MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

If you are a member of the South Dakota American Legion and you have not renewed your membership for the year 2021, you will receive a renewal notice through the mail. This notice is sent out by the National Headquarters and is an official notice to renew your membership.

The renewal process can be completed in various ways, including online, by phone, or by mail. It is important to renew your membership as soon as possible to ensure that you remain an active member of the South Dakota American Legion.

The renewal deadline is set by the National Headquarters and is typically around August 1st. If you do not renew your membership by the deadline, you may be removed from the membership list and may lose your benefits as a member.

The renewal notice will provide information on how to renew your membership and the deadlines for completing the process. It is important to read the notice carefully and follow the instructions provided.

Before you renew your membership, you should review your membership information to ensure that your contact information and other details are correct.

If you have any questions or concerns about the renewal process, you can contact the Service Department at the State Headquarters at (605) 886-3604 or by email at adujant@sdlegion.org.

DISTRICT FALL MEETINGS BEING SCHEDULED

District 1 will be held on Oct 4th at the Box Elder Post, social at 10:30, lunch 11:30 and meeting starts at 12:30
District 2 Location and time still TBD
District 3 Will be held on Sep 20th at Hoven, lunch at 1:00 and meeting starts at 2:00
District 4 Will be held on Sep 18th at the Akaska Community Center with social at 6:00, meal at 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:30
District 5 Will be held on Sep 19th at the Sisseton Senior Center with social at 2:00 and meeting starts at 2:30
District 6 Will be held on Sep 25th at the Arlington Post, social at 5:00, meal at 6:00 and meeting starts at 7:00
District 7 Will be held on Sep 26th at the Dell Rapids Post, social at 12:00, meal at 1:00 and meeting starts at 2:00
District 8 Will be held on Sep 27th at the Wakonda Post, social at 1:00 pm, meeting starts at 2:00

2021 MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND OFFICER MANUALS

Membership cards and Officer manuals have been mailed to all Posts who have certified their officers for the next year. Included in the package was the latest edition of the South Dakota Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual for 2020-2021 (the latest edition has a yellow cover). If you have not certified your officers yet, as soon as the Post does, the membership cards and manuals will be mailed to the Post. The South Dakota manual is also available online at sdlegion.org under publications.

CERTIFICATION OF 2021 OFFICERS

Post Adjutants have a responsibility to certify the Post’s 2020—2021 officers to Department Headquarters in Watertown. This certification process is one of the last official duties of the outgoing Post Adjutant. The form for certifying your 2021 Post Officers can be found in the 2019-2020 SD American Legion Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual. One sheet explains the certification process, and the very next page is the Post Officers Certification Form. Newly elected Post Officers will not be placed on mailing lists by State or National Headquarters and Posts will not receive their 2021 membership cards until the Post is certified. Phone certifications will not be accepted. The reason is a significant number of Posts now have incorrect members listed as officers. DO NOT WRITE "SAME AS LAST YEAR"!

State Headquarters has NOT received Post Certifications from the following posts:

- DISTRICT 1: Little Eagle #239 and Dupree #124
- DISTRICT 2: Midland #143, Belvidere #144, Wanblee #269, Norris #310, Parmelee #295, St. Francis #297, Oelrichs #238, Batesland #281, Kyle #265, Pine Ridge #251, Porcupine #294, Manderson #302
- DISTRICT 3: Fairfax #187, Blunt #77
- DISTRICT 4: Warner #137, Faulkton #102, Rockham #57
- DISTRICT 5: Webster #40, Britton #80, Estelline #184, Aurora #230
- DISTRICT 7: Flandreau #70, Bridgewater #111, Baltic #175, Elk Point #134, Hudson #128
- DISTRICT 8: Chancellor #283, Marion #235, Parker #30, Tyndall #2, Greenwood #257, Lake Andes #10, Parkston #194.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

National Headquarters is sending out the first renewal notice for 2021. Please encourage everyone to renew as soon as possible. Also, please keep in mind there is a time lag from when the individual renews to the time it registers at National and gets to the membership department. This is especially true if you renew using any other method than on line. There is a good chance that even if you renew during the time frame listed, you may still get another dues notice. If you do, simply disregard the notice.
2020 SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Legion Golf Tournament, co-sponsored by the Humboldt and Hartford American Legion Posts, will be held on the weekend of September 12-13, 2020, at the Hartford Golf Course. This year will include another Hole-In-One contest and other surprises. Entry fee for four person scramble is $440. Golfers who submit advance payments will be entered in a drawing. Entry fee covers 18 holes of golf on Saturday and Sunday, free use of golf cart and a catered meal on Saturday evening. Contact Fred Lee at 605-413-9451 to secure your slot or for additional information.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS
The Veterans Building will be open, so it is that time of year when volunteers are needed to man the Legion table at the State Fair. Due to COVID, volunteers need to evaluate their health and determine if they are up to manning the booth. This years dates are Sept 3 to Sept 7th. Veterans Day will be Sept 3rd where veterans get in free. Masks will be encouraged, but optional. Posts and individuals who would like to volunteer please call State Headquarters or e-mail to hq@sdlegion.org and let us know if you and/or your Post would like to help out. More information will be posted once details have been worked out.

