

**RESOLUTION**  
**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
**State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota**  
**June 16-19, 2022**

**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-1**

**SUBMITTED BY: AIR WORKING GROUP**

**SUBJECT: RETENTION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: Send to Convention Resolutions Committee**

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WHEREAS, The mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, there are 21,574 Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare in the Black Hills VA Health System; and

WHEREAS, the 60-minute care circle annotated in the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission data does not accurately depict the number of enrollees in a rural community setting such as South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, VA forecasted numbers show a decreasing enrollment of 3.8% or 20,757 Veterans by 2027, the forecast also shows a significant shift in the Veteran demographics: Priority Group 1, which hosts Medal of Honor Recipients, those unemployable due to their disability, and those rated 50% disabled or more, shifts from 21.6% of the enrolled population to 38% in a decade; and

WHEREAS, VA Market Utilization Projections for Outpatient Services show significant increases of 39.5% for Primary Care, 62.1% for Mental Health, 64.5% for Rehab Therapies, 65.3% for Medical Specialties, 69.2% for Surgical Specialties, and 81.7% for Dental Clinic over the next decade, which speak to the absolute necessity of Veteran-centric care for the shifting demographic; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota West Market VA facility reliance on Inpatient Mental Health Services is at 66.4%, which is 23.7% higher than the National VA facility reliance of 42.7%; and

WHEREAS, these Veterans have become accustomed to the high standard of care provided by the VA through access to these facilities, with benefits such as a fully unified electronic medical record and coordinated care through Primary Care teams; and

WHEREAS, in a recent study titled ‘Mortality among US veterans after emergency visits to Veterans Affairs and other hospitals,’ such care has shown to provide a ‘mortality advantage,’ with Veterans visiting the VA systems 20% less likely to die within the following year than those who visited a private sector hospital system; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser Health News reported that both private hospitals in Rapid City and Spearfish were cited by the Federal Government in 2018 for excessive re-hospitalization rates, and Rapid City was also cited for high rates for hospital-acquired complications; and

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes the challenges of private rural health care, to include fewer physician practices, rural hospital staffing issues, hospitals closing due to financial instability, geographical distance, limited broadband options, transportation barriers; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to high-quality care for all Veterans is a major tenet of the VA healthcare mission; and

WHEREAS, closing the Hot Springs facility, along with the potential closure of the Wagner CBOC, would take away the two closest facilities to the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans serve at a higher rate than any other ethnic group, and once service connected, nearly 75% utilize VA services; and

WHEREAS, Roughly 33% of Native American Veterans using VA care access VA mental health services. Native American Veterans who use the VA experience posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at a greater rate than all other Veteran groups; Native American Veterans have almost double the rate of PTSD as non-Hispanic white Veterans (20.5% versus 11.6%), and

WHEREAS, Indian Health Services is chronically underfunded by 40-60% annually since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the 'Mortality' study also notes that the VA provides an exceptional level of care at a savings of 21% in comparison to their private counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a major contention lies in the accounting of the operational costs that will likely skyrocket with the assumption of community care; and

WHEREAS, the Asset and Infrastructure Act threatens to close both the Hot Springs and Fort Meade VAMC facilities without promise of equal or exceeded care; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The Department of South Dakota American Legion in State Convention assembled in Watertown, SD, June 16-19, 2022, That The American Legion urge Congress to enact legislation that prevents the VA from closing hospitals and community based outpatient clinics unless existing requisite community services, both inpatient and outpatient, that the VA currently provides are met or exceeded.**

**RESOLUTION**  
**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
**State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota**  
**June 16-19, 2022**

**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-2**

**SUBMITTED BY: RAPID CITY POST #22**

**SUBJECT: TO CHANGE THE INTERVAL FOR COUNTY COMMANDER'S TERMS TO COINCIDE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT COMMANDERS**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, District and County Commanders serve together to support their Posts in their District and Counties and should serve the same terms of office; and

WHEREAS, Article IV Section 8 states: "There shall be elected a District Commander, from each of the even numbered districts at the regular spring district meeting held in the even numbered years, and from each of the odd numbered districts at the regular spring district meeting held in odd numbered years. Such District Commanders shall take office and assume their duties at the same time and place as the newly elected Department Commander is installed"; and

