



Up To Now!

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Phone (605) 886-3604

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DUES INCREASE!

A Department **\$5 dues increase** will take effect July 1, 2025. This increase will require all Posts to charge at least \$5 more for membership and makes submitting **POST DATA REPORTS** critical this year. **POST DATA REPORTS are due to HQ April 15!**

Apr 4-7 National Vice Commander Visit to South Dakota
Apr 5 Gold Star Spouses Day, **Fly the Flag**
Apr 5 Dist 1 Spring Meeting, Spearfish, 11 meal, 12 mtg
Apr 6 Dist 2 Spring Meeting, Hot Springs 11 social, 12 meal, 1 mtg
Apr 9 National Former Prisoner of War Day, **Fly the Flag**
Apr 9 Children & Youth Membership Target date 95%
Apr 15 Tax Day!
Apr 15 Post Data Reports due to Dept HQ
Apr 16 SD Vets Council Meeting, Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, Hot Springs 9am
Apr 18-20 Easter Holiday **HQ Closed, Fly the Flag**
Apr 22 Earth Day, **Fly the Flag**
Apr 23 Dept Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm, MS Teams
Apr 24 Commander's Call, 7pm, MS Teams
Apr 26-27 SD Legion College, Chamberlain
May 1 Dist submit Good Samaritan of the Year to Dept HQ
May 1 Dist submit Educator of the Year to Dept HQ
May 1 Post Americanism Reports due to Dept HQ
May 1 William Lenker VA&R Award for Excellence due to HQ
May 3 Dist 2&1 Boys & Girls State Orientation, Post 22, RC 1pm
May 4 Dist 7 Boys & Girls State Orientation, Post 15, SF 3pm
May 4 International Firefighters Day, **Fly the Flag**
May 6 Mission 24 Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home, Sioux Falls Arena 9:30 pm (Doors open at 7:30 pm)
May 6 SDDVA Mini Conference 312 Kansas City St, Rapid City 10am-2pm
May 7 SDDVA Mini Conference Post 8, Pierre 10am-2pm
May 8 SDDVA Mini Conference SD Military Heritage Alliance, Sioux Falls 10am-2pm
May 9 Constitutional Resolutions due to Dept HQ
May 11 Mother's Day, **Fly the Flag**
May 15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day, **Fly the Flag, (half-staff)**
May 17 Armed Forces Day, **Fly the Flag**
May 24 Dist 6 Boys State Orientation Post 7, 2pm
May 26 Memorial Day, **Fly the Flag, (half-staff to noon)**
May 29 Commander's Call, 7pm, MS Teams
May 31 June 6 Boys State, Northern State Univ (NSU), Aberdeen
May 31 Final Day to Register a Baseball Team for the 2025 Season
June 1 Convention Go Getters Certification due to Dept HQ
June 1 SDALPA Newspaper Awards due to HQ
June 1 Consolidated Post Report Reports due
June 4 Convention Delegate and ALT due to Dept HQ
June 5 Blue Cap Day at Boys State, NSU
June 6 Remember D-Day, **Fly the Flag**
June 6 SDALR meeting 6pm, Rapid City Post 22
June 7 SDALR wreath laying at the BH Nat Cemetery, 9:20am
June 7-10 Ride 605, Starts in Piedmont, ends in Pierre
June 14 & 15 Army Birthday& June 15 Father's Day, **Fly the Flag**
June 19-22 Dept Convention, Huron
June 19 Juneteenth National Independence Day, **Fly the Flag**
June 21 Post History submissions due to Con Registration Desk
July 15 National American Legion College Applications due to Dept

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your Department Commander,

March has been a whirlwind of events, primarily focused on the Spring district meetings. It began with the Nurse Training Scholarship banquet, hosted by the 40&8 in Rapid City, where I had the pleasure of meeting some very impressive young individuals eager to pursue careers in healthcare.

Next, I headed East to Lake Preston for a delicious steak dinner. I was fortunate to sit with some Legion friends from Big Stone City, making for a memorable evening. Shortly after, it was back West for the Legion Birthday celebration at Crazy Horse, hosted by the Custer Post. They put on an outstanding ceremony – truly first class.

Then came the start of the Spring District meetings marathon. We kicked things off at the Winner Post for District 3, navigating icy roads along the way. Thankfully, after the meeting, the roads cleared up as we made our way to Plankinton for the District 6 meeting. After a quick pitstop at home for some laundry, I was back on the road East again to Volga for the District 5 meeting, followed by Cresbard for the District 4 meeting. The month wrapped up with District 8 in Tabor and District 7 in Garretson with another truly over the top Legion Birthday celebration hosted by Post 15 in Sioux Falls..

