

The South Dakota Legion News



Volume 90, Issue 3

"Veterans Strengthening America"

April 2023

Past Department Commander Norman Tapken Reports to Post Everlasting



Norman Tapken 91 of Wessington Springs passed away Wednesday evening March 15, 2023 at the Avera Wesskota Memorial Medical Center. Norm was born on July 21, 1931 to John and Emma Tapken at his parents home in Viola Township Jer-auld County.

He was united in marriage to Betty Krammer in 1957 and he brought 2 small children into the marriage. Later he married Wanda Holeton on March 17, 1978.

Norm served in the US Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Thomas Jefferson. While in the US Air Force from Feb 1953 to Oct. 1974, he was stationed in Texas, Wyoming, Georgia, French Morocco, Iceland, Washington, Alaska, Florida, Thailand, Oregon, and Alaska again. He retired out of Ellsworth A. F. B. in Rapid City in 1974, as a Master Sergeant.

Norm attended grade and high school in Lane, SD. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs.

The organizations that Norm belonged to were Life member of VFW Post #548, Life member of American Legion Post #14, both in Wessington Springs. The offices he held in the American Legion were Post Commander for 3 years, Dist. 6 Vice Commander for 2 years, Dist. 6 Commander for 2 years, State Area Vice Commander for 1 year and State Commander from 1999 - 2000.

Norm is survived by his wife Wanda of 45 years; 3 daughters Norma Tapken of Texas, Linda (Terry) Lentz of Parkston; Vicki (Randall) Eggert of Brandon; 1 stepdaughter Marian (Glen) Perkins of Alabama; 6 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, 1 step grandchild, 3 step great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren; 1 sister Thelma Hansen of Rapid City. Norm is also survived by 2 sisters-in-law Bonnie Will of Las Vegas and Wessington Springs, and Liz (Dave) Gaikowski of Mitchell, 2 brothers-in-law Michael (Jane) Holeton of Rapid City, John (Jan) Holeton of Sioux Falls; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty in 1973, 3 brothers Vernon, Wendell, George. 1 sister Gertrude Schramm, stepson Allen Krammer, step grandson Brad Chambers, parents John and Emma Tapken mother and father-in-law, 4 brothers-in-law and 4 sisters-in-law.

White's Post 88 Starts Rifle Club Fundraising Effort



The Deubrook Rifle Marksmanship Club received a donation Monday, January 30th, from the Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88 of White, for \$350 to get their fundraising efforts well underway as they seek funds to buy equipment for the recently established group. The Club was started this last fall with a vision presented by Post Member Marc Hopfinger to Deubrook Superintendent Kim Kludt and Activities Director Brad DeBeer to offer a club activity at the school that promotes safety, discipline, and practice in the use of air-rifles to learn about the life-long sport of marksmanship. The Club currently has 13 members and is working on recruiting more as they acquire equipment in preparation for the start of actually shooting. Marc has been instrumental in getting the club going and has arranged for a significant donation of 20 rifles from the Brookings 4H program, 13 of which work and the others will be useful for dry-fire training and safety demonstrations. The Club has recently obtained three complete sets of shooting equipment to aid in safety while shooting, and through a generous donation has obtained insurance so that the team can start shooting once they have obtained the goal of their current fundraiser - a new shooting backstop.

The Deubrook school has agreed to let the Club use the Auxiliary Gym of the White School, but to do so safely, the team needs something that will catch the BBs and pellets so that the building will remain in good condition. The Club has found a purpose built portable back-stop that will accommodate three lanes of shooters for about \$1900, and they are working with local organizations to raise the money. The White American Legion Post has agreed to help with this fundraising efforts by donating a portion of their monthly Community Breakfast profits to support this current effort, and further fundraising efforts as the club grows and expands their inventory. With the donation from the Post and others from local organizations, the Club is well on their way to reaching their first goal of getting the back-stop. Fur-

ther fundraising efforts will be performed as the club works to upgrade their rifle inventory and buy a second backstop so that six shooters can practice at one time. If you are interested in more information about the Club, or to make a donation, please contact Post Adjutant Matt Lagerstrom or Marksmanship Club Advisor Marc Hopfinger, and as always, please consider joining the Post for their monthly Free-will donation Community Breakfast on February 19th at the Hall in White.

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Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sdamericanlegion/>

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Spring Update

Doug Feltman Department Commander



Hang in there, spring will come in time. This has been a winter like we have not had in many years but as the old saying goes “it too will pass”. I know that I am ready for it to “pass”.

As you read this the Spring meetings are just wrapping up or have finished which means the Department Convention is not far off. It will be at Cedar Shore in Oacoma. But before we get to the Convention, we have some very important events coming up.

On 15 April there will be a Legion workday at the Wings of Valor Lodge at 45618 278th Street in Parker. If you can, please come and give us a hand for this very worthwhile project.

On 22 April the Department will have the first Department American Legion Collage. This will be a zoom course. Twenty applicants will be selected to attend and to be selected you must have a minimum of three years continuous membership, have completed the American Legion Basic Training Course, the Post Commander or Adjutant must endorse the application and you must have access to the internet to do the zoom course. If you want more information, please contact your District Commander or a Department Officer.

The National Commander will be visiting South Dakota May 1st through May 3rd. and will be visiting Posts in the northeast and north central part of the State. Contact District 4 and 5 Commanders for the list of Posts that will be hosting the Command-

er and please stop by and visit with him.

Boys State applications close on May 1st and Boys State runs from 29 May through June 2nd. Blue cap day is Thursday June 1st. Girls State runs from May 29th through May 3rd.

Youth Trooper Academy is from June 26th through June 30th and Blue cap day is the 29th of June. Applications close on March 25th. If at all possible, please attend these events and you will meet some outstanding young people. I hope to see you at both events.

The Sons of The American Legion is having a very good year this year. As of March 2nd South Dakota Sons are 2nd in the Nation with 1,433 members. What a great group of people and so dedicated to supporting The American Legion and their communities. Thank you for what you do for The American Legion.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been busy getting ready for the Convention, assisting local Posts with their events and projects and planning for Girls State. Thank you.

The Riders are planning the route and all the fine details for the Commanders ride which will be the May 21st through May 26th. I am looking forward to the ride even if I will be driving the van as I do not have a motorcycle. When we stop at a Post near you, please stop by and say hello.

