



# Up To Now!

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Jul 15 Finance Commission meeting, Oacoma  
Jul 16 Dept Executive Committee meeting Oacoma  
Jul 16-17 New District Commander training  
Jul 16 Legion Service Day at Wings of Valor, Parker  
Jul 23 Dept Commander Homecoming in Chamberlain  
Jul 24 Dept Auxiliary President Homecoming in Chester  
Jul 29-30 National Membership Workshop  
Aug 26-Sep 1 National Convention, Milwaukee WI  
Sep 5 Labor Day, HQ closed  
Sep 10-11 SD Legion Golf Tournament  
Sep 10 District 1 Fall Meeting  
Sep 11 District 2 Fall Meeting  
Sep 24 District 6 Fall Meeting  
Sep 25 District 3 Fall Meeting  
Oct 1 Midwest Honor Flight, SD American Legion Honor Flight  
Oct 10-13 National Fall Meetings  
Oct 22 District 7 Fall Meeting  
Oct 23 District 8 Fall Meeting  
Oct 29 District 4 Fall Meeting  
Oct 30 District 5 Fall Meeting  
Nov 11 Veterans Day, HQ closed

## COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

Commander Feltman's homecoming will be held at the Ammeric Inn, 1981 East King Street, Chamberlain, South Dakota on July 23rd, 2022. Social will begin at 12:00 pm with meal at 1:00 and program at 2:00 pm. Please plan on being there to support our new Department Commander. If you need to spend the night, 15 rooms have been reserved at \$135 plus tax. A reservation can be made by calling 605-234-0985 and tell them you are with the Feltman Homecoming.

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT HOMECOMING

The new Department Auxiliary President, Joyce Smith will hold her homecoming July 24th at the Chester School in Chester SD. Meal at noon followed by the program.

## WINGS OF VALOR SERVICE PROJECT WORK DAY

As a service project, South Dakota American Legion will host a work day to help the non-profit Wings Of Valor Lodge near Parker. The work day will be July 16th with a 9 am start. Bring your gloves and be ready to work. Wings of Valor operates on the mission of supporting those who have served by providing a gathering place to motivate and empower veterans in the outdoors. They host Disabled Veterans hunts twice a month and hunt commercially the remainder. The continued goal of Wings of Valor Lodge is to welcome each disabled Veteran with caring arms, free of cost. Partnering with Sanford Health, they also offer curriculum and clinical support to reinforce our passion for care of "body, mind and spirit". To sign up at [www.sdlegion.org/service](http://www.sdlegion.org/service). The lodge is located at 45618 278th St, Parker. For more information on the lodge go to [www.wingsofvalorlodge.org](http://www.wingsofvalorlodge.org)

## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Brandy Vavruska who teaches at West Elementary School in Spearfish. She was selected as the South Dakota American Legion Educator of the Year for 2022. Other candidates included Heather Overland of Moberge, Nancy Seaman of Sioux Falls and Barbara Madison of Iroquois.

## 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. National has extended their due date to 15 July.

## LEGION BASEBALL SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE FROM SD ATHLETIC COMMISSION

To all SD Legion Posts and SD Legion Members - Ask yourself "What is good Sportsmanship?" So, what is the definition of Sportsmanship? According to Webster's Dictionary, good Sportsmanship is "fair and generous behavior or treatment of others especially in a sports contest". Well, fellow Legion members, the 2021 Legion Baseball season was horrible in this aspect. Coaches, players and even fans were ejected from Legion Baseball games. In addition, SD Legion Headquarters received complaints about the behavior and attitude of coaches and players during Legion Baseball games. Your help is needed to get the Sportsmanship back in Legion baseball, one of the Legion's largest programs. If your Legion Post sponsors or supports a baseball team in the Legion program, make it a point to attend the Legion Baseball games and emphasize to the coaches, players and fans to show good sportsmanship and have positive behavior. Tell them to remember that they are representing their local Legion Post and community. Let's make and keep Legion Baseball in South Dakota FUN and ENJOYABLE for all by showing GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

## 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

For people ages 10-34, suicide is the leading cause of death in South Dakota. Starting July 11, 2022, dialing code 988 with the three digit number that will connect people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. People can use the 988 number if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises or other emotional distress. People can also use the 988 number if they are concerned about a loved one who may need crisis support. Please spread the word about the new 988 number.

## SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION FLOAT

Scheduling of the SD Legion float is changing to Department Headquarters. To schedule the float or check on availability, email [hq@sdlegion.org](mailto:hq@sdlegion.org) or call 605-886-3604. As before a fee to use the float will be \$20 and should be sent to HQ after reserving the float. It is the responsibility of the organization that wants to use the float to arrange with the current holder of the float where and when to pick up the float.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTERS (OLD GREEN BAR REPORT)

With the change in MyLegion and other reports, **National will no longer be printing the Membership Registers also known as the greenbar report.** Posts will still get their membership cards, but will not get this report. This report can be downloaded from

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MyLegion. Please note the membership register will not include PUFL members until after the July PUFL extract runs are complete. Only the Post Commander or Adjutant can download these files from MyLegion because you must have "My Groups" access. If a Post does not have access to MyLegion and requires the Membership Registers, Department Headquarters can download the Post's report and get it to them. We ask only those Posts that do not have the ability to download reports from MyLegion ask for them from Headquarters.

#### **EMAIL IMPERSONATION ATTACKS**

The National Head Quarters has issued an email advisory regarding people impersonating national headquarters staff members asking for information. For example, the hackers will use a staff member's name and ask in the email to review a spread sheet or respond to a sent file. This could give the hacker access to your account information. The email may look quite genuine. This could include the actual staff member's name, email address and phone in the signature line at the bottom of the email. However in the from line it may have the actual headquarters staff name, but the email address will not be a headquarters email. Another scam will be an email sent using the Commander's name and asking to send gift cards for a specific reason. If you receive a questionable email, call the person before opening to ensure it is in fact from them. Another method to increase security for your self, is to set up multifactor authentication for your personal email and other online account containing personal data.

#### **CONVENTION SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**

Congratulations to the following winners of the Dept Convention Sweepstakes:

- \$1000 Ed Pflipsen of Sioux Falls
- \$500 David Laabs of Lak Preston
- \$300 LeRoy Vanruler of Sioux Falls
- \$200 Chris Larsen of Hurley
- \$100 Michael Ernest of Aberdeen

A special thanks to all those that donated to the sweepstakes. Your donation will help fund our American Legion programs.

#### **BIDS TO HOST 2027 MIDWINTER AND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

The Next Meeting Place committee met during the convention. Congratulations to the following Posts:

Post 3 will host 2027 MidWinter Conference at Oacoma on February 19-21, 2027.

Post 15 will host the 2027 Department Convention at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls on June 16-19, 2027.

#### **BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE**

The schedule for The American Legion 2022 baseball tournaments is as follows:

- State "A" Senior- July 27-31, hosted by Post 22, Rapid City
- State "A" Junior- July 28-31, hosted by Post 15, Sioux Falls
- State "B" Senior - Jul 29 - Aug 2, hosted by Post 6, Gregory
- State "B" Junior-Aug 5-7 hosted by Post 60, Clark
- National Regional- Aug 3-7 hosted by Rapid City
- World Series-Aug 11-16 in Shelby, North Carolina.

#### **ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES**

The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests:

- Post contests completed by January 8, 2023
- District contests completed by January 22nd, 2023
- Department contest will be held February 12th, 2023 at Mid-Winter conference.

District Commanders, send date/time and location for District Contest to Headquarters as soon as possible.

#### **NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES COMING TO SIOUX FALLS.**

July 18-23, veterans from across the country will be traveling to Sioux Falls to participate in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Veterans will be competing in a number of events and the schedule can be found at this website. <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/112823125/> For more information on volunteering go to <https://www.blogs.va.gov/nspse/national-veterans-goloden-age-games/>. If you want to register to be a volunteer please go to <https://36thnvag.my-trs.com>.

#### **DIRECT TV DISCOUNTS FOR POSTS**

The American Legion has partnered with Commercial Satellite Sales. With this agreement, Posts may be eligible for 15-20% discount on Direct TV programming. This is for Posts only and may not be available for all areas. Contact 800-251-1595 or visit [www.cssdtv.com/american-legion](http://www.cssdtv.com/american-legion) for more details.

#### **FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS**

2023 MidWinter	Huron	Feb 10-12
2023 Convention	Oacoma	June 8-11
2024 Mid-Winter	Deadwood	Feb 16-18
2024 Convention	Pierre	June 20-23
2025 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 14-16
2025 Convention	Huron	June 19-22

#### **VA AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is encouraging all Desert Shield and Desert Storm (ODS/S), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Enduring Freedom (OEF), and New Dawn (OND) veterans to participate in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit registry. By joining the registry, you can provide information to help the VA better understand whether long-term health conditions may be related to these exposures. Even if you have not experienced any symptoms or illnesses you believe are related to exposures during military service, your participation in the registry could help VA provide better care to all Veterans. For more information go to <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>.

#### **POST CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS**

Has your Post updated it's Constitution and By Laws? This should be done annually to make sure everything is up to date. Additionally, please ensure Department Headquarters has a copy of your updated Constitution and By Laws. Thanks for your help with this important process.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The American Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919. Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. This is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive traits in our country's youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community. The American Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

#### **DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS FOR 2022**

National set the 2022 membership goal for South Dakota at 17,733 members. As of July 4th 2022, we are currently at 16,545 or 93.3% of our goal. We are currently #33 of all the departments. Commander Dillard has also set a goal of 90% renewal rate and South Dakota is currently at 92.5% renewal rate.

**Have You Done Your  
Buddy Check Lately?**