



Up To Now!

www.sdlegion.org - 605-886-3604 - adjutant@sdlegion.org

Issued Monthly from State Headquarters in Watertown, SD

C.P. Van Delist – Department Adjutant

No. 33702

May 13, 2026

- May 13 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE- ARMED FORCES DAY 100%
- May 14 DEC Meeting 7pm via MS Teams
- May 15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day
- May 15-17 National Oratorical Contest, Hillsdale College, MI
- May 16 Armed Forces Day
- May 25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed
- May 25-29 Boys State, Northern State University
- June 1 Committees & Commissions budget projections due to HQ
- June 1 Department Convention Go Getter certification due to HQ
- June 1 SDALPA Newspaper Awards due
- June 1 Consolidated Post Reports due
- June 2 Americanism Commission Meeting, 12pm Pierre Post 8
- June 4 Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate Credentials due
- June 5-8 Ride 605
- June 11 Finance Commission Meeting to draft FY 27 Budget
- June 11-14 Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, Brookings
- June 14 Athletic Commission Meeting- Pierre
- June 18-22 Department Convention, Aberdeen
- June 18-23 National Commander & Vice Commander Visit to SD
- June 19 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY, Office Closed
- June 20 Post History Awards due to HQ Registration desk by 1 pm
- June 21 Father's Day
- June 21-22 District Commander Seminar
- June 22-26 Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre
- July 3-5 INDEPENDENCE DAY Happy 250th, Office Closed
- July 8 Reading of the Declaration of Independence- Pierre
- July 14-18 Jr Shooting Sports National Championship
- July 17 Baseball Final day for Regular Season A Play
- July 18 SD ALA President's Homecoming
- July 18-19 Sioux Falls Air Show
- July 21-23 B Sr. Baseball Regional Tournament
- July 22-23 A Sr. Baseball Regional Play-In
- July 22-23 A Reserve Baseball Play-In
- July 27-28 B Jr. Baseball Regional Tournament
- July 28-Aug 1 A Sr Baseball State Tournament
- July 30-Aug 2 A Reserve Baseball State Tournament
- July 31-Aug 4 B Sr. Baseball State Tournament
- Aug 6-Aug 10 A Sr Baseball National Regional Tournament
- Aug 7-Aug 9 B Jr. Baseball State Tournament
- Aug 7-9 National Membership Workshop
- Aug 13-18 American Legion Baseball World Series, Shelby, NC
- Aug 23 - 27 American Legion Legacy Run
- Aug 28 – September 3 107th Annual National Convention – Louisville, Kentucky
- Sept 7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Office Closed
- Sept 9- MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF 50%
- Sept 18-20 Combined Americanism Conference
- Sept 19 District 6 Fall Meeting (Morning)
- Sept 19 District 5 Fall Meeting (Afternoon)
- Sept 20 District 4 Fall Meeting
- Sept 25 SD Buffalo Roundup, Custer State Park
- Sept 26 District 1&2 Combined Fall Meeting
- Sept 26 SD Legion Golf Tournament, Rapid City
- Sept 27 District 3 Fall Meeting (Afternoon)
- Oct 5-8 National Fall Meetings
- Oct 10 District 7 Meeting
- Oct 10 Department Commander Homecoming

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Legion Family,

I can't believe it is May already. Not sure where March and April went. As I have traveled around the state, I am amazed at all the great things our Legion Family is doing for our veterans, youth and communities. Please keep up the great work.



I want to focus on reports this month. Please get your Post Data Report and Officer Certification report submitted after elections. However, I would really like each post to focus on the Consolidated Post Report. This is not just a report that goes to the Department Headquarters, it is sent to National Headquarters where it is added to all the other Departments information. It is collated and it is added to the information the National Commander uses when he addresses congress or other organizations to explain what the Legion does for our country. Even if you are a very small post, and maybe did only one funeral or participated in one parade, it all counts and I need you to send in your report. If you are not sure how to fill it out or need some help, call your District Commander or Department Headquarters and we will help you get the information filed. I really would like to see 100% participation this year. The report is due June 1st.

Two other quick reminders. First, our department convention will be held in Aberdeen this year, June 18th to the 22nd. I hope everyone is making their hotel and banquet reservations. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Second, please continue to encourage those who have not renewed or joined our Legion Family to become members.

With the weather turning nicer, people will be doing their spring thing, so stay safe. Have a great month and remember:

- Legion family working together,*
- Involved in our communities,*
- Serving our veterans, children, and communities*
- Telling our stories.*

Kevin Hempel
Department Commander



MAY MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

We're Not Done. We're Not Slowing Down. We're Finishing Strong. We are now **one day** away from the 100% membership goal date. And yes — we will fall short of 100% this year. But let me be crystal clear: **Falling short of a number does NOT mean falling short of our mission.**

It does NOT mean we stop. It does NOT mean we ease up. It means we **push harder**, because veterans are counting on us. To every one of you who has renewed, reached out, encouraged others, and carried the torch — thank you. You are the heartbeat of the American Legion.

This Is the Final Push — And It Matters

Post leaders, I'm asking you to take one more look at your rosters. Find the members who haven't renewed for 2026. Reach out **one more time**. That one call, that one text, that one conversation could be the moment that brings a veteran back into the fold. There are veterans out there who don't even realize how much the American Legion can help them. Just recently, a veteran came to me confused about an intent-to-file letter from the VA. That's one veteran helped

— but there are thousands more who need guidance, support, and a community that has their back.

Sometimes all it takes is for someone to **ask**. Tell them why *you* belong. Tell them what the Legion has done for you. Tell them how their membership strengthens our voice and our impact.

June 30 Is Coming — And Our Voice Must Be Loud

As we close out the Legion year, I'm asking every member to bring in **just one veteran**. One. That's all it takes to move the needle.

Yes, joining now and getting a renewal notice in July can be confusing — but here's the truth:

When our National Commander stands before Congress to fight for veterans...

When legislation like the PACT Act is on the line...

When decisions are made that affect millions of veterans and families...

Membership is our strength.

Membership is our credibility.

Membership is our power.

Congress listens because we show up — united, committed, and strong.

This Is Our Moment — Let's Seize It

Every call you make matters. Every veteran you talk to matters.

Every renewal matters. Every new member matters.

We are the American Legion — and we do not back down. We do not quit. We do not let up when the finish line is in sight.

Let's finish this year with pride, passion, and purpose.

Thank you for everything you do for our Posts, our communities, and our veterans.

Bill Peters, Membership Chairman, 605-360-6547

THE FUTURE OF AMERICA IS WEARING A BLUE CAP

Boys State Blue Cap Day is Thursday, May 28. Legionnaires are welcome and encouraged to come for the day and witness what these outstanding young men accomplish at Boys State. Seeing the mock government, the leadership, and the civic engagement in action is a powerful reminder of why we invest in this program year after year.