WHEREAS, Article V Section 3, line 8, states: "In the event that there is no County Association, a County Commander shall be elected at each regular District Convention by vote of delegates from Posts in his/her county, and such County Commander shall serve as a member of the District Executive Committee for a term of one year starting with his/her election"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, That a change to the State of South Dakota American Legion Constitution Article V Section 3, line 8, to read: In the event that there is no County Association, County Commanders from each of the even numbered districts at the regular spring district meeting held in the even numbered years, and from each of the odd numbered districts at the regular spring district meeting held in odd numbered years, by vote of delegates from Posts in his/her county, and such County Commanders shall serve as a member of the District Executive Committee for a term of "two" years starting with his/her election"; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, once this resolution is approved it shall be considered in immediate effect.**

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**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
**State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota**  
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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-3**  
**SUBMITTED BY: WHITE POST 88**  
**SUBJECT: AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR**  
**VARIATION TO DISTRICT COMMANDER ELECTION CYCLES.**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO NOT PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, The District Commander has an especially important job of being the representative of the Posts of their District to the Department Executive Committee requiring them to be familiar with their Posts so as to assure fair representation of their views which in turn requires the District Commander to communicate, and if possible, visit, their Posts at least once during their tenure as Commander; and

WHEREAS, The District Commander is elected to be the Chief Administrative Officer of their District, assuming the responsibility of chairing all District Meetings; responsible for appointing committee chairmen at the District-level, and appointing Delegates to the Department Convention Committees; and

WHEREAS, The District Vice Commander's job is to learn "on the job" from the District Commander how to operate the program of The American Legion within their District; and

WHEREAS, The District Vice Commander needs time to meet the Posts of the District and interact with their members to meet the goals of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Not all District Vice Commanders are able to devote as much of their time to their duties as the District Commander, they may need more time than the traditional two-year term to learn their job well enough to consider advancement to the District Commander Seat; and

WHEREAS, The South Dakota American Legion Department Constitution, Article IV, Section 9, does allow for multiple Vice Commanders within a District which encourages engagement of multiple members into District-level Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 8 of the Department Constitution of South Dakota states: “In each District there shall be elected one or more District Vice Commanders at the same meeting at which the District Commander is elected;” and

WHEREAS, Current understanding of Article IV, Section 8, at the Department-level causes a conflict for Districts seeking to develop leadership by offering their District Vice Commanders “staggered” terms where Vice Commanders are elected for two-year terms, but on alternating years; and

WHEREAS, Having elections in the “off-year” for one-or-more District Vice Commanders allows the a candidate to gain experience for at least one extra year before being put into the regular Commander chair; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a volunteer organization that requires its leaders to learn on the job with support from others who have been down similar paths that they are now taking; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, By the Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88 of The American Legion of South Dakota assembled at their regular meeting in White, South Dakota, April 25, 2022, The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to allow Districts with multiple Vice Commanders to set the terms of office for their District Vice Commanders as they see most advantageous for the future of the organization; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, To support this change, Article IV, Section 9 of The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to read: "In each District there shall be elected one, or more, District Vice Commander at the same meeting at which the District Commander is elected, unless the District Constitution has a different arrangement;" and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That any current District policies shall remain in place, "as is", until they are changed by the various Districts of the Department at one of their future District Meetings; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, Once this resolution is approved, it shall be considered in immediate effect.**



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**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
**State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota**  
**June 16-19, 2022**

**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-4**

**SUBMITTED BY: CASTLEWOOD POST 250**

**SUBJECT: FORMATION OF DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION COLLEGE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: Send to Finance Commission for comment and  
then to Convention Resolutions Committee with a DO PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota American Legion does not currently have a Department College; and

WHEREAS, The National American Legion Resolution No. 30: Training and Education (21<sup>st</sup> Century) Dated May 6, 1998 “strongly and resolutely encouraged” all levels of the organization “Develop and execute a continuing education program”; and

WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota is one of the few Departments that have not formed Legion Colleges; and

WHEREAS, The Department Training Committee was made a Standing Committee by Resolution at the 2021 Department Convention; and

WHEREAS, The Department Training Committee has developed the majority of the curriculum that is necessary to form a Department College and is prepared to form a Legion College; now there for be it finally

**RESOLVED, By the Department of South Dakota American Legion 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention voting majority, that the Department of South Dakota Legion College be established with the Department Training Committee establishing the curriculum and identifying format, instructors, venues and the schedule for said college.**

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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-5**

**SUBMITTED BY: CHAMBERLAIN POST #3**

**SUBJECT: ALLOWING NON-FIREFIGHTER EMTs TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EMT AWARD**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: Send to Convention Resolutions Committee**

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WHEREAS, The National Law Enforcement Officer of The Year, and the National Firefighter of The Year are prestigious awards given to honor our First Responders; and

WHEREAS, The current requirements for an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to be eligible for this award is "Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are eligible only if they are certified firefighters"; and

