The National Commander will award the Legion Family Honor Ribbon to those who gave their all in support of our country. 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.

FALLEN HEROES BRIDGE DEDICATIONS
Naming bridges in honor of combat veterans who died while serving their country is a new initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs. The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting several State Bridge Dedication Ceremonies in the next several months to honor Combat Veterans killed in action:

OCT 3, the ceremony will be held at 1:00 pm (CT) in front of the Yankton County Court House at 321 W. Third Street to honor SGT Allen Kokesh Jr.

OCT 14, the ceremony will be held at 1:30 (CT) at the Highmore High School Auditorium to honor SGT Daniel Busse.

NOV 11, the ceremony will be held at the Parkston High School Auditorium at 9:00 am (CT) to honor SSG Janson Montefering and SGT Jeremiah Boehmer.

Please consider attending the ceremonies and wear your Legion Cap to honor those who gave their all in support of our country. 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.

NATIONAL COMMANDERS AWARDS FOR POSTS AND INDIVIDUALS.
Foundation for the Future pin: National Commander Oxford will award this pin to any Legionnaire who recruits three new members before June of 2021. A new member is anyone who was not a member in 2020. The Post Adjutant is responsible for filling out the form but you can help him out by ensuring he has the information he needs. Additional information and the application form can be found at the National Website, legion.org/commander/pin.

Legion Family Honor Ribbon: Any Post Family (Post, Auxiliary and/or SAL and/or Riders) which all organizations make 100% of their membership goals is eligible for this award. Additional information and the form is available at legion.org/commander/ribbon. The award must go through the Dept Adjutant before going to National.

Post Excellence Award: To earn this award, the Post is required to achieve excellence in four areas; meet 103% of its membership goal, submit the Consolidated Post Report on time, attain a 90% renewal rate and prove community activity. The District Commander is responsible for certifying their posts who meet the requirements. More information is available at legion.org/commander/postexcellence. 103% membership award: The National Commander will award this incentive pin to any post, district, county, or department commander or membership chairman who achieves 103% of their membership goal. Additional information and forms are available at legion.org/commander/103percent. The forms must be submitted through the Dept Adjutant.

CONTINUED ON BACK
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAP PINS
Commander Nelson will award his 2020-2021 Cap Pin to individuals for:
- Participating in Oratorical Contest
- Working with Boys State
- Working with Youth Trooper program
- Participating in Honor Guard at veterans funeral

A Legionnaire is allowed only one pin. The Post Adjutant must certify participation. Additional information and the certification form can be found in the 2020-2021 Post Adjutant’s Administrative & Awards manual or at https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/cap-pin-form-done.pdf

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 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 about 4:30

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) 866-3604.

DISTRICT 1: Little Eagle #239 and Dupree #124
DISTRICT 2: Belvidere #144, Wanbly #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.

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? South Dakota American Legion headquarters moved from Sioux Falls to Watertown in 1922. Post 17 was interested in helping with a permanent home for Headquarters. Codington County was interested in building a new courthouse and the Legion suggested the top floor could be used to support the American Legion. On July 6th, 1926, the County Board unanimously voted to provide the top floor office space to the American Legion. The chairman of the County Commission Board sent a letter to 1926 Department Convention which stated “This is to advise you that at a recent meeting of the Codington County Commissioners, at the request of Codington Post 17, it was unanimously voted to provide adequate office space in the new court house to be erected during the present season, for the permanent headquarters of the American Legion, Department of South Dakota.” During construction, the project ran short on funds, so Post 17 donated the money to finish construction. Upon completion of construction, the entire third floor was made available to Department Headquarters and Post 17. In 1944, Post 17 had grown large enough they needed to find a larger location to hold meetings so they moved to a different facility. At the 1955 Department Convention, Sioux Falls Post 15 submitted a resolution to move Department Headquarters to Pierre to be closer to State Government and improve the ability to lobby for issues. The Internal Organization Committee recommended this be rejected and resolution did not pass.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:
The next membership target date is October 15. Each post should be at 55% of membership or more.

Congratulations to the following posts who have met their 100% membership goal:

- Fairfax Post 187
- Northville Post 149
- Erwin Post 241
- Plankinton Post 5
- Egan Post 97
- Aurora Post 230
- Isabel Post 120
- Wall Post 246

The Veterans Day membership target date is approaching fast. Every member who has paid their dues November 12th is eligible for an award drawing. One from each District. Everyone who recruits a new member by this date is entered into a drawing for a Legion wristwatch. Post Adjutant or Membership chairman is responsible for certifying and ensuring recruiters names are received at Headquarters before Nov 12th. Each District Membership Chairman who has no “goose eggs” and at least 75% membership is eligible for an award. All Posts who meet their membership goals by this date will be presented a plaque. Memberships must be transmitted to Department Headquarters by the Nov 12th to be eligible.

2021 Membership: 10,839 or 62.58% 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