form, which is located in the 2019-2020 Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual. Go-Getter cards may be picked up at the registration table at the MidWinter Conference in Oacoma.

LEGION DAY AT THE CAPITOL
The day selected to host the annual Legislative Reception is MONDAY, February 10, 2020. (this is a correction from the last UTN for the day of week)

The 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 leadership. 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 Chamber and the House of Representatives for introductions. A Commemoration 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 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 (pwdouglas@gmail.com), 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Building 11 basement ROTC class room area (NOTE: Location is updated.) 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., Gethsburg, 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, 2020 same time and place.

DIST. 5 – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shellie Romeu (shellie.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. 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Huntimer, wphejh@siouxvalley.net, 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. District Contest to be held at Humbolt American Legion Post Home, Humbolt, SD

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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, Towner, 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.

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—Hale
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
Boys State Board of Directors - Glass
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting—Hale
4:30 p.m. SDAL Foundation Meeting. —Hale
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 Huntimer and SAL Detachment Commander Terry Hanson Remarks—Hale/Oacoma
8:30 a.m. Bill Oxford, National Commander
8:50 a.m. Auxiliary VA&R Report
8:55 a.m. Auxiliary Children and Youth Report
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
9:55 a.m. Boys State Program
10:00 a.m. Recess Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
10:10 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION:
(ADR) MyLegion – Howe
(CDR) Constitution & By-laws– Wheeler
SAL – Missouri Winds
Boys State Board of Directors Meeting – Glass
11:00 a.m. (CDR) Legion Resources, Structure and Delegation - Wheeler
12:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK
1:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION:
Public Relations & Social Media – Howe
(CDR) Legion Programs - Wheeler
SAL – Missouri Winds
Boys State Board of Directors - Glass
2:00 p.m. (CDR) Conducting a Meeting - Wheeler
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 IronShell Jr., 2019 National American Legion College
3:45 p.m. Ed Stringer – Department Membership Chairman Membership Report/ Awards/Turn-In
4:15 p.m. Ken Van Kekeris, 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
10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – State Finals – Oratorical Contest - Wheeler

PDC BANQUET
The PDC banquet will be held Thursday night February 20th at 6:00 p.m. location is TBD. PDC Holmes is point of contact.

BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULED
American Legion Boys State Corporation will hold a planning meet-