Doug Feltman
Commander

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel Department Adjutant



I always wonder what topics I should talk about in my Legion News column. There seem to be many going through my mind, but I know I need to pick what I think is most important. I will start off by saying many of you may have heard that I will be stepping down as the Department Adjutant. This might be news to others. I will be departing about the time of the Department Convention. I have really enjoyed my time as the Adjutant. I worked with some amazing people, both in the Department and at the national level. I find myself in a situation where family issues must come first, so that is the primary reason for me to step down. The Department Executive Committee appointed a hiring committee, and they are looking for my replacement.

We are beginning the start of the busy time of year. We just finished MidWinter and are now starting District Spring Meetings. Elections at both the District and Post level are starting and then the process of certifying the officers elected is next. A number of reports will be due in the next couple of months including the Post Data Report, the Post Officer Certification, the Americanism report and the Consolidated Post Report. I can't stress the importance of these various reports. The Post Data Report confirms the amount for dues for the post as well as the official mailing address. This report goes straight to National and becomes the official record for the post. After the post elections, the Post Officer Certification is what is used to update contact information for the Post Officers, again extremely important in

order to maintain communications with the Post Officers.

Membership. Yes, I can't seem to get through an article without talking membership. This is the time of year where many posts simply give up on membership. We cannot afford to do that. There are many things impacted by membership. Obviously, finances fall when membership falls. Having a smaller pool of helpers for projects is also a result of falling membership. But most importantly, having someone to be there to help when help is needed. That can be as simple as helping with a pancake breakfast, or being the one to listen to a fellow Legionnaire or veteran when they are having a rough time and can't seem to find any help. At the National level, membership promotes our programs as well as gives the Legion a strong position to work on benefits for veterans. A prime example is the recently passed PACT act. If not for all the Legionnaires that contacted their legislators, this law most likely would have never passed. Please take the time to contact those who were Legionnaires in the past, but for some reason have not renewed. Discuss the importance of their membership not only financially, but as a person supporting our programs and each other.

Those April showers that bring May flowers may be getting closer, but looking out my window, this snow is going to have to go away first.

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

Department Calendar

April 2023

- 1 District 8 Spring Meeting
- 2 District 7 Spring Meeting
- 7 Good Friday HQ closed
- TBD Youth Trooper Academy process starts with Highway Patrol
- 13 Dept Convention Go-Getters certification due to HQ
- 15 Post Data Reports completed and submitted to HQ
- 19 Children and Youth Membership Target date – 95%
- TBD Post Officer elections

May 2023

- 1 Good Samaritan of the Year packages due to HQ from District Commanders
- 1 Educator of the Year packages due to HQ from District Commanders
- 1 Convention Committee members submitted to HQ from District Commanders
- 1 Posts submit Americanism Reports to HQ
- 8-II National Spring meetings
- 17 Armed Forces Day Membership Target Date – 100%
- 29 Boys State starts
- 29 Memorial Day, HQ closed
- TBD Post submit Officer Certifications as soon as officers are installed

June 2023

- 1 SDALPA Newspaper nominations due to HQ
- 1 Consolidated Post Reports due to HQ
- 4 Post submit Dept Convention Delegate and Alternat Credentials to HQ
- 8-II Department Convention in Oacoma
- 9 History Award nominations due at registration desk at Dept Convention
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday, HQ closed
- 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy

July 2023

- TBD Finance Commission and Dept Executive Committeemeet for annual budget
- 4 Independence Day, HQ closed
- 25-29 Legion Class A Senior Baseball Tournament in Yankton
- 27-30 Legion Class A Junior Baseball Tournament in Harrisburg
- 27-29 National Membership Workshop
- 28-31 Legion Class B Senior Baseball Tournament in Redfield

August 2023

- 1 (continued) Legion Class B Senior Baseball Tournament in Redfield
- 4-6 Legion Class B Junior Baseball Tournament in Lennox
- 25-31 National Convention, Charlotte NC

September 2023

- 4 Labor Day HQ closed

October 2023

- 9-12 National fall meetings
- TBD District Fall meetings

November 2023

- 4 Got Your Six Veterans appreciation Fair Sturgis
- 10 Veterans Day Holiday HQ closed
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 National Employer of the Year nominations due to HQ
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday HQ Closed

December 2023

- 22,25,26 Christmas Holiday HQ Closed
- 31 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year due to HQ
- 31 Firefighter of the Year due to HQ

APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

The Children's Organ Transplant Association was founded in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In less than eight weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. Sadly, he died before an organ was found. Those



community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using the funds to help other transplant families. That was our beginning, and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

For more than 35 years, thanks to the commitment of the men and women of The American Legion Family, we have assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

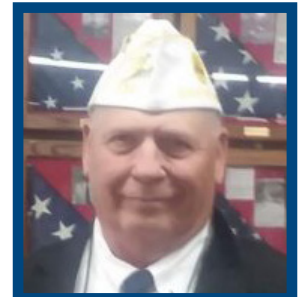
We need your help today to make sure that tragedies, like the one that was the catalyst in founding COTA, are not repeated.

The United States achieved a historic milestone in 2022 with one million transplants performed – more than any other country in the world. However, 17 people die each day in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every nine minutes. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month, and I am asking everyone within The American Legion Family to go to www.RegisterMe.org and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

You can become a COTA Miracle Maker. Find out how your Post, Unit, Squadron or Legion Riders can help a transplant family near you by visiting COTA.org/Legion. COTA's priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant or excluded from a waiting list due to lack of funds.

Chaplain's Corner

Tom Henley
Department Chaplain



Dear Lord, we thank You for America, our government leaders, and our veterans who gave so much. Thank You for the members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders. Help us to always remember we are here to serve God and country. Thank You for our men and women serving in the military, and please keep them in Your care. God, we ask Your blessings for this 104th birthday celebration and ask that you guide us in all we do and let all we do praise Your name in the coming year. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

The American Legion will celebrate its 104th birthday on March 15, 2023.

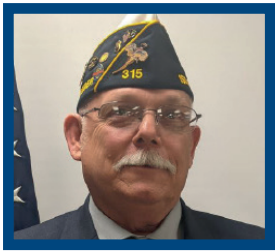
On that date in 1919, the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 - for the date in 1776 when patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and birthed the spirit of America - March 15 is the date when The American Legion came to life.

The South Dakota Department of the American Legion was organized simultaneously with the national organization. South Dakota Adjutant General William A. Morris named Theodore R. Johnson of Sioux Falls to select a committee of representative ex-service men to attend the first caucus in St Louis, Missouri, May 8-10, 1919.

