IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

SEP 18 Dist 4 Fall Meeting (Akaska 7:30 pm meeting)
SEP 19 Dist 5 Fall Meeting (Sisseton 2:30 pm meeting)
SEP 20 Dist 3 Fall Meeting (Pierre 2 pm meeting)
SEP 25 Dist 6 Fall Meeting (Arlington 7 pm meeting)
SEP 26 Dist 7 Fall Meeting (Dell Rapids 2 pm meeting)
SEP 27 Dist 8 Fall Meeting (Wakonda 2 pm meeting)
OCT 3 Dist 2 Fall Meeting (Rapid City 3 pm meeting)
OCT 4 Dist 1 Fall Meeting (Box Elder 12:30 meeting)
NOV 15 Employer Award inputs due to Dept HQ
DEC 10 Sioux Falls VA Hospital Christmas Party
DEC 12 Hot Springs VA Hospital Christmas Party
DEC 13 Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Christmas Party
DEC 14 Ft Meade VA Hospital Christmas Party
JAN 10 Post to have completed oratory contests
JAN 31 Districts to have completed oratory contests

HATS IN THE RING

Wagner Post 11 has endorsed Greg Geiman as candidate for Department Sergeant-At-Arms
Due to sudden health issues, Ed Stringer has asked that he be removed as a candidate for Department Commander

COMMANDER NELSON MAKES APPOINTMENTS:

Department Commander Fred Nelson has announced the following appointments:
  C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City for one year appointment as Director of Boys state
  Phil Egeberg of Brookings for two year appointment as member of the Education Committee
  Ed Hruska of Sioux Falls to three year appointment as member of the Education Committee
  Paul Wiechmann of Wagner to three year appointment as member of the Education Committee

NOTE: LOCATION OR TIME CHANGES TO SEVERAL DISTRICT FALL MEETINGS

District 2 will still be held at Post 22 home, but times have been changed to social at 2 pm, meeting at 3 pm and meal at about 4:30 pm

District 3, due to COVID issues in Hoven, the meeting location as been changed to Pierre Post home. 12:30 pm social, 1 pm meal and meeting at 2 pm.

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.

HOT SPRINGS VA TO REMAIN IN OPERATION

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie has informed the South Dakota congressional delegation in writing he has decided to rescind a 2017 decision that would have closed the health care facility and soldiers’ home in Hot Springs. The American Legion as well as many other groups worked hard to keep the facility open and it has finally met with success. Thanks to all those who made it their mission to make this happen.

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, THERE IS STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE

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 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/productinfo6/100MILES/. Talk it up in your posts. There is still plenty of time to get your 100 miles in.

VETERANS EMPLOYER AWARDS 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 to 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.

DISTRICT FALL MEETINGS START THIS WEEK
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 2:00, meeting at 3:00 and meal at 4:30
District 3: Will be held on Sep 20th at Pierre Post, social at 12:30, 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

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021
The below listed Posts have not certified their Officers for 2020-2021 year. Until the officers have been certified, Post will not receive their 2021 membership cards. If you have a question about certification, contact the office at (605) 886-3604.

DISTRICT 1: Little Eagle #239 and Dupree #124
DISTRICT 2: 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 8: Parker #30, Parkston #194

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.

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.

GET OUT THE VOTE
Is your post supporting this important national program? If not please get involved. The Legion’s "Get Out the Vote” program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING
Have you taken the Basic Training? The American Legion’s official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation’s largest veterans service organization is now available online. Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. For more information go to https://www.legion.org/alei

POST SOCIAL MEDIA
Social media (example: Facebook / Twitter) can be a beneficial part of a Posts communication methods for their members and community. Properly implemented it can increase support from the surrounding communities and American Legion Posts. DSO/Asst. Adjutant Courtney VanZanten can assist Posts on best practices on this. The social media accounts are a direct representation of the American Legion Post and should reflect the four pillars and what the Post does for its community.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1967, Alan Keyes of San Antonio, Texas, the son of a Vietnam War Veteran, wins The American Legion National Oratory Contest. Three months later, July 1967, he elected as the President of Boys Nation. He was the youngest oratory champion to date and the first youth to claim top honors in both Americanism programs. Since then only one other individual has won top honors in both programs, but not in the same year. Keyes went on to receive two degrees from Harvard, served as a U.S. Diplomat, author, broadcaster and U.S. presidential candidate. In 1999 he received the American Legion National Commander’s Public Relations Award.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:
First, well done to those Posts that achieved 50% of their goal by Sept 10. The next membership target date is October 15. Each post should be at 55% of membership or more.

2021 Membership: 10,280 or 59.35% of goal of 17,321*

*Note, these numbers do include the PUFL’s.

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