I was pleased to see great attendance and camaraderie at every district meeting. The meals – including desserts – were delicious. District 5 stood out with their hamburgers and French fries, a first for me at a District meeting – and I must say, it was delicious! We'll be finishing up the Spring meetings with Districts 1 and 2 during the first weekend of April, with a special guest, National Vice Commander James Kellogg, joining us.

On the membership front, our numbers remain strong, though we've fallen to second place at 93.215%, behind France. I want to extend my sincere thanks for your ongoing support. However, now is the time to double down on our membership efforts – we need to reach 95% by April 9th. I encourage you to review the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) list for members in your area and work to bring them into your post. If you need a customized listing, please don't hesitate to reach out to Bill Peters, our Department Membership Chairman. I am so proud of all of you!

As always, remember that strengthening your post's Legion Family and engaging with your community are both essential for our survival and growth.

Kevin Morello, Department Commander
"Legion Family Uniting Communities"



CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCOUTS

Commander Morello's program this year is to support Scouts to go to Camp. It costs \$400 to send a Scout to camp and the Command-

er is encouraging all Posts to send at least one Scout. Total raised to date is **\$7,166.25**. Send funds to Dept HQ marked "For Scouting"

COMMANDER'S CALL

Commander Morello is hosting a monthly "Commander's Call" open to all Legionnaires and the LAST Thursday of the month at 7pm central time. The video link and call in number are below. [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 225 775 090 784 Passcode: N2jZoD Phone +1 872-239-6022 Conference ID: 532 867 600#

UP COMING REQUIRED REPORTS

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

1. Post Data Report (PDR). With the Dept dues increase the PDR is critical this year. The PDR identifies the dues amount for the post as well as the mailing address for the dues and post. At a minimum member dues should be **\$43.50** or the Post will have to make up the difference. PDRs are due to HQ by **April 15th**.
2. Post Americanism Report. This form reports what the Post has accomplished for Americanism programs. It is used to select the Golden Eagle award for excellence in Americanism. This report is in the Dept's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 17, and is due to HQ **May 1st**.
3. Post Officer Certification. Is in the Dept's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 13, and is due to HQ as soon as the Post Officers are sworn in no later than **May 30th**.
4. Consolidated Post Report (CPR). The CPR is the Post's way to report their activities during the last year. The data is used by the Dept and Nat HQs to report activities of The American Legion. The form was mailed in the Up To Now, can be found on the Dept's & Nat's websites. It is due **June 1st**.

HATS IN THE RING

Post 136 endorses Kevin Hempel for Dept Commander
Post 15 endorses Bill Peters for Dept Commander
Post 154 endorses Shane Lamer for Dist 3-8 Vice Commander
Post 11 endorses Greg Geiman for Dept Sergeant-at-Arms
Post 315 endorses Marv Tisdall for Dist 1 Commander

SD ALA OPENINGS

The SD American Legion Auxiliary has an open position for the **Department Secretary**. Qualifications & Job Duties:

- Manage the department headquarters currently located in Mitchell, SD while supporting our mission for the organization.
- Excellent communication skills, willingness to learn new systems as needed, provide necessary reporting as requested, ability to multi-task and able to work closely with leadership.
- Attention to detail, strong organizational and time management skills, work under minimal supervision.
- Maintain all monies received at department headquarters, make deposits, and provide the treasurer with information as needed.
- Maintain all records needed to carry out the work of the office.
- Proficient in Microsoft applications including Word and Excel.
- Responsible for ensuring that all regulatory taxes are filed.
- Open all mail, answer phone calls, maintain calendar and appointments, make room arrangements, and fill other related job duties.
- Attend meetings as requested. Send notices of all meetings, record minutes, and act as Secretary for Executive & Finance Committees.
- Work some weekends and have dependable transportation.
- Maintain and present a clean and professional office atmosphere.
- Secretary is salaried position with hours as needed.
- High School diploma and office experience preferred.

Position open until qualified candidate is hired.

Please direct questions to or submit a written letter of interest along with a resume and job references to: Deanne Hoyle P.O. Box 578 Ipswich, SD 57451 deanne.hoyle@gmail.com 605 380-2650

2025 SD AMERICAN LEGION DEPT COLLEGE

The 2025 SD American Legion College will be April 26 & 27th.