WHEREAS, Emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, The members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, Access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, The members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, There are thousands of National and/or State Certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics (EMT-P) that are serving honorably today, and they are not firefighters; and

WHEREAS, They respond to most fire calls and many of Law Enforcement calls; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of South Dakota in Annual Convention assembled, June 16-19, 2022, in Watertown, SD, urges The National American Legion change the requirement that would allow a State certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**

**or Paramedic (EMT-P) be recommended for, and receive the Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic of the Year award without the requirement that they be a "certified firefighter"; and, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, That the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/ Paramedic (EMT-P) award be a standing award just as the Law Enforcement Officer of The Year, and Firefighter of The Year; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant of The American Legion for consideration at the 103rd Annual National Convention of The American Legion to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 2022.**

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**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-6**

**SUBMITTED BY: BERGSTROM-BODEEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 128 OF HUDSON SD**  
**SUBJECT: POST MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH FOR DELEGATE ELIGIBILITY INTERNAL**  
**AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution and By Laws of The American Legion Department of South Dakota states “The Annual Department Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each post, each of which shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates”; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution and By Laws of The American Legion Department of South Dakota states “A local unit shall be termed a Post which shall have a minimum membership of fifteen”; and

WHEREAS, Many rural Posts are very active, but often are not able to maintain a membership over fifteen but should still have the right to delegates at the Department Convention; now therefore, be it

**RESOVED, by the American Legion Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2022 Department Convention held in Watertown, South Dakota, June 16-19, 2022, that Article IV, Section 2. be changed to read “CONVENTION COMPOSITION – DELEGATES – VOTE. The Annual Department Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Post with fifteen or more members. Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates and to one additional delegate and alternate for each fifty or major fraction thereof, memberships paid up fifteen days prior to the date of the Department Convention. Posts with less than fifteen members will be reviewed by the Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee to ensure they are in good standing and if so approved, will be entitled to one delegate and one alternate. The vote of each Post represented by a delegate or delegates at the Convention shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which that Post is entitled”; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, The Department Executive Committee in the Pre-Convention meeting will examine posts with less than fifteen members and determine if each post is in good standing, paid their delegate fees and is active in their community and if so, approve their delegate and alternate delegate status; and it further finally be it**

**RESOLVED, Article V, Section 1 be changed to read “POST-NUMBER OF MEMBERS - CHARTER. A local unit shall be termed a Post which shall have a minimum membership of fifteen, except the Department Executive Committee shall review the membership of posts with less than fifteen to determine good standing. The Executive Committee may authorize the chartering of a Post with less than fifteen members if it considers there is sufficient justification. No Post shall be received into this organization until it shall have received a charter. A Post desiring a charter shall apply to the Department which shall forward the application to National Headquarters with its recommendation.” and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, this will take effect immediately upon approval.**

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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-7**

**SUBMITTED BY: CHESTER POST 136**

**SUBJECT: VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: Send to Convention Resolutions Committee**

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WHEREAS, One of the basic purposes of The American Legion is “our devotion to mutual helpfulness”; and

WHEREAS, Part of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission’s purpose is to ensure that veterans and their families receive the highest quality of care for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion motto is “Veterans Strengthening America”; and

WHEREAS, As members of The American Legion, we have a sacred obligation to leave no veteran behind; ensuring that our veterans are cared for; and

WHEREAS, Current veteran suicides average 20 per day and the 2021 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Suicide Prevention Report indicated that in 2019, the adjusted rate for veterans was 52.3% greater than non-Veteran U.S. adults; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 VA National Suicide Prevention Report stated that 45,861 U.S. adults committed suicide and 6,261 of these were veterans; and

WHEREAS, The White House released a national strategy on November 3, 2021, for preventing veteran suicide, purporting that it would harness the full breadth of the federal government to tackle the issue; this strategy aims to limit barriers to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, The VA has a gatekeeper training program provided by VA suicide prevention coordinators to veterans and those who serve veterans; and

WHEREAS, Other organizations have developed very successful and valuable suicide awareness and prevention training programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is developing an action oriented campaign to change the narrative of veteran suicide; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages suicide prevention training; Resolution No. 58(NEC, May 7-8, 2003), Subject: “Youth Suicide Prevention Education” resolves to increase youth suicide awareness by encouraging schools to implement youth suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 238 (NEC, August 30-31, September 1, 2016), Subject: “Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act” urged the U.S. Congress to pass and the President to sign into law an Act to expand and improve care provided to veterans at risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for trained Legionnaires at the post level to intervene in veteran suicide situations in their community; and

