



Up To Now!

C.P. Van Delist – Department Adjutant
www.sdlegion.org – Email: adjutant@sdlegion.org

Issued Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 33669

August 4, 2023

- Aug 6-American Legion Riders Post 71 Annual Fall River Freedom Ride—Begins at Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot Springs—9:00 am (MT)
- Aug 7 Kingsbury County Purple Heart/Gold Star Family event
- Aug 8—VA PACT Act Benefits and Healthcare Drive—Armory at the SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1700 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am to 1:30 pm and 4:00 to 6:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 12 Hermosa Post 303, Beers and Ears
- Aug 15– 2nd Annual Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 Family Hog Roast, SD Military Heritage Alliance Center, Sioux Falls
- Aug 25-31 National Convention, Charlotte NC
- Aug 31-Sep 4 State Fair, Huron
- Aug 31- Veterans Day at the State Fair, **HQ Closed**
- Sep 4-Labor Day, **HQ Closed**
- Sep 9-10 Legion Golf Tournament hosted by Hermosa Post 303
- Sep 13-16—Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon
- Sep 16 District 2 Fall Meeting
- Sep 17 District 1 Fall Meeting
- Sep 23 District 4 Fall Meeting
- Sep 24 District 5 Fall Meeting
- Sep 26-Midwest Honor Flight, Mission 16
- Oct 9-12 National Fall Meetings
- Oct 9– Native American Day, **HQ Closed**
- Oct 10-Midwest Honor Flight, Mission 17
- Oct 21 District 7 Fall Meeting
- Oct 21-Elvis Night/50’s Dance Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser, SD Military Heritage Alliance Center, Sioux Falls
- Oct 22 District 8 Fall Meeting
- Oct 28 District 6 Fall Meeting
- Oct 29 District 3 Fall Meeting
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Observance, **HQ Closed**
- Nov 4-Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis Community Center, 11:00am-2:00pm
- Nov 15-SD Veterans Council Meeting, DAV Headquarters, 1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, 9:00am
- Nov 15-SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table, Sioux Falls
- Nov 16-SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table, Northeast
- Nov 17-Veterans Council Legislative Round Table, Pierre
- Nov 17-MINGO (Music Bingo) Fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight, Severance Brewing Co., Sioux Falls, 6:00–9:00 pm
- Nov 18-SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table-West River
- Nov 23-24– Thanksgiving Holiday, **HQ Closed**

BE THE ONE TO SAVE ONE LIFE

The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — “**Be the One**”— to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated at between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated **Be the One** to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This campaign intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.

If you are a Veteran in crisis or know one that is, resources are available 24 /7: Call 988 and press 1, Text 838255 or visit the VA Crisis Line website <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

Greetings Legionnaires!

The year has started, and I’d like to share with you my thoughts on the leadership aspects on my theme, “**Pursue Purpose.**”

I’m a firm believer in needing purpose to accomplish much of anything—without goals, vision or purpose we’re often left wandering without direction. So what is our purpose in The American Legion? We are here to serve our fellow Veterans, their families, and our communities. That is our end goal, our vision.

This is where strategy comes into play—how do we get to fulfilling that goal? Participate in and promote your activities. Tell your members and the community **WHAT** you are doing and **WHY**. I highly encourage each post to evaluate how you are communicating both inside and outside your walls.

Track your strategic success in objectives, or measurable targets. Membership is an important objective—the more hands that contribute to a project, the lighter the load; the more voices speaking in unison the louder our voice is. It isn’t, however, the only way to measure Post success. Track your Post activity on your Consolidated Post Reports and Americanism Reports. Keep up to date on your Officer certification, and look at possible mentorship opportunities in building new leaders. Quite frankly, success in Post activity and mentorship will likely drive higher or at the very least sustain membership.

Each of us has a different motivation for being in The American Legion. Perhaps your passion lies in keeping the local baseball team alive, or maybe you feel strongly about having that grassroots voice in your benefits through our legislative lobbying ability. Whether it is an embedded sense of community service, or wanting to reconnect with that sense of camaraderie, or anything in between, each of us has our reasons for why we believe in this organization. Use your “why” as your foundation. These are the principles we can all grow on, leverage to meet objectives, fulfill strategies and meet our goal of purpose.

--Courtney Steffen, Department Commander

“Pursue Purpose.”