Throughout the national organization's history, local posts across the country have celebrated with festivities that have included the entire community. For the 20th birthday in 1939, Battle Mountain Post 71 in Hot Springs, S.D., brought out a 40-pound birthday cake - two pounds for every year of The American Legion's history. For the 38th birthday in 1957, Post 214 in Upper Darby, Pa., hosted an entire week's worth of events as part of American Legion Birthday Week, so proclaimed by the township's Board of Commissioners. Parties, dances and a two-act play were held at Post 214's clubhouse. These are but a few of the celebrations that have made the American Legion an important part of community, state and national prominence over the last 104 years.

District Commander Updates

1



Jon McDonald, Box Elder

Greetings District 1 Family,

For those of you that were able to attend the mid-winter conference in February, it was a great time for training and to see old friends. For those of you who couldn't attend, we attended multiple trainings such as My Legion, Security Awareness, and we had a formal banquet.

Our District 1 Spring Meeting will be held on March 25, 2023 in Spearfish, SD at Post 164. It is time for us to elect our County Commander and County Vice Commander, District Commander and Vice District Commander. During the meeting, we will be honoring our District 1 Legionnaire of the Year. I hope as many people attend as possible.

Please continue to work hard on your memberships as our numbers are slowly growing. To all of the Posts in the District who have achieved their 100% or more, a big congratulations from me! Please make sure to stay aware of your Boys State (time/date TBD) and Youth Trooper (interview dates on April 4th at Sturgis Police Department) participants are coming up.

The State Convention will be held in June 2023 in Ocoma, please make your reservations as soon as possible since the hotels are booking up. You can book through the Cedar Shores Resort, look for the Up to Now with more information.

As my term quickly comes to an end in June, it has been an honor to serve you all.

3



Gene Opbroek, Gregory

As I write this I am preparing for spring and all the snow to melt away thus making room for grass and leaves and flowers and warm things.

This is also the toughest time of the year to get members. We still have Posts that are not at 90% and a few who have not made 80%. PLEASE sit down and call or send a letter to those members who have not paid their dues and urge them to do so, include a stamped self-addressed envelope, makes it easier to respond. District 3 has done an outstanding job so far with its membership. Let's keep the ball rolling and finish the year at 100% or better.

Youth Trooper Academy and Boys State applications are open and we all should be calling parents and encouraging them to get their High school Juniors and Seniors participating in two of the top leadership programs in South Dakota and the Nation. If cost to send a young person to one of these programs is an issue for the Post, please contact me and I will get the funds.

Also please remember Buddy Checks, this is the National Commanders emphasis and should always be our focus as well.

It has been a pleasure to be your District Commander. I have enjoyed meeting all the Legionnaires in the District. I will still be visiting some Posts to keep in touch with my Legion friends. I ask all of you to give the same support to your new District Commander. I know he will do a fantastic job for you.

Be safe, be healthy, God bless all of you!!

2



Christopher Rendon, Rapid City

Greetings legionaries,

The next couple of months will be busy in our district. Here is the latest information. We will be having a bus for this year's boy state. The cost per candidate to ride the bus will be \$100. The first stop will be in district 1, then at Post 22 in Rapid City. On May 6, at 1:00 pm there will be a district 2 Boy States orientation at Post 22. Pizza will be provided. Please contact Doug Harris or Chris Van Delist for more information.

Youth Trooper Academy interview will be held on April 4 at Post 22 at 6pm. I will let everyone know if your candidate was selected. June 28 there will be a blue hat day at the police academy in Pierre. You are all welcome to come out and see the candidates. There will also be a barbecue provided for all who attend.

Post consolidated reports are coming due. Commander Doug Feltman would like every post to have their report into the state by the start of the state convention. These reports make a big difference at the national level by providing information about us to congressional committees and government agencies. You have done great things for the good of the legion, so document what you have done.

As your post is either electing new or re-electing officers in the coming weeks, please remember when certifying your officers be sure to submit their current information on the form. It is helpful to have the information rather than "same as before." Correct and updated information is extremely helpful when reaching out and contacting our members.

I want to thank all the post's who I have been able to visit. I have learned a lot from each of them. I really appreciate the insight from each of the various posts. I am using the information gained in the various committees at the state level. I am looking forward to seeing you either at the spring district meeting or at the state convention.

6



James Pekron, Mitchell

Hello from District 6. Hard to believe it's been a year since I was elected the District commander. I made it thru the winter and now looking forward to spring. Our spring meeting is only a few days away. I attended the mid-winter conference in February. The Huron post did an excellent job organizing the event. A lot of good information was provided. I've continued to attend the monthly zoom meetings and made it to a few post meetings this winter. Our membership continues to climb. District 6 has 5 posts that are at 100% or more. There are many more that are in the upper 90%. We have been staying in 3rd place among the districts. The programs that we are currently working on are the Youth Trooper Academy and Boys State. Times seem to fly so if you haven't visited your school to talk with the students, now is the time to do it. I'm looking forward to visiting with many of you at post meetings this spring.

4



Bob Thomason, Selby
www.facebook.com/SDLegion4

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in The Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.....

WAIT!! WHAT?? To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in THE GREAT WAR?

Yes, you read it correctly the first time.

This is a portion of the Preamble to the Constitution and By Laws of an American Legion Post. And THIS is the reason Amer-

ican Legion Leadership has been asking for Posts to update their Constitutions and By Laws.

BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE! The same Constitution and By Laws said their dues were \$3.00 per year and they were signed in 1920.

A Post's Constitution and By Laws, as well as those of the Departments and the National Organization are meant to be "living documents", and periodically updated as situations change in the organization.

The Constitution and By Laws are the governing documents of your Post. No matter how minor a change may seem, even though it may be in Post Meeting Minutes, if it changes your Post operations, the change needs to be reflected in your Constitution and By Laws.

A good practice would be to review and revise these documents at least every two years and submit a copy to State Headquarters.

A short amount of time spent now might save your Post some trouble in the future.

What Do These Men



Have in Common?

They understand the American system of government. They appreciate the responsibilities of citizenship. They know the fundamental principles of leadership. Where did they get it all?

BOYS STATE

Interact. Understand. Participate firsthand. Build your future.

Join the elite ranks, sign up for Boys State today!

Information and applications can be found at

www.southdakotaboysstate.com

www.sdlegion.org/program/boys-state

or contact your local American Legion Post.



The South Dakota

Legion News



"Veterans Strengthening America"

2023

Read the Legion News online!

Upcoming 2023 publications:

March

June

September

Don't Miss It!



