THE AMERICAN LEGION VISION, MISSION AND MOTTO

The National Executive Committee approved Resolution #5 entitled “Vision & Mission Statement” in early August. The mission statement is “The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families.”

The motto that was adopted, “Veterans Strengthening America.”

In addition to the mission statement and motto, the following value principles were adopted:

A VETERAN IS A VETERAN—The Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.

SELFLESS SERVICE—The Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.

AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM—The Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT—The Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.

ADVANCING THE VISION—The Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans.

HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US—The Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.

National Headquarters will be producing posters to disseminate to the Posts which will further explain the resolution and meanings. As a reminder, none of the above replaces the purposes as stated in the Preamble for The American Legion Constitution which will always be our guiding principles.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

National Headquarters is sending out the next renewal notice to those who have not renewed 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.

100 MILES FOR HOPE

National Commander Bill Oxford challenges the Legion Family to walk, run or ride 100 miles before Veterans Day to support veterans and military families. 100 Miles for Hope is a virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride challenge starting Aug. 3 and going through Veterans Day in 2020. It’s a way to invigorate donations for the Veterans & Children Foundation, as well as encourage American Legion Family members to be active in this time of social distancing. Participants in 100 Miles for Hope would have from the official kickoff to run, walk, bike or ride their motorcycle for 100 miles. That time frame is 100 days so it would mean being active for just a mile a day, roughly 20 to 30 minutes for walkers — which coincidentally is the activity level many health experts recommend. For a $30 registration fee, participants will receive a men’s, women’s or children’s tech shirt, and a sign they can display once the 100 miles is completed. After figuring the cost for the shirt, other materials and shipping, the remaining proceeds will go directly into the Veterans and Children’s Foundation. For more information and to register go to legion.org and follow the links or go to https://emblem.legion.org/100-Miles-For-Hope-Registration/productinfo/100MILES/ . Talk it up in your posts. There is still plenty of time to get your 100 miles in.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR VETERANS BUILDING

On July 22nd the South Dakota Veterans Council voted to open the Veterans Building during the State Fair this year. They felt the COVID risk was too high and the building is often crowded with people. However, Thursday is still the Salute to Veterans Day with Veterans receiving free admission.

VETERANS EMPLOYER DEADLINE CHANGED

The original due date for employer awards as listed in the South Dakota Posts Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards manual was 15 Dec 2020. In order to give the Employment Committee ample time to review and select state winners, the due date is now 15 Nov 2020. Please note this change in the manual. Start looking for your local employers who should be recognized and submit the information as per the instructions (with due date change) to Depart HQ.

ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES

The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests.

Post contests completed by January 10th
District contests completed by January 31st
Department contest on February 21st at 10:30
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  Will be held on Oct 3rd at the Rapid City Post 22 home, social at 5:00, meal at 6:00, meeting at 7:00
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, meet 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 Sep25th 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

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, Bacesdale #281, Kyle #265, Pine Ridge #251, Porcupine #294, Manderson #302
DISTRICT 3: All Posts have certified, GREAT JOB!
DISTRICT 4: Faulkton #102, Rockham #57.
DISTRICT 5: All Posts have certified, GREAT JOB!
DISTRICT 6: All Posts have certified, GREAT JOB!
DISTRICT 7: Bridgewater #111, Baltic #175
DISTRICT 8: Parker #30, Parkston #194.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY UPDATE
Work is progressing for the cemetery. The projected opening will be next spring. Additional information can be found at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs website: Vetaffairs.sd.gov. Once in the site, click on the Veterans Cemetery in the upper banner. You will also find a form for burial pre-registration which are now being accepted.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER/EMT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR.
Time to plan ahead. The due dates for Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the year were moved up to meet National timelines. Due dates are now December 31st from the District Commanders to Dept HQ. This is a great way to recognize those that put their lives on the line. Never to early to plan ahead.

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 hj@sdlegion.org or call the phone number on the header above to order.

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.

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.

FOUNDATION DONATIONS
Remember the South Dakota American Legion Foundation when your Post considers donations / gifts. This foundation will be used by future generations of Legionnaires to fund the American Legion programs. Donations can be marked as a memorial to those Legion members who have passed onto Post Everlasting. If the Post knows someone who wants to make a larger donation and needs assistance with ensuring the endowment goes to the programs they want to support, please contact the Dept. Adjutant at adjutant@sdlegion.org.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1969, Hurricane Camille devastated the east coast, killing 259, destroying communities and causing almost $1.5 billion in damages. Many veterans were left homeless and many Posts were severely damaged. The American Legion established a reserve fund for relief, offering up to $1,500 to veterans and $5,000 to Posts that were damaged or destroyed. This reserve account was the genesis for what would become the National Emergency Fund 20 years later. To illustrate the destructive force of the hurricane, the flag post from Post 119 in Gulfport AL is found in the mud near Hammond LA.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
2021 Membership: 5471 or 31.5% of goal of 17,321*

*Note, these numbers do not include PUFL’s at this time.

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