WHEREAS, This will enhance awareness and increase the likelihood of recognizing signs of veterans and community members at risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Posts can be empowered to prevent as many veteran suicides as possible while working with national and local agencies to return veterans to their community with a sense of belonging and purpose for a safe and productive life; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family have the desire and the ability to save lives; they need to be given the appropriate tools so they can make a difference in saving a life; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By American Legion Post 136, in regular meeting assembled in Chester, South Dakota December 13, 2021, That Post 136 recommends the American Legion Department of South Dakota strongly encourages suicide awareness and prevention training at the post level; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That posts are strongly encouraged seek out qualified trainers and invite them to provide training for their Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family.**

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**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion**  
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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-8**

**SUBMITTED BY: DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR CATEGORY**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: Send to Convention Resolutions Committee**

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WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion established criteria for recognizing employers who employ veterans with the Employer of Veterans Awards; and

WHEREAS, one of the criteria for being eligible for the Employer of Veterans Awards is at least ten percent of the workforce must be veterans; and

WHEREAS, the ten percent criteria preclude specialized employers from being eligible for the award because of the small pool of available veterans for the specialized workforce; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Health Workforce conducted a study which estimates less than five percent of employees who work in health care occupations are veterans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOVED, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion create a separate category of Employer of Veterans Awards for Health Care Employers to allow them the opportunity to be recognized as employers of veterans and such award criteria be developed to allow employers of health care workers to compete for said awards**



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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-9**

**SUBMITTED BY: PIEDMONT VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 311**

**SUBJECT: Department of South Dakota Finance Commission Members Term Limits**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO NOT PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota American Legion Constitution and Bylaws Revised July 10, 2021 as approved by the Department Executive Committee-states in “ARTICLE V EXPENDITURES, Section 1. EXPENDITURES-APPROVAL-BUDGET” that “The Department Commander shall have available for consultation a Finance Commission of five members, of which four shall be elected by the Executive Committee for a term of four years, with the term of one member expiring each year, at the close of the Department Convention. The member whose term is expiring shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year. By virtue of his/her office, the Department Finance Officer shall be the fifth member of the Finance Commission and serve as its Chairperson.”; and

WHEREAS, This requirement has proven to be unsustainable in practice; and

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission is the only Commission of The Department of South Dakota American Legion with a term limit which prevents re-election eligibility of an expiring member for at least one year; and

WHEREAS, In historical practice, 2019 Department Convention required electing three new members, the 2020 COVID Year extended all terms by one year, and the most recent election by the Executive Committee following the 2021 Department Convention required electing two new members; and

WHEREAS, This practice prevents the opportunity to retain essential long-term experience and historical

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knowledge of previous decision-making analysis that is critical for the basis of future sound budgeting decisions, and appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and submitted by the Department of South Dakota American Legion Piedmont Valley Post 311 to the Department of South Dakota American Legion Headquarters for review and approval at the Department of South Dakota American Legion Annual 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota, June 16-19, 2022 for favorable action; now, therefore, be it finally

**RESOLVED, By the Department of South Dakota American Legion Annual 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention voting majority, that the Bylaws clause “shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year” be replaced and changed to read “any member who was elected to fill a term less than four years and whose expiring term is less than a full four years, shall be eligible for re-election for a second term and at the conclusion of a second term shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.”**

**Resolution**  
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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-10**

**SUBMITTED BY: Internal Affairs Commission**

**SUBJECT: Department of South Dakota Finance Commission Member Selection and Term limits**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota American Legion Constitution and Bylaws Revised July 10, 2021 as approved by the Department Executive Committee-states in “ARTICLE V EXPENDITURES, Section 1. EXPENDITURES-APPROVAL-BUDGET” that “The Department Commander shall have available for consultation a Finance Commission of five members, of which four shall be elected by the Executive Committee for a term of four years, with the term of one member expiring each year, at the close of the Department Convention. The member whose term is expiring shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year. By virtue of his/her office, the Department Finance Officer shall be the fifth member of the Finance Commission and serve as its Chairperson.”; and

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission is the only Commission of The Department of South Dakota American Legion with a term limit which prevents re-election eligibility of an expiring member for at least one year; and

WHEREAS, This practice prevents the opportunity to retain essential long-term experience and historical knowledge of previous decision-making analysis that is critical for the basis of future sound budgeting decisions, and appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This resolution is submitted by the Internal Affairs Commission; there for be it finally

