Issued Bi-Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Up To Now!

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No. 3280 February 5, 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 Huntemer 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: (NJC) MyLegion – Howe
1:40 p.m. (NJC) 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 assembly 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 Kekerix, VAVS Chairman, Popcorn Fund Turn-In
4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
4:30 p.m. American Legion Rider meeting—Hale/Oacoma
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, Arrowood 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

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.

ENCLOSED IN THIS EDITION OF UTN

The paper version of the Consolidated Post Report is enclosed. Posts are encouraged to fill this out electronically through the MyLegion website, as you can update it numerous times throughout the year to include events performed that day. This saves you time from remembering events or having to track it by paper. CPR’s are due back to Dept. Headquarters by June 1, 2020.

BOYS STATE PACKETS MAILED TO SCHOOLS AND POSTS

Packet were mailed out to all High Schools and Posts in South Dakota. These packets were identical with the exception of larger schools receiving more flyers. Posts are directed to get into High Schools and promote this outstanding program.

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 conducted will be 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.

PDC BANQUET

The PDC banquet will be held Thursday night February 20th at 5:30 p.m. social, 6:15 p.m. meal, location is Missouri Winds. PDC Holmes is point of contact. National Commander will be present.

SAL GO-GETTER SMORGASBORD

The SAL go-getters will be attending the Dept.’s go-getters this year at MidWinter. Post Commanders are requested to be sure to communicate to their SAL squadrons and invite their go-getters to the MidWinter conference as well.

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.

UPCOMING POST AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP #’s

- Feb. 12, 2020—Post Award – A “Carry on the Legacy” award will be presented to every Post that has attained 100% of its 2020 membership by this date.
- March 11, 2020—Post Go-Getter Medallion - Each Post that reaches or exceeds 95 percent of its assigned 2020 membership goal by The American Legion Birthday Target Date will receive a Post Go-Getter Medallion. Big 12 Competition: Commander Nelson bid that we would have 17,201 members by this date in a competition for a cash prize.

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)

CONTINUED ON BACK
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 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.

BOYS STATE AND YTA REGISTRATION IS OPEN
Boys State registration can be found on the South Dakota Boys State website, the address for applicants: http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/boys-state-application/. The registration fee for Boys State is $200 per student and is payable to the Boys State Treasurer Rick MacDonald.

Registration closes on March 31, 2020.


SDAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED
The Education scholarship committee has selected the following individuals for scholarships:

- Abbigail (Boner) Olson, $2500.00. Via College of Medicine in VA.
- Alyssa J. Juelfs, $1500.00. Currently deployed. Dakota State University.
- Joan Knutson, $1000.00. South Dakota State University

COMMANDER NELSON ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT
State Commander Fred Nelson has appointed Carole Gregg of Rosebud Post 125 onto the VA&R Commission to replace Dion Reynolds who moved out of state and resigned.

BOYS STATE PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULED
American Legion Boys State Corporation will hold a planning meeting at noon, Friday, February 21 and Saturday February 22 at MidWinter Conference. This meeting finalizes the 2020 Boys State session and handles any other business of the corporation

2020 EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR
The American Legion annually honors The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year at its National Convention. The winner of the competition receives a $10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded a $2,500 scholarship. Forms for nominating Boys Scouts for The American Legion 2020 Eagle Scout of the Year are now available from State Headquarters. State Headquarters must receive nominations no later than March 1, 2020. A panel will select the Department Eagle Scout of the Year. Nomination forms may also be downloaded from the internet on The Department American Legion webpage at https://www.sdlegion.org/scouting/.

WILLIAM F LENKER VA&R AWARD
During the 2019 State Convention a resolution was passed to create a VA&R Leadership award. The VA&R Commission created the criteria for the Post competition and was enclosed in the last Up To Now. Forms are due before May 1, 2020 to State HQ,

ELEVEN TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
Eleven members of The American Legion Department of South Dakota will travel to Washington, D.C., on March 9-11, 2020, to participate in the 59th Annual Washington Legislative Conference. Those called to Washington, D.C., this year are NEC Jim Huls of Madison, Commander Fred Nelson of Spearfish, PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson, State Vice CDR Kevin Morello of Blackhawk, Warren Aas of Watertown, District 6 Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, PDC Byron Callies of Watertown, PDC Denny Brenden of Watertown, Gary Wolkow of De Smet and DSO Courtney Van Zanten of Chester. Also attending will be Department Adjutant Travise Fisbrand of Castlewood.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR
There are special Legionnaires in every American Legion Post. It’s that guy or gal that is always there working or volunteering to the Post in whatever way he or she can. This is a one time of year where a Post can single out this individual and recognize them for all their efforts. American Legion Posts are reminded that now is the time to select your Post Legionnaire of the Year.

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD
The South Dakota American Legion Good Samaritan Award was initiated to recognize those individuals or groups who give of themselves to help others. A narrative with supporting documentation must be forwarded to the District Commander ten days prior to the Spring District meeting. All District Commanders are responsible to forward the District’s nominee to Department Headquarters by May 1, 2020.

FIREMAN / EMT / POLICE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES
Posts are encouraged to nominate their local Fireman/EMT/Law Enforcement individuals to compete at the District and State level competition. A narrative with supporting documentation must be forwarded to the District Commander ten days prior to the Spring District meeting. All District Commanders are responsible to forward the District’s nominee to Department Headquarters by May 1, 2020.

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 receives 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.

EXAMPLE IS ON WEBSITE: https://www.sdlegion.org/constitution-bylaws/

SPRING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS SET
The Spring District Convention schedule is as follows:

- March 28 Saturday District 1
  Box Elder Post 315.
  March 29 Sunday District 2
  Hermosa Post 303.
- April 3 Friday District 7
  TBD
- April 4 Saturday District 8
  Vermillion Post 1
- April 5 Sunday District 6
  Arlington Post 42, Social 1:00 pm, Meeting 2:00. Meal: 4:00 Cost TBD. Auxiliary will meet at 13:00 / location TBD.
- April 17 Friday District 3
  Hoven Post 159 / 5 pm social / 6 pm meeting
- April 18 Saturday District 4
  Akaska Community Center / 3 pm Exec meeting / 3:30 social / 4:30 meal / 6 pm meeting
- April 19 Sunday District 5
  Milbank Post 9 home / Commander & Adjutant training at noon / Exec meeting at 2 pm / 3 pm meeting

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2020 Membership: 16,285 or 82.47% of goal of 19,747.

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