Youth Trooper Academy Blue Cap Day is Wednesday, June 25. We encourage everyone to attend and see this incredible program as it commences. There is no better recruiting tool than watching these young people experience it firsthand.

On the recruiting front — spring is an ideal time to visit local middle schools and connect with eighth graders who may be strong candidates for the Oratorical Contest this fall. A brief personal visit now can open a door to a life-changing experience for a young person and serve as a point of pride for your Post.

Junior Shooting Sports had a standout year. Three South Dakota competitors earned spots at the national in-person championship in Colorado Springs, July 21–25 — Emma Dissing of Post 174 in Lennox, Austin Crawford of Post 80 in Britton, and Mason Stoesser of Post 8 in Pierre — and the Pierre Junior Shooters team posted an impressive 4th place national finish. The Department's new Shooting Sports Scholarship Program awarded its first scholarships to Emma Dissing and Stazy Sass. Posts interested in starting or growing a program are encouraged to reach out to Mike Kraft, who has led South Dakota's effort with outstanding results.

America 250 is an all-year celebration — not just a Fourth of July moment. Keep making progress on your Challenge 250 goals, share your America 250 events and moments on social media, and tag the Department page so South Dakota's contributions to this national milestone are seen and celebrated statewide.

The programs we champion exist because Legionnaires show up. The next generation is doing its part. Make sure they see you doing yours.

Carol Howitz, Department Americanism Officer

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 19, 2026

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

Friday, June 20, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
- 10:30 a.m.
 - Resolutions Committee meeting
 - Rules Convention Committee meeting
- 11:30 a.m. S.D.A.L.P.A. meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Convention Committee Chairmen meet
- 1:30 p.m.
 - Convention Committees Meet
 - SAL My Legion Training
- 2:00 p.m. SAL DEC Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. SDAL Foundation Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Joint Convention Memorial
- 6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails/Social
- 7:00 p.m. Joint American Legion Family Banquet

Saturday, June 21, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
- 8:30 a.m. Concert – State Legion Band
- 9:00 a.m. Convention Call To Order
 - Convention Business Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. SAL Explanation of Officer Roles
- 1:00 p.m. SAL Business Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Recess & Caucuses to select Vice Commander
- 5:00 p.m. Go-Getters Reception & Smorgasbord
- 8:00 p.m. SDAL Foundation Fun Auction

Sunday, June 22, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration desk opens for delegate credentials
- 8:30 a.m. Concert – State Legion Band
- 9:00 a.m. Convention business session reconvenes
- 12:00 p.m. Sweepstakes Drawings
Special Order of Business - Elections
Adjourn Convention, by Department Commander
- 30 minutes following close of Convention - Executive Committee & Finance Commission Meet

RESOLUTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

2026001 – Amend Constitution & Bylaws (Fidelity Bond)-

Updates terminology in the Constitution and Bylaws by replacing “surety bond” with “fidelity bond” to reflect modern financial standards and improve clarity and compliance for protecting organizational funds.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: Forward to Resolutions Committee. Reasoning: Not a constitutional issue.

2026002 – Rename Trust Committee-

Renames the “American Legion Trust Committee” to the “Investment Advisory Committee” to better reflect its role in financial oversight and asset management, and updates all governing documents accordingly.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: Forward to Convention with DO PASS recommendation. Reasoning: The term “trust” has a specific legal meaning—implying a formal trust entity with trustees and fiduciary obligations under trust law. The department does not operate such a legal trust. The existing committee functions as an investment advisory body, not as a trustee of a formal trust.

2026003 – Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility Change- Updates award criteria and wording to reflect “Scouting America” (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and expands eligibility to include individuals who have graduated high school and earned Eagle Scout within 24 months after turning 18.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Resolutions Committee.** Reasoning: Not a constitutional issue.

2026004 – Beer & Wine Sales at Legion Baseball Games-

Allows Posts to sell beer and wine at Baseball games, provided all laws are followed, with safeguards for safety and youth protection, and requires revenue to support baseball and youth programs.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Resolutions Committee.** Reasoning: Not a constitutional issue.

2026005 – Finance Operations & Bylaws Update-

Comprehensively reorganizes and clarifies financial procedures, responsibilities, and reporting requirements in the Constitution and Bylaws to improve transparency, accountability, and usability, with some updated language and structure

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Convention with DO NOT PASS recommendation.** Reasoning:

The resolution would effectively subordinate the Department Executive Committee to a finance structure that is not contemplated in the Constitution. It shifts authority away from the DEC and Commander in ways that contradict existing governance provisions. The proposed structure would likely require additional staff, more complex processes, and higher administrative overhead, without clear evidence that current controls are failing.

2026006 – National Convention Delegates Determination-

Replaces current rules for selecting National Convention delegates with a system that accounts for declining membership, defines delegate categories, and allocates delegates based on district representation and membership percentages.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Convention with DO PASS recommendation.** Reasoning:

Current Constitution authorizes more delegates than membership allows. Proposal prioritizes districts by membership percentage.

2026007 – District Meeting Location Requirements-

Requires District meetings to be held within their geographic boundaries, prohibits combining required meetings across districts, and clarifies scheduling, purpose, and participation expectations.

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Convention with DO NOT PASS recommendation.** Reasoning:

Conflicts with the Commander’s existing authority to call meetings and set locations when necessary. That authority is an important tool for problem-solving and coordination across districts.

Resolution solves no pressing problem, creates new ones, and unnecessarily constrains leadership. To preserve flexibility & avoid constitutional clutter, the Commission recommended do not pass.

THE RACE IS ON FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS...

- Post 15 endorses Bill Peters for Department Commander.
- Post 164 endorses Fred Nelson for National Executive Committee
- Post 3 endorses Doug Feltman for Alt National Executive Committee
- Post 154 endorses Shane Lamer for Eastern Dept Vice Commander
- Post 315 endorses Marv Tisdall for Western Dept Vice Commander
- Post 11 endorses Greg Geiman for State Sergeant-At-Arms.

2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET TICKETS

A deli buffet will be served on Saturday the 20st. Ticket cost will be \$20 per person.

Friday night Joint Banquet buffet will be roast beef with side. Ticket cost will be \$35 per plate.

Tickets requests **must be received by May 29th, 2026.** 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 24.** Ticket request should be mailed to:

Sidney L Smith Post 24
PO Box 2052

Aberdeen, SD 57402

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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

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!

The Auction will again feature an original oil painting by the artist John Green. This year's theme commemorates our Country's 250th Anniversary and should be a crowd pleaser. Arrangements are being made to have some guns at the Auction.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH SCHOOL SUPPLY EFFORT

As the 2025–2026 Children & Youth program year begins, the South Dakota American Legion Family is seeking volunteers to support an important initiative benefiting military children.

