**No. 3302**

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC 23-25</td>
<td>Christmas (office closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 31</td>
<td>JAN 1 New Years Holiday (office closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 10</td>
<td>Post to have completed oratory contests</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 31</td>
<td>Districts to have completed oratory contests</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 10</td>
<td>Legislative Committee meeting Pierre Post home</td>
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<td>FEB 19-21</td>
<td>Dept MidWinter Conference—Oacoma SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 21</td>
<td>Department Oratory Contest—Oacoma SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR 13</td>
<td>District 8 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>MAR 14</td>
<td>District 7 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>MAR 20</td>
<td>District 3 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>MAR 21</td>
<td>District 6 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>MAR 27</td>
<td>District 5 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>MAR 28</td>
<td>District 4 Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>APR 10</td>
<td>District 1 Spring Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 11</td>
<td>District 2 Spring Meeting</td>
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**HATS IN THE RING**

Chamberlain Post 3 has endorsed Doug Feltman as candidate for Department Vice Commander areas 3 thru 8.

**COMMANDER NELSON MAKES APPOINTMENTS**

Department Commander Fred Nelson has announced the following appointments:

- Justin Schofield of Wall as Homeless Veteran Chairman
- Larry Price of Redfield as Chairman of the newly formed Public Safety Committee
- Doug Feltman of Chamberlain as member of newly formed Public Safety Committee
- Diane Johnson of Humbolt as member of newly formed Public Safety Committee
- Mark Scharn of Rapid City as member of newly formed Public Safety Committee
- Courtney VanZanten as Chairman of newly formed Media and Communications Committee
- Michelle Eosso of Box Elder as member of newly formed Media and Communications Committee
- Brian Siemonsma of Garretson as member of newly formed Media and Communications Committee
- Samantha Boshard of Eureka as member of newly formed Media and Communications Committee
- Patrick Merrill of Box Elder as member of newly formed Media and Communications Committee

**MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

We have received a number of questions regarding Mid-Winter Conference. At this point, we are still working towards having this conference. We will be monitoring the status of the COVID as we draw closer to the date, but at this time we are still planning for the conference.

**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 email at 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 Melgaard 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 Huntimer, (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: Ginger Kimmerer, (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 month at 6 pm central time. The topic for Tuesday, Dec. 29 is Helping Veterans - American Legion National Assistance

CONTINUED ON BACK
**DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS**

It is already time to plan for Spring District meetings. Dates have been identified. As soon as District leadership determines times and locations 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/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.

**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.sdlegation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/cap-pin-form-done.pdf](https://www.sdlegation.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](http://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](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. This will be the last time this notice is in the UTN. 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 the December 7th 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the US into World War II. But did you know more than 150,000 American Legion members returned to military service. Additionally, nearly 400,000 Legionnaires served as air-raid wardens, 300,000 as volunteer police officers and 50,000 as volunteer firefighters for fill wartime needs in their communities.

**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, SDlegation.org. The Post Adjutant or Membership chairman is responsible for ensuring memberships are received at Headquarters.

**2021 Membership:** 13,809 or 79.7% of goal of 17,321

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

**Retain, Recruit and Educate**