The American Legion post home in Polo is getting an overdue facelift. The building, built in 1956, hadn’t seen much for renovations in the last 70 years. There was shag carpet, old wood paneling and a staleness that needed to go. It is now stripped down to the studs, ready for some fresh drywall, new paint and talks of future expansion.

Walking into Post #299, its observed that the building remodel is a metaphor reflective of their membership. Over the last ten years, the demographic of the post has changed dramatically. Today, the vast majority—70 percent, to be exact—of Polo Legionnaires are Persian Gulf or Global War on Terror veterans.

The noticeably young group didn’t just happen. Brothers Sam and Paul Schaefers, Orient locals and GWOT veterans, started coming to Polo Legion meetings and showing an interest about a decade ago. They encouraged friends to come along, and soon, the room was teeming with younger veterans.

When asked the secret to their success, Paul Schaefers replied with some facetiousness. “Find a dying post with a few of your buddies and take it over.” After a laugh, Schaefers clarified. “It took a few years for the old boys to trust that we weren’t just going to take the money and run. But once they handed over the reins, it was game on.”

Observing the work party, there were clear-cut clues on how the Polo post was celebrating an All-Time-High of 52 members in 2019. Heath Smith, a recruiter for the South Dakota National Guard, divvied up a few names to directly contact as potential members. Post Adjutant Dwight Aymar assigned renewal lists. But clearly, what continually draws people into the post is the camaraderie present. In tearing down cabinets and insulation, jokes were told, memories relived and plans laid out.

The members were not only planning their active recruiting, but working their retention, passive recruitment and community support through activities. The Polo post still runs the traditional programs of the American Legion. They have a particularly impressive Honor Guard, as many of the current guardsmen sport their military uniforms in lieu of a blazer. The Legionnaires have also kept up many of the activities their mentors started, most notably a longstanding Trap Shoot fundraiser. This year’s Trap Shoot will be held October 16th at 5pm, meeting at the post home.

Participants should bring their own ammo and shotgun—which the post will have some for sale, they are limited this year.

The crew at Post #299 has expanded their reach into the Polo community as well. The post has an active Facebook page, where drone-shot footage of their Memorial Day programs, pictures of family-orientated Christmas parties and raffles at the local races dominate their timeline. Tapping into local interests, they started an Annual Coyote Hunt, an all-weekend affair that has proven to be a successful fundraiser. The event pulls in a strong showing year after year, and the post expects the same this January. The hunt is scheduled for January 29th-31st, 2021. Sign Up and Rules Meeting on Friday, January 29th at 5pm, Stag Night on Saturday with activities starting at 8pm, and Weigh-Ins on Sunday starting at 12pm. Any further questions on the Coyote Hunt can be directed to Post Commander Ted Schaff at (605) 661-7731.

Past Department Commander Deane Weekley has been rewarded with a reinvigorated post, both literally and figuratively. Strong hearts, strong backs and a strong sense of community have secured a legacy for generations to come.
From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

Legionnaires, Each year about this time the Department Adjutant attends a membership workshop at National Headquarters. As with most meetings right now, it was cancelled due to COVID. However, a virtual membership workshop was held via video-teleconference over several days. One of the topics was recruiting at the Post level. The presenter, who spent a number of years in the military as a recruiter, said there were two main types of recruiting, active and passive.

Active recruiting is when you are involved in the process of trying to convince a person or persons to join the cause. It could be getting a person to join the organization or could be trying to convince someone to help with a project. In either case you are speaking directly to persons to join the cause. It could be getting a person to join the organization or could be trying to convince someone to help with a project. In either case you are speaking directly to persons to join the cause.

Passive recruiting is more of a waiting game. Most veterans want to do something meaningful or have a purpose. Although that has its place, most veterans want to do something meaningful or have a purpose.

A post that is active in the community is demonstrating that passive recruiting. Give the younger ones because they want to be involved in their community. If you can come up with a project the whole family can be involved in that is even better.

I have talked to a number of younger veterans. Unfortunately, quite often their perception of The American Legion is a bunch of old guys sitting around a table telling war stories. Although that has its place, most veterans want to do something meaningful or have a purpose. I have talked to a number of younger veterans. Unfortunately, quite often their perception of The American Legion is a bunch of old guys sitting around a table telling war stories. Although that has its place, most veterans want to do something meaningful or have a purpose.

