

2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH
DAKOTA
THE AMERICAN
LEGION



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**THE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
2019-2020
REPORTS OF OFFICERS
AND COMMITTEES**



STATE OFFICERS FOR 2019 – 2020

Department Commander, Fred Nelson	Spearfish
Department Vice Commander Kevin Morello, (Districts 1-2).....	Black Hawk
Department Vice Commander Harry Boner, (Districts 3-8)	Castlewood
National Executive Committeeman, Jim Huls	Madison
Alternate Executive Committeeman, Denny Brenden	Watertown
Adjutant, Travise Flisrand	Castlewood
Finance Officer, Gary Wolkow	De Smet
Americanism, Doug Harris	Rapid City
Judge Advocate, Gary Schumacher	De Smet
Service Officer, Courtney VanZanten	Colton
Historian, Fred Lee	Sioux Falls
Chaplain, Patrick Lewellen.....	Spearfish
Sergeant-at-Arms, Verle Whipple	Clear Lake
Membership Chairman, Ed Stringer	Hartford
Children & Youth, Miranda Krumm	Chester

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

District 1: David Booze	Summerset
District 2: Eugene Iron Shell Jr.....	Rosebud
District 3: LeRoy Madsen.....	Pierre
District 4: Perry Schmidt	Redfield
District 5: Matt Lagerstrom	White
District 6: Doug Feltman	Chamberlain
District 7: Rodney Smith	Chester
District 8: Gregory Geiman	Scotland

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYISTS

Travise Flisrand	Castlewood
Kim Hallock	Fort Pierre
Doug Feltman	Chamberlain
Chris VanDelist	Rapid City

VA HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center, Larry Panning	Sioux Falls
Ft. Meade VA Medical Center, Jim Childers.....	Spearfish
Hot Springs VA Medical Center, Kerwin "PeeWee" Douthit.....	Hot Springs

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS

Aeronautics, Jim Huls.....	Madison
Athletic, Dan Sudbeck.....	Dimock
Boys State, Chris VanDelist	Rapid City
Cemetery, Brian Dean	Spearfish
Children and Youth, Miranda Krumm.....	Chester
Educational Scholarship, Hugh Holmes	Mitchell
Employment, Greg Dias	Spearfish
Internal Affairs, Mark Weinmann	Canton
Legislative, Rod Martens.....	Piedmont
National Security, Mark Mills	Custer
Rehabilitation, Warren Aas	Watertown
Trust Fund, Randall Rakness	Watertown
VAVS, Kenneth Van Kekerix	Witten

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH****BASIS June 30, 2020****See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report****ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	293,616
Certificates of deposit		17,500
Education loans receivable		125,099
Inventory		13,593
Marketable equity securities		565,091
Property and equipment		
Equipment		40,648
Vehicles		52,576
Leasehold improvements		3,320
Accumulated depreciation		(76,900)
Total Assets	\$	1,034,543

LIABILITIES

Payroll taxes payable	\$	81
Total Liabilities		81

Net Assets

Temporarily restricted		180,224
Unrestricted		854,238
		1,034,462

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	1,034,543
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THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS

Year Ended June 30, 2020

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Revenues and Gains			
Membership dues	\$ -	\$ 266,983	\$ 266,983
Sales of merchandise	-	80,789	80,789
Cost of merchandise sold	-	(40,804)	(40,804)
Donations	6,465	-	6,465
Interest and dividends	786	20,437	21,223
Realized gain on sale of investments	-	15,088	15,088
Unrealized gain on investments	-	(4,140)	(4,140)
Other	4,800	70,829	75,629
Total Revenues and Gains	12,051	409,182	421,233
Net Assets Released From Restrictions			
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(138,519)	138,519	-
Expenses			
Program services:			
Children and youth	-	4,098	4,098
Athletic commission	-	5,321	5,321
Veterans services	-	5,600	5,600
Education loans	-	123,500	123,500
	-	138,519	138,519
General and administrative	-	294,374	294,374
Fundraising	-	17,832	17,832
Total Expenses	-	450,725	450,725
Change in Net Assets	\$ (126,468)	\$ 96,976	\$ 29,492
Net Assets, Beginning	\$ 306,692	\$ 757,262	\$ 1,063,954
Change in net assets	(126,468)	96,976	(29,492)
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 180,224	\$ 854,238	\$ 1,034,462

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH
BASIS June 30, 2020

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

ASSETS	General Fund	Children and Youth Fund	Athletic Commission Fund	Oratory Fund	Historian Fund	Veterans Services Fund	Education Loans Fund	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$238,991	\$16,105	\$ 17,796	\$ 1,487	\$ 500	\$ 4,234	\$ 15,033	\$ 293,616
Certificates of deposit	17,000							17,500
Education loans receivable							125,099	125,099
Inventory	13,593							13,593
Marketable equity securities	565,091							565,091
Property and equipment								
Equipment								40,648
Vehicles								52,576
Leasehold improvements								3,320
Accumulated depreciation								(76,900)
Total Assets	\$ 757,471	\$ 16,105	\$ 17,796	\$ 1,487	\$ 500	\$ 4,234	\$ 140,102	\$ 1,034,543
LIABILITIES								
Payroll taxes payable								\$81
Total Liabilities								\$81
Net Assets								
Temporarily restricted		16,105	17,796	1,487	500	4,234	140,102	180,224
Unrestricted	854,238							854,238
	854,238	16,105	17,796	1,487	500	4,234	140,102	1,034,462
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 854,319	\$ 16,105	\$ 17,796	\$ 1,487	\$ 500	\$ 4,234	\$ 140,102	\$ 1,034,462

