



Up To Now!

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April 12, 2023

APR 13 Department Executive Committee Zoom meeting
Apr 15 Legion Service day at Wings of Valor
Apr 16 District 3 Spring Meeting (rescheduled due to weather)
Apr 22 Department American Legion College
Apr 23 District 4 Spring Meeting (rescheduled due to weather)
Apr 24 Boys State Coordination meeting
Apr 29 Deadline for Constitutional Resolutions to arrive at HQ
Apr 30 District 6 Spring Meeting (rescheduled due to weather)
May 1 Deadline for submitting Boys State applications
May 1 Nominations for William Lenker VA&R award due at HQ
May 1 Good Samaritan nominations due to HQ from Districts
May 1-3 National Commander visits South Dakota
May 4 Internal Affairs Commission Zoom meeting
May 8-11 National Spring Meetings
May 15 Deadline for early Baseball registration
May 29 Memorial Day
May 29-Jun 2 Boys State
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma
Jun 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy
Jul 1 National American Legion College applications due to HQ

UP COMING REQUIRED REPORTS

The following reports or inputs will soon be due. Please take the required actions as needed:

1. Post Data Report. This report identifies the dues amount for the post as well as the mailing address for the dues and post. It is due to HQ by April 15.
2. Post Americanism Report. This form reflects what the Post has accomplished for Americanism programs. It is also used to select the Golden Eagle award for excellence in Americanism programs. This report can be found in the Department's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 19, and is due to HQ May 1st.
3. Post Officer Certification. This form is found in the Department's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 28, and is to be submitted to HQ in May after the Post officers have been sworn in for the next year.
4. Consolidated Post Report (CPR). The CPR is the Post's method to report what has been accomplished for the year. The data is used by the Department and National Headquarters to report on activities of The American Legion. It can be found on the Department website. It is also available on line on the National website and is due June 1st.

DEPARTMENT LEGION COLLEGE

The Department of South Dakota will be hosting its first Department Legion College on April 22, 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. Applications can be found on the SD Legion website under Training or by contacting HQ.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET INFORMATION

During the Department Convention in Oacoma June 8—11, a sandwich

buffet will be served at noon on Friday and Saturday. Cost is \$20 per person. The Joint Banquet will be held on June 9th. Menu will be roasted chicken, baked potato, vegetable, salad and roll. Cost will be \$35 per person. The Auxiliary Banquet will be held Saturday June 10th and menu will be roast pork loin, baked potato, vegetable, salad and roll. Cost is \$26 per person. You must have a ticket for each event you wish to participate in. None will be available at the door. Ticket orders must be received no later than **May 25th**. To order tickets, send name and address and list the number of Friday lunch tickets, Saturday lunch tickets, Joint Banquet tickets and Auxiliary Banquet tickets requested. Make checks payable to Potter Post 3 and send to John Payer, 25120 344th Ave, Chamberlain SD 57325

NATIONAL COMMANDER VISIT TO SOUTH DAKOTA

The National Commander will visit South Dakota May 1-4. The current schedule is below but may change some as things firm up:

- May 1 0800 Breakfast with Garretson Post 23
1200 Lunch at Military Heritage Alliance Post 15
1800 Dinner with Lake Preston Post
- May 2 0800 Breakfast with White Post 88
0930 Coffee with Elkton Post
1200 Lunch with Milbank Post
TBD Dinner with Sisseton Post 50
- May 3 0800 Breakfast with Watertown Post 17
1200 Lunch with Aberdeen Post
- May 4 0800 Breakfast with Brookings Post
Depart from Sioux Falls Airport

Posts in the areas of the events are encouraged to attend, but please contact the hosting Post to ensure accommodations.

BASEBALL UNIFORM PATCHES

There has been much discussion about the possibility of having to use the new baseball emblem starting in 2024. We just received guidance from National Headquarters where the old patch with crossed bats will remain the patch required on uniforms until further notice and is unknown if it will change any time soon. The new baseball logo can be used for digital media or anything that is clearly advertising or promotional in nature.