Vice Commander Updates

Districts 1-2

Doug Harris
Vice Commander



Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires! As always, it has been a busy few months in the SD American Legion. Despite the on and off wicked winter weather (more so East River than West River), I've managed to visit Posts in Hot Springs (71), Sturgis (33), Box Elder (315), Spearfish (164) Phillip (173), and Martin (240), as well as two visits to the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs for their Christmas and Valentines Day parties. It's always fun to see how the different Posts run their meetings and to find out what they are doing for their communities. Along with those Post visits, I've been busy with the Americanism programs. Districts 1 and 2 were well represented in the Oratorical competition again this year, with a competitor from each at the State competition. Congratulations to Spearfish Post 164 competitor McAllister Grimsley for taking 3rd place.

Midwinter was very well attended and we managed to accomplish a lot of business and some very quality training. The weather that weekend was sunny and basically gorgeous. I would say we got lucky again this year. Now we are all trying to meet our membership goals, recruit participants for Boys/Girls State, as well as the Youth Trooper Academy. These are tremendous programs and deserve our very best efforts. District 2 will once again provide a 56-passenger bus to transport our young men safely to and from Aberdeen from Districts 1 and 2. If this year is like last, I will be calling around to Posts that are on our route (District 3) to help fill that bus. Please keep that in mind if your boys must travel from near and south of I-90 and West of the Missouri. Our last stop is generally in Plankinton before it goes non-stop to Aberdeen. This is a very safe and luxurious way for the boys to get to Aberdeen and gives them the opportunity to begin campaigning before they even arrive at Boys State.

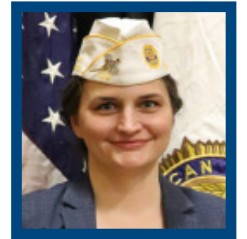
We've already begun our Spring meetings and so far, the weather has tried to make it hard for us to get together. I look forward to working with the newly elected District Commanders from the odd numbered districts. It's a very tough and rewarding job and I'm always impressed with those Legionnaires who step up and take it on. I announced my second run for Vice Commander at the Midwinter convention and hope to be your representative (Districts 1 and 2) for another year. It's a terrific job and I hope to earn your vote by competently doing the job you elected me to last summer.

In April I will be helping to teach our first ever SD Legion College via Zoom (which should be interesting). After that we will move into May and it will be time to hold those extremely important Boys/Girls State orientations to make sure they head to Aberdeen and Vermillion prepared (a few always forget to bring a towel). I will also be attending the National Spring meetings in Indianapolis to represent us for Americanism. The last couple of weeks in May will be spent addressing Middle Schoolers and handing out school medals. This is a perfect opportunity to let them and their parents know about our amazing Americanism programs and the scholarship money that's available when they take part.

I close out this letter by thanking all of you for the wonderful work you do for your communities. The American Legion Family is filled with dedicated, caring people and it's absolutely amazing what we accomplish by working together. Have a terrific Spring and Summer!

Districts 3-8

Courtney Steffen
Vice Commander



Greetings Legionnaires!

Attended the first of the Spring meetings in Watertown last weekend, and looking forward to seeing the rest of you soon! You'll hear a similar message if you come to our Spring Meetings, but wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to answer a question I'm often asked:

"How do we recruit younger Veterans? They just don't want to seem to join."

As a single working mother, I understand the apprehension. I love our organization and what we do at all levels, don't get me wrong. However, when posed with, "hey, come join our Post! We sponsor baseball and Boys State and Oratory and do funeral honors and pancake feeds and..."

Take no offense, but that sounds like another job. I already have one. Why do I want another?

To attract younger, working, family-raising Veterans, it is imperative that we answer the question, "What can the Legion do for me?"

Nearly every Veteran has utilized some sort of benefit associated with their service—education, housing loan guarantees, VA healthcare or disability. What some Veterans don't realize is that the majority of our benefits have come from the lobbying work of the major Veterans Service Organizations, the largest and strongest of which is The American Legion.

Being a part of a 501c19 (an IRS designation every major VSO has, which allows them to lobby on behalf of Veterans issues) allows you to have a voice in your benefits. That \$35 a year amplifies the bullhorn in Congress, because they certainly aren't handing out benefits in the goodness of their heart.

Veterans benefits are always being fought for in Washington DC (and Pierre, for that matter). Benefits need revisions to fit the needs of today's Veterans. They need defending against the threat of a chopping block. And we need to look forward and promote benefits that will help and better the Veterans of tomorrow.

What we do locally is fantastic work. More often than not across South Dakota, the local American Legion Post is the last civic/community service organization left standing. We are the lifeblood of our communities. Get your Veterans in the door first, and give them the opportunity to find and pursue their purpose within your Post.

WINGS OF VALOR STATE COMMANDER'S WORKDAY



SIGN UP AT WWW.SDLEGION.ORG/SERVICE

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 15
9AM START**

**WINGS OF VALOR
LODGE
45618 278TH ST
PARKER, SD 57053**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
BRING EQUIPMENT
FOR SPRING CLEAN UP**

Membership & Post Activities



Rod Smith

From the Chair

As of this writing 3/13/23 the Department is 237 members short of reaching the 90% goal on March 15. We, you, have all done so well by reaching the goal dates on or ahead of time. The Department earns points toward a cash prize to be used by the Department for office technology updates and each goal date we meet adds points toward this cash prize.

The American Legion supports bills that help veterans and active-duty military personnel. The GI Bill was a big one that we all talk about. Providing Veteran Service Officers is another that is always on my mind because of all the good they have done me personally. Without the advocacy of my VSO I don't know where I would be as far as health care is concerned.

The programs that are supported here in South Dakota like Boy Scouts, Baseball, Oratorical Contest, Boy's State, Youth Trooper and Shooting Sports to name a few. If you have kids these programs provide guidance in patriotism, citizenship and just being good people. Members make these, and other programs possible through their dues and fundraising.

If you are a member you can go to MyLegion.org and sign in and pay your dues online. There is an option to auto pay in the future. This helps with forgetting to pay and cuts down on all those renewal notices you get in the mail. Get into your schools and talk to the students about the programs that can impact their future in scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

Rod Smith

Membership Chairman

From the NEC



Denny Brenden
National Executive Committeeman

We just returned from the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Ten Legionnaires were in attendance at the conference. Meetings were held on issues that were important to the American Legion. On Tuesday of the conference, we attend the Commanders Call and then proceed to Capitol Hill to visit with our legislators about the legislative priorities of the American Legion. We visited with Senator Rounds in his office, Senator Thune in his office and an aid to Dusty Johnson in his office about the legislative priorities of the American Legion for the upcoming year. These priorities are as follows: Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, VA Healthcare Modernization, Implementation and oversight of the Pact Act, Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors, Concurrent Receipt, Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity, GI Bill for Honorable Service, Support our Afghan Allies, Military Quality of Life, Pay the Coast Guard and Protect our Flag. These are the main issues the American Legion is going forward with through the legislative session. Wednesday morning, I was in attendance when National Commander Triola testified before the Senate/House Joint Veterans Affairs Committees. Our National Commander did an excellent job in advocating for us. I will be discussing these issues at the District Meetings. For further information you can go to www.legion.org.