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Backpacks Across South Dakota

From Fore to Fundraising: Tee It Up For Troops Holds Golf Tourney Benefitting SD Veteran Non-Profits

On Monday, July 20, 2020, Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills held its second annual golf event at Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City, SD. This year’s event saw tremendous growth in which the number of participants was up 40% and fundraising nearly doubled. The local non-profits that the Black Hills chapter benefited were Rapid City’s very own Super Dogs for Super Heroes, who trains rescue dogs to become service dogs for veterans and Warner’s DTOM 22/0 Foundation who provides South Dakota veterans with service dogs for veterans and Warner’s DTOM 22/0 Foundation who provides South Dakota veterans with service dogs for veterans and Warner’s DTOM 22/0 Foundation who provides South Dakota veterans with service dogs for veterans.

For the second straight year, the Black Hills event had 40 veterans who played in the event and another event that can only be found in the Black Hills of South Dakota...and they are only getting bigger. The local non-profits that the Black Hills chapter benefited were Rapid City’s very own Super Dogs for Super Heroes, who trains rescue dogs to become service dogs for veterans and Warner’s DTOM 22/0 Foundation who provides South Dakota veterans with service dogs for veterans.

Additionally, through their newly implemented grant system, the South Dakota American Legion Foundation provided the Children & Youth BackPack Program a $1500 dollar grant to purchase backpacks to house the donated materials. In the beginning of August, all donations and purchased backpacks were centralized to the Chester American Legion & Auxilary, where volunteers sorted supplies, stuffed backpacks and prepared for distribution. In total, 335 backpacks and 24 classroom sets of supplies were distributed.

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Continued on Page 5.

Firefighter/EMT & Law Enforcement of the Year Award Nominations Due to Districts

We all have them: the local heroes who, day in and day out, work to keep our communities safe. The American Legion recognizes these individuals every year through the Firefighter/EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards. While it goes without saying that the Department wants Posts to recognize its local heroes for what they do, these awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

The Firefighter of the Year Award is given to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion’s Department and National Conventions.

Nominations are due to the Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion’s Department and National Conventions.

Nominations must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time paid, or volunteer, or in some instances, sworn public servants. The application must clearly show that the nominee has demonstrated a pattern of professional achievement, including acts of heroism. These awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Find the application here: https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter

To read through the entire article, please visit www.teeitupforthetroops.org.
District Oratory Contest

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

For All SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:

District 1 – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Hardin, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (kcsabers@gmail.com) 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 10, 2021, 1:00pm. Storm date, January 17th, same time and place.

District 2 – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Paul Douglas, 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at SDSMO-T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Second Ave., January 10, 2021, 5:00p.m. Storm date, January 17th, same time and place.

District 3 – (Gregory, Hard, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry.madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 24, 2021 2:00p.m. Storm date, January 31st, same time and place.

District 4 – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faust, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale.strom@ya-hoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 3, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 10th, same time and place.

District 5 – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shelli Romeu (shelli.romeu@gmail.com), PO Box 284, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Castlewood Lutheran Church, Jan. 17, 2021, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 24th, same time and place.

District 6 – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Min., Sanborn counties) Chair: Tom Thomas, (photostoday@midistated.net) 112 5 Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorensen Dr, Chamberlain, SD 57325, January 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 24, same time and place.

District 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Huntimer, (wphjeji@southvalley.net), 508 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57065. District Contest to be held at the Dell Rapids American Legion Post Home, January 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 17th, same time and place.

District 8 – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Contact: Greg Geiman (speedy.82501@yahoo.com) 411 Stafford St, Scotland, SD 57069. District Contest to be held at the NFAA HQ (Archery), 800 Archery Lane, Yankton SD 57078, January 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 23, 2021, same time and place.

State Legion Golf Tournament Wraps Up

For the second year in a row, Hartford Post 118 and Humboldt Post 62 hosted the State American Legion Golf tournament at Central Valley Golf Course. Teams representing a total of nine posts across the state competed in the two-day 4 Man Scramble. The team representing Hartford won the tournament while the team from Hermosa won first flight honors.

