



Up To Now!

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January 18, 2023

Jan 25 Training Committee Zoom meeting
Jan 29 Athletic Commission meeting in Pierre
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
Apr 15 Legion Service day at Wings of Valor
May 8-11 National Spring Meetings
May 29 Memorial Day
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma

INCLUDED WITH THIS UP TO NOW

Included in this Up To Now is a document from the Army Donations Program. This organization is responsible for the inventory of Ceremonial Rifles and Static Displays. The process is now digital so paper inventories are no longer required but can still be used. See the included paper for additional information. Please note, the website and links provided are only good until about the 17th of February.

COMMANDER MAKES APPOINTMENT

Commander Feltman has appointed Jim Childers of Spearfish to the American Legion Trust Fund 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 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.

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.

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

LEGION NEWS FOR JANUARY 2023

As stated before, due to cost, the Legion News will not be printed and mailed at this time. The January issue of the Legion News is now available on the South Dakota American Legion website. It can be found under the publications tab and then click on Legion News. Or you can go to <https://www.sdlegion.org/legion-news/> and click on the link to the edition you want to read.

DEPARTMENT LEGION COLLEGE

The Department of South Dakota will be hosting its first Department Legion College in April of 2023. Twenty applicants will be selected for the initial program. The prerequisites are 1. Must have a minimum of three years of continuous membership. 2. Must have completed the American Legion Basic Training

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Course and include a copy of the completion certificate with the application package. 3. The Post Commander or Adjutant must endorse the application. 4. You must have Internet access to do the course by Zoom. More information will be given at MidWinter conference as well as in future Up To Nows.

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!

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.

ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES

The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests:

- 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. 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. 5 - to be held at American Lutheran Church, Castlewood, SD on Jan. 22, 2023, 1:00 p.m. **NOTE CHANGES**

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	Spearfish, Time TBD
Dist 2	26 March	Hot Springs, Time TBD
Dist 3	18 March	Ft Pierre Moose Lodge 11:00 Social, 11:30 lunch, 12:00 meeting
Dist 4	12 March	Cresbard, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow
Dist 5	11 March	Watertown Hosana Lutheran Church 12:30 lunch, 1:30 meeting Lunch \$10 per plate
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

BIDS FOR 2028 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MID-WINTER

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter and Department Convention are being accepted. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the convention should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept HQ.

LEGION NEWS STORIES

Although the next 2 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. 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:

Jan. 17, 1975: Representatives of The American Legion's Department of France, the United States and The Netherlands gather at a 300-year-old foundry in Aarel-Rixtel, Holland, to pour molten metal into a mold to cast the Freedom Bell. A double-scale replica of the historic Liberty Bell, the 8.5-ton symbol, mostly of copper, it is scheduled to travel on the artifact-filled "Freedom Train" throughout the continental United States over a 21-month period beginning April 1, 1975, in honor of the 200th anniversary of American independence. The bell is tuned one octave lower than the Liberty Bell to the key of F, for "freedom." Approximately 7 million visit the 28-car train during its tour, and tens of millions more watch it pass along tracks throughout the country. The American Legion's Freedom Bell is later given a permanent home on Columbia Circle outside Union Station in Washington, D.C.

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. Posts 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 new year. Keep up the good work and stay ahead of the goal target dates. 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 January 16, we were at 14,201 or 83.33% of goal. The next membership goal is February 15 where all posts should be at 85%.

Have You Done Your Buddy Checks!