Training will include Organizational Structure, Running a Meeting, Mentorship, Resolution Writing, Train-the-Trainer and a Capstone Project. Those selected to attend this year are: Denyce Campbell Post 42, Don Dosch Post 22, Phil Egeberg Post 114, Carol Howitz Post 164, Kristine Seidl Post 315, Ryan Skjodal Post 22, Bob Thomason Post 100, Mark Wolf Post 24, & Dan Wyatt Post 25.

BOYS STATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The Commander challenges every Post to send at least one Boy to Boys State. Registration is on the South Dakota Boys State website, <https://southdakotaboysstate.org/apply> Registration fee is \$250 per Boy and is payable to the Boys State Treasurer. Registration closes on May 1, 2025. **We currently have 104 Boys signed up.** The following Posts have Boys registered: RAPID CITY(22) 19, ABERDEEN 14, SIOUX FALLS(15) 10, GARRETSON 4, RAPID CITY(320) 3, VOLGA 3, REDFIELD 2, BRANDON 2, BROOKINGS 2, MADISON 2, ELK POINT 2, SPEARFISH 2, EMERY 2, BRIDGEWATER 2, LAKE PRESTON 2, PLATTE 2, WARNER 2, PIEDMONT 2, YANKTON 2, HOVEN 1, CASTLEWOOD 1, VERMILLION 1, WINNER 1, RENNER 1, DELL RAPIDS 1, STURGIS 1, MITCHELL 1, LEAD 1, MT VERNON 1, HARRISBURG 1, NUNDA 1, HOT SPRINGS 1, EDGEMONT 1, IPSWICH 1, PIERRE 1, TRIPP 1, PLANKINTON 1, AVON 1, BELLE FOURCHE 1, WEBSTER 1, ALEXANDRIA 1, ARLINGTON 1, MARTIN 1, MILBANK 1

SPRING CLEANUP AT WINGS OF VALOR

Post 45 is sponsoring a Spring Cleanup at Wings of Valor on Sat, May 3, starting at 9am, 45618 278th St, Parker, SD. Wings of Valor is a one-of-a-kind lodge dedicated to supporting veterans offering a space where they can come together, recharge, and find empowerment through outdoor activities. Volunteers are needed to help with various outdoor tasks. If you have gardening tools, tree saws, or chainsaws, please bring them along. Family members are welcome to join, and lunch will be provided for all volunteers. This is a great opportunity to give back and make a lasting impact on a space that serves our fellow veterans. If you have any questions contact Terry Harris, Adjutant Post 45 terryharris1450@gmail.com

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 May 9th. Please send electronically to adjutant@sdlegion.org.

SDAL RIDERS UPDATE

The Annual SD American Legion Riders (SDALR) meeting is scheduled for Fri, June 6, 6:00pm at Rapid City Post 22. Sat, June 7, the SDALR will lay a wreath at the Black Hills National Cemetery, meet at 9:20am by the committal shelter.

Ride 605

The SDALRs are excited to announce the annual American Legion Ride 605 fundraiser to benefit the SD American Legion Foundation. The mission of this ride is to raise funds to support Veterans and Children & Youth programs. The event will be June 7-10 and will feature 16 host Posts presenting donations for the Foundation. Posts can join along the route to make a donation. Donations may also be made at the Dept Convention at the Joint Banquet.

Ride 605 Day 1: Saturday, June 7

10:00 am: Piedmont Post 311: Benediction of the Bikes
Noon: Lunch at Wagon Wheel Bar, 115 Main St, Interior
4:00 pm: Winner Post, 133 E. 3rd St, Winner - dinner
Hotel: Holiday Inn Express 605-842-2255 (About \$165)
Hotel with gravel parking lot: Super 8 605-646-0368 (About \$70)

Ride 605 Day 2: Sunday, June 8

8:30 am: Holiday Inn Express parking lot
10:30 am: Wagner Greer Post, corner of 2nd St. and West Ave
12:15 pm: Springfield Post - lunch
2:15 pm: Ethan Post meet at the Veterans Memorial

