MIDWINTER BANQUET SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2021

The banquet menu will be a buffet with fried chicken, roast beef, green beans, wild rice, roasted potatoes and apple crisp. Cost will be $35 per person. Tickets can be ordered through John Payer, 25120 344th Ave., Chamberlain SD 57325 or john.payer@hotmail.com

ORATORY CONTESTS
All Posts must have their Oratory contest completed by the 10th of January. District contests must be completed and winners information sent in by January 31st. District information follows:

DIST. 1 - 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.

DIST. 2 - Chair: Paul Douglas, 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St, January 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. Storm date, January 17th, same time and place.

DIST. 3 - 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 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 31st, same time and place.

DIST. 4 - Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Meldgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 3, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 10th, same time and place.

DIST. 5 - 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.

DIST. 6 - Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorenson Dr., Chamberlain, SD, 57325, January 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 24th, same time and place.

DIST. 7 - Chair: Bill Hunter, (wphejh@siouxvalley.net), 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. 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.

DIST. 8 - Contact: Greg Geiman (speedy_82501@yahoo.com) 410 Stafford St, Scotland, SD 57059. 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.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TRAINING TUESDAYS
The American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90 minute on line training sessions 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 topic for NOV 24th is What post adjutants should know to make their term a success, presented by Dept. of Maryland Adjutant Russell Myers. To get to the training go to legion.org, then type Training Tuesday in the search bar towards the top and right of the home page. The training is also recorded and can be viewed at a later date at the same location as the link on the National Website.

VA CHRISMAS PARTIES
You may have noticed the VA Christmas parties have been deleted from the “Important Dates To Remember” above. We were notified the Christmas parties are still scheduled at all the South Dakota VA facilities, however, due to COVID the VA will not allow visitors to attend. Instead, the Staffs will be bringing the holiday cheer to the veterans. The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services at each hospital are encouraging you to support the parties with donations that will provide the holiday activities for the veterans who will be in the hospital during the holidays. Donations can be sent to Voluntary Services at each hospital or they can be sent to Department Headquarters with a note stating where you would like the donation to go to.

CONTINUED ON BACK
**DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS**

It is already time to plan for Spring District meetings. Dates have been identified. As soon as times and locations are determined they will be placed in the Up To Now so all can plan to attend.

**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/pin. 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 Adjunt.

**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

**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.

**ATTENTION MILITARY RETIREES USING TRICARE SELECT.** Starting on Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees. If you fail to sign up you could loose your Tricare benefits. Visit www.tricare.mil/selectenrollmentfees to learn more.

**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

**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?** Most know Minneapolis was the site of the first American Legion National Convention which was held November 10-12, 1919. At the time of the Convention parade, temperatures had dipped to 11 degrees and there was a light snow. Despite the cold temperatures, approximately 15,000 people marched in the first ever parade. Also over 140 new female members attended the first national convention. The location for the American Legion National Headquarters was one of the items debated at the convention. Minneapolis, Washington DC and Indianapolis were in the running. Indianapolis was first in the voting followed by Washington DC. Many felt the cold weather was blamed for Minneapolis not being selected.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:**

The next membership target date is December 9. Each post should be at 75% of membership or more.

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

- Grenville #267 107.41%  Aurora #230 107.4%
- Plankinton #5 106.2%  Salem #140 107.3%
- White Lake #96 103.8%  Sioux Falls #911 103.3%
- Agency Village #314 112.5%

The January 21st target date is approaching fast. There are a number of individual, post and district awards to be determined based on membership. Find more information in the 2020-2021 Department Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards manual. If you don’t have a copy, the information can be found on the Department Website, SDlegion.org. The Post Adjutant or Membership chairman is responsible for ensuring memberships are received at Headquarters.

**2021 Membership: 13,481 or 77.83% of goal of 17,321**

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

Retain, Recruit and Educate

Edition Note: Issue # 3298 was mistakenly used for two additions, so to catch up with the proper numbering and make this one correct, Edition 3300 was skipped and this one is 3301.