



Up To Now!

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August 17, 2022

Aug 26-Sep 1 National Convention, Milwaukee WI
Sep 1 Veterans Day at SD State Fair
Sep 5 Labor Day, HQ closed
Sep 8 Dept Executive Committee Zoom meeting at 7 pm central
Sep 10-11 SD Legion Golf Tournament
Sep 10 District 1 Fall Meeting
Sep 18 District 2 Fall Meeting
Sep 24 District 6 Fall Meeting
Sep 25 District 3 Fall Meeting
Sep 28 South Dakota Veterans Council meeting, Rapid City
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
Nov 15 Employer Awards nominations due to HQ
Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving HQ closed
Dec 23, 26 Christmas Holiday, HQ closed
Dec 31 Law Enforcement nominations due to HQ from Districts
Dec 31 Firefighter nominations due to HQ from Districts

COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP GOAL MESSAGE

After much deliberation and discussion Membership Chairman Rod Smith, Adjutant Hempel and I set the Post goals for 2023 at 2% of your Post 2022 membership. National set South Dakotas goals at 3% of 2022 membership. Every Legionnaire is a recruiter and we want to make our 2% goal and try VERY hard to meet Nationals goal of 3% which would be 115 members over our 2% goal. Membership is all important as if we do not increase our membership The American Legion is not sustainable. By working together and toward our goal we can make it. If every member recruited just one new member, we would double the size of South Dakota American Legion. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

CONTINUOUS YEARS ON DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please help get the word out! National has sent a number of dues notices and membership cards with the wrong membership date. In the case of the dues notices, when they pulled the data for "Member since" they used the last date paid rather than the date joining so most of the dues letters say the individual has been a member since 2022. National has since fixed the data problem. This did not impact the actual consecutive years in the data base. Please ensure everyone knows if the date is not correct, please disregard it.

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION HONOR FLIGHT

Midwest Honor Flight Mission 13 has been named the SD American Legion Honor Flight. It will depart early on Oct 1st. There are two events associated with this flight Legionnaires can participate in. On September 30th, the Honor Flight banquet will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Up to 150 additional people can participate at the banquet. Cost is \$25 per plate. Contact 605-215-1319 or info@midwesthonorflight.org to order tickets or for additional information. There will be a Welcome Home Ceremony for the returning flight at the Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena at 9:30 pm. We want to fill the Arena with Legionnaires to welcome home our Legion Flight. Pass the word and wear your Legion Cap.

LEGION TABLE AT STATE FAIR

The SD Legion will have a booth at the State Fair at the Veteran's Building on Thursday, September 1st from 9 am to 5 pm. PDC Gary Wolkow is going to coordinate. He will be setting up the booth on Tuesday August 30th. If you are interested in helping set up the booth on the 30th or can help out at the booth on September 1st, please contact Gary at 605-203-0226.

LEGION STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Humboldt Post 62 and Hartford Post 118 are sponsoring this year's State Golf Tournament. It will be held September 10 and 11 at the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford. Registration deadline for the 4 person scramble is September 1st. Contact Fred Lee at 605-413-9451 to register or for more information.

KEYS TO PROGRESS

Progressive Insurance is giving a car away to a family facing difficult times. It will be given away on November 10th at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls. Applications must be submitted by September 16th and there is specific eligibility requirements which include, be a veteran with DD214, or Active Duty E4 or below, Spouse of Active Duty E4 or below and members is stationed overseas. Household income must be below 200% of federal poverty guidelines. If you or someone you know may qualify, or want additional information, have them contact Rachel at 605-271-1582 or info@southdakotaalliance.org.

FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS

South Dakota started a program in 2019 to honor Veterans killed in the line of duty by naming bridges in their honor. Following is a list of upcoming dedications. It would be great if Legionnaires in the area would attend to honor those who have fallen:

Aug 20, PVT August Otto, Claire City Community Hall at 11:00 am Central

Sep 17, CPL Martin Fluegel, McCook Central High School in Salem at 1:00pm central

Oct 1, Frederic Schroeder, VFW in Madison at 1:00 pm central

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

The following Posts need to contact Judy at Headquarters to complete their Officer Certifications: Lake Andes, Woonsocket, Parker, Rockham, Wolsey, Blunt, Leola, Bullhead #82, Timber Lake, Egan, Astoria, Viborg, Isabel, Dupree, Rosebud, Valley Springs, Sinai, Langford, Belvidere, Buffalo, Canistota, Davis, Fairfax, Parkston, Pukwana, Ramona, Oelrichs, Little Eagle, Delmont, Pine Ridge, New Underwood, Kyle, Virgil, Batesland, Porcupine, Parmelee, St. Francis, Kidder, Manderson, Eagle Butte, Old Agency and Bull Head #324.