Volunteers are needed in the coming weeks to help pick up and distribute donated school supplies from participating Dollar Tree locations in Mitchell, Yankton, Watertown, Aberdeen, Brookings, Pierre, and Vermillion. Additional volunteer opportunities will be available later this fall to assist with toy donations from these same stores.

Efforts are also underway to expand participation to more Dollar Tree locations across the state. If your community has a Dollar Tree, you are encouraged to speak with store management about joining the program. If a store is interested but unfamiliar with the initiative, please gather the store’s details and share them so Operation Homefront can provide participation information.

Those interested in volunteering for supply pickup should sign up prior to the state convention. Volunteers may also register directly through Operation Homefront’s website.

In addition, volunteers are needed for the Back-to-School Backpack Distribution event at Ellsworth Air Force Base on Saturday, July 25. This event provides a valuable opportunity to connect with young military families and showcase the support offered by the American Legion. For more information or to volunteer, contact: Harry Boner, Children & Youth Chair, (605) 691-4571 or hb.boner@gmail.com

Together, we can make a meaningful difference for South Dakota's military families.

2026 CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS ****CHANGES****

Consolidated Post Reports have transitioned from the traditional three-page carbon copy format to a streamlined single-page version. As always you can also submit directly from your MyLegion account. **CPRs are due no later than June 1st!**

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE (NALC)

National American Legion College applications are being accepted. The process is all online at <https://www.legion.org/information-center/training/legion-college> currently we have one applicant, Diane Dickman.

THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDE 605

Thurs, June 4 – 6:00 PM 6th Annual ALR Meeting – Pierre Pizza Ranch. A memorial ride to Onida for Steve Stier is tentatively planned after dinner and meeting.

Ride 605 – Celebrating America's 250th Birthday. Ride 605 is one of the largest fundraisers for the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Donors are entered to win an original Vietnam painting by John C. Green, donated by Hugh Holmes. Donations of \$250+ earn an extra entry. Donations may be made at any ride stop, at the Dept Joint Banquet, or mailed to Dept HQ by June 12. Make checks payable to SDAL Foundation with "Ride 605" in the memo. The drawing will take place at the Joint Banquet during the Dept Convention. **Thank you!**

The Ride 605 starts and ends in Pierre: about 1,000 miles.

Contacts: Fred Nelson at fred.nelson@live.com or 605-641-7959
Micheline Nelson at Micheline.nelson@live.com or 605-645-1346

Day 1: Fri, June 5 (±275 miles) Pierre - Groton

9:30 am: **Pierre Capitol Lake:** Benediction of Bikes & Donations

10:30 am: Pierre to Gettysburg (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in**

Gettysburg for Program

12:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Gettysburg to Herreid (65 miles) – **arrive at 1:15 pm in Herreid** for Lunch and Program

2:45 pm: Fuel & KSU Herreid to Hosmer (50 miles) – **arrive at 3:45 pm in Hosmer** for Program

4:30 pm: Hosmer to Aberdeen Willie Park (60 miles) – 250 Flag and 50 States arrive at 5:20 pm for photo opportunity

5:40 pm Fuel in Aberdeen; ride to Warner (12 miles) – arrive at 6:20 pm in Warner for Dinner & Program

Lodging: 7:30 pm: Ride to Groton (20 miles) Hunting Lodge (12 beds) plus accommodations for 5 couples. 605-645-1346

Day 2: Sat, June 6 (±200 miles) Groton - Madison

8:30 am: Breakfast provided by Groton

9:30 am: **Groton** Post for the Program

10:00 am: Groton to Raymond (45 miles) – **arrive at 11:00 am in Raymond** for Lunch & Program

12:30 pm: Raymond to Huron (45 miles) – **arrive at 1:30 pm in Huron** for Program

2:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Huron to DeSmet (45 miles) – **arrive at 3:00 pm in DeSmet** for Refreshments & Program

3:45 pm: DeSmet to Arlington (35 miles) – **arrive at 4:30 pm in Arlington** for Program

5:00 pm: Arlington to Madison (30 miles) – **arrive at 5:45 pm in Madison** for Dinner & Program

Hotel: AmericInn Madison, 504 SE 10th St. Call: 605 646-2689

Day 3: Sun, June 7 (±275 miles) Madison to Burke

8:30 am: Fuel

9:00 am: Madison to Egan (60 miles) – **arrive in Garretson at 10:00 am** for Post Monthly Breakfast (Omelets) & Program

10:50 am: Garretson to Sioux Falls (30 miles) – **arrive at 11:20 am in Sioux Falls** for Monthly Pancake Fundraiser and Program

12:10 pm: Fuel & KSU Sioux Falls to Ethan (55 miles) – **arrive at 1:20 pm in Ethan** for Program

2:30 pm: Fuel and KSU Ethan to Wagner (50 miles) - **arrive at 3:30 pm in Wagner** for Program

4:45 pm: Fuel and KSU Wagner to Gregory (70 miles) – **arrive at 6:00 pm in Gregory** for Dinner & Program

Hotel Change: L Two Lodging, 743 W 7th St, Burke (8 miles)

Group for Ride 605 \$75 +tax - \$82.78 Phone: 605-775-2654

Day 4: Mon, June 8 (±225 miles)

8:30 am: Fuel & KSU Gregory to Winner (35 miles) – **arrive at 9:30 am in Winner** for Breakfast & Program

10:15 am: Winner to Oacoma (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in Oacoma**

11:30 am: **Al's Oasis** for Lunch

12:30 pm: Fuel & KSU Oacoma to Chamberlain Veterans Park (20 miles) – **arrive at 12:45 in Chamberlain** for Program

1:30 pm: Chamberlain to Pierre (Ft Thompson, Lower Brule, Route 1806 – scenic route (110 miles)

3:30 pm: Arrive in Pierre – Capitol Lake – end of the ride

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM

National Commander Dan Wiley will award his national commander **Be the One membership incentive pin** to any Legionnaire who obtains two new Legion members. A new member is for the 2026 membership year who was not a member of during the 2025 year. Transfers do not count. [Download the form](#)

103% Membership Award- Commander Wiley will award his Be the One membership incentive pin to any post, county, district, or department or membership chair who achieves 103% of their assigned membership goal for 2026. [Download Award Form](#)

To qualify for the **Post Excellence Award** a post must achieve in four areas: membership, Consolidated Post Report, 90% renewal rate, and community activity. Standard to be achieved is:

1. **Membership:** 103% of Post goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.

2. **Consolidated Post Report:** CPRs must be submitted by July 1.

3. **90% Renewal:** Of their members that were on the 2024 roster.

4. **Community Activity:** The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post.

Certification for the award: The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post and submit it to Dept HQ.

100% American Legion Family Ribbon

Commander Wiley will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100% membership by the 2026 100% membership target date.

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

HQ needs assistance in digitizing all Department Convention Proceeding and resolutions. We need 3-4 good Legionnaires scan in all the proceedings and resolutions to preserve them in one location and allow for better access. Also, HQ is cleaning out the basement. Following the SD Historical Society receiving much of the DEPT History it is time for some Spring Cleaning. HQ needs 3-4 good Legionnaires willing to help get rid of broken, obsolete or otherwise unserviceable furniture and equipment along with no longer need documents and records. If interested, please contact the Adjutant.

LEGION INSURANCE TRUST – [ID Resolve®](#)

Did you know... "Programs like [ID Resolve®](#) help demonstrate meaningful membership value beyond traditional benefits, and offer relevant content to share year-round. Every purchase made by a Legion Family member helps offset organizational costs, reducing pressure on membership dues. When Legion Family members **buy LIT** Department endorsed products, they support the mission and generate non dues revenue back to the Departments."

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026001

SUBJECT: AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO SUBSTITUTE "FIDELITY BOND" FOR "SURETY BOND

ORIGIN: Internal Affairs Commission

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota requires bonding of certain Department officers as a safeguard for the proper handling of organizational funds; and

WHEREAS, the current Constitution and Bylaws refer to a "surety bond" in several sections, including but not limited to Bylaws Article II, Section 3(a) and Article II, Section 4(c), which state that the Adjutant and Finance Officer shall "furnish...a surety bond...for the faithful performance of his/her duties"; and

WHEREAS, modern financial and insurance practices recognize a "fidelity bond" as the appropriate and industry-standard instrument for protecting nonprofit organizations against loss due to fraudulent or dishonest acts; and

WHEREAS, aligning the Department's governing documents with current bonding terminology strengthens financial controls, improves clarity for insurers, and ensures compliance with contemporary underwriting requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, at the American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 19-21, 2026 in Aberdeen, SD, that the American Legion Department of South Dakota all references to "surety bond" within the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department of South Dakota shall be amended to read "fidelity bond"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this amendment shall specifically include, but not be limited to, the replacement of the term "surety bond" in Bylaws Article II, Section 3(a) and Bylaws Article II, Section 4(c), which currently require the Adjutant and Finance Officer to furnish such a bond; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Adjutant is authorized to make all necessary clerical and conforming changes to ensure consistent use of the term "fidelity bond" throughout all governing documents, without altering the intent or substance of any provision; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall be incorporated into the next published revision of the Department Constitution and Bylaws.

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

- Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation Rejected
- Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____
- Other Action: _____

Signature of Chairman or Secretary:

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026002

SUBJECT: RENAME THE “AMERICAN LEGION TRUST COMMITTEE” AS THE “INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE”

ORIGIN: JEFF MERCHANT, POST 164 SPEARFISH, DISTRICT 1, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO *Internal Affairs Commission*

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota maintains a standing committee titled the *American Legion Trust Committee* as listed under Article IV, Section 6 of the Department Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the duties, responsibilities, and functional scope of this committee relate primarily to investment oversight, financial stewardship, and advisory support regarding the management of Department assets; and

WHEREAS, the current name “Trust Committee” does not accurately or fully reflect the committee’s modern purpose, fiduciary responsibilities, or alignment with contemporary financial governance terminology; and

WHEREAS, a clearer and more descriptive title will improve transparency, strengthen public understanding, and better communicate the committee’s mission to Posts, members, donors, and external partners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, at the American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 19-21, 2026 in Aberdeen, SD, that the American Legion Department of South Dakota, that the standing committee currently titled the “American Legion Trust Committee” shall be renamed the “Investment Advisory Committee”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all references to the “Trust Committee” within the Department Constitution, Department Bylaws, the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of Department Conventions, and any other governing or administrative documents shall be amended to read “Investment Advisory Committee”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this change shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall be incorporated into the next published revision of the Department Constitution and Bylaws; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Department Adjutant is authorized to make all necessary clerical, formatting, and conforming updates to ensure consistency throughout all governing documents, without altering the intent or substance of this amendment.

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____

Other Action: _____

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: Forward to Convention with DO PASS recommendation. Reasoning:
The term “**trust**” has a specific legal meaning—implying a formal trust entity with trustees and fiduciary obligations under trust law. The department does not operate such a legal trust. The existing committee functions as an investment advisory body, not as a trustee of a formal trust.

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: C.P. Van Delist, Department Adjutant, Commission Secretary

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention,
Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 18, 19, 20, 21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO.2026003

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHANGE
ORIGIN: DAVID R. BOOZE, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION PIEDMONT VALLEY POST 311 MEMBER
REFERRED TO STANDING INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 31: American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility, of the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, established eligibility requirements for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the “Boy Scouts of America” officially rebranded as “Scouting America” on 8 February 2025, coinciding with the organization’s 115th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, girls in Scouting America can earn the Eagle Scout rank by meeting the same requirements as boys; and

WHEREAS, an Eagle Scout typically must have reached their 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and

WHEREAS, per website link “[Age Requirement Eligibility | Scouting America](#)” an Eagle Scout board of review may occur, without special approval of the National Council Service center, up to twenty-four months after a Scout’s 18th birthday; and

WHEREAS, an Eagle Scout Recipient may have graduated from high school prior to his/her 18th birthday; and

WHEREAS, having graduated from high school either prior to his/her 18th birthday or prior to Eagle Scout board of review which may occur up to twenty-four months after a Scout’s 18th birthday; and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention assembled in Aberdeen, South Dakota, June 18th – 21st, 2026, approve for submission that The National American Legion change the wording within the Eagle Scout Award and related Scholarship documentation from “Boy Scouts of America” to “Scouting America;” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the criteria “Have reached their 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.” be changed to read “Have reached their 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school or graduated from high school and received the Eagle Scout Rank not later than 24 months after his/her 18th birthday, at the time of selection;” and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon adoption, this resolution shall take immediate effect and shall incorporate the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year award criteria and “Scouting America” title changes in the next edition of the American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 31 of the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled “American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility” is hereby superseded to reflect the amended change in criteria and “Scouting America” terminology.

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation Rejected
Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____
Other Action _____

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: _____

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026004

SUBJECT: To Allow Beer and Wine Sales at American Legion Baseball Games, In Accordance with Local Laws and Regulations

ORIGIN: Ryan Skjodal, Post 22, District 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of South Dakota is committed to supporting and sustaining American Legion Baseball as one of its premier youth programs, fostering sportsmanship, citizenship, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, many American Legion Posts across South Dakota face increasing financial pressures in maintaining baseball fields, equipment, umpire fees, travel support, and other operational costs associated with hosting and sponsoring Legion Baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, numerous community athletic programs throughout the state and nation have responsibly incorporated limited beer and wine sales as a means to increase revenue, enhance attendance, and strengthen community participation; and

WHEREAS, allowing the sale of beer and wine—strictly in accordance with all applicable state laws, municipal ordinances, licensing requirements, and venue regulations—provides an opportunity for Posts to responsibly generate additional income to support youth programming; and

WHEREAS, increased attendance and community engagement at Legion Baseball games directly benefit the young athletes through improved facilities, expanded programming, and greater visibility for the values of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion remains firmly committed to providing a safe, family-friendly environment at all youth events, and Posts implementing beer and wine sales shall maintain strict controls, including trained servers, designated sales areas, ID verification, and clear separation between alcohol service and youth activity spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Department Athletic Commission is the body charged with oversight of American Legion Baseball operations statewide and is therefore best positioned to develop, implement, and monitor standardized controls to ensure compliance, safety, and consistency across all participating Posts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, at the American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 19-21, 2026 in Aberdeen, SD, that Posts be authorized to offer beer and wine sales at American Legion Baseball games, provided such sales comply fully with all state and local laws, licensing requirements, and venue regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department Athletic Commission shall develop, publish, and oversee the enforcement of uniform procedures and safeguards governing beer and wine sales at Legion Baseball events, including but not limited to responsible-service protocols, youth-protection measures, and operational controls; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any Post choosing to implement beer and wine sales shall adopt written procedures consistent with the standards established by the Department Athletic Commission, ensuring responsible service and the maintenance of a safe and family-oriented environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that revenue generated from such sales be used exclusively to support American Legion Baseball and other approved youth programs, thereby strengthening the mission of The American Legion to serve veterans, youth, and community; and be it finally

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026004

SUBJECT: To Allow Beer and Wine Sales at American Legion Baseball Games, In Accordance with Local Laws and Regulations

ORIGIN: Ryan Skjodal, Post 22, District 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 2 of 2

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall rescind 2002 Department Convention Resolution No. 5, and that Rule 10 of the South Dakota American Legion Baseball Policy Manual be amended accordingly to reflect the authorization, controls, and oversight provisions established herein.

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation

Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on:

Other Action:

Signature of Chairman or Secretary:

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention,
Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 18, 19, 20, 21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO.2026005

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY AND UPDATE FINANCE OPERATIONS, PLUS SPECIFIED DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
ORIGIN: DAVID R. BOOZE, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICA LEGION FINANCE COMMISSION MEMBER

REFERRED TO *Internal Affairs Commission*

Page 1 of 7

WHEREAS, Constitution & Bylaws are required to provide the basic framework of fundamental principles and structure of the Department's finance organization including specific procedures and rules for financial operations, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution & Bylaws defines the roles, duties, and responsibilities of leaders, members, clarifying financial operations, accountability, providing a consistent operational plan for transparent development, approval, and execution of an annual budget, and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws are essential for maintenance of organizational integrity, accountability, transparency, and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory standards, and

WHEREAS, multiple duties, responsibilities plus various procedures and criteria are dispersed throughout the multiple Constitution & Bylaws Articles and Sections, and

WHEREAS, said certain roles, duties, responsibilities, and procedures are also buried in extensive wordy paragraphs as found for example in the Department's Bylaws, ARTICLE V, EXPENDITURES, Section 1. EXPENDITURES-APPROVAL-BUDGET of 493 words in one paragraph without separation of actions, tasks, responsibilities and policies with current formatting, hinders clarity and ease of understanding of expectations, and

WHEREAS, certain expectations and practices have been verbalized over time and not captured in written format, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention assembled in Aberdeen, South Dakota, June 18th – 21st, 2026, that the attached Constitution & Bylaws (exhibit A) as reformatted and with proposed verbiage changes identified in Red Font within this Resolution below, and further supported by exhibit A, be approved, and that as each separate action/change is reflected in the following additional "Resolved Clauses," and be it further

RESOLVED, that "Constitution" ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION, Section 2 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 2. CONVENTION COMPOSITION – DELEGATES – VOTE. The Annual Department Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Post with fifteen or more members.

- a) Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates and to one additional delegate and alternate for each fifty or major fraction thereof, memberships paid up fifteen days prior to the date of the Department Convention.
- b) Posts with less than fifteen members will be reviewed by the Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee to ensure they are in good standing and if so approved, will be entitled to one delegate and one alternate.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026005

Page 1 of 7

- c) The vote of each Post represented by a delegate or delegates at the Convention shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which that Post is entitled.
- d) The Department Executive Committee in the Mid-Winter meeting will examine posts with less than fifteen members and determine if each post is in good standing and is active in their community and if so, approve their delegate and alternate delegate status.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Constitution” ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION, Section 4 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS. All department standing committees shall file written reports with the Department Adjutant 30 days before each Department Convention, and these reports shall be printed and available to Convention Committees and Delegates.

- a) Any standing or special Department Committee to which Department funds are allocated shall file with the Department Commander at least five days prior to each Department Convention a complete and itemized financial report, showing funds received from whatever source, and disbursements made.
- b) Such report shall be placed before the convention by the Commander and printed in the annual convention Proceedings.
- c) No further Department funds shall be turned over from the Department Treasury to any Committee until it shall have filed its Financial Report with the Commander.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Constitution” ARTICLE IX CONVENTION RULES, Section 3 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 3. CONVENTION REGISTRATION – DISPOSITION – EXPENSES.

- a) Every Legionnaire attending the Department Convention shall register and pay a registration fee of \$1.00 and upon proper identification as a Legionnaire in good standing shall receive a Convention badge and be entitled to the privileges of the Convention. The Legion Post hosting the Department Convention shall retain this \$1.00 fee to help defray expenses incurred in holding the Convention.
- b) The registration fee for each Post’s delegate strength, regardless of attendance, shall be \$7.00 per delegate payable to The American Legion Department of South Dakota, in advance of the election at the annual Department Convention. Department Headquarters shall retain \$2.00 of each delegate registration fee and forward the remaining \$5.00 to the Department Convention host Post to help defray Convention costs.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Constitution” ARTICLE XI NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES, Section 1 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Convention Section 1. SELECTION DELEGATES — ALTERNATES.