CONTINUED ON BACK



104TH NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTER-NATE DELEGATES

The following are the department Delegates to the National Convention in Charlette, NC August 25-31:

NEC Denny Brenden of Watertown (National Call In)
PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson (National Call In)
PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington (National Call In)
PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell (National Call In)
PDC Fred Nelson of Spearfish (National Call In)
PDC Tim Jergens of Milbank (National Call In)
PDC Jim Huls of Madison (National Call In)
PDC Larry Price of Redfield (National Call In)
Warren Aas of Watertown (National Call In)
Doug Harris of Rapid City (National Call In)
Kevin Morello of Piedmont (National Call In)
PDC Doug Feltman of Chamberlain
PDC Rick McDonald of Hermosa
Noel Cummins of Milbank
Annette Dunham of Iroquois
Jeff Hrabanek of Winner
Brian Dean of Spearfish
Leroy Madsen of Pierre
Linda Hessaa of Canton
Andy Lyngen of Garretson
Department Commander Courtney Steffen of Chester
Department Adjutant C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City
Alternate Delegates are:
PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois
Dale Hill of Sioux Falls
Eugene Iron Shell of Rosebud
Kevin Hempel of Chester
Rod Smith of Chester
Mike Pauling of Piedmont
John Bachmeier of Sioux Falls
Bill Peters of Sioux Falls
Dupree Chavez of Sioux Falls
Ward Chapman of Milbank

LEGION TABLE AT STATE FAIR

The SD Legion will have a booth at the State Fair at the Veteran's Building on August 31 to September 4, from 9 am to 5 pm. PDC Gary Wolkow is the point of contact. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gary at 605-203-0226.

BATTLE CREEK POST 303 ANNUAL BEERS AND EARS

Saturday August 12, 2023 at Hermosa Post home 14386 Hwy 40. Cornhole Tournament 11:00am—2:00pm, Lunch \$5. Dinner at 4:00-7:00pm, \$10 adults \$5:00 kids. Contact Rick McDonald for more information.

2023 STATE LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hosted by American Legion Battle Creek Post 303

For play info contact Larry Schulte, 605-593-2525 / schulte5@mt-rushmore.net For donations, please contact Bob King (605-440-2464 / bbking09@icloud.com)

Saturday, Sept 9

Meadowbrook Golf Course, 3625 Jackson Blvd, Rapid City. Tee time: 12:00PM. Evening meal after the round and prize drawing.

Sunday, Sept 10

Prairie Ridge Golf Course, Ellsworth Air Force Base. Tee time 9:00 AM. Free Coffee and Donuts prior to round

Entry Fees

\$125 per person or \$500 per team. Teams need to prepay. Checks can be sent to Battle Creek Post 303, PO Box 64, Hermosa SD 57744 or paid on line at battlecreekpost303.com.

Format

4-man Scramble. Gross team scores not handicapped. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place. Maximum of 18 teams for the tournament. Pin Prizes on every hole.

Sponsorships Available

Hole sponsor is \$100 per hole.

Base Housing

There may be lodging on Ellsworth AFB. check availability call 605-385-2844 and base access at 605-385-2895

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.

FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS

South Dakota started a program in 2019 to honor Veterans killed in the line of duty by naming bridges in their honor. Following is a list of upcoming dedications. It would be great if Legionnaires in the area would attend to honor those who have fallen.

Aug 26-LTC Gordon J. Lippman, St. Rose of Lima Community Hall, Hill City at 2:00pm

Aug 27-SP5 John P. Beckers, VFW, Burke at 2:00pm

Sep 16-LT Peter Monfore, Community Hall, Springfield, 2:00pm
Oct 7- WO1 Roger S. Cameron, Community Bld, Pierpont, 1:30pm

Oct 14-1LT Thomas M. Martin—Military Heritage Alliance, Sioux Falls, 10:00am

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Headquarters has received the 2024 membership cards. *Posts who have submitted their officer certifications will be eligible to receive their cards.* Certify your officers NOW. The form for certifying officers is found in the Department’s 2022-2023 Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual online at the Department website.

2028 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER

Congratulations to Huron for being selected for the 2028 Department Convention!

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter are being accepted. No bids were submitted at the Convention. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the midwinter should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept HQ.