ANNUAL NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP
Each fall, National Headquarters hosts a workshop for Commanders, Membership Chairmen and Adjutants. Due to COVID-19, the in-person workshop has been cancelled. Instead, National will be hosting virtual membership training which will be open to all. The event will be live and available for up to 10,000 attendees. The theme is “Growing a Post.” Training will be held Aug 3rd through Aug 6th with two different topics each day. Topics to be discussed are (all times central):

- Aug 3 3-4 pm Introduction to The American Legion “What is a Post?”
  6-7 pm Develop a mission and Vision
- Aug 4 3-4 pm Building an effective membership team
  6-7 pm Recruitment of volunteers
- Aug 5 3-4 pm Membership retention
  6-7 pm Every Legioinaire is a recruiter
- Aug 6 3-4 pm Define a great post
  6-7 pm MyLegion.org

No registration is required. You can participate in one or all of topics. For more information go to https://www.legion.org/membership/249379/american-legion-national-membership-workshop-go-virtual.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS
The Department Executive Committee (DEC) recently agreed to the production and mailing of the August edition to the Legion News to all current members of South Dakota American Legion. Because most of Post, District and State meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19, the DEC felt it was important to connect with the State members and get them up to date. The special edition will contain new stories as usual, but will also highlight the various Legion Programs and points of contacts. Additionally a schedule of events for the next six months will be added. Once you receive your paper, please let us know what you think.

UPDATED PREAMBLE AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER
Dept. Headquarters has negotiated a deal to get new Preambles ordered that will measure 36” x 52.5” in either Portrait or landscape orientation. It will need to be placed in a frame. Cost is $30 each. Ordering has been extended until September 1, 2020. Delivery will be during the Fall meetings. Contact HQ at hq@sdlegion.org or call the phone number on the header above to order.

SPACE FORCE MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION (A NOTE FROM NATIONAL HQ)
Military members who serve in the Space Force are eligible to join The American Legion. If one goes online to join at www.legion.org, there is a Space Force option to select under the branch of service. Posts using MyLegion to process dues can also select Space Force. Currently we have six Legionnaires who are serving in the Space Force. The current membership application, Why You Should Belong, The American Legion Family Brochure, and the member data form do not have Space Force on them. As Legionnaires and posts continue to recruit new members and run into someone who is currently serving in the Space Force, they can handwrite the information on to the application. Same with the member data form. Just handwrite that onto the member data form until we can get these updated and new ones printed.

A MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
The regulations pertaining to the use of the name and/or emblem of The American Legion (TAL) requires written permission. In non-commercial uses (i.e. Department & Post use), this permission is regulated by the resolution process. In commercial uses, this permission is accomplished via contracts, memoranda of understanding or licenses. Unfortunately, we discovered these regulations and methods have been largely ignored and have discovered numerous trademark violations.

So what does this mean to Posts? Each Post must follow National guidelines in using TAL emblem or name. For example, if you have shirts made for your post which include The American Legion logo, you must first get permission to use the logo from National. Failure to do so can lead to legal issues. The procedures for requesting permission can be found on the Legion.org website.

DID YOU KNOW?
June 14, 1924, The second American Legion—coordinated National Flag Conference ratifies rules of respect and treatment of the U.S. flag. Across the country, the code is applied by states and local governments, but it takes 19 years before Congress passes the U. S. Flag Code in 1942.

POST GOALS FOR 2021 (FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN TRAVIS FLISRAND)
When I was Dept. Adjutant I found it very challenging to have a goaling model for each Post that was fair. This year’s model is to ensure goals are attainable and that making goal is the standard, surpassing goal is expected. Each Post is expected to achieve what they have at the 100% target date on June 17, 2020 for CURRENT members. The membership list of paid members for 2020 was downloaded from the National database and membership by Post was counted. All transfers and deceased members would have been accounted for (as long as a Post reported the deaths). The expectation is every Post will reach 100%, retaining all members and recruiting new members. Commander Nelsons challenge is for every Post and District to achieve 103% of goal. Awards this year will be for those Posts going above the goal standard.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2021 Membership: 703 or 4.06% of goal of 17,321

Membership Chairman Travis Flisrand’s theme for 2020-2021 is:
Retain, Recruit and Educate

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