First flight winners in the American Legion golf tournament were Gene Gillen, Larry Schulze, Greg Brewer. Not pictured Brian Schulte. (bottom left) Winners of the Championship flight, Kerry Loudenslager, Aaron Loudenslager, Darwin Viet and Darrel Viet with a winning score of 126 or 18 under par. (bottom right)
Member Spotlight:  
David Fluck, Custer Post #46

Name: David Fluck  
Post: Custer Post #46  
Civillian Occupation: Captain, Hot Springs VA Medical Center Fire Department  
Why Nominated: David has been an integral part of Custer Post #46 for the last 16 years. Not only did he serve as a longtime Americanism Officer for the post, David stepped up to the plate and founded the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association, of which he now serves as the Vice President. His work was vital in the development, implementation and realization of the Custer Veterans Memorial, which was officially dedicated November 11, 2018. The memorial has continually grown since, largely in part to the efforts of David and his association team. David’s work on the memorial, the American Legion and the fire department make it easy to recognize him as a man of service to veterans and public safety. Thank you, David, for your humble dedication to the Custer community.

Backpack Program  
Continued from Page 3

Greeting to my fellow Legionnaires!

I hope this finds you all healthy, happy, and ready to get back to work for the youth of our state. What follows is a message on planning your year assuming the “best case” scenario. Hopefully there will soon be vaccine for the COVID-19 virus and our lives might get back to normal. That means, I need you to follow the Americanism Officers/Commanders/Adjutants/any member willing to help, to make their best effort at getting back in the schools.

You should soon have your Americanism packets from Department with lots of useful information and tools. The packet has been delayed while we waited for Boys State officers to meet and set the 2821 dates. The meeting took place on August 22nd in Pierre SD. The 2021 session will take place from May 31st to June 4th. This keeps the program at five (5) days vice the proposed six (6). Both Juniors and Seniors will be eligible to attend in 2021. This means those boys who were unable to attend in 2020 can attend in 2021, but they won’t be eligible for Boys Nation.

You will find attractive marketing materials (rack cards) you can share with your school counselors and principals. Try to meet with these individuals and show them what we have to offer. If you sell them on the programs, they will help you recruit. All Posts will receive some marketing materials, while the larger Posts with one or more schools, will receive more of each. The “Big 3” sheet has been updated online (https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/americanism-big-3-2021-ADJ-COLORS.pdf) and can be printed for distribution to those groups you are briefing. It may be especially hard to get in the schools for the Fall semester, but at least try to make contact via phone conversation and email. Deliver the rack cards and offer to discuss the printed information. Most will be extremely impressed with the amount of scholarships we are offering this year (especially for the Oratorical competition).

Our first hurdle will be finding participants for the Oratorical Contest. Here again the biggest draw should be the scholarship money being offered. The State contest will be held during Midwinter on Sunday the 21st of February at 10:30 A.M. Find out who your debate coaches/speech teachers are and give them a call. The scholarship amounts increased several thousand dollars over 2020’s numbers. If you would like to volunteer to help with the State contest, please send me an email at doug@sdlegion.org.

I’ve tried over the last several months to provide as much helpful information on “how to” get the word out about our programs. If you need ideas or a complete roadmap, go to the August 2020 edition of the SD Legion News, page 9 (https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/South-Dakota-Legion-News-August-2020-Web.pdf) and look for my “Promoting the Big 3” article. It should help you decide whom to target beyond just the schools. There are also Points of Contact for the other Americanism Programs (Baseball/Scouting/Shooting Sports/etc.) if you need help or advice on any of those. Other new information to help Post Americanism Officers complete their annual Americanism Reports is here: https://www.sdlegion.org/post-adjutant-manual-forms/

You will find a “how to” complete the form worksheet, as well as an example of a winning report. I sincerely hope these additions help make the process easier. You know you are doing the work, so take credit for it.

Wishing you all a highly successful and hopefully less traumatic year in 2021!

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas D. Harris  
Americanism Commission Chairman

Americanism Commission  
Doug Harris, Rapid City

Jim Huls  
National Executive Committeeman  
Greetings Legionnaires,

The National Executive Committee of the American Legion recently passed Resolution 5 - Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of the American Legion, which was a significant event and will prove to be highly valuable for the organization as it enables the American Legion to focus on its true purpose—improving the lives of veterans, the military, and their families. Adjutant Hempel has covered this resolution in the Up to Now several times recently. The resolution #5 is available on the National Website. https://www.legion.org/resolutions

With the National Election coming up in a few weeks, we as legionnaires must be aware of our position on the issues, remember the American Legion only speaks to the issues, not supporting any candidate. Remarks made by local Legion leadership to the media (or other officials) should be based on resolutions only – and not the personal beliefs or wishes of the designated local spokesman. Again check the National website for leadership and guidance.

