



Up To Now!

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Oct 29 District 4 Fall Meeting
Oct 30 District 5 Fall Meeting
Oct 31 VA Healthcare worker nominations due to HQ
Nov 5 Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis Community Center
Nov 5 Veterans Appreciation day at USD (see back page)
Nov 11 Veterans Day, HQ closed
Nov 15 Employer Awards nominations due to HQ
Nov 16 South Dakota Veterans Council meets Sioux Falls
Nov 16-19 Legislative Round Tables, see note
Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving HQ closed
Dec 17 Wreath laying at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery
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
Jan 11 South Dakota Veterans Council meeting
Feb 10-13 Department MidWinter Conference in Huron
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma

HAT IN THE RING

Wagner Post 11 has endorsed Greg Geiman as Department Sargent At Arms for 2023-2024

LEGISLATIVE ROUND TABLES

The South Dakota Veterans Council is hosting four legislative round tables around the state in November. They are open to the public and a chance to hear what our legislators feel about issues important to veterans. The schedule is :

Nov 16, Sioux Falls DAV Headquarters, 12:00 to 3:30
Nov 17, Watertown Legion Post 17, 11:00 to 12:30
Nov 18, Pierre Post 8, 2:00 to 3:30
Nov 19, Spearfish VFW, 10:00 to 11:30

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PINS

National Commander Troiola has authorized two separate membership hat pins. The first is for any person that recruits three new members or previous member who were not members in 2022. The second hat pin is for anyone that recruits three previous members who were not members in 2022. These are national pins and must be applied for through National, not Department Headquarters. Auxiliary and SAL members are also eligible for this pin. Additional information for these pins can be found at www.legion.org/commander/pin and at www.legion.org/commander/vets-pin.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

SCSEP is a program for individuals who are at least 55 years old and in low family income bracket and unemployed. If accepted the individual is receives part time training while being paid to learn skills. Priority is given to veterans over 65, live in rural areas and at risk for being homeless. Although this program is administered by the National Indian Council on Aging, it is open to all who qualify. For more information visit www.nicoa.org/programs/scsep/

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:

Nov 11, Capt Tommy Callies, Howard High School at 9:30 am
Nov 11, S2 Wayne, Wagner High School at 2:00 pm

2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The MidWinter conference will be held at the Cross Roads Hotel and Huron Event Center February 10-12. A block of rooms has been set aside and reservations can be made by calling 800-876-5858. Be sure to mention you will be attending the Legion Mid-Winter conference. Other details such as banquet and training sessions will be coming soon.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

On August 10, 2022, President Joe Biden signed The Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act into law. The PACT Act is a sweeping piece of legislation that covers multiple generations of Veterans. If any of the following conditions apply to you, we highly encourage all to file claims with their local trained and accredited Veterans Service Officer. You can find contact information for South Dakota's County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers here: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>. For Gulf War-era and Post 9/11 Veterans who served in the Middle East or the airspace above, the following cancers and illnesses are now presumptive: Brain cancer, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, and Sarcoidosis. For Vietnam Veterans, the presumptive list for Agent Orange exposure now includes MGUS (blood disease) and Hypertension. Additionally, the PACT Act expanded the presumptive locations to include Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976; Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969; Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969; Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980; and Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977. Also included in the PACT Act is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, which allows veterans who served at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 and their dependents to bring action in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina against the Department of Defense. Some individuals living at the base between 1953 and 1987 have developed kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, leukemia and other forms of cancer after drinking water was found to contain a variety of toxic compounds. The American Legion is working with Bergmann & Moore, our legal representatives at the Board of Veterans Appeals, to create a Memorandum of Understanding to help Veterans and their families navigate this process. More to come as information is released.

CONTINUED ON BACK

We encourage the South Dakota American Legion family to disseminate this information amongst the ranks. If a Veteran has been denied in the past, they need to get into their local VSO and file an appeal. Raise awareness amongst widows of the new presumptive conditions and locations that have been added—if they had been denied or had not applied for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation in the past, they may be eligible now. The best thing a Veteran can do for another Veteran is help them connect to their benefits: Get them into their County or Tribal VSO and get the claim started.

USD MILITARY/VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

USD is offering two free tickets to the Volleyball and/or Football game on Nov 5. Call 605-677-5959 or go to goyotes.com/promo and enter code USA to redeem this offer.

POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

The following posts need to contact Judy at headquarters to find out about certifying their officers and membership cards

Dist 1:	Bullhead #82	Dupree #124
	Little Eagle #239	Bull Head #324
Dist 2:	Belvidere #144	Oelrichs #238
	Pine Ridge #251	Kyle #265
	Batesland #281	Porcupine #294
	Parmelee #295	St. Francis #297
	Manderson #302	Norris #310
Dist 3	Blunt #77	
Dist 4	Rockham #57	
Dist 8	Parker #30	

LEGION NEWS STORIES

Although the next 3 issues of the Legion News will be on line, we are still looking for stories and photos of what the Legion is doing around the state. Please send your stories to Hsdaqarters at P.O. Box 67. Watertown SD or email to adjutant@sdlegion.org

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 – to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 8, 2023, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

DIST. 2 – 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 - 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 – 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. DIST. 5 – 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 – 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 – 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 - to be held at Al Neuharth Media Center, 555 N Dakota St, Vermillion, January 15th, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm Date January 22nd, same time and place.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

About 20 veterans take their own lives by suicide everyday. We need to reduce that to zero. Buddy checks are an important part of Veterans helping Veterans. Take the time to reach out to veterans even if they are not Legion members. The National Commander has started a program called “Be The One.” He wants us all to be the one that helps those veterans in need. The VA has a hot line, 1-800-273-8255. You can also dial 988 if you or someone you know needs help, please use the hot line. Be The One to make a difference.

FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The final District Fall meetings will be held this weekend.

Dist 4: Oct 29, Warner, 4:00 meeting

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

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

This program assists getting veterans to important medical appointments. However, they are in need of volunteer drivers across the state. For more information on how to become a volunteer driver call the West River DAV Transportation Coordinator, Jack Post and follow the message prompts 605-720-7065 for the Black Hills VA Health Care System Network or call the East River DAV Transportation Coordinator, John Huntington 605-336-3230 ext. 6551 for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Network.

REMINDER TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION POSTS TO FILE IRS FORM 990

Federal tax regulations require every American Legion Post to file IRS form 990. This must be filled out by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your organizations accounting period. Many Posts which have less than \$50,000, the 990-N or online form can be used. If the IRS does not receive this form, they will revoke the tax-exempt status of the Post. To get your Tax-exempt status back you have to apply and pay a sizeable fee. This process takes time (months) and can challenge even the most patient of individuals. The form can be downloaded at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf>.

DID YOU KNOW:

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND MASSES...This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes-but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations. There must be no hyphenated Americans-just Americans all.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our National goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. They were determined by taking 3% of our actual membership on July 4th. As of October 23, we were at 11,340 or 66.55% of goal. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

Upcoming membership goals

November 9	65%
December 14	75%

Have you done your buddy checks??