IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

NOV 6 Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis 2-4 pm
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
FEB 19-21 Dept MidWinter Conference—Oacoma SD

FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS COMPLETE
The District meetings were very successful. A number of elections were held. Several Districts passed resolutions to allow the District to have two vice commanders. Congratulations to the new Commanders and Vice Commanders:
- Dist 1: New Vice Commander, Ken Mowrer
- Dist 2: Eugene Iron Shell re-elected as District Commander and Mike Ball as Vice Commander
- Dist 3: same as before
- Dist 4: New Commander, Bob Thomason and Vice Commander Ted Kimball
- Dist 5: Two new Vice Commanders, Chad Hardy and Clayton Nei
- Dist 6: New Commander Cynthia Hoffman and Vice Commander Vilas Kurtnebach
- Dist 7: Two new Vice Commanders, Andy Lyngen and Patrick Mullen
- Dist 8: New Commander, Jennifer VanRoekel and Vice Commander Brent Frier.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS INTRODUCES TRAINING TUESDAYS
Beginning in October, The American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90 minute on line training sessions with topics aimed at Post level Commanders and Adjutants. Training is scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. central time. The first training will be October 27th at 6 p.m. central with two topics to be addressed, Changes to Online Membership Processing and Buddy Checks. With National changing to a new platform, there will be some changes to myLegion. The focus of this topic is a basic overview of the new myLegion platform with an emphasis on the first log in authentication requirements, what the new home page will look like and how to view, edit and process renewals, adding new members and transferring existing members.

We highly recommend each Post’s Adjutants and Commanders to participate in this training. To access the training, go to legion.org, under the Today’s Headlines is a link that will take you to the training page and another link will sign you into the training. Or you can type https://www.legion.org/membership/250709/american-legion-training-tuesdays-begin-oct-27 this link into your browser.

VETERANS STAND DOWNS
Department Headquarters has been notified of several Veterans Stand Downs. Please pass the word.

Sturgis, November 6th, 2 to 4 pm at the parking lot between Lynn's Dakotamart and the Post Office

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.

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:

- 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 Legioinnaire 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 Com-

CONTINUED ON BACK
The National Commander will award each District Member a "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.

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
- Working with American Legion Baseball

A Legioneer 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 Dept HQ.

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, Wanbless #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

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

REMINDER FOR POSTS TO FILE IRS FORM 990
Federal Tax regulations require every American Legion Post to file IRS Form 990. The form must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month at the end of the accounting period. You can download the form at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf.

DID YOU KNOW? Most Legionnaires know American Legion Baseball was started in 1925 in Milbank SD. The first American Legion Baseball World Series was held in Philadelphia in 1926. Yonkers, N.Y., Post 321 beat a team from Pocatello, Idaho, capping off what appeared to be a successful first season. However, it hit a few growing pains in its second year. In 1927 the Legion couldn't fund a World Series. No champion was named and the future of American Legion Baseball looked bleak, as the inaugural season wound up costing more than originally planned. But the Legion's Americanism director, Dan Sowers, worked to keep the league afloat. The tournament format needed $50,000, and Sowers was determined to raise it. Early in 1928, he went to an executive meeting for professional baseball, hoping to reach a sympathetic ear. He found one in Commissioner Kenesaw Landis, who pledged a $50,000 annual donation from Major League Baseball. Legion Baseball resumed in 1928, and by 1929 participants were coming from every state and the District of Columbia. Major League Baseball and American Legion Baseball don't have a formal partnership, but the two owe each other a tremendous debt of gratitude. MLB has sponsored Legion Baseball almost since its inception, and Legion Baseball has returned the favor providing major league prospects.

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
Grenville Post 267

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: 11,236 or 64.87% of goal of 17,321*

*Note, these numbers do include the PUFL.

Membership Chairman Travise Flisrand’s theme for 2020-2021 is:

Retain, Recruit and Educate