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2024 Mid-Winter	Deadwood	Feb 16-18
2024 Convention	Pierre	June 20-23
2025 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 14-16
2025 Convention	Huron	June 19-22
2026 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 20-22
2026 Convention	Aberdeen	June 18-21
2027 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 20-22
2027 Convention	Sioux Falls	June 16-19

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS WINNERS

The for The American Legion 2023 baseball state tournaments are:

State “A” Senior- Harrisburg Gold Post 45

State “A” Junior- Sioux Falls East Post 15

State “B” Senior- Dell Rapids Post 65

TBD State “B” Junior-Aug 4-6 hosted by Post 174, Lennox

TBD National Regional– Aug 2-6 hosted by Post 22, Rapid City

TBD World Series-Aug 10-15 in Shelby, North Carolina.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

The dead line has passed and we closed out this year at 52.3%, 36th in the nation as a Department. It is not too late to get credit for all your Post's hard work. Please fill out the form or go 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. **When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TRAINING TUESDAYS

National Headquarters staff present 60 to 90 minute on line training sessions aimed at Post level Commanders and Adjutants. The topic for Tuesday, June 27th at 6 pm CDT has not been identified yet. If you missed previous training, most have been recorded and can be viewed at legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays.

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.

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.

2024 MID-WINTER INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mid-winter Conference is being hosted by District 1, and will be held at the Deadwood Lodge, in Deadwood, SD., Friday, 16 February through Sunday, 18 February 2024. A block of rooms has been set aside beginning with 20 rooms for early arrivals on Thursday, 15 February, and another 80 rooms for arrivals on Friday, 17 February. **Anyone requiring a Hospitality Suite or room larger than the standard king or double queen, please contact David Booze at 605-484-5328 for reservation arrangements.** All who require just the **Standard King or Standard Double Queen room, reservations can be made by calling the Deadwood Lodge, phone number 605-584-4800.** The rate for the Standard King or Double Queen room is **\$95 plus applicable taxes.** Be sure to **mention** you will be **attending the American Legion Mid-winter conference.** The Deadwood Lodge is a 100% smoke free facility. The Deadwood Lodge allows dogs; however, all dogs must be declared at the time of making the reservation or upon check-in. Other details such as the Joint Banquet, Go-Getters, and training sessions will be coming soon.

EMERGENCY CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

If you are eligible for VA Health Care it is important to know that you can use your local emergency room during a medical emergency. The VA states "A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be reasonably expected to be hazardous to life or health. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away."

Ensure you check with your VA Provider to see if you qualify. When you seek care inform the emergency care provider to report your emergency treatment to the VA Centralized Emergency Care Reporting Center as soon as possible after your treatment starts by

using the VA Emergency Care Reporting portal or calling the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline. You or someone on your behalf can also report the care to the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) or online at <https://emergencycarereporting.communitycare.va.gov/#/request>

FOUNDATION UPDATE

At the July 18th, 2023 foundation meeting the board approved a \$15,000 grant to the Department. The grant was earmarked for the following:

- \$5000 for National Veteran and Childrens Foundation
- \$500 for Youth Law Enforcement Scholarships
- \$4000 for Oratory Scholarships
- \$1000 for Children & Youth Programs
- \$4500 for deficit short fall in the SDAL Programs

This is great for the department and will keep our programs going strong. If you would like to apply for a grant from the foundation applications can be found at <https://www.sdlegion.org/4579-2/> Or contact the Department Adjutant. Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2024.

DONATE TODAY!

You can make a difference, we are not just a bar or some old guys presenting the colors at a ball game, we are an organization devoted to serving our community, state, and nation. A donation is asked for to use the float of \$20 and should be sent to HQ after reserving the float. It is the responsibility of the organization that wants to use the float to arrange with the current holder of the float where and when to pick up the float.

PACT ACT DEADLINE AUG 9, 2023

There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. However, if you file your PACT Act claim, or submit your intent to file, by Aug. 9, 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to Aug. 10, 2022. The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. It adds to the list of presumptive health conditions that are assumed caused by exposure to these substances. This law provides generations of Veterans, and their survivors, with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. Contact your local Veteran Service Officer or our Department Service Officer Brian Havard brianhavard34@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2023-2024 is 16,261. As of August 1st, we were at 6,538 or 40.21% of goal. That is amazing as we are only one month into the new Membership year. Even though the last goal date is past, posts can still recruit new members and renew those who have not renewed for last year as well.

"Pursue Purpose"



TO ASK VETERANS
IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO LISTEN WHEN
A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

TO REACH OUT
WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING

