Up To Now!

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

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Apr 2 District 2 Spring Meeting
Apr 3 District 1 Spring Meeting
Apr 15 Good Friday, HQ closed
*Apr 15 Post Data Reports due to HQ
*Mar/Apr TBD District Legionnaire of the Year due to HQ
*Mar 21 Youth Trooper Registration Closes
Apr 26-29 National Commander visit to South Dakota
*May 1 Boys State Registration Closes
*May 1 Good Samaritan of Year from Districts due to HQ
*May 1 Educator of the Year from Districts due to HQ
*May 1 VA&R Award (William F Lenker) inputs due to HQ
*May 1 Americanism Reports due to HQ
May 2-5 National Spring Meetings
*May TBD Post Officer Certifications due to HQ after installation
May 6 Resolutions to be addressed by Dept Convention due to HQ
May 30 Memorial Day, HQ closed
May 30-Jun 3 Boys State
Jun 1 Applications for National American Legion College due
*Jun 1 SDALPA Award inputs due
*Jun 1 Consolidated Post Reports due to HQ
*Jun 10 Delegate credentials for Dept Convention due to HQ
Jun 16-19 Department Convention—Watertown
*Jun 17 Post History Award inputs due by 1 pm
Jun 20-24 Youth Trooper Academy
*** DENOTES ACTION ITEMS**

ENCLOSED WITH THIS UP TO NOW
Posts receiving this Up To Now will also receive the Annual Post Data Report. This report is mandatory because it includes the required current information of the Post such as address and dues. **THESE MUST BE RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY APRIL 15th.**

NATIONAL COMMANDER TO VISIT SOUTH DAKOTA
National Commander Paul Dillard will visit our state the end of April. The National Commander is requesting donations to support his selected program which is the Veterans and Youth Foundation. If you or the Post would like to make a donation, you can send them to Headquarters. We will accept the donations and present them to Commander Dillard when he is here.

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTIONS
Below is the schedule for the last two Spring District Conventions. Even numbered Districts will be holding District Commander elections.
Dist 1 April 3 at Sturgis, 10:30 social, 11:00 lunch, 12:00 mtg
Dist 2 April 2 at Rosebud Veterans Affairs Building, 11:30 social, 12:00 meal, 1:00 mtg ***(NOTE LOCATION CHANGE)***

2022 DEPT CONVENTION IN WATERTOWN 16-19 JUNE
The convention will be held at the Ramkota Hotel and Event Center in Watertown. Room reservations can be made by calling 605-886-8011 or 605-886-6127. The Legion rate should be $91.99 plus tax. Hospitality Suites are available (call hotel directly, bed removal available). Questions, please contact Roger Papka the convention chairman at 881-6142. The Banquet will be held June 17th at the Ramkota. 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. Deadline for ordering tickets is May 15th.

BIDS TO HOST 2027 MIDWINTER AND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
Bids are being accepted from Posts wishing to host the 2027 Mid-Winter Conference and the 2027 Department Convention. Bids must be submitted in writing by the prospective Posts, signed by the Post Commander and attested to the by the Post Adjutant.. Bids must reach Dept Headquarters by June 1st. Please contact Department Headquarters for copies of the Convention Bid Form which is used to help Posts make their bids. Bids should be sent to Headquarters by 31 May 2022.

2022 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION.
This year's Department Convention will be held in Watertown SD June 16-19 and hosted by Post 17. The schedule is firming up but major events are listed below.
Thursday June 16
10:00 am Finance Commission meeting
1:00 pm Executive Committee meeting
Friday June 17
9:00 am registration
10:00 am Resolutions Committee meets
1:30—4:00 Convention Committees meet
4:30 Memorial Service
6:00 Joint Banquet Reception
7:00 Joint Banquet
Saturday June 18
8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Convention Business Session
6:00 pm Go Getter reception
7:00 pm Go Getter Dinner
8:00 pm Foundation Fun Auction
Sunday June 19
8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Convention Business continues
12:00 Elections

DELEGATION FEES FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
Each Post is entitled to delegates based on their membership. Delegate credentials (found in the Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual) must be turned in to Department Headquarters by **June 10th, 2022**. Payment of $7 per delegate must accompany the form from the manual. This is mandatory for all Posts whether they attend the convention or not.

FUN AUCTION AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
The annual South Dakota American Legion Foundation fun auction will be held on Saturday, June 18th at the Department Convention. This event is always well attended and an event to look forward to. Items actioned are donated and all proceeds go to support our Legion Foundation. Please consider donating items, hand made items are especially welcomed. Items can be brought to the convention or dropped off at Dept headquarters.

