Department of SOUTH DAKOTA

Up To Now!

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

No. 3330 **January 19, 2022**

Jan 23 Athletic Commission meeting, Oacoma
Jan 30 Districts complete Oratory Contest
Feb 15 Presidents Day, HQ Closed
Feb 18-20 MidWinter Conference—Oacoma
Feb 20 Department Oratory Contest—Oacoma
Feb 22 Boys and Girls State Day at the Capitol
Feb 22 Legislative Committee meets and Legislative Reception at Pierre Post Home.
Feb 27-Mar 2 Washington Conference
Mar 12 District 6 Spring Meeting
Mar 13 District 3 Spring Meeting
Mar 19 District 7 Spring Meeting
Mar 20 District 8 Spring Meeting
Mar 26 District 4 Spring Meeting
Mar 27 District 5 Spring Meeting
Apr 2 District 2 Spring Meeting
Apr 3 District 1 Spring Meeting
See next page
Apr 25-29 National Commander visit to South Dakota
May 2-5 National Spring Meetings
May 30 Memorial Day, HQ closed
May 30-Jun 3 Boys State
Jun 16-19 Department Convention—Watertown
Jun 20-24 Youth Trooper Academy

ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES

All Districts should be wrapping up their District Oratory Contests. Once complete, District Commanders are to submit their District report and winners to Department HQ as soon as possible. Be sure the National Contest submittal form is filled out as well so that it can be handed to the Adjutant as soon as the contest is completed. That will allow the contestants and their families to get home rather than waiting to fill out paperwork. The Post or District also has the option of sponsoring the contestant and family to stay overnight, but it is up to the Post/District to make arrangements. With South Dakota weather and road conditions traveling families may want to spend the prior night at the hotel. Department contest will be held February 20th, 2022 at MidWinter conference. Last contest date and location: Dist 3-Jan 23, 2 pm Faith Lutheran Church Pierre

LEGION NEWS STORIES AND PHOTOS

Our Posts do great things in their communities. As you participate in your community or have special projects you are working on, take photos as well as write a summary of the event for the Legion news. Photos and news articles can be emailed to adjutant@sdlegion.org or mailed to American Legion Headquarters, P.O. Box 67, Watertown SD 57201. If you have a story, but are not sure how to write it up, contact Headquarters and we will help you out. This is a great way to let other posts around the state know what is happening at your post. The next edition will be in March. The deadline for stories will be announced as the date gets closer. However, don't wait to the last minute, submit your stories now..

2022 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 18-20 FEBRUARY

We have taken a look at the rising COVID numbers. The MidWinter conference will still be held at Cedar Shores in Oacoma as scheduled. However, ***each participant must make the determination*** whether to attend based on their health, vaccination status and general feeling about attending this event. The current schedule for the Midwinter Conference follows.

Thursday, February 17, 2021
5:30 p.m PDC Social and Banquet, Missouri Winds room

Friday, February 18, 2022
10:00 a.m. Department Finance Commission Meeting
12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
Boys State Board of Directors
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m. SDAL Foundation Meeting,
6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails- Pre-Function Area
6:30 p.m. Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

Saturday, February 19, 2022
7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session
8:30 a.m. Angel Narvaez, National Vice Commander
8:45 a.m. Dee Dee Buckley, Auxiliary Vice President
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary VA&R Report
9:05 a.m. Auxiliary Children and Youth Report
9:10 a.m. SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock
9:30 a.m. Youth Trooper Academy, PDC Larry Price
9:40 a.m. Boys State Program, "Van" VanDelist
9:50 a.m. Scouting Program, PDC Fred Nelson
10:00 a.m. Recess Joint Session –
10:10 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 1:
Room 1 MyLegion
Room 2 Smart Phones and Social Media
Boys State Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 2:
Room 1 MyLegion
Room 2 How to be a successful Post
11:45 a.m. **LUNCH BREAK (sandwich buffet available)**
12:00 p.m. SAL Luncheon
1:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 3:
Mentoring Panel Discussion
How to avoid scams
Boys State Board of Directors
1:00 p.m. Reconvene Next Meeting Place Convention Comm
2:45 p.m. Reconvene Joint Session -
2:50 p.m. NEC Jim Huls Remarks
3:05 p.m. Legislative Chairman, Doug Feltman
3:20 p.m. LIT update, PDC Fred Nelson
3:30 p.m. Depart Membership Chairman, Travise Flisrand
Membership Report/Awards/Turn-In
4:15 p.m. VAVS Chairman, Rod Smith Popcorn Fund Turn-In
4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
4:30 p.m. American Legion Rider meeting
5:00 p.m. Dept. Membership and Marketing Committee Mgt
6:00 p.m. Go-Getter Reception and Smorgasbord,
Chamberlain Comm Center
8:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms, Arrowwood Resort Hotel rooms

Sunday, February 20. 2022
8:30 a.m. Non-Denominational Service
10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – State Finals – Oratorical Contest

CONTINUED ON BACK

MIDWINTER BANQUET WILL BE HELD 18 FEBRUARY
The Midwinter Joint Banquet will be Friday evening, February 18th. The banquet will be buffet style with fried chicken, beef pot roast, loaded mashed potatoes, corn, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and a desert. The cost will be $30.00 person. To reserve tickets send your check to John Payer, 25120 344th Ave, Chamberlain SD 57325. Please make checks payable to Otter Post 3. The last day to order tickets will be February 11th.