4:30 pm: Sioux Falls Post 15 – 1700 W Russell St Suite 510
6:30 pm: Madison Post dinner at the park
Hotel: AmericInn Madison 605 646-2689 (about \$119)
Ride 605 Day 3: Monday, June 9
8:30 am: AmericInn Madison parking lot
9:15 am: Arlington Post, 120 S. Main St.
10:15 am: Lake Preston Post, 103 Main Ave N
Noon: Lunch at Kevin Hempel’s, 1717 Grandview Dr, Watertown
1:15 pm: Watertown Veterans Memorial, 90 S. Lake Dr
2:00 pm: Fuel bikes in Watertown
3:00 pm: Milbank Baseball Field South of Farley Park
4:45 pm: Fuel bikes Sisseton I-29 Truckstop
6:00 pm: Britton Veterans Monument– Britton, Veblen, Langford
BBQ & lodging, at Rose and Mike Kraft 10949 425th Ave, Britton
Hotel option: Northern Lights Inn, 605-448-2438 (about \$125)
Ride 605 Day 4: Tuesday, June 10
8:30 am: Northern Lights Inn parking lot
11:00 am: Hosmer Post on Main Street
12:15 pm: Selby Post – Lunch
1:00 pm: Fuel bikes
2:15 pm: Onida Post, 200 S. 6th St
3:15 pm: Pierre Capitol Lake War Memorial, Official end of the ride

2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
The 106th Annual American Legion Department of South Dakota Convention will be June 19-22 at the Huron Event Center. The Crossroads Hotel is FULL. A block of rooms are available at the Quality Inn for \$99 a night for a single and \$109 for a double (+tax). To make reservations call (605)352-6655. More information to come in future UTNs.

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION
The Fun Auction will be Sat evening at the Dept Convention in June. Net proceeds from the Auction will go to your SD American Legion Foundation, with earnings to come back to help fund the many programs of the SD American Legion, and continue forever.
To have a great Auction, we will again need good items to sell. Past sales have seen craft projects, paintings, heirloom items, veteran and service related items, food items, gift cards and many other things donated to the cause. If you build things, craft things, grow things, etc. or have other items to contribute, we ask for your donations. Your generosity is very much appreciated!
Another key to having a great Auction is to have a room full of bidders. You have supported the event very well in the past. We ask for your support again!
Jim Kurtz
President, SD American Legion Foundation

2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET TICKETS
A deli buffet will be served on Friday the 20th and Saturday the 21st at noon. You will have the choice of smoked turkey breast, roast beef, or Bavarian ham. Accompanied by sliced Swiss and American cheese, sliced tomatoes, pickles, and assorted breads. Served with the chef's choice of deli salads and a soup of the day. Ticket cost will be \$20 per person each day.
Friday night Joint Banquet buffet will be roast top round of beef with Au Jus or Chicken Almondine, mashed potatoes and gravy, Italian pasta salad, and green beans. Side salad and dinner rolls. Ticket cost will be \$35 per person.
Tickets requests for Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members **must be received by June 5th, 2025.** No tickets will be sold at the event. Tickets can be picked up at the convention registration table. One check can be made for the total lunch and banquet ticket costs.
Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 7. Ticket request should be mailed to:
Lloyd Timperley

P.O. Box 205
Huron, S.D. 57350
(605) 352 7896

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Food allergies _____

Event	Price	Number of Tickets	Cost
Friday Lunch	\$ 20.00		
Saturday Lunch	\$ 20.00		
Friday Banquet	\$ 35.00		
		Total	

2025 SD AUXILIARY BANQUET
On Sat June 21 during Convention the Auxiliary will hold their annual banquet to honor PDP 2000-01, Marilyn Hobbs. Meal will be Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Corn, Fruit Salad tickets are \$30.00 and will be at Aux registration desk. Please send order and check to: Linda Holmes, Dist 6 Pres, 700 S Montana St. Mitchell, SD 57301

Any special dietary needs: _____

Event	Price	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
Auxiliary Banquet	\$ 30.00		

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS
2026 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 20-22
2026 Convention, Ramkota, Aberdeen, June 18-21
2027 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 19-21
2027 Convention, Ramkota, Sioux Falls June 17-20
2028 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 18-20

2030 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER
Bids for the 2030 Convention & MidWinter are being accepted, at this time there are NO bid. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host either events should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept.

SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
The Dept Education Committee is asking all locals Posts to coordinate with their local Schools to identify potential candidates for the South Dakota Educator of the Year for School Year 2024-2025. Posts must submit nominees to their District Commander prior to Spring District Meeting. District Commander will submit to the Dept HQ no later than **May 1, 2025.** For more information visit <https://sdlegion.org/educator-of-the-year> or contact Mike Pauling at 443-619-2049.