- a) Delegates and Alternates to the National shall be nominated as may be provided for by the National Constitution; such delegates shall be nominated at each District’s Spring Convention so as to be representative of the entire state.
- b) If a delegate or alternate so nominated shall advise the Department Commander that he/she will be unable to attend the National Convention, the Department Commander shall have the authority to appoint a delegate or alternate to fill such vacancy; preference in such appointment to be given to those eligible from within the District in which the vacancy occurred.
- c) The Department Commander, immediate Past Department Commander, and the National Executive Committeeman shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention; provided, that in the event the delegates shall exceed 15 in number the Department Adjutant shall also be a delegate-at-large.
- d) In the event that there is a lack of nominees from any District at the Spring District Conventions, those vacancies will be nominated from the floor of the Department Convention during the General Session, to serve as delegates-at-large at the National Convention.

- e) When there are no more nominations or when all available delegate and alternate slots have nominees – the entire slate of delegates and alternates to the National Convention will be voted, as a group, by the Convention.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Constitution” ARTICLE XII CHARTER REVOCATION, Section 1 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 1. CHARTER REVOCATION.

- a) The Department Executive Committee shall have authority to revoke the charter of a Post when same shall lapse for non-payment of dues, or for steps which are outlined and directed by the Department Convention.
- b) In case any charter shall be revoked the records of the Post, dues on hand and property derived from dues shall revert to and become property of the Department;
- c) provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the Department to take over or assume any debts, obligations or other financial responsibility of such Post;
- d) and provided further that in case a Post shall consolidate with or join another Post such records, dues and property shall be turned over to the Post with which it shall unite.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Constitution” ARTICLE XV AMENDMENT, Section 1 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 1. AMENDMENT.

- a) Any amendment to this constitution may be proposed by any Post or by the Department Internal Affairs Commission.
- b) Any amendment proposed by a Post shall be submitted in writing to Department Headquarters at least six weeks prior to the annual Department Convention.
- c) The Department Adjutant shall present it immediately to the Department Internal Affairs Commission.
- d) At least thirty days prior to said convention the Department Internal Affairs Commission shall transmit to all Posts through Department Headquarters, full copy of all amendments submitted by Posts together with the favorable or unfavorable recommendation of the Department Internal Affairs Commission thereon, with a brief statement of reasons for such recommendations; and at the same time the Department Internal Affairs Commission shall in like manner distribute to all Posts full copy of any proposed amendments originating with the Department Internal Affairs Commission itself.
- e) No amendment shall be in order for consideration at any convention unless it shall have been so submitted or unless one day notice of a proposed amendment is given and there is then unanimous consent of all delegates to such consideration.
- f) If such unanimous consent is given, the Commander shall, immediately and without debate, refer the resolution to the Department Internal Affairs Commission for consideration and recommendation to the proposing convention, for final action.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Bylaws” ARTICLE I EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section 1 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 1. POWERS OVER POSTS — APPEALS.

- a) The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the organization, and shall pass upon all matters relating to the administration of the organization.
- b) It shall review, pass upon, accept or reject, all applications of local Posts, and shall forward to National Headquarters, such applications together with their recommendations; to review, pass upon, accept or reject, all audits or reports,

- c) and all travel or other expenditures made by any of the officers of the organization.
- d) It shall have full power to cause the dissolution of any Post when proofs of the eligibility of such Post shall be found to be defective or when the charter to such Post shall have lapsed for nonpayment of dues; or when such Post shall have violated any of the provisions of the Department or National Constitutions, or shall fail to substantiate its membership upon application for Charter;
- e) provided, that before such charter shall be declared to be lapsed, revoked or denied; such Post shall be given 30 days notice, giving time and place, to fully present its case,
- f) provided further that the action of the Executive Committee may be reviewed at the next Annual Convention.
- g) The Executive Committee shall have power and authority to hear and determine all appeals made by Posts, or individual members thereof relating to any action of the Posts, including any final action of the Post relating to eligibility to or suspension or expulsion from membership.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Bylaws” ARTICLE I EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section 4 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 4. POWERS — DUTIES — QUORUM.

- a) The Executive Committee shall have power to make rules and regulations for its guidance and for the conduct of its business and the duties of its officers or committees, not inconsistent with the Constitution or these Bylaws and shall have such other and further duties as set forth in these Bylaws.
- b) The Executive Committee shall meet for business sessions at least twice each year or upon call for a special session by the Department Commander.
- c) Fifty percent of the voting strength of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- d) It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to provide for an audit by a competent person, of the books and accounts of the Department Adjutant and the Finance Officer within forty-five (45) days after the end of the fiscal year and
- e) to ensure that a copy of the audit/compilation of accounts is provided to each member of the Department Finance Commission and Executive Committees and that the documents are available for inspection at State Headquarters.
- f) In addition, thereto the Executive Committee may cause an audit of such books and accounts to be made whenever such committee deems it necessary.
- g) A transcript of the minutes of the meetings of the Department Executive Committee shall be transmitted to the Posts, together with a complete record of the votes cast for or against the various measures or appropriations voted upon, and by whom voted, within fifteen days of the adjournment of the meeting.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that “Bylaws” ARTICLE II DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, Section 3 be reformatted without verbiage change to read as follows:

Section 3. DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT.

- a) The Department Adjutant shall receive from the local Posts all dues, per capita tax or assessments as provided in the constitution and as may be required by the National or Department convention; he/she shall keep a record of all meetings of the Department Convention and of permanent record in a book or books kept for the Executive Committee and record same for that purpose, and at each regular meeting shall read the same and make such corrections as may be allowed.
- b) He/She shall furnish to the Executive Committee for its acceptance and approval, a surety bond in the penal sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, payable to Department of South Dakota of The American

Legion for the faithful performance of his/her duties as such officer. The premium of such bond shall be payable out of the funds of the Department.

- c) If it shall appear at any time to the Executive Committee that such Adjutant has not faithfully discharged his/her duties as such, or has failed to properly account for funds in his/her hands, or that it would be for the best interests of the Organization that such Adjutant may be removed upon a three-fourth majority vote of the entire Executive Committee, and any deficiency under his/her bond collected.
- d) Under direction of the Department Commander, he/she shall cause ten days notice to be given of all meetings, except in case of emergency, when the time shall be fixed by the Department Commander.
- e) He/She shall keep a record of all the Posts within the Department, and shall obtain from each Post Adjutant a complete record of its personnel.
- f) He/She shall prepare for use at the Annual Convention a complete list and record of the membership of the several Posts, together with a statement showing the number of delegates to which such Post is entitled.
- g) He/She shall disseminate to the several Posts all circulars and communications as may be circulated by the National Headquarters, and such circulars or bulletins as may be authorized by the Executive Committee.
- h) He/She shall prepare and read at each Annual Convention a report covering all activities of the Department not reported by other officers or committees, and shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that "Bylaws" ARTICLE II DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, Section 4 be reformatted and with verbiage change identified in Red Font to read as follows:

Section 4. DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER.

- (a) The Department Finance Officer shall be the Chief Financial Officer and Fiduciary entrusted with safeguarding the highest standards of trust, honesty, and financial integrity of the Department by ensuring that all budgetary plus fiscal responsibilities, operations and management actions are conducted with transparency, accountability, and dignity in accordance with the Constitution & Bylaws, and policies of The American Legion to include Federal, State, Local, and Non-profit reporting requirements.
- ~~(b)~~ (b) The Department Finance Officer shall safeguard and receive from the Department Adjutant all dues, per capita tax, or assessments and other funds as provided in the Constitution, and as may be required by the Annual Department Convention. He/She shall serve on all Department financial accounts as one of the Department's financial signatories designated and approved by the Department Commander. He/She shall ensure ~~keep~~ a permanent record is kept of all monies received or disbursed by him/her; and of the sources from which such monies are received, and the purposes for which expended, to include investments, reserves, each American Legion Program's savings, and all other Department accounts. He/She shall pay out such monies, or any part thereof only upon proper order and voucher, given by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant or the Executive Committee, as hereinafter provided.
- ~~(c)~~ (c) The Department Finance Officer shall receive annually from the Department Adjutant a current listing of property assets and values owned and/or leased by the Department. Said list shall be maintained current jointly by the Department Adjutant and Department Finance Officer with record of any acquisitions and disposals that were approved by the Department Executive Committee after having been first reviewed and a recommendation made by the Department Finance Commission.

- (d) He/She shall render to the Department Commander, Adjutant, or the Executive Committee, or the individual members thereof, a complete report of all expenditures and receipts covering any specified period whenever directed to do so by the Department Commander. He/She shall **have full access to the Department's Accounting System and be assisted by the Department Finance / Bookkeeper without restriction** to keep his/her books and records in readiness for audit at any time.
- (e) He/She shall furnish to the Executive Committee for its acceptance and approval, a surety bond in the penal sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, payable to the Department of South Dakota of The American Legion for the faithful performance of his/her duties as such officer. The premium of such bond shall be payable out of the funds of the Department. If it shall appear at any time to the Executive Committee that such Finance Officer has not faithfully discharged his/her duties as such, or has failed to properly account for funds in his/her hands; or that it would be for the best interests of the Organization, such Finance Officer may be removed upon a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee, and any deficiency under his/her bond collected.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that "Bylaws" ARTICLE V EXPENDITURES, Section 1 be reformatted and with verbiage change identified in Red Font to read as follows:

Section 1. EXPENDITURES-APPROVAL-BUDGET.

- (a) The Department Commander shall appoint members of the Finance Commission to serve for revolving 4-year terms selected from a list of qualified persons vetted and approved by the Department Executive Committee prior to the Department Convention.
- (b) The Commander will appoint to vacant positions as well as fill any unexpired terms.
- (c) By virtue of his/her office, the Department Finance Officer shall be the fifth member of the Finance Commission and serve as its Chairperson.
- (d) Finance Commission members shall be eligible to serve more than one consecutive term.
- (e) ~~This~~ **The Finance Officer and collectively the Finance Commission shall be available on call to serve as principal advisors to the Department Commander, the Executive Committee, Trust Committee, and Department Foundation for consultation on any point of policy dealing with the income, expenditures or budget of the Department to include long-term fiscal planning, fundraising and resource allocation.**
- (f) It shall have the full authority of the Executive Committee on activities within the Legion program, but authority to commit the Department to new programs shall remain with the Executive Committee,
 - a. except that when the Department Commander, in consultation with the Department Adjutant, considers an emergency exists,
 - b. the Finance Commission shall agree upon the program and notice thereof shall be mailed or e-mailed from the Department Headquarters to all members of the Executive Committee, and unless two-thirds majority protest is received from the Executive Committee within ten days after the date of mailing or e-mailing from the Department Adjutant's office, the program in question shall be deemed approved.
- (g) The Executive Committee shall have the authority to review the activities of the Finance Commission.
- (h) The Finance Commission shall meet immediately after its election and frame a budget to carry out the mandates of the Convention and to conduct operation of the Department for the succeeding year.
 - a. It shall have the authority, from time to time, to modify this budget as occasion demands, but in no case shall it exceed the anticipated revenue for the year.
 - b. All convention measures or resolutions providing for an appropriation of Department funds, unless approved by the Finance Commission, must receive a two-thirds majority vote of the Convention.
 - c. **No change to policy, programs, and administration that may cause an increase to costs may be implemented or approved without the Finance Commission review and recommendation to the Executive Committee.**
- (i) No department, commission or committee shall expend or be entitled to receive more than the amount allotted to it under the budget,
- (j) and no amounts shall be received for travel except upon express authority of the Executive Committee or Department Commander, upon application stating the exact purpose and extent of travel.
 - a. Necessary expenses incurred in travel shall be paid by voucher.

- b. Any officer incurring travel expenses shall make a full report thereof, submitting same with his/her vouchers and authority for travel which shall be subject to review by the Finance Commission and may be referred to the Executive Committee for action if necessary.
- c. In addition to travel expenses, the Department Commander may be reimbursed for other expenses actually incurred by him/her in order to carry out his/her duties as Department Commander, upon making a full report thereof, submitting the same with vouchers, which shall be subject to review by the Finance Commission and may be referred to the Executive Committee for action if necessary.

and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon adoption, this resolution shall take immediate effect and be incorporated into the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

- Recommend Approval
 Recommend Approval as Amended
 Recommend Consolidation
 Rejected
 Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____
 Other Action _____

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: Forward to Convention with DO NOT PASS recommendation.
Reasoning: The resolution would effectively subordinate the Department Executive Committee to a finance structure that is not contemplated in the Constitution. It shifts authority away from the DEC and Commander in ways that contradict existing governance provisions. The proposed structure would likely require additional staff, more complex processes, and higher administrative overhead, without clear evidence that current controls are failing.

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: C.P. Van Delist, Department Adjutant, Commission Secretary

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026006

SUBJECT: DETERMINING DEPARTMENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

ORIGIN: KEVIN HEMPEL, POST 136, DISTRICT 7, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, The number of delegates to The American Legion National Convention are determined by ARTICLE V, Section 3 of the National Constitution and By Laws; and
WHEREAS, Department delegates to The American Legion National Convention are selected based on the Department of South Dakota Constitution and By Laws; and
WHEREAS, the membership numbers are declining which reduces the number of authorized delegates the Department is authorized; and
WHEREAS, the current Department of South Dakota Constitution and By Laws is no longer viable to properly identify the appropriate delegates; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, the current **ARTICLE XI of the Department of South Dakota Constitution be replaced with the following:**

ARTICLE XI
NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

Section 1. SELECTION OF DELEGATES — ALTERNATES. Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be nominated as may be provided for by the National Constitution, such delegates shall be nominated at each District’s Spring Convention so as to be representative of the entire state. If a delegate or alternate so nominated shall advise the Department Commander that he/she will be unable to attend the National Convention, the Department Commander shall have the authority to appoint a delegate or alternate to fill such vacancy; preference in such appointment to be given to those eligible from within the District in which the vacancy occurred. In the event that there is a lack of nominees from any District at the Spring District Conventions, those vacancies will be nominated from the floor of the Department Convention during the General Session, to serve as delegates-at-large at the National Convention. When there are no more nominations or when all available delegate and alternate slots have nominees – the entire slate of delegates and alternates to the National Convention will be voted, as a group, by the Convention.
Section

Section 2. DELEGATES AT LARGE. The Department Commander, immediate Past Department Commander, the National Executive Committeeman and the Department Adjutant shall be automatic delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Section 3. CALL-IN DELEGATES. Any Legionnaire that is “Called-In” to the National Convention as a member of a National Standing Commission or Committee, shall be authorized an automatic Delegate to the National Convention, and will be included in the total number of Delegate authorized for the Department.