MIDWINTER DELI LUNCHEON BUFFET
To help with the schedule, a Legion Family Midwinter Deli Luncheon buffet will be offered from 11:45– 1:00 on Saturday, February 19 in the meeting areas. The buffet will include sliced ham, turkey, roast beef, salami and pepperoni with assorted breads, cheese, potato salad, pasta salad, various sandwich fixings along with chicken and rice soup. Cost is $20 per person and orders must be made in advance. To order tickets send your name, address and phone number along with the number of tickets you want to order and payment to Lila Speckels, 34465 249th St, Chamberlain SD 57325. Make checks payable to Chamberlain ALA Unit #3. For questions or additional information or dietary restrictions, please contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548. Deadline for tickets is February 11th.

MEALS AT THE MIDWINTER CONFERNECE
We have been informed the Convention Center restaurant will be open for breakfast from 7 to 10 am Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will **NOT** be open for lunch on Saturday, but the luncheon buffet will be available as mentioned above. The Auxiliary will hold their banquet on Saturday, but will gladly accept non Auxiliary members to join them for $28.00 per person. For more information please contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548.

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT FUND RAISING
Our final entry for this fund raising event. Again, a well done to all the posts and individual that helped raise donations for this worthy organization. As stated earlier, on November 11th, we gave $126,250.11 to Midwest Honor Flight. We will be contacting them to set up a date to present the additional $38,278.32 we have received since November 11th. We are honored that Midwest Honor Flight Mission 11 will be named the South Dakota American Legion Honor Flight.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND SCOUTING
Legion family members who work with Scouting may be eligible for a Scouting Square Knot award if they meet or complete the requirements. The award is a gold and purple square knot which is worn on the Scouting uniform. Additional information as well as well as requirements can be found at https://www.legion.org/promos/229494/square-knot-award.

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTIONS
Below is the schedule for the Spring District Conventions. Even numbered Districts will be holding District Commander elections.
District 1 April 3 at Sturgis, 10:30 social, 11:00 lunch, 12:00 meetings
District 2 April 2 at Mission, 11:30 social, 12:00 meal and meeting at 1:00
District 3 March 13 at Gregory, 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and meeting at 12:30
District 4 March 26 at the Stratford Community Center with Social at 1:00, meal at 2:00 and business meeting at 3:00
District 5 March 27 at Big Stone with 1:00 meeting and events to follow
District 6 March 12 at Ethan with 1:00 social and 2:00 meeting
District 7 March 19 at Valley Springs 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and 1:00 meeting
District 8 March 20 at Marion Post 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) works to provide assistance to families who find themselves in a housing crisis. SSVF has been able to assist over 200 South Dakota families in the last year with housing stability and is ready to support all veteran and families who qualify. If you know a veteran or their family you think could benefit from the SSVF program, please contact Jack Smith at 605-393-7996 or email at jsmith@cornerstonemission.org

BIDS FOR 2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
Due to the high cost of bids received for the 2026 Convention, selection for the site was tabled pending additional bid inputs. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the convention should send that information to the Dept Adjutant as soon as possible. Application forms are available from Dept HQ. Bids need to be at Headquarters by January 31, 2022.

2022 DEPT CONVENTION IN WATERTOWN 16-19 JUNE
The convention will be held at the Ramkota Hotel and Event Center 1901-9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201. Room reservations can be made by calling 605-886-8011 or 605-886-6127. The Legion rate should be $91.99 plus tax (call hotel directly). Hospitality Suites are available (call hotel directly, bed removal available)
If you are interested in advertising in the Convention Book you need to contact Roger Papka as soon as possible. Banquet and other details will follow soon. Questions, please contact Roger Papka the convention chairman at 881-6142.

2022 CONVENTION BANQUET 17 JUNE
The Banquet will be held June 17th at the Ramkota Event Center. Tickets are $35 each and my be purchased from American Legion Post #17, PO Box 292,Watertown SD 57201. Make checks out to American Legion Post 17. Also indicate your choice of Chicken Breast or Post Roast with your order. Sorry, no credit or debit cards will be accepted. Tickets must be ordered in advanced and will be waiting at the door for the banquet.

DID YOU KNOW?
After a long battle of promotions by the American Legion, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is established by Congress. The third Friday of September is officially the day of commemoration to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by our nation's prisoner of wars and missing in action as well as their families.

2022 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS
National set the membership goal for South Dakota at 17,733 members. However, National Commander Dillard has asked each Post to shoot for 103%. We currently have 28 posts which have made 100% of goal and 10 of those posts have made 103% or better. Commander Dillard has also set a goal of 90% renewal rate and South Dakota is currently at 83.26% renewal rate.

We are currently at 14,721 or 83% of our Department goal of 17,733.

The next few membership goals are:

Title	Date	Goal
Mid-Winter	January 20	80%
President's Day	February 9	85%

Membership Chairman Travise Flisrand's theme:

Retain, Recruit and Educate