POST MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS

In the past, Posts received a membership roster often called the green bar report which came with the membership cards. Earlier this year National decided not to print this report and did not send it with the membership cards. However, the demand for the report was high and National has decided to print one for each post. Headquarters has received these reports and will be forwarding them to the Posts when we send the Department Adjutants Manual.

CONTINUED ON BACK

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 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 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.

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 on February 12th, 2023 at MidWinter conference.

The following dates and locations have been set for the District contests:

DIST. 1—Chair: Ken Sabers, (kcsabers@gmail.com) District contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 8, 2023, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

DIST. 2—Chair: Doug Harris (doughnut@gmsil.com) District contest to be held at SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St, January 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Storm date, January 15th, same time and place.

DIST. 3- Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) District contest to be held at Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 15, 2023 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 22nd, same time and place.

DIST. 4—Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) District contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 8 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 15th, same time and place.

(NOTE CHANGE)

DIST. 5—Chair: Clayton Nei, (pandnei@gmail.com) District contest to be held at American Lutheran Church, Castlewood, SD on Jan. 15, 2023, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 22, same time and place.

DIST. 6—Chair: Kim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) District Contest to be held at the Best Western Hotel 2000 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD, January 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 22th, same time and place.

DIST. 7—Chair: Linda Liddell (Lliddell08@gmail.com), District contest to be held at the Humboldt Community Center, January 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 22nd, same time and place.

DIST. 8 Chair: Joseph Knoer, (joseph.A.Knoer@usd.edu) District contest to be held at Al Neuharth Median Center, 555 N Dakota St, Vermillion, January 8th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 15th, same time and place. (NOTE CHANGE)

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Remember the South Dakota American Legion Foundation when your Post considers donations / gifts. This foundation will be used by future generations of Legionnaires to fund the American Legion programs. Donations can be marked as a memorial to those Legion members who have passed onto Post Everlasting. If the Post knows someone who wants to make a larger donation and needs assistance with ensuring the endowment goes to the programs they want to support, please contact the Dept. Adjutant at adjutant@sdlegion.org.

FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Districts are scheduling their Fall meetings. Below is the current schedule to date:

Dist 1: Sept 10, Lemmon Post 66, 10:30 social, 11:00 meal, 12:00 meeting

Dist 2: Sept 18, Phillip TBD

Dist 3: Sept 25, TBD

Dist 4: Oct 29, TBD

Dist 5: Oct 30, Brooking Post 74, 12:30 meal, 1:00 meeting

Dist 6: Sept 24, Wessington Springs Post 14, 11:00 social, 12:00 meal, 13:30 meeting

Dist 7: Sioux Falls Post 15, 11:00 social, 12:00 meal, 1:00 meet

Dist 8: Oct 23, Vermillion, TBD

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

The following have been elected as Delegates to the National Convention in Milwaukee August 25-September 1:

NEC Jim Huls of Madison (National Call In)

Alt NEC Denny Brenden of Watertown (National Call In)

PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson (National Call In)

PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington (National Call In)

PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell (National Call In)

PDC Fred Nelson of Spearfish (National Call In)

Warren Aas of Watertown (National Call In)

Krisma DeWitt of Watertown (National Call In)

Doug Harris of Rapid City (National Call In)

Courtney Steffen of Chester (National Call In)

C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City (National Call In)

PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois

Dept Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain

Dept Adjutant Kevin Hempel of Watertown

Noel Cummins of Milbank

Rod Smith of Chester

Travise Flisrand of Badger

Bill Peters of Sioux Falls

Annette Dunham of Iroquois

Jon McDonald of Box Elder

Jeff Hrabanek of Winner

Dan Hunhoff of Yankton

Alternate Delegates are:

PDC Byron Callies of Watertown

Joseph Knoer of Ruthven

Dale Hill of Sioux Falls

Tom Henley of Aurora

Eugene Iron Shell of Rosebud

DID YOU KNOW:

The second section of the Legion Preamble and its meaning: TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms- went to wars-to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

National gave us the 2022-2023 membership goals for the Department at the Membership Workshop. They set it by taking 3% of our actual membership on July 4th. The National goal is 17,041. We will be getting the goals to each post with the SD Adjutant's Administrative and Awards manual as well as the post membership rosters we just received from National. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

2023 goal 17,041 Current membership 8,074 or 47.4% of goal