National Commander Triola will be in South Dakota May 1-4. Please make an attempt to be at one of the locations on his tour. If you or your Post is able please give the National Commander a check for his program this year, Veterans & Children Foundation. Thank you all for what you do for the American Legion.

NEC Denny Brenden

POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL	POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL	POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
#1	57	54	95%	#88	103	89	86%	#186	90	81	90%
#2	53	49	92%	#89	22	20	91%	#187	12	11	92%
#3	88	86	98%	#91	29	24	83%	#188	68	66	97%
#4	94	87	93%	#92	159	131	82%	#193	42	31	74%
#5	37	37	100%	#93	52	37	71%	#194	114	98	86%
#6	91	92	101%	#94	37	29	78%	#198	47	24	51%
#7	265	246	93%	#96	28	24	86%	#200	31	25	81%
#8	313	285	91%	#97	15	19	127%	#201	12	13	108%
#9	120	120	100%	#99	10	9	90%	#206	31	24	77%
#10	11	11	100%	#100	75	71	95%	#207	44	33	75%
#11	171	160	94%	#102	40	34	85%	#209	45	42	93%
#12	230	185	80%	#103	20	19	95%	#210	39	34	87%
#13	101	102	101%	#105	13	13	100%	#213	38	35	92%
#14	100	92	92%	#106	11	13	118%	#216	20	15	75%
#15	1480	1311	89%	#108	10	8	80%	#217	39	36	92%
#16	17	15	88%	#109	124	105	85%	#220	35	29	83%
#17	466	425	91%	#110	43	42	98%	#229	163	142	87%
#18	306	267	87%	#111	16	11	69%	#230	37	33	89%
#19	15	12	80%	#113	27	26	96%	#233	24	19	79%
#20	92	73	79%	#114	101	103	102%	#235	44	30	68%
#21	34	30	88%	#115	74	71	96%	#237	40	32	80%
#22	564	507	90%	#116	22	21	95%	#238	11	5	45%
#23	209	200	96%	#117	19	20	105%	#239	6	5	83%
#24	449	416	93%	#118	131	111	85%	#240	90	73	81%
#25	163	149	91%	#120	27	25	93%	#241	18	18	100%
#26	46	33	72%	#121	35	33	94%	#242	14	13	93%
#27	29	23	79%	#122	24	24	100%	#246	31	32	103%
#28	20	22	110%	#124	9	8	89%	#248	15	14	93%
#29	514	6	90%	#125	24	31	129%	#249	40	40	100%
#30	1	1	100%	#128	90	84	93%	#250	71	58	82%
#31	104	84	81%	#129	47	37	79%	#251	16	1	6%
#32	39	36	92%	#130	54	47	87%	#253	27	24	89%
#33	294	261	89%	#131	82	72	88%	#255	35	29	83%
#35	37	32	86%	#132	64	64	100%	#256	24	9	38%
#36	30	28	93%	#133	6	6	100%	#257	51	7	340%
#37	52	50	96%	#134	46	41	89%	#258	9	5	56%
#38	46	45	98%	#135	96	88	92%	#259	46	42	91%
#39	49	47	96%	#136	95	95	100%	#260	23	23	100%
#40	151	140	93%	#137	49	46	94%	#261	115	111	97%
#41	38	31	82%	#138	151	137	91%	#262	37	34	92%
#42	226	196	87%	#139	23	23	100%	#264	39	37	95%
#43	69	49	71%	#140	95	76	80%	#265	2	1	50%
#44	32	29	91%	#141	17	17	100%	#266	62	49	79%
#45	99	100	101%	#142	59	54	92%	#267	30	28	93%
#46	93	89	96%	#143	22	14	64%	#268	29	16	55%
#47	17	16	94%	#144	4	5	125%	#269	15	3	20%
#48	22	22	100%	#145	94	89	95%	#273	17	20	118%
#49	77	67	87%	#146	84	76	90%	#274	47	43	91%
#50	217	218	100%	#147	29	25	86%	#276	18	16	89%
#52	37	33	89%	#148	63	51	81%	#278	26	24	92%
#53	38	34	89%	#149	17	17	100%	#279	74	63	85%
#56	55	47	85%	#150	33	29	88%	#280	64	61	95%
#57	29	20	69%	#151	21	16	76%	#281	2	0	0%
#58	36	32	89%	#152	96	93	97%	#282	18	16	89%
#59	40	32	80%	#153	15	13	87%	#283	93	75	81%
#60	60	55	92%	#154	110	99	90%	#287	7	4	57%
#61	31	27	87%	#155	31	30	97%	#289	11	9	82%
#62	66	60	91%	#156	13	10	77%	#292	20	18	90%
#63	141	137	97%	#157	19	19	100%	#294	2	2	100%
#64	29	26	90%	#158	9	7	78%	#295	2	2	100%
#65	184	177	96%	#159	83	76	92%	#297	2	2	100%
#66	110	102	93%	#160	28	16	57%	#298	18	16	89%
#67	28	23	82%	#161	21	21	100%	#299	49	38	78%
#68	24	26	108%	#162	31	18	58%	#301	13	9	69%
#69	27	19	70%	#164	207	176	85%	#302	20	1	5%
#70	36	26	72%	#166	14	16	114%	#303	122	103	84%
#71	266	236	89%	#167	13	12	92%	#307	55	48	87%
#72	90	75	83%	#169	290	278	96%	#308	54	54	100%
#74	157	143	91%	#170	42	38	90%	#310	6	2	33%
#75	34	21	62%	#171	17	13	76%	#311	223	213	96%
#76	53	52	98%	#172	20	18	90%	#314	45	43	96%
#77	18	17	94%	#173	64	62	97%	#315	106	87	82%
#78	83	71	86%	#174	85	76	89%	#316	16	10	63%
#79	69	61	88%	#175	54	45	83%	#318	59	52	88%
#80	64	59	92%	#176	13	13	100%	#319	53	51	96%
#82	22	2	9%	#177	18	17	94%	#320	87	71	82%
#83	16	17	106%	#179	72	65	90%	#323	23	20	87%
#84	24	21	88%	#180	61	61	100%	#324	82	53	13%
#85	24	23	96%	#183	53	49	92%	#911	42	36	86%
#86	20	19	95%	#184	73	60	82%				

Yankton "Bike Guy" retires



A Yankton man who is known as the Bike Guy had decided to retire. Fran Johnson, with the help of friends, has been collecting and repairing bicycles for children on local reservations for over 15 years. As word of his volunteer work spread, he got calls from people asking if they could donate bikes to his program. He would travel as much as 35-40 miles to pick up bikes that were being do-

minated. As a member of Yankton Post 12, he and helpers from the Post have delivered more than 2,000 bicycles to kids. He said it was very heartwarming to see the smiles on the kids' faces when he and the helpers would deliver the bikes. Johnson, who turns 82 in a couple of months, says health and family issues are the main reason for deciding it is time to retire from the bike business.