**Resolution**  
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**RESOLVED, that Article V, Section 1, of the South Dakota American Legion By Laws which reads**  
**“The Department Commander shall have available for consultation a Finance Commission of five members,**  
**of which four shall be elected by the Executive Committee for a term of four years, with the term of one**  
**member expiring each year, at the close of the Department Convention. The member whose term is expiring**  
**shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year. By virtue of his/her office, the Department Finance**  
**Officer shall be the fifth member of the Finance Commission and serve as its Chairperson. The Executive**  
**Committee shall convene immediately following the adjournment of each annual Department Convention,**  
**and by election, fill vacancies on the Finance Commission. In case of any vacancy between conventions, it**  
**shall be filled at the midwinter conference meeting of the Executive Committee or by mail or e-mail ballot of**  
**the Executive Committee” be changed to read: The Department Commander shall appoint members**  
**of the Finance Commission to serve for revolving 4-year terms selected from a list of qualified**  
**persons vetted and approved by the Department Executive Committee prior to the Department**  
**Convention. The Commander will appoint to vacant positions as well as fill any unexpired terms.**  
**By virtue of his/her office, the Department Finance Officer shall be the fifth member of the Finance**  
**Commission and serve as its Chairperson. Finance Commission members shall be eligible to serve more**  
**than one consecutive term.”; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, Article V, Section 1 of the By Laws which reads, “The Executive Committee shall convene**  
**immediately following the adjournment of each annual Department Convention, and by election, fill**  
**vacancies on the Finance Commission. In case of any vacancy between conventions, it shall be filled at the**  
**midwinter conference meeting of the Executive Committee or by mail or e-mail ballot of the Executive**  
**Committee” shall be removed.**

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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-11**  
**SUBMITTED BY: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
**SUBJECT: REORGAINZATION OF DEPARTMENT STANDING COMMITTEES**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTION: DO PASS recommendation**

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WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6, subsection c) of the Constitution and By Laws of The American Legion Department of South Dakota identifies a Media and Communications Committee as well as a Membership and Marketing Committee; .and

WHEREAS, It has been determined this is not the best organization to accomplish the mission of the Department; therefore be it finally,

**RESOLVED, the Media and Marketing Committee will become the Marketing, Media and Communications Committee and the Membership and Marketing Committee will become the Membership committee and changes will be made to the Department Constitution and By Laws to reflect the changes in the permanent committees.**

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**Department of South Dakota, The American Legion State Convention**  
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**RESOLUTION NO: SDAL 22-12**  
**SUBMITTEDBY: GETYSBURG POST 135**  
**SUBJECT: INCREASING AWARD AMOUNTS FOR ORATORY WINNERS**  
**REFERED TO: Convention Resolutions Committee**

Whereas, The South Dakota American Legion has conducted a Department Finals “Constitutional Speech Contest” annually for 85 years; and

Whereas, Scholarship awards have been awarded to participants for over 15 years in the following amounts: for first place \$1,000, for second place \$500, for third place \$300 and Remaining finalists each receive \$100 each; and

Whereas, Post High School Tuition rates (for colleges and technical schools) have increased significantly during this same time period; and

Whereas, contestants do not compete only because of the cash awards, but they treasure the opportunity to defend the values of the Constitution of the United States and express their knowledge of the Constitution; and

Whereas, We Legionnaires wish to express our appreciation to these highly dedicated young people, not only with trophies, but with equitable cash Scholarships; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By Ralph Leui Post #135, That the scholarships awarded for participants in the South Dakota High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest be as follows: for first place \$1,500, for second place \$1,000, for third place \$500 and Remaining finalists each receive \$200 each.**

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**RESOLUTION NO.:SDAL 22-13**  
**SUBMITTED BY: BADGER POST 260**  
**SUBJECT: PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WITH 70-100% VA DISABILITY**  
**REFERRED TO: Convention Resolutions Committee**

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**WHEREAS**, South Dakota has recognized veterans who are permanent and totally disabled have difficulty in maintaining employment due to their disabilities from service; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota Codified Law 10-4-40 and 10-4-41 allow permanent and totally disabled veterans property tax exemption; and

**WHEREAS**, disabled veterans can have significant individual disabilities that impact their ability to hold full time employment and not be rated at permanent and totally disabled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Veterans Affairs standard for Total Disability based upon Individual Unemployability starts with a minimum combined rating of 70%; and

**WHEREAS**, veterans who have a combined disability rating over 70% from the Department of Veteran Affairs should be included in real property tax exemption; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The Department of South Dakota American Legion in State Convention assembled in Watertown, SD, June 16-19, 2022, That the South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee actively lobby that the State of South Dakota amend the South Dakota Codified Law Chapter SDCL 10-4-40 and 10-4-41, to include the service-connected disabilities 70%-90% for the property tax exemption.**