Please refer to Resolution 5 as your guidance on all we do to — improve the lives of Veterans, the Military and their Families.

For God and Country

Jim Huls  
NEC

From the NEC

OCTOBER 2020
Membership & Post Activities

There are numerous metrics one can use to measure the success of an American Legion Post in the local community. A statistician can quote the numbers from a Post Date report stating the Post did 3,000 hours of community service work, volunteering, and donating thousands of dollars to the local American Legion baseball team. This may seem like the Post is obviously having a positive impact on the community, but how much does that mean to the community? This article is titled the Post is doing so many good things in terms of community awareness, but how much do these efforts benefit all programs within that community? A common factor that growing Posts have is they are actively reporting to the community what they are doing. From publishing monthly newspapers, local media, public radio stations is a key part of community awareness. The American Legion family (Legion / Auxiliary / SAL / Riders) need to work together as a team that coordinates activities that benefit all programs within that community.

Travise Flisrand
Department Membership Chair
American Legion Around the State

The Parker-Browder American Legion Post 4 of Mobridge honored its buglers, who play live TAPS at military funerals, during a ceremony on July 3, 2020 at the post home. The Estelline, SD High School Class of 1965 donated a monetary memorial to Post 4 in recognition of Richard R. “Rick” Wales, who had provided live bugler service for this post, a function he had also performed during his active duty military service time. What most people may not know is that his father was a Legion Post Commander and Rick began already playing TAPS for military funerals during his school days.

Post 4 had arranged for the preparation of a plaque honoring Rick and presented it to the Wales family members at the ceremony. Of recent, Mobridge Pollock High School band students have played TAPS at all military funerals during their school days. Post 4 had arranged for the preparation of a plaque honoring Rick and presented it to the Wales family members at the ceremony. Of recent, Mobridge Pollock High School band students have played TAPS at all military funerals during their school days.

On September 11, McCook Central/Montrose (MCM) hosted a military appreciation night to honor all veterans that attended the game. Veterans got in for free and were recognized and half time for their service. A joint color guard from American Legion Post 140 of Salem and Post 154 of Montrose Present the Colors for the game.

The Bensley-Rounds American Legion Post 280 of Iroquois conducted a Flag Education class for the 5th graders at the Iroquois Public School on Monday August 17. Those conducting the training were Bensley-Rounds American Legion members: Americanism officer Dan Kennedy, Annette Dunham, and Charemon Dunham. At the completion of the training, certificates of participation were presented. 5th grade Flag Etiquette students from L to R Front row: Treyden Keating, Conner Huls, & Auri Klanchnik. Middle: Gabe Voges, John Raether, Avah Newman, & Mariya Conyers. Back: Brycen Blue, Korbyn Faulks, Ervin Carter, Dawson Sharp, & Carter Arbeiter. Not pictured: Johanna Murphree

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Above: Joe Montana, Commander of Rock Creek Post #324, delivers popsicles to youth to help beat the summer heat in August of 2020. The post also spent the summer delivering groceries to homes of those under COVID-19 restrictions.

Left: Mayor Gary Harrington, right, reads the proclamation designating Huron as a Purple Heart City. Representing the American Legion in the presentation, from left is Huron Post Commander Jake Salathe, Huron, and representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart is Buck Underwood, Luverne, Minnesota, and State Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Ken Teunissen, Stove Falls. Photo courtesy of the Huron Plainsman.

The ceremony was conducted by Post Commander Justin Leesch with the Wales family and friends, Legion members, guests and newly-elected District 4 Commander Robert “Bob” Thompson in attendance.
Legionnaires,

Today we worry. We worry because we live in a time of uncertainty. We live in a time of cultural upheaval and attempts at societal realignment. Intentions are not entirely clear, and outcomes are unknown, though stakes appear to be high. And, so, we find ourselves to be often anxious. Anxious because we do not know how exactly to respond, what exactly to do.