Beresford Youth Wins South Dakota American Legion's High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest



Pictured left to right: South Dakota American Legion Department Commander Doug Feltman; Elena Andrews, Beresford; Reagan Blackburn, Aberdeen; Calister Grimsley, Spearfish; Alex Vonderau, Rapid City, Jordan Musser, Colome; and Department Americanism Chairman Larry Madsen.

HURON – Elena Andrews emerged victorious as the top orator in the final round of competition of The South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, “A Constitutional Speech Contest” in Huron this past weekend. Elena is the daughter of Michelle and Jim Andrews of Beresford.

First, contestants were required to deliver a prepared oration of 8-10 minutes on the U.S. Constitution. Second, a constitutional topic was assigned to the contestants and a 3-5-minute extemporaneous oration was required on that topic. They were allowed five minutes of preparation time.

Each of the 5 contestants in the finals had previously won competition at the local and district levels of competition. Those eligible to compete at the finals this past weekend and their placings were: Elena Andrews, Beresford – 1st place trophy and \$1500; Reagan Blackburn, Aberdeen – 2nd place trophy and \$1000; Calister Grimsley, Spearfish – 3rd place trophy and \$500; and finalists Alex Vonderau, Rapid City, and Jordan Musser, Colome, each received a state finalist trophy and \$200.

Elena will also receive a plaque to be displayed in her high school's trophy case as the first-place winner of the state contest. She will have the opportunity to represent The South Dakota American Legion at the National Contest, to be held April 21-23 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Elena will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship for participating in the first round of competition at the national level and an additional \$2,000 if she advances to the second round of national competition but does not make it into the final round. Scholarship awards possible in the national level

competition are \$25,000 for first place, \$22,500 for second place, and \$20,000 for third place.

Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the

nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills. For their endeavors, they are rewarded with substantial scholarships if winning at the National level.

Buddy Checks

In the beginning of March, Buddy Check letters were mailed out from POST 15, checking on Legion members. Responses have since flooded for membership renewals, death reporting and the occasional “I'm okay” or “Sorry I have not been in touch.” However, last week, a gentleman from Napa, California named John sent an “amazing reaffirming letter” to the Post 15 Commander Bill Peters. Take the time to read John's letter below and remember why we do what we do at all levels of the American Legion.

Thank you for reaching out to me and the nice reminder to renew my membership. I renewed online. My family and I are doing well; healthy and we have everything we need. Your letter kind of struck a nerve with me. I served in the Army from 1971 to 1973 as an MP. Since I had a low lottery number and no money to continue in college, I volunteered for the draft since that was the quickest way to do my time and qualify for the GI Bill. Unlike so many veterans, the thought of serving my country really didn't occur to me. By 1972 the Vietnam War was winding down and I got sent to Germany and then to Ft. Knox. Had some wonderful experiences in Germany. Went to the Olympics and traveled throughout Bavaria. I got invited on trips because I spoke a little German.

I got out three months early since I had enrolled in school and agreed to serve a year in the active reserve. So, for a little more than two years' time commitment and not encountering any combat, I had full veterans' benefits. The most valuable was the GI Bill. After I got out, the CO of the reserve unit I joined was the county District Attorney and he helped me get a job with the local sheriff's office as a radio dispatcher. A full-time job, with benefits, that allowed me to go to school full-time. Between that job and the GI Bill, I paid for all my expenses, and then some and got married too. After a couple years, I got a job with a CPA firm and bought my first house with a VHA loan. That was my first house and when I sold it, it was the first time I had any real money. Not that much, but it seemed like it at the time. Roll forward 47 years and I have been so lucky to have had a career that I enjoy and a great family that now includes two grandchildren.

The reason I relate this to you is that I now realize what a great experience I had and how many benefits I received for the very little time and sacrifice I made while in the Army. Your letter spurred me to take some action to find a way to give back and find a way to help veterans' organizations and veterans. I've never gotten involved in the Legion. I joined because I was running a company that had many veterans who were amputees as clients, and I thought it would give me some insight to veterans' issues. Considering what some veterans have been through, I didn't think they would relate to me. I'm going to contact our veterans' organizations here in California and find a place where I can contribute something, whatever that is.

Thank you for your service and thanks again for contacting me.

John
Napa, CA



Legion Day in Pierre



(Left) Members of the South Dakota American Legion and Auxillary, along with this year's Boys and Girls State Governors, traveled to Pierre on February 7th for Legion Day at the capital.

(Below) Pictured left to right: Lt Governor Larry Rhoden, Boys State Governor Jason Lenning, Girls State Governor Nyapal Chuol and Gov. Kristi Noem.

February 7th was Legion Day at the State Capitol in Pierre. The 2022 Boys State Governor Jason Lenning and the Girls State Governor Nyapal Chuol, along with a number of Legion and Auxiliary members, toured the Capitol and met with representatives and the Governor.

As both student governors appeared in the Senate and House of Representatives chambers, they were recognized with a joint commemoration on their selection as Boys State and Girls State Governors. They also had the opportunity for photos with Governor Noem and Lt Governor Rhoden and to talk with other state officials while in the capitol.



Department Convention June 8-11 Lunch & Banquet tickets

A sandwich lunch buffet will be served at noon on Friday, June 9th and Saturday June 10th for the Department Convention. Ticket cost will be \$20 per person each day.

The Joint Banquet on June 9th menu will be half a roasted chicken, baked potato, vegetable, salad and dinner

roll. Cost will be \$35 per person.

The Auxiliary Banquet on June 10th will serve roast pork loin, baked potato, vegetable, salad and dinner roll. Cost of \$26 per person.