TRAINING TUESDAY UPDATE
There is an exciting lineup for National’s Training Tuesday sessions. Below is the current schedule:

- April 29, 2025: Be The One - *Addiction Resources*
- May 27, 2025: Membership - *CPR/CSR*
- June 24, 2025: Resolutions - *Socializing Resolutions*
- July 29, 2025: Be The One - *UPDATE*

Get more info at www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE (NALC)

The application is available and is structured for ease of navigation. Questions were added to emphasize the role of servant leadership, asking applicants reflect on their commitment to leading with integrity, purpose, and impact. Application is at <https://www.legion.org/information-center/training/legion-college>. If you have any questions or need assistance, reach out to the Dept Adjutant. **DO NOT** send your applications to National they need to be routed through Dept HQ. Send to hq@sdlegion.org no later than July 15th.

NATIONAL COMMANDER POST EXCELLENCE AWARD

To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: 1) Membership: Attain at least 103% of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings. 2) Consolidated Post Report: CPRs submitted by July 1. 3) 90% Renewal Rate: Renew at least 90% of their 2024 members. 4) Conduct an event that connects the community and Post. The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria and submit to Dept HQ. List should include the post name, phone number, address, and commander's name. If possible, attach copies of press releases. Dept HQ will send Posts that qualify to National HQ.

NATIONAL COMMANDER

103% MEMBERSHIP GOAL DOG TAG COIN

Any Post, District, County, Department Commander or Membership Chair who achieves 103% of their member goal in 2025 can receive a dog tag coin. Complete the form online at www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/103-percent-membership-award & send it to Dept HQ hq@legion.org for verification.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DOG TAG COIN

A National Commander's "Be the One" dog tag coin will be awarded to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members. A new member is anyone who was not a member during the 2024 member year. Transfers, Auxiliary and Sons members don't count. Only one coin per individual. Complete the form online at www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/national-commanders-incentive-program and send it to National HQ kadams@legion.org

REMINDER TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION POSTS TO FILE IRS FORM 990

Federal tax regulations require every Post to file IRS form 990. This must be filled out by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your organizations accounting period. If the IRS does not receive this form, they will revoke the tax-exempt status of the Post. To get your Tax-exempt status back you have to apply and pay a sizeable fee. This process takes time (months) and can challenge even the most patient of individuals. The form can be down-loaded at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf>

FROM VAVS CHAIR CHAREMON DUNHAM

How to donate to the Sioux Falls VA through the Amazon Wish List-Registry for Voluntary Services.

Login to your Amazon account. Once logged into the account, you will find the Registry location at the top of the screen.

Once on the Registry page you will have two options to find the registry. One at the top in a drop down, or in the middle of the screen where it says Find a registry or gift list. They are listed as: *Sioux Falls Voluntary under GIFT LIST Select by clicking on the list

Once you are in the list the items will appear grouped by department if they are being specifically requested by that department or they will be in the ALL untagged gifts.

Once you have decided on an item, you are able to pick the quantity and where you want the item to be shipped when you add to the cart. Then check out and pay. If you choose to ship direct to the Sioux Falls VA, let them know so the receiving team does not send them back by accident. Donors of items delivered to the Sioux Falls VA will be sent a letter & you or your organization will get credit. Contact the CDCE office if you have any questions at VHASUXVOLUNTARY@va.gov Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) formerly Voluntary Services.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Happy April!

As we step into April and embrace the energy of spring, I want to take a moment to celebrate all that we have achieved together so far. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support have propelled us to incredible heights—and now, we're within striking distance of our next big milestone.

April 9, 2025, is the date we have our sights set on—our chance to hit 95% of 15,600. We're so close to this goal, with just 266 more to go. It's within reach, but we need to rally together in these final days to make it happen.

The progress we've made up to now has been nothing short of remarkable. Each of you has contributed to this journey, demonstrating time and again the strength, resilience, and determination of our Legion family. Now it's time to dig even deeper and reignite that "Eye of the Tiger" spirit. This is our moment to rise, to push past any remaining obstacles, and to finish what we started.

Let's use every tool, every ounce of energy, and every bit of determination to cross that finish line together. I believe in what we can achieve as a team, and I know we'll look back with pride on this accomplishment.

Thank you for your continued commitment and for always going above and beyond. Let's make April 9 a day to remember!

With gratitude and determination,

Bill Peters
605.360.6547
bpeters0551@gmail.com



OWN AN ORIGINAL

JOHN GREEN
OIL PAINTING

"VICTORIOUS
WARRIORS"

\$20 PER TICKET
DRAWN AT SUMMER CONVENTION

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE AT SPRING MEETINGS,
SUMMER CONVENTION AND THROUGH
SDAL FOUNDATION MEMBERS

GET YOURS TODAY!

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION