



Up To Now!

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May 10, 2023

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 1 Blue hat day at Boys State
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma
Jun 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy
Jun 29 Blue hat day at 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 Internal Affairs Commission's review of the resolutions to be considered by the 2023 Convention. This is sent to all posts to share with their members so they are informed of the resolutions prior to action at the Convention.

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 visit went very well. Thanks to those posts who hosted his visit. He really enjoyed sitting down and talking to South Dakota Legionnaires. During his visit, many posts presented checks to his program of choice, the Veterans and Children's fund. A total of \$3,185 was given. A big thanks to those posts that donated. There is still time to make a donation. It can be sent to HQ and make sure it is designated for the National Veterans and Children's fund.

DELEGATION FEES FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Each Post is entitled to delegates based on their membership. Delegation credentials (found in the Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual) must be turned in to Department Headquarters by **June 5th, 2023**. Payment of \$7 per delegate must accompany the form from the manual. This is mandatory for all Posts whether they attend the convention or not. Fees can also be paid at registration.

2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Below is the basic schedule of events for the upcoming Department Convention to be held at Cedar Shores in Oacoma

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

10:00 a.m. Finance Commission meeting
1:00 p.m. Executive Committee meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

9:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
10:00 a.m. SAL Executive Committee meeting
10:00 a.m. Resolutions Committee Initial meeting
11:30 a.m. S.D.A.L.P.A. luncheon/meeting
1:00 p.m. Convention Committee Chairmen meet with Commander & Adjutant
1:30 p.m. Convention committees meet
3:00 p.m. SDAL Foundation meeting
4:30 p.m. Joint Convention Memorial Service
6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails/Social
7:00 p.m. Joint Legion Family Banquet

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
8:30 a.m. Concert, State Legion Band
9:00 a.m. Convention Call To Order
Various speakers and committee reports
1:00 p.m. SAL Business meeting
TBD Recognition of Legionnaire of the Year
Recognition of the Gabrielson Memorial Leadership
Presentation of History Awards
ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONVENTION IN RECESS
TBD Area caucus for election of Vice Commanders
5:00 p.m. Go-Getters Reception and dinner
8:00 p.m. SD American Legion Foundation Fun Auction

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 a.m. Registration desk open
8:30 a.m. Concert – State Legion Band
9:00 a.m. Convention business session reconvenes
Speakers and committee reports continue.
11:45 a.m. Sweepstakes Drawings
12:00 noon Special Order of Business - Elections (earlier if all other business is completed)
Installation of newly elected officers
Acceptance speech by new Department Commander
Adjourn Convention, Department Commander
Post-Convention Dept Executive Committee

GO-GETTERS RECEPTION AND DINNER

A reminder to all Posts. If you have Go-Getters who were not certified at Mid-Winter, but eligible now to attend the Dept Convention Go-Getters reception and dinner, the Go-Getter Certification Form in the Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual must be completed and sent to Department Headquarters by June 5th in order for the Go Getter to attend. If names were sent in previously, they do not need to be sent in again.

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SDALPA LUNCHEON AT DEPT CONVENTION

The South Dakota American Legion Press Association (SDALPA) luncheon meeting will be Friday, June 9th at 11:30. If you plan on eating, please order your lunch before as it will not be available at the meeting.

CONVENTION SWEEPSTAKES COMING

There will be a sweepstakes drawing to hold at the end of convention. The sweepstakes mailings will be delivered soon. A group of volunteers helped stuff the envelopes so a special thank you to Judy Greenfield, Commander Feltman, Rod Smith, Krisma DeWitt, Sue Peters, PDC Wolkow, PDC Holmes, Linda Holmes, PDC Dunham, Annette Dunham, Robin Hempel and Adjutant Hempel.

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.

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. Deadline for applications is July 1st.

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.

POST CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

Has your Post updated it’s Constitution and By Laws? This should be done annually to make sure everything is up to date. Additionally, please ensure Department Headquarters has a copy of your updated Constitution and By Laws. Thanks for your help with this important process.

DID YOU KNOW

May 8-10, 1919: The American Legion’s constitution is approved at the St. Louis Caucus, conducted inside the Shubert Theater. Before declining nomination to lead the new organization but serving as temporary chairman of the caucus, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., calls the session to order with a gavel made from the steamship *Roosevelt’s* rudder; the vessel had carried Adm. Robert E. Peary during his explorations of the North Pole. Roosevelt, Jr. rejects chants of “We want Teddy!” to serve as first national leader of the organization. Roosevelt, with plans to eventually run for elected office, does not want The American Legion to be politicized in any way. Former Dallas Mayor Henry D. Lindsley is instead named chairman of the St. Louis Caucus, and plans are advanced to elect a commander at the first national convention of the organization.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of May 7th, we were at 15,546 or 91.23% 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?