Ticket requests must be received no later than 25 May 2023. No tickets will be sold at the event. Tickets

can be picked up at the conference registration table. One check can be made for the total lunch and banquet ticket costs. Please make checks payable to Potter Post #3. Ticket requests should be sent to:

John Payer
25120 344th Ave
Chamberlain, SD 57325

***** CUT BELOW PORTION OUT *****

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FOOD ALLERGIES: _____

EVENT	PRICE	NUMBER OF TICKETS	COST
Friday lunch	\$20	x	= \$
Saturday lunch	\$20	x	= \$
Saturday Auxillary banquet	\$26	x	= \$
Friday Legion banquet	\$35	x	= \$
TOTAL:			= \$

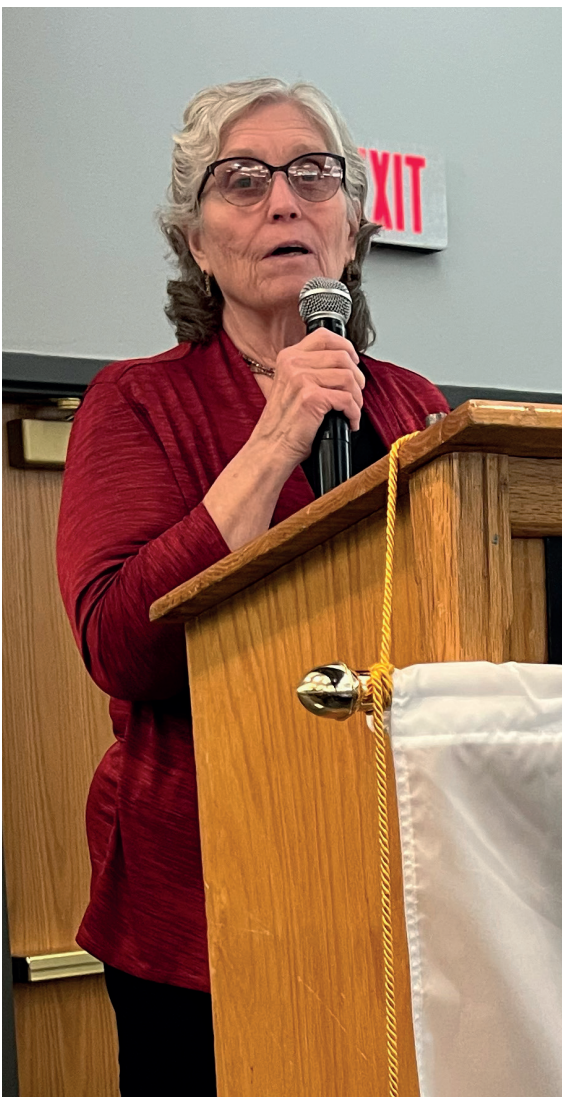


Bill Peters presenting MyLegion program training at MidWinter Conference.



Detachment Commander Casey Hansen addressing the joint banquet at midwinter conference.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE



The 2023 MidWinter Conference took place in Huron, SD February 10-12. Legion and Auxillary members gathered at the Cross Roads Hotel and Event Center to hear from department commanders, guest speakers and watched the American Legion State Oratory Contest finals. Committee meetings for the Boys State Board of Directors, American Legion Riders, Membership and others also took place

(Far Left) Dept. Auxillary President Joyce Smith addressing the joint banquet crowd.

(Left) Dept. Commander Doug Feltman addressing attendees of the Midwinter Conference.

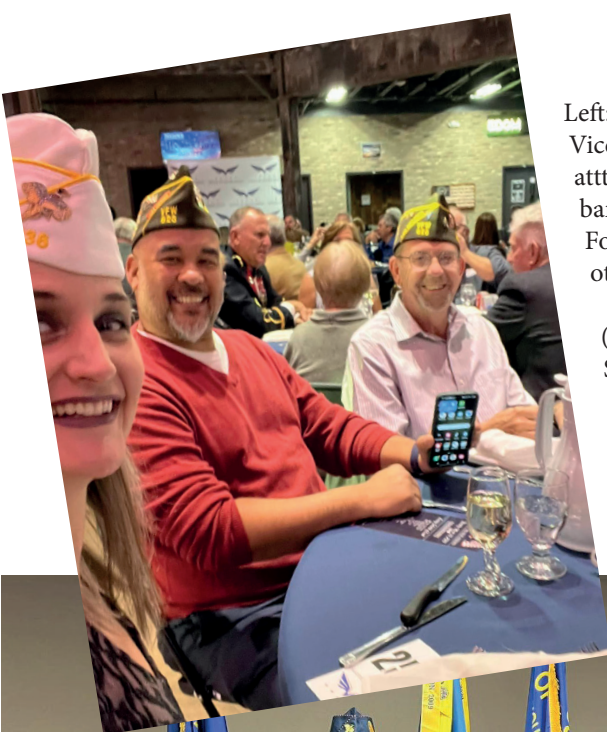
(Below) Legionnaires listening to a guest speaker at the Midwinter conference.





A group of South Dakota Legionnaires traveled to Washington DC February 26th to March 1st, to participate in National Security meetings, Veterans Affairs meetings as well as participate in discussions on Legislative issues. During the session, National Commander Jim Troiola discussed The American Legion Legislative priorities. The priorities include: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VA Healthcare Modernization, PACT Act Implementation and Oversight, Protecting Veterans from Predatory Actors, Concurrent Receipt of retired pay and disability compensation, Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity, GI Bill for Honorable Service, Support for our Afghan Allies, Military Quality of Life, Pay the Coast Guard and Protecting the American Flag. While in Washington, visits were made to Representative Johnson, Senator Rounds and Senator Thune's offices for discussions on legislative initiatives as well as veterans' issues. Those traveling to Washington included NEC Denny Brenden, Alt NEC Fred Nelson, Commander Doug Feltman, Department Vice Commander Courtney Steffen, PDC Paul Evenson, PDC Tim Jurgens, District Commander Gene Opbroek, Warren Aas, Kevin Morello and Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel.

American Legion Around the State



Left: On March 24, Courtney Steffen, Vice Commander of Districts 3-8, attended the Wings of Valor Lodge banquet in Sioux Falls. Joey Jones from Fox News as well as Gene Murphy and other local heroes spoke at the event,

(Right) Legion members from the Spearfish American Legion post celebrated the American Legion's 104th Birthday.



(Left) Post 15 in Sioux Falls is one of the few Posts in the Department where all four of their organizations made 100% membership for 2022. The Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders all exceeded their membership goal for 2022 and were recognized with their 100% Legion Family Ribbon. Their goal for 2023 is to again receive the 100% Family Ribbon and they challenge all the Posts with Auxiliary, Sons or Riders to do the same. Pictured left to right is Post 15 Commander Bill Peters, Detachment 15 Commander Clarence Mellang, Unit 15 President Kellie Heazlett and Riders Vice President Korry Melstad.