Tomorrow we must decide. We must choose amongst candidates for public office. Who should serve as our president, our chief executive, our commander-in-chief? Who will guide our nation through this turbulent time? Whom do we trust to lead us?

At such moments, the crossroads between uncertain times and points of decision making, there is often the desire amongst many to look for a savior. Let me assure you that, though no politician is worthy of your undying faith, nor capable of meeting every need, there is one in Heaven whom you can trust without question and in all circumstances. There is one, and only one, whom you can turn to in times like these. If we truly desire to make our nation made whole, we must first turn our hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 146 (English Standard Version)

8 ...and the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
9 The Lord loves the righteous.
10 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
11 who gives food to the hungry.
12 who executes justice for the oppressed,
13 who keeps faith forever;
14 the sea, and all that is in them,
15 who made heaven and earth,
16 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
17 put not your trust in princes,
18 in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
19 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
20 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
21 I will sing praises to the Lord while I live;
22 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
23 Praise the Lord!

Grace & Peace,
ernment of any other. ”

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the gov-

#71 Vermillion Michael Brown
#72 Huron Thomas Allen
#73 Huron Evensett Collings
#74 Huron David Brack
#75 Huron Richard Frenger
#76 Huron Larry Frandsrud
#77 Huron Ronald Jorgensten
#78 Huron Lavonne Leidln
#79 Huron Delbert Milne
#80 Huron Donald Nelson
#81 Huron Anthony Popovich
#82 Huron James Reeder
#83 Huron William Rommer
#84 Huron Mal String
#85 Huron Ronald Reeder
#86 Huron Rod Weselman
#87 Huron William Wilk
#88 Huron Zack Wipf
#89 Huron James Wipf
#90 Huron John Grubb
#92 Huron Clyde Jund
#93 Huron Roger Lehnhak
#95 Huron Kurt Nystrom
#96 Milbank Larry Peters
#101 Wagner Leo Pietrik
#102 Yankton Jesse Locken
#104 Wa. Springs Donald Kraft
#105 Wa. Springs James Eiter
#106 Sioux Falls Edwitt Ahlquist
#107 Sioux Falls Albin Amund
#108 Sioux Falls Harlan Brundrud
#109 Sioux Falls Jack Catus
#110 Sioux Falls Harold Thune
#111 Sioux Falls Arlen Fyldeberg
#113 Sioux Falls Jim Amund
#114 Sioux Falls Harlan Brandrud
#115 Codingtons John Miller
#116 Codingtons Marilyn Kuper
#117 Codingtons Freeman McIntyre
#118 Codingtons Warren Spoon
#119 Mitchell Eren Winter
#121 Hurley Robert Jensen
#122 Hurley Warren Spon
#123 Hurley Robert Thompson
#124 Rapid City James Brund
#125 Rapid City Harold Severson
#126 Garretson Joseph Egan
#127 Aberdeen Earl Krause
#128 Aberdeen Mark Noose
#129 Stickney Jay Heaton
#133 Lead Kenneth Rockwell
#134 Lead Howard Palm
#135 Lead Howard Tammi
#147 Belle Fourche Kenneth Williams
#148 Sturgis Roy Bruggert
#149 Sturgis William Louis
#150 Sturgis Joe Layley
#151 Sturgis Michael Lyons
#152 Sturgis Paul Speed
#153 Sturgis Tommy Stasey
#154 Sturgis Alena Swanson
#155 Salem Gayle Varchick
#156 Langford Carl Wulph
#157 Langford Clarence Whipple
#158 Langford James Wadell
#159 Langford Sherman McClarin
#160 Howard Leonard Nuoing
#161 Robert Bondt
#162 Robert Tomant
#163 Robert Toomin
#164 Robert Kunsman
#165 Robert Alstrom
#166 Robert Lynam
#167 Robert Harper
#168 Robert indicating every human need, there is one in Heaven who can provide exactly what you need, as well as all the others.

Above: “Kari Superfood Foods” stores in Aberdeen, SD is the recipient of the 2019 National American Legion Employment Award for employment of older workers. Owner Karen Campbell, veteran employee Dave Scagorange, owner employee, and employee Karla Whicker.

Local businesses have been through a lot of challenges this past year. Recognition of their vital role in your commu-