



Up To Now!

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

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December 21, 2022

- 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
- Apr 7 Good Friday, HQ closed
- May 8-11 National Spring Meetings
- May 29 Memorial Day
- 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

COMMANDER MAKES APPOINTMENT

COMMANDER Feltman has made the following appointment: Courtney Steffen of Chester and Travis Flisrand of Badger as Co Chairmen of the Marketing, Media and Communications committee

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 LUNCHESES

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

This is the last Up TO Now for 2022. We are looking forward to a great 2023. From your Headquarters Staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

CHECK YOUR SPAM

We have been informed that emails from Headquarters are sometimes found in the spam or junk folder. If you are expecting a response to a question you have emailed, please check your spam or junk email folder. It may be there.

DEADLINE APPROACHING

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year Nominations are to due to Headquarters by December 31. There is still time to get your nominations in!

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.

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REMINDER FOR 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/>

REQUEST FOR POST INFORMATION

The Marketing, Media and Communications committee is working to put together a list of Posts that have a restaurant and or bar which is often open to the public. If your post does have a restaurant and or bar that is often open to the public, please email Vice Commander Steffen at cmvz1983@gmail.com and indicate what kind of services your post offers along with contact information and hours. Photos are also appreciated!

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

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.

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

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.

DID YOU KNOW:

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS...The last or 10th clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble. Veterans of World War I were much more closely knit than those of World War II. They trained in the same camps, fought on the one great front. Those who came home unscarred were appalled by the plight of their less fortunate comrades. They felt a concern for them and their dependents which was a new and dramatic action aspect to what the country had known as friendship. This concern formed the bond among the charter members of The American Legion and gave them a great and noble cause to fight for-the adequate care and protection of their disabled comrades and dependents, the war widows and orphans. This is how we can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed up the whole social climate of America. Today, America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid.

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 goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of December 14, we were at 13,694 or 80.36% of goal. The next membership goal is January 18 where all posts should be at 80%.