CONTINUED ON BACK

MEMBERSHIP HELP FROM POST LEADERSHIP
Membership is vital to every Post. 2022 is similar to every year for our State. We do really well at getting members to renew up to 80% of our Dept. goal and then we slow down to a crawl.
It is in every Post's self interest to reach their goal by January 1st; because the 2021 membership expires on Dec. 31, 2021, with a one month grace period. On February 1st members lose their benefits to include their free LIT insurance. Post officers need to focus their energies to reach their goals as soon as possible. Not only does it help their Posts overall health, but it also ensures the District and Department are eligible for awards. For those Posts not at 100%, focus on reaching their goals by March 31st, this is the cut-off date for the District awards at National. Keep up the great work.

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.

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE
Applications are now being taken for National American Legion College. Additional information and the application can be found at https://www.legion.org/college/application and the Department Website. All applications must be received at Department Headquarter no later than 1 June 2022. **Do not** send the application direct to National Headquarters.

BOYS STATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN
Boys State is May 30—June 3. This year both Juniors and Seniors are eligible, however a boy can only attend once. Local Posts are an important part for the success to this program. Presenting the materials to the students in High Schools, mentoring the applicants and approving them to be sponsored by the Post. The registration fee for Boys State is $200 per student. Registration can be found on the South Dakota Boys State website, http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/boys-state-application/ Registration fees should be sent to Doug Harris, 4913 Charmwood Dr, Rapid City SD 57701. Registration closes on May 1st, 2021.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VA&R AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
Each year, the Dept VA&R Committee recognizes a Post for their support of the VA&R mission. The committee looks at accomplishments in support for homeless veterans, conducting military funeral honors, supporting local VA facilities and youth programs are some of the topics the committee looks at. The application can be found on the Department website under forms. Forms are due to Department HQ by May 1st.

CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS RESOLUTION DEADLINES
Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Dakota American Legion Constitution and By-Laws must reach State Headquarters by May 6, 2022. The Internal Affairs Commission will schedule a meeting after the deadline date, to review, propose changes. State Headquarters will mail out to all Posts, thirty days prior to the State Convention, a copy of the resolutions along with the commission's recommendation. All resolutions are required to be typewritten, double-spaced, and two copies must be submitted to State Headquarters. Post officials are obligated to certify each resolution adopted during a Post meeting, with the date of the meeting in the resolving clause of the resolution, and must be signed by the Post Commander and attested to by the Post Adjutant.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)
It is extremely important to document what the Post has achieved during the last year and provide that information to both the Department and National Headquarters. You can either fill out the paper form that was sent to each Post earlier or you can go on line to complete the report. ***When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.*** Our goal is 100% Post reporting. It is due to Department Headquarters by June 1st!

VAVS POPCORN FUND
Posts are encouraged to donate to the Pop Corn Fund, which supports the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) committee and supports volunteer work at the VA Hospitals across the state. IF a Post did not donate at MidWinter, they are still encouraged to support the Pop Corn Fund by sending their donations to Department Headquarters or turn them in at the up coming Spring District Meetings.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TRAINING TUESDAYS
National Headquarters staff present 60 to 90 minute on line training sessions aimed at Post level Commanders and Adjutants. The topic for Tuesday, April 26th at 6 pm central has not yet been announced. The March training was public affairs. The training is recorded and can be viewed at a later date on the National Website https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS
Congratulations to Jenna Kruger from Pierre Junior Shooters who is the South Dakota Sporter Champion and Jasmine Hayes from Dakota Sharpshooters who is the South Dakota Precision Champion. Additionally, the Pierre Junior Shooters, sponsored by Post 8 is the Sporter Team State Champions and Dakota Sharpshooters sponsored by Post 15 is the Precision Team State Champions. As a side note, Jordyn Ewine from North Dakota, but shoots with the Dakota Sharpshooters has earned the title of Precision State Champion for North Dakota. Well done to all the youth shooters.

DID YOU KNOW? There has been one canine that was actually given a membership number in The American Legion. A bull terrier named Sgt Stubby had been smuggled into Europe served by his owners side during the war. He was involved in 17 different battles and was recognized as saving many soldiers lives when he alerted them to a gas attach. He was wounded in France, had his own custom made gas mask and is credited with capturing a German spy. He marched in the first Legion National Convention parade and many more after that. Following his death, Stubby was stuffed and placed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS FOR 2022
National set the membership goal for South Dakota at 17,733 members and we are currently at 15,973 or 90.08% or our goal. However, National Commander Dillard has asked each Post to shoot for 103%. We currently have 55 posts which have made 100% of goal and 15 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 89.72% renewal rate.

The next few membership goals are:

Title	Date	Goal
Children & Youth	April 13	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 11	100%

Membership Chairman Travise Flisrand's theme:

Retain, Recruit and Educate