



Up To Now!

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Apr 29 Deadline for Constitutional Resolutions to arrive at HQ
Apr 30 District 6 Spring Meeting (rescheduled due to weather)
May 1 Nominations for William Lenker VA&R award due at HQ
May 1 Good Samaritan nominations due to HQ from Districts
May 1-4 National Commander visits South Dakota
May 4 Internal Affairs Commission Zoom meeting
May 8-11 National Spring Meetings
May 11 Department Executive Committee Zoom meeting
May 15 Deadline for submitting Boys State applications
May 15 Deadline for early Baseball registration
May 29 Memorial Day, HQ closed
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
Jul 4 Independence Day, HQ closed
Jul 27-29 National membership workshop
Aug 25-31 National Convention in Charlotte NC

INCLUDED IN THIS UP TO NOW

Included in this Up To Now is the Official Call for the 2023 Department Convention to be held in Oacoma at the Cedar Shores Resort June 8-11.

UP COMING REQUIRED REPORTS

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. The form 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

Congratulations to the following Legionnaires who completed the first South Dakota American Legion College on April 22nd; Thomas Henley of Aurora, Dale Hill of Sioux Falls, Clayton Nei of Castlewood, Bill Peters of Sioux Falls, Chris Rendon of Summerset, Jake Salathe of Huron, Bob Thomason of Selby, Chris "Van" VanDelist of Rapid City and Ruth Van Steenwyk of Aberdeen.

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 63
- May 2 0800 Breakfast with White Post 88
0930 Coffee with Elkton Post 198
1200 Lunch with Milbank Post 9
TBD Dinner with Sisseton Post 50
- May 3 0800 Breakfast with Watertown Post 17
1200 Lunch with Aberdeen Post 24
- May 4 0800 Breakfast with Brookings Post 74
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.

BOYS STATE ORIENTATION

The following locations, dates and times have been identified for upcoming Boys State Orientations

- Dist 1 & 2: 12:00 on May 6th at Post 22 home
Dist 3: 2:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre and Colome Post home
Dist 4: 2:30 May 13th at the Aberdeen National Guard Armory and 2:00 pm on May 20th at the Mobridge Post home
Dist 5: To be determined
Dist 6: 2:00 pm on May 7th at the Woonsocket School
Dist 7: 2:00 pm on May 7th at Post 15 home
Dist 8: To be determined

VETERANS TOWN HALL MEETING

DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls is hosting a Veterans Town Hall meeting on Friday May 5th, starting at 2:30 pm. All veterans are encouraged to attend. Representatives from Senator Rounds, Thune and Rep Johnson offices as well as Medical Center Directors from the Sioux Falls VA and Black Hill VA, Regional Benefits Director Shawn Bohn and SD Secretary Greg Whitlock will be available to field questions on VA Health Care, VA benefits, Choice program, PACT act and other topics of concern to veterans.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

The Children & Youth month is ending. It would be great to hear about how your Post worked with children or Veterans with children at home over the past year. Please fill out the C&Y Narrative Form found on the state Legion page, www.sdlegion.org/sdal-tfa-form/. If your Post, Unit, SAL or Rider group has collected funds for the Children Miracle Network/State Youth Activity fund, please memo your check as CMN/C&Y and either mail them to state HQ or present them at the State Convention this year. Thank you for what you do with your communities' youth.

CONTINUED ON BACK

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 15, 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.

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.

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.

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, District 6 meetings was postponed and has been rescheduled to 30 Apr in DeSmet with 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.

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.

DID YOU KNOW

The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington in 1923. Congress adopts the code in 1942. *Today, The American Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.*

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of April 23rd, we were at 15,473 or 90.8% of goal. The next membership goal is May 17th where all posts should be at 100%. Posts should be contacting their Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2023 and ask them to please renew to support our programs.

50 Posts have made 100% membership or more. IS your post one of them?