BOYS STATE REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN

Boys State registration can be found on the South Dakota Boys State website, the address for applicants:
<http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/boys-state-application/>
The registration fee for Boys State is \$225 per student and is payable to the Boys State Treasurer. **Registration closes on May 1, 2023.**

APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RAFFLE

"Any individual or group who wishes to conduct a raffle needs to provide written notice to the SD Secretary of State before selling any tickets for a raffle. They must also give thirty days written notice of the time and place thereof to the governing body or designated administrative official of the county or municipality in which it intends to conduct the raffle. SDCL 22-25-25(6)." For additional guidance, please refer to the Secretary of State's website.

BASEBALL

A reminder early online team registration for \$100 off the fee ends May 15th.

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CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS

Any resolutions proposing changes to the SD Legion Constitution and By Laws to be considered at the Department Convention must be at headquarters by April 19th. Please send electronically to adjutant@sdlegion.org.

CERTIFICATION OF POST OFFICERS

As a reminder, Posts will be conducting their election of officers in April and installation of new officers in May. As soon as the installation is complete, the Adjutant must submit the Officers' Certification to Department Headquarters. Information can be found on pages 27-28 in the Department Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual. Even if the Post officers remain the same, the form **MUST BE SUBMITTED**. Additionally, please do not put same as last year. Fill in all the information requested.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Every Legion post has those special Legionnaires that go above and beyond. There is a special person always volunteering to do what ever he or she can do to make it better. This is the time of the year for the Post to recognize that special person by selecting them as the Legionnaire of the Year. Once selected they can also compete at the District and Department level. Additional information and nomination forms can be found in the SD Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual as well as the SD Legion website. Nomination packages are due to the respective District Commander 15 days prior to Department Spring meetings.

2023 NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

Applications are now being accepted at Department Headquarters for this year's National American Legion College (NALC) which will be held in Indianapolis November 12-17. Applications can be found on the National website, legion.org/college and are due to Department Headquarters by July 1st. DO NOT send them to National as they must have the Department's approval first.

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD

The South Dakota American Legion Good Samaritan Award was initiated to recognize those individuals or groups who give of themselves to help others. A narrative with supporting documentation must be forwarded to the District Commander **ten days prior** to the Spring District meeting.

WILLIAM F LENKER VA&R AWARD

During the 2019 State Convention a resolution was passed to create a VA&R Leadership award. The VA&R Commission created the criteria for the award that will be a Post competition. Additional information and nomination form can be found on the Department website under forms. **Forms are due before May 1, 2023** to State Headquarters.

DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS

Note change. Due to weather, Districts 3, 4 and 6 meetings were postponed and have been rescheduled as listed below:

- Dist 3 16 Apr Moved to Pierre Post 8 home 11:00 social, 12:00 light lunch, 12:30 meeting
- Dist 4 23 Apr Cresbard, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow
- Dist 6 30 Apr DeSmet 12:00 social, 12:30 lunch, 1:30 meeting

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

April is recognized as Children and Youth Month as well as the Month of the Military Child. This is a good time to review The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. TFA is a one-time grant of up to \$1,500 that helps cover basic needs such as shelter, food, utilities and other expenses. Additional information can be found at National's website <https://www.legion.org/financialassistance>

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.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S WORK DAY

Commander Feltman has identified Wings of Valor as our Department Service Project for this spring. Their address is Wings of Valor Lodge, 45618 278th Street in Parker. Start time is 9:00 AM. Bring your work gloves and anything else you might use for a spring cleanup like rakes and shovels. Please sign up at www.sdlegion.org/service. Lets have a great day and help this organization that helps our veterans.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

It is that time of year again where we need to document what we are doing in our communities. **When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.** Please fill out the form that will be sent out or by going online to mylegion.org and completing it there. Our goal this year is 100% Post reporting for CPRs. Thank you in advance for assisting in this matter.

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 the Course Conclusion, 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.

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION

The annual fun auction will be held in Oacoma during the State Convention on June 10. This event has grown through the years and has become an event that is well attended and supported by the American Legion Family. All proceeds from the fun auction are donated to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Please consider donating items to the fun auction. **If you have a talent in any particular area, such as, quilting, wood carving, woodworking, baking, etc, please consider making something to be auctioned off at the fun auction.** These items are very well received. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of April 10th, we were at 15,367 or 90.2% of goal. The next membership goal is April 19th where all posts should be at 95%. Posts should be contacting their Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2023 and ask them to please renew to support our programs.

48 Post have made 100% membership or more.
IS your post one of them?