



Up To Now!

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February 1, 2023

- Feb 7 Legislative Committee meeting, Pierre
- Feb 7 SD Legion Legislative Reception, 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 1-3 National Commander visits South Dakota
- May 8-11 National Commander 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 the Official Call for the 2023 Spring District Conventions. This is the notice of official dates and sites for the District Conventions.

HAT IN THE RING

American Legion Post 22 has endorsed Doug Harris for Department Vice Commander for Districts 1 and 2.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE RECEIPTON

The annual Legislative reception will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 5:30 to 7:30 at the Post Home in Pierre. Prior to the reception, the Boys State and Girls State Governors will be recognized in the House and Senate and the Legislative Committee meeting will be held.

2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The conference is coming fast. Please make plans to attend. There will be a number of speakers as well as informational training.

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

MISTAKE IN THE LAST UP TO NOW.

In the last Up To Now, a message from U.S. Army TACOM was included about asset/rifle inventories. We were mistakenly informed to include that email to the Posts. It was discovered the included instructions only went to one specific post page. We recontacted TACOM and addressed the issue and they ask that the following be sent to all the posts. “The Army Donations Program Office (ADPO) received an inquiry from your office about the digitization of records and the new method to reporting rifles known as an Asset Certification. The ADPO still accepts physical inventories as not all posts/organizations have email addresses. However, it is highly recommended posts/organizations utilize an Asset Certification to report Ceremonial Rifles and/or Static Displays. A post/organization email address is the only thing required to have an Asset Certification generated. NOTE: The

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Asset Certification only allows one email address to be utilized. Best of all – An Asset Certification does not require a notary. Ceremonial Rifles are to be reported every 3 years. Static Displays (Tank, Helicopter, Howitzer, etc.) are reported every year. Posts/Organizations can contact the ADPO with any questions at usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-donations@army.mil < Caution-mailto:usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-donations@army.mil > or (586) 282-9861. Respectfully, RYAN J. GLEASON, DONATIONS SPECIALIST ARMY DONATIONS PROGRAM OFFICE, US ARMY Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM)”. The bottom line here is TACOM hopes all posts will get an email on record so they can utilize the digital system. However, a paper report is still acceptable.

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 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 putting together a list of Posts that have a restaurant and or bar open to the public. If your post has a restaurant and or bar that is open to the public, email Vice Commander Steffen cmvz1983@gmail.com and indicate what kind of services are offered, hours and contact information. 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 or you can call their office at 605-773-3269.

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 Mar	Spearfish, 11:00 lunch, 12:00 meeting
Dist 2	26 Mar	Hot Springs, 11:30 social, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 meeting
Dist 3	18 Mar	Ft Pierre Moose Lodge 11:00 Social, 11:30 lunch, 12:00 meeting
Dist 4	12 Mar	Cresbard, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow
Dist 5	11 Mar	Watertown Hosana Lutheran Church 12:30 lunch, 1:30 meeting Lunch \$10 per plate
Dist 6	19 Mar	DeSmet 12:00 social, 12:30 lunch, 1:30 meeting
Dist 7	2 April	Hartford, 1:30 social, 2:00 mgt
Dist 8	1 April	Springfield, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow

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:

January 20th, 1981, Sgt 1st Class Donald R. Hohman of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, a members of Post 2 in Frankfort Germany was released from captivity after 444 days as one of 52 hostages held in Tehran, Iran.

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 29, we were at 14,501 or 85.09% of goal. The next membership goal is February 15 where all posts should be at 85%. Posts should be contacting their Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2023 and ask them to please renew to support our programs.

Have You Done Your Buddy Checks!