ENCLOSED
The 2020 Spring District Conventions Official Call.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
The 2020 Midwinter Conference is just a few days, 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 Hunter and SAL Detachment Commander Terry Hanson Remarks—Hale/Oacoma
8:30 a.m. Bill Oxford, National Commander
8:50 a.m. SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock—SD State Cemetery
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary VA&R Report
9:05 a.m. Auxiliary Children and Youth Report
9:10 a.m. Dept of Veteran Affairs - Telehealth
9:50 a.m. Youth Trooper Academy, SD Highway Patrol
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:
(ADJ) 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 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, 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

MIDWINTER BANQUET
The 2020 Midwinter Banquet menu will be: Steak & Walleye, baked potato, carrots, salad and coffee or tea. Cost is $30 / person.

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.

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 squads and invite their go-getters to the MidWinter conference as well.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS BEING WATCHED
The following Legislative bills are being tracked by the Legislative Committee.

Bill Title
SB 2 require the Department of Social Services to fully support a statewide centralized resource information system.
SB 35 revise the appropriation for the State Veterans’ Cemetery and to declare an emergency.
SB 84 authorize service animals in-training to enter certain establishments.
SB 124 to revise provisions regarding group pheasant hunts for disabled veterans.
SB 156 repeal provisions regarding the South Dakota Veterans Commission.
SR 701 In support of rescinding the Medals of Honor given to United States soldiers for the involvement and participation of the soldiers in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890.
HB 1030 revise certain provisions regarding the Board of Technical Education.
HB 1034 make an appropriation to fund tax refunds for elderly persons and persons with a disability, and to declare an emergency.
HB 1036 revise provisions regarding the issuance of certain military specialty plates.
HB 1062 increase the financial empowerment of state residents.
HB 1069 authorize certain veterans to attend courses offered at post secondary technical institutes without payment of tuition.
HB 1083 rename the postsecondary technical institutes as technical colleges.

UPCOMING POST AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP #’s
• 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.

CONTINUED ON BACK
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 L. Jueflis, $1500.00. Currently deployed. Dakota State University.
- Joan Knutson, $1000.00. South Dakota State University

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 award 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. Nominations forms may also be downloaded from the internet on The Department American Legion webpage at https://www.sdlegation.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 award that will be a Post competition and was enclosed in the last Up To Now. Forms are due before May 1, 2020 to State Headquarters.

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 Trivise Flisrand 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.sdlegation.org/constitution-bylaws/

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>District 1: Box Elder Post 315, Exec Comm at 10 AM, Social 10:30, Lunch 11:30, Joint Meeting 12:30, Separate Meetings 1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>District 2: Hermosa Post 303, 11 am social Noon Meal 1 pm meeting Auxillary at St. Michel's Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>District 7: Dell Rapids 5 pm Executive Committee 5:30 Social Hour 6:15 Meal 7:00 Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>District 8: Vermillion Post 1 Social: 12 Noon (Snacks Only), Meeting: 1-4 pm, Location: USD Muenster University Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>District 3: Hoven Post 159 / 5 pm social / 6 pm meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>District 4: Akaska Community Center / 3 pm Exec meeting / 3:30 social / 4:30 meal / 6 pm meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>District 5: Milbank Post 9 home / CDR &amp; ADJ training at noon / Exec meeting at 2 pm / 3 pm meeting</td>
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CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)
It is that time of year again where we need to document what we are doing in our communities. When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers. Please take the time to fill out the form that was sent out or by going online to mylegation.org and completing it there. Thank you in advance for assisting in this matter.

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION
The 11th annual fun auction will be held in Huron during the State Convention. This event has grown through the years and has become an event that is well attended and supported by the American Legion Family. All proceeds from the fun auction are donated to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Please consider donating items to the fun auction. If you have a talent in any particular area, such as quilting, wood carving, woodworking, baking, etc, please consider making something to be auctioned off at the fun auction. These items are very well received. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2020 Membership: 16,691 or 84.52% of goal of 19,747.

Commander Nelson’s bid of 17,201 by March 11, 2020 to the National Commander is getting close to goal.

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