



# Up To Now!

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

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**No. 3353** **December 7, 2022**

- Dec 8 Dept Executive Committee Zoom meeting
- Dec 14 Marketing, Media and Communications Zoom meeting
- Dec 17 Wreath laying at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery
- Dec 23, 26 Christmas Holiday, HQ closed
- Dec 30-Jan 2 New Years Holiday, HQ closed
- Dec 31 Law Enforcement nominations due to HQ
- Dec 31 Firefighter nominations due to HQ
- Jan 11 South Dakota Veterans Council meeting
- Feb 10-12 Department MidWinter Conference in Huron
- Mar 11 District 5 Spring Meeting
- Mar 12 District 4 Spring Meeting
- Mar 18 District 3 Spring Meeting
- Mar 19 District 6 Spring Meeting
- Mar 25 District 1 Spring Meeting
- Mar 26 District 2 Spring Meeting
- Apr 1 District 8 Spring Meeting
- Apr 2 District 7 Spring Meeting
- Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma

**MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Friday, February 10, 2023**

- 10:00 a.m. Department Finance Commission Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 12:00 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK (sandwich buffet available)**
- 12:00 p.m. Boys State Board of Directors
- 1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. SAL Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. SDAL Foundation Meeting –
- 6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails- Pre-Function Area,
- 6:30 p.m. Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session
- 8:30 a.m. Various speakers and reports for joint session
- 8:30 a.m. Boys State Board of Directors Meeting continues
- 10:00 a.m. Recess Joint Session –
- 10:10 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 1 for training:**  
MyLegion or Successful Posts
- 11:00 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 2:**  
MyLegion continued or Running a meeting
- 11:45 a.m. **LUNCH BREAK (sandwich buffet available)**
- 1:00 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 3:**  
Security and Scams
- 1:00 p.m. SAL business meeting
- 2:00 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 4:**  
Buddy Checks
- 2:45 p.m. Reconvene Joint Session -
- 2:50 p.m. Various speakers and reports
- 4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
- 4:30 p.m. Membership Committee meeting
- 4:30 p.m. American Legion Riders meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Go-Getter Reception (National Guard building)
- 6:30 p.m. Go-Getter Smorgasbord
- 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms

**Sunday, February 12, 2023**

- 8:30 a.m. Non-Denominational Service Four Chaplains
- 10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – State Finals – Oratorical Contest

**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. There are no more rooms available for Thursday evening, but about 25 rooms for Friday and Saturday. Be sure to mention you will be attending the Legion MidWinter conference. An alternate hotel is the Super 8 in Huron.

**MIDWINTER JOINT BANQUET**

The MidWinter Joint Banquet will be held Friday evening February 10th with social at 6:00 and banquet at 6:30. The meal will be a buffet with roast beef, chicken marsala, baked potato, green bean almondine, tossed salad, dinner roll and cookies and cream salad. Cost is \$35.00 and deadline to order tickets is February 1st. Checks should be sent to Lloyd Timperley, P.O. Box 205, Huron SD 57350 and made out to American Legion Post 7.

**MIDWINTER LUNCHES**

A sandwich and soup buffet will be available for both Friday and Saturday lunches. Price will be \$17.00 each which includes tax and gratuity. No advanced tickets are required, it will be pay as you go.

**SD DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FUNERAL HONOR REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

There is a new form for Posts to request funeral reimbursements or stipends. Additionally, the reimbursement stipend was raised to \$100. Posts **MUST** use the new form to get the stipend. The older form will not be accepted because it refers to a \$50 stipend. The newest version of the form is “SDDVA Form 3 revised 11/2/2022” . This form can be found at the SDDVA website at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/benefits/State/SDDVA%20Funeral%20Honor%20Reimbursement%20Form.pdf> or you can call their office at 605-773-3269.

**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>.

**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

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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).

### 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. We really need the input from the Post level to tell our story. Please send your stories to Headquarters at P.O. Box 67, Watertown SD or email to [adjutant@sdlegion.org](mailto: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. 22, 2023, 1:00 p.m. **NOTE CHANGES**

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	Location & Time TBD
Dist 2	26 March	Location & Time TBD
Dist 3	18 March	Location & Time TBD
Dist 4	12 March	Cresbard, time TBD
Dist 5	11 March	Watertown, time TBD
Dist 6	19 March	Location & Time TBD
Dist 7	2 April	Hartford, 1:30 social, 2:00 mgt
Dist 8	1 April	Springfield, time TBD

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAP PINS

Commander Feltman will award his 2022-2023 Cap Pin to individuals for: Recruiting a new member

Participating in Oratorical Contest

Working with Boys State

Working with Youth Trooper program

Participating in Honor Guard at veterans funeral

Working with American Legion Baseball

A Legionnaire is allowed only one pin. The Post Adjutant must certify participation. Additional information and the certification form can be found in the 2022-2023 Post Adjutant's Administrative & Awards manual or on the Department website.

### 2024 BASEBALL BIDS

Bids to host the 2024 baseball tournaments are due by January 16th. The bid form can be found online at the Department Website and should be sent to Headquarters by the due date.

### 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.

### 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 SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY...On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we call a halt to foreign imperialism in the Western Hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

### 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. As of December 4, 2022 we were at 13,161 or 77.23% of goal. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

Upcoming membership goals

December 14	75%
January 18	80%

**Have You Done Your Buddy Checks!**