2023 Baseball Season Patch

With the impending start of Legion Baseball, there is information that you need to know! Last Fall, as many of you have heard, the National American Legion Organization, rolled out new Brand Marks and Logos. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, and American Legion Baseball were all introduced to their new Brand Marks, Word Marks, and Logos, along with a very specific set of guidelines of when, where, and how they are to be used in conjunction with the original American Legion Emblem.



At that time, we were told that as far as Baseball was concerned, teams would be able to choose either the old or new logo for the 2023 season but starting in 2024, they would have to use the new logo. Since then, National has updated their stance to the following:

Per the National Rulebook, uniforms must have the crossed bats emblem on the uniform. "To clarify things, the "Emblem" is defined as the Legion emblem with cross bats and the "Brand Mark" is defined as the new design logos. Please ensure you educate your team managers and others on these terms to ensure everyone is on the same page when discussing the two types." To answer everyone's question regarding team uniforms.

1. Team uniforms will have the cross bats emblem on left sleeve or chest as outlined in accordance with national rule.

2. For digital marketing only (website, social media, email signatures, etc.) we are approved to use the new baseball marks. This includes ESPN, social influencers, anything that is clearly advertising or promotional. Please see the Baseball page at sdlegion.org for specific directions on how to use the new Brand Marks

It is unknown at this time if the patch will change anytime in the future. If teams have budget concerns re: the possibility of having to change patches sometime in the future, it is suggested that they use the sew-on patch that can be ordered via Emblem Sales that can be sewn on and be easily removed and replaced later if needed, rather than sublimating or silk screening the emblem on the jersey.

Patches can be purchased from the Department Headquarters Office or on-line at Emblem sales.



South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, January 2023- March 2023

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

#5 Plankinton	John Staller	#24 Westport	Terrance Mullner	#115 Parkston	Kenneth Sly
#8 Rapid City	James Etkorn	#25 Madison	Rod Schiefelbein	#115 Platte	Eugene Westendorf
#8 Pierre	Marvin Olson	#29 Woonsocket	Tony Luthi	#118 Sioux Falls	Lowell Miles
#9 Milbank	Darrel Aden	#33 Sturgis	Duane Boy	#118 Hartford	Ronald Sechser
#11 Wagner	Joseph Babcock	#33 Sturgis	Jesse Whitford	#118 Rapid City	Wesley Scholl
#11 Wagner	Charles Thaler	#37 Bryant	Douglas Moeller	#120 Isabel	Dale Young
#12 Crofton	Joseph Foxhoven	#42 Brookings	Lawrence Berg	#121 McLaughlin	Ray Maxon
#13 Reno	Ray Peterson	#42 Arlington	Robert Cihak	#121 McLaughlin	Leonard Rozeboom
#13 Wakonda	Bernell Peterson	#42 Sioux Falls	Dennis Swenson	#135 Gettysburg	Bill Eliason
#13 Irene	Greg Preheim	#42 Dayton	Robert Larson	#135 Gettysburg	Robert Hageman
#15 Sioux Falls	William Thompson	#42 Sioux Falls	James Teller	#135 Gettysburg	Norman Kostboth
#15 Sioux Falls	Gary Burlog	#42 Astori	Milton Flisrand	#135 Brookings	Roger Moore
#15 Sioux Falls	Louis Jessop	#43 Centerville	Virgil Null	#140 Salem	John Staebell
#15 Sioux Falls	Harlan Meyer	#50 Henderson	Herb Mundt	#152 Olivet	James Herman
#17 Sturgis	Donald Haag	#50 Sisseton	Jesse Stavick	#155 Scotland	Robert Goeken
#17 Watertown	Ray Kerstetter	#50 Sisseton	Dean Thompson	#161 Sioux Falls	Tom Leisinger
#17 Watertown	Don Ritz	#53 Canton	Donald Crawford	#164 Spearfish	Arno Schroeder
#17 Watertown	Greg Hammerstrom	#62 Hartford	Leroy Lueth	#169 Sioux Falls	Eva Butcher
#18 Mitchell	John Wingfield	#63 Beresford	John Elvik	#169 Sturgis	Larry Baker
#18 Mitchell	Dale Strand	#66 Lemmon	John Wells	#173 Philip	Ron Millage
#21 Viborg	Arlen Jensen	#67 Ipswich	William Geditz	#174 Sioux Falls	Floyd Tullar
#21 Syracuse	Charles Sanborn	#74 Mesa	Abner Lewis	#179 Kennebec	Donald Manger
#22 Black Hawk	Marion Knutson	#74 Brookings	Richard Ruelle	#179 Kennebec	Benjamin Oldenkamp
#22 Rapid City	Jay Hawkins	#74 Brookings	Roland Couser	#189 Hosmer	Milton Herrboldt
#22 Rapid City	Larry Green	#74 Brookings	Richard Wahlstrom	#189 Hosmer	Robert Johnson
#22 Rapid City	Harry Alloway	#74 Volga	Harris Mix	#201 Chamberlain	Robert Struble
#22 Rapid City	Roger Denman	#74 Brookings	Leon Lengkeek	#209 Raymond	John Hermoe
#23 Viborg	James Gaertner	#76 Boynton Beach	Roger Osterman	#209 Raymond	Deborah Hass
#23 Garretson	Leo Leslie	#80 Rapid City	Leslie Eberlein	#209 Raymond	Douglas Harrington
#23 Baltic	Dean Schreurs	#80 Foley	Michael Forrester	#261 Spring Grove	Roland Johnson
#23 Garretson	Dale Stoltenberg	#89 Sioux Falls	John Jones	#261 Mitchell	Louis Murtha
#24 Aberdeen	Jim Bird	#102 Faulkton	Art Hardie	#298 Britton	Dwayne Johnson
#24 Aberdeen	Daniel Pennington	#109 Ivanhoe	Jerry Barck	#298 Donna	Robert Pitkin
#24 Aberdeen	Mervin Jung	#115 Mcallen	Harlan Meyerink	#320 Rapid City	James Penning


SAVE the DATE

2023 National Convention

Charlotte, North Carolina
August 25-31

All hotel reservations must go through Department Headquarters.

Contact Mary Jo Boner at 605-886-3604 or maryjo@sdlegion.org to book rooms at the Hyatt Place Charlotte Downtown.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

A POWERFUL FORCE

for OUR NATION

We love America through and through. We believe in our flag and all that it stands for. Our Constitution, our Pledge of Allegiance and our way of life are all fundamental to maintaining our freedom and the standing we have as the greatest nation on earth. We promote and defend these values every day in communities across the nation. Find out more about The American Legion's commitment of service to America.