



# Up To Now!

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Issued Bi-Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

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## No. 3351

November 9, 2022

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 10-12 Department MidWinter Conference in Huron  
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma

### INCLUDED N THIS UP TO NOW

The Posts will receive a letter regarding the VAVS program and fund raising for the VA programs

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MAKES APPOINTMENTS

Commander Feltman has made the following appointments:

- Mike Kraft of Britton to two year term on Americanism Commission
- Jennifer VanRoekel of Viborg to 1 year term as Homeless Veteran Chairman
- Michelle Eosso of Rapid City to 2 year term on Marketing, Media and Communications Committee
- Chris Rendon of Summerset to 2 year term as member of Scouting Committee
- Brian Havard of Salem to 1 year term as member of VAVS Committee
- Gary Warne of Aberdeen to 2 year term as member of Employment Committee

### 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](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin) and at [www.legion.org/commander/vets-pin](http://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/](http://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.

### PACT ACT UPDATE

There has been information about the recently approved Pact Act for veterans exposed to toxic materials in the last several Up To Nows. We can't stress the importance of having veterans that may have been impacted to see there County or Tribal Service Officers. They need to get enrolled as soon as possible. Even if you don't think you were affected, but served in the identified areas the veterans need to register. The VA has now started to offer exposure screenings to those who have registered. The screening takes about 10 minutes and can be done during an existing appointment. Once the initial screening is completed, the veteran will be screened at least every 5 years. If you don't have an scheduled appointment or do not receive services from the VA at this time, you can still contact you local VA facility and asked to get screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator. There was also wording in the Pact Act for those Marines that served at Camp Lejeune and may have been exposed to toxic water there. There have been a number of Law Firms with commercials saying they can represent Marines for this law suite. Keep in mind, there is an offset clause in the law that could take away VA benefits veterans may now be receiving. We have invited Liz Hartman from Bergmann & Moore and an expert on the Camp Lejeune legal issues to MidWinter. She will address the participants and will also be available to talk to Marines in person. Bergmann and Moore is the legal team National uses to assist in appeals for VA benefits and has an MOU with National to assist in the handling of these cases. Please help get the word out to all the veterans. If a veteran does not want to wait until MidWinter, they can contact Bergmann and Moore at [www.camejeunelitigationteam.com/al](http://www.camejeunelitigationteam.com/al) for a secure form or can call 800-898-9450 for additional information.

### 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](mailto:adjutant@sdlegion.org)

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## 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 8	Parker #30	

## 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.

## DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS

For planning purposes, the following dates have been proposed for the Spring District Meetings. Watch future Up To Now for final dates and times:

Dist 1	25 March	Dist 2	26 March
Dist 3	18 March	Dist 4	12 March
Dist 5	11 March	Dist 6	19 March
Dist 7	2 April	Dist 8	1 April

## 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.

Have you done your buddy checks??

## 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>.

## AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Have you completed the Basic Training Course? It is a great way to better understand your American Legion. The course covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities. Following a Course Conclusion step in the training program, a 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales. Take the Basic Training course online at [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training).

## DID YOU KNOW:

Continuing our look into the meaning of the Preamble, the next section is TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT...All wars from the veterans of which The American Legion draws its membership were started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enthroning right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

## A NOTE FROM ROD SMITH, DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN.

Membership! Look what is happening in South Dakota. The energy and excitement about the American Legion seems to be high and your numbers show it. Post, were ready to close and have been revitalized and are actually growing from where they were. You Legionnaires are getting it done and please keep it up as we go into the cooler weather. Keep up the good work and stay ahead of the goal target dates. Have a great Fall and remember that every one of the Legion Family is a recruiter. Explain our programs and community involvement and how we support veterans and families. Remember, every day is thanksgiving day.

## 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 November 6th, we were at 12,085 or 70.92% of goal. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

Upcoming membership goals

November 9	65%
December 14	75%