Section 4. REMAINING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES. The number of authorized National Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates are based on department membership. When the total number of authorized National Convention Delegates is sufficient, each District shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate, if that district elected a Delegate at their respective spring meeting. In the event the authorized number of National Convention delegates is less than the total number of Delegates at Large, Call-In Delegates and elected District Delegates, selection of District Delegates will be based on District membership percentage of goal. District Delegates with the lowest percentage of goal will be automatically changed from Delegate to Alternate Delegate until the total number of delegates is equal to the authorized number of delegates.

and, be it finally;

RESOLVED, that upon adoption, this resolution shall take immediate effect and be incorporated into the Constitution and By Laws of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant: Miranda Krum

Post: 136

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____

Other Action: _____

Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: Forward to Convention with DO PASS recommendation.

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026006

SUBJECT: DETERMINING DEPARTMENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

ORIGIN: KEVIN HEMPEL, POST 136, DISTRICT 7, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 2 of 2

Reasoning: Current Constitution authorizes more delegates than membership allows. Proposal prioritizes districts by membership percentage.

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: C.P. Van Delist, Department Adjutant, Commission Secretary

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026007

SUBJECT: DISTRICT MEETING LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

ORIGIN: Jack French, POST 164, DISTRICT 1, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO *Internal Affairs Commission*

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of South Dakota is organized into geographic districts to ensure effective governance, communication, and participation among member Posts; and

WHEREAS, the Department Constitution and Bylaws establish Districts as distinct geographic and administrative units with defined responsibilities;

WHEREAS, District Meetings are essential for conducting District business, promoting the programs of The American Legion, and ensuring representation of Posts within each District; and

WHEREAS, holding District Meetings within the geographic boundaries of each respective District promotes accessibility, increases participation, and ensures equitable representation; and

WHEREAS, the absence of clear language in the Department Constitution and Bylaws regarding the required location of District Meetings may lead to inconsistency and reduced participation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that **ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION Section 7.** be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION Section 7.

There shall be at least two regular District Meetings required each year. These meetings shall be called by the Department Commander. There may be other District Meetings at the call of the District Commander, and the call for any such meetings shall be given by the District Commander to the Posts in his/her district at least 15 days before such meeting.

- a) **The Fall** District Meeting shall be called by the Department Commander not earlier than September 1 nor later than December 1 each year and the call for said district meeting shall be given by the Department Adjutant to the Posts of each District at least 15 days prior to said meeting. The intent of this meeting is to allow the newly elected Department Commander to address his/her requirements, goals and priorities for the year and to allow the District Commander to conduct business as required.
- b) **The Spring** District Meeting shall be called by the Department Commander not earlier than March 1 nor later than May 1 each year, and the call for said district meeting shall be given by the Department Adjutant to the Posts of each District at least 15 days prior to such meeting. The intent of this meeting is to allow the District Commander and Department to conduct business as required.
- c) **Location of Meetings.**
Each District of the Department of South Dakota shall conduct its regular and special District Meetings within the geographic boundaries of that respective District at a location determined by the District.
- d) **Purpose.**
District meetings shall be held for the purpose of conducting District business, promoting the programs of The American Legion, and ensuring representation and participation of Posts within the District.
- e) **Prohibition on Combined Meetings.**
No required Fall or Spring District Meeting shall be combined with another District in a manner that replaces the individual District meeting requirement, nor shall such required meetings be conducted outside the geographic boundaries of the respective District.

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Seventh Department Convention, Aberdeen, South Dakota
June 19-21, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026007

SUBJECT: DISTRICT MEETING LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

ORIGIN: Jack French, POST 164, DISTRICT 1, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO *Internal Affairs Commission*

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f) **Joint Activities.**

Nothing in this Section shall prohibit Districts from coordinating joint training, events, or activities, provided each District conducts its required meetings in accordance with this Section.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant: Fred Nelson

Post: 164

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

- Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation Rejected
- Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____
- Other Action: _____

*Internal Affairs Commission Recommendation: **Forward to Convention with DO NOT PASS recommendation.***
Reasoning: Conflicts with the Commander's existing authority to call meetings and set locations when necessary. That authority is an important tool for problem-solving and coordination across districts. Resolution solves no pressing problem, creates new ones, and unnecessarily constrains leadership. To preserve flexibility & avoid constitutional clutter, the Commission recommended do not pass.

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: C.P. Van Delist, Department Adjutant, Commission Secretary

**\$10K
Hole-In-One Prize**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AMERICAN LEGION**

Golf Tournament

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

**12:00 PM CHECK-IN, 1:00 PM SHOTGUN START
AWARDS BANQUET @ POST 22 TO FOLLOW**

**MEADOWBROOK GOLF COURSE
RAPID CITY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place
Hole Prizes
Raffle

\$10,000 Hole-In-One Prize

**JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE
ON AND OFF THE GREEN!**

CONTACT US:

Jackie Miller
Post 22 Adjutant
209.740.9049
Post22adjutant@gmail.com



**4-MAN Scramble
\$500 per team**



DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AMERICAN LEGION

Golf Tournament
TEAM REGISTRATION



Team of 4: \$500

Cost of Registration includes 18 holes of golf, cart, range balls, and dinner reception.

One member of the team must be an American Legion Family (TAL, SAL, Auxilliary) Member

Player #1

Name: _____ Email: _____

Post: _____ Phone: _____

Player #2

Name: _____ Email: _____

Post: _____ Phone: _____

Player #3

Name: _____ Email: _____

Post: _____ Phone: _____

Player #4

Name: _____ Email: _____

Post: _____ Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to: American Legion Post 22
Mail to: P. O. Box 895, Rapid City, SD 57709
Write GOLF TOURNAMENT in the memo line.
Questions: Contact post22adjutant@gmail.com