Up To Now!

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Issued Bi-Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067 Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3299 October 28, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

NOV 1 Dept Exec Committee Zoom meeting 7 pm central
NOV 6 Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis 2-4 pm
NOV 11 Veterans Day
NOV 12 Veterans Day Membership Target date of 65%
NOV 15 Employer Award inputs due to Dept HQ
NOV 20 Boys State Board Zoom meeting 10 am
NOV 26 Thanksgiving
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 10 Legislative Committee meeting Pierre Post home
FEB 19-21 Dept MidWinter Conference—Oacoma SD

AWARDS DURING FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Due to COVID, awards that are normally given at the Department Convention were delayed until the Fall Meetings. Congratulations to the following Posts and Legionnaires who were recognized for their accomplishments:

Pride of the Prairie White Buffalo for largest percent in membership increase over the previous year in goal size
- Post 30 Parker 533% increase
- Post 49 Clear Lake 111% increase
- Post 25 Madison 114% increase
- Post 12 Yankton 105% increase
- Post 169 Winner 105% increase

Golden Eagle for best Americanism Program by goal size
- Post 61 Conova Post 250 Castlewood
- Post 114 Volga Post 164 Spearfish
- Post 17 Watertown

Legion Family Awards to Posts who reach 100% membership and their Auxiliary and/or SAL reach 100% also
- Post 120 Isabel Post 147 Buffalo
- Post 164 Spearfish Post 75 Murdo
- Post 256 New Underwood Post 91 Dallas
- Post 69 Groton Post 114 Volga
- Post 250 Castlewood Post 42 Arlington
- Post 260 Badger Post 261 Ethan
- Post 23 Garretson Post 45 Harrisburg
- Post 136 Chester

Legionnaire of the Year was C.P. “Van” Van DeList from District 2
District winners were
- District 1 Jerry Appa
- District 4 Robert Schulte
- District 6 Krissa Korkow
- District 8 Robert Kisely

Commander Nelson’s “Carry On the Legacy” for 100% membership
- Post 147 Post 31 Post 279 Post 308
- Post 120 Post 75 Post 297 Post 46

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. Topics will vary each month. National is working at adding a direct link to the training. Until that is complete, the easiest way to get to the training link is to go to the search bar towards the top right and type in Training Tuesdays which should take you to a link to the training.

VETERANS APPRECIATION FAIR

Department Headquarters has been notified of a Veterans Appreciation Fair to be held in Sturgis. Please pass the word.

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

VA CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties have been scheduled at all the South Dakota VA facilities as noted in the Important Dates to Remember section in this Up To Now. However, due to COVID the VA will still hold the parties for the veterans in the facilities, but may not allow visitors to attend. Stay tuned for additional information as we get it.

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.

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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/postsexcellence.

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 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.

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.

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

DID YOU KNOW? In 1953, an American Legion committee was formed to study the feasibility of a special fund for children’s programs. Former American Legion Department of Arkansas Commander Dr. Garland Murphy Jr., offers the national organization fractional rights to 10,000 acres of oil rich land he owns in the Williston Basin of Montana and North Dakota. The only stipulation was the proceeds are to be used solely to serve children. Out of this contribution is born what is now known as the American Legion’s Child Welfare Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:
The next membership target date is November 12. Each post should be at 65% of membership or more.

Congratulations to the following posts who have met Commander Nelson’s goal of 103% membership:

Grenville Post 267 107.41%
Aurora Post 230 103.7%

The Veterans Day membership target date is approaching fast. Every member who has paid their dues by 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. The 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: 11,811 or 68.19% of goal of 17,321

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