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH

BASIS Year Ended June 30, 2020

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

	General Fund	Children and Youth Fund	Athletic Commission Fund	Oratory Fund	Historian Fund	Veterans Services Fund	Education Loans Fund	Total
Revenues and Gains								
Membership dues	\$ 266,983	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 266,983
Sales of merchandise	80,789							80,789
Cost of merchandise sold	(40,804)							(40,804)
Donations		900				5,465	100	6,465
Interest and dividends	20,437	4	5			1	776	21,223
Realized gain on sale of investments	15,088							15,088
Unrealized gain on investments	(4,140)							(4,140)
Other	70,829		4,800					75,629
Total Revenues and Gains	409,182	904	4,805			5,466	876	421,233
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	138,519	(4,098)	(5,321)			(5,600)	(123,500)	
Restrictions satisfied by payments								
Expenses								
Program services:								
Children and Youth	4,098							4,098
Athletic commission	5,321							5,321
Veterans services	5,600							5,600
Education loans	123,500							123,500
	138,519							138,519
General and administrative	294,374							294,374
Fundraising	17,832							17,832
Total Expenses	450,725							450,725
Change in Net Assets	\$ 96,976	\$ (3,194)	\$ (516)	\$	\$	\$ 134	\$ 122,624	\$ 29,492
Net Assets, Beginning	\$ 757,262	\$ 19,299	\$ 18,312	\$ 1,487	\$500	\$ 4,368	\$ 262,726	\$1,063,954
Change in net assets	96,976	(3,194)	(516)			(134)	(122,624)	(29,492)
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 854,238	\$ 16,105	\$ 17,796	\$ 1,487	\$500	\$ 4,234	\$ 140,102	\$1,034,462

**STATE COMMANDERS ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

Legionnaires,

The first half the year flew by, it was exciting and eventful. I put 38,000 miles on the van and seemed to be shooting back and forth across South Dakota like I was in a pinball game. The staff at the Vivian Truckstop were starting to recognize me. I was taking pictures, shooting videos, visiting Posts, and helping to promote the American Legion throughout South Dakota.

The second half of the year, COVID-19 hit, and everything slowed to a turtles' pace. The van is parked, and the new norm is meeting via the Zoom conferencing system. Don't get me wrong, it is always great to see everyone's face on my computer screen, but it just isn't the same as a face-to-face meeting with a good old fashioned handshake. But we need to be thankful that we are still able to meet and conduct business.

What is Zoom? It is a video communications system that is easy and reliable. It allows up to 300 to connect and attend an online meeting. It is conference calling with video. A person can call in with a telephone, computer, tablet, or smartphone. The Department, as well as the District Commanders, and Committee Chairs now have access and can take advantage of connecting with other members via Zoom.

COVID-19 caused the cancelation of the Spring District Meetings, the Youth Trooper Academy, Boys State, the American Legion 2020 Baseball Season, the National Convention, and many other events and meetings. I attended a National Zoom meeting, where Department Commanders and Adjutants gathered to discuss how each department was dealing with COVID-19. Our National Commanders-and the Vice Commanders will each be staying in office for another year. In South Dakota, our current elected officers in District and Department leadership positions have been asked to remain in office. We'll add District elections to our Fall district meetings, and the department elected leadership will remain in office until our next convention. The Internal Affairs Committee is currently reviewing our constitution and by-laws for needed changes. We'll want to be prepared if we re-encounter another event such as we have this year.

At the end of March, a small group of us gathered at the American Legion Post Home in Brookings and conducted interviews for the Department Adjutant's position. We arranged the seating to where we were all a safe distance from the others, and we interviewed three highly-quality candidates. From the three, we selected Kevin Hempel. Kevin served thirty years in the Navy, was currently serving as a vice district commander and as our Department Training Committee Chairman. Kevin accepted the position and joined the headquarters team a couple of weeks later. Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand spent two weeks with Kevin. Travis shared that Kevin listened well and took a lot of notes. Kevin is now on his own and is doing a great job. Next time you find yourself with our department adjutant, please introduce yourself.

Before I end my report, I would like to mention four items:

- Take some time during this time of social distancing and complete the American Legion Basic Training, which is located online at <https://www.legion.org/alei>. There are no costs, and you learn about our history and programs.
- I encourage Legionnaires to consider applying to attend the National American Legion College. It is an experience I will always be thankful I had, and I value the lessons I learned.
- Post Consolidated Reports (PCR) – Our goal is 100% of all posts in the department submitting their report. Talk to your Post Adjutant and ask them about the report. Offer your assistance.
- Membership – Lastly, I have to mention membership. It is what makes the American Legion successful, and it is the key to the success of our programs. Everyone knows someone that isn't a member, ask them to join and share our great organization with them.



There is little doubt in my mind that 2020 is a year I will not forget, as I am sure many of you will also remember these challenging times for our communities, state, and nation. We are blessed to live in South Dakota, and I am thankful for our American Legion Family.

For God and Country, we associate together!
Fred Nelson, Your Department Commander

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OUTGOING DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Department Commander:

This report is being written and read to satisfy the requirement in the By-Laws that the Department Adjutant write and present at each annual convention, a report covering all activities not covered in the annual reports of Committee Chairs and other State American Legion officials.

The American Legion is a member of the South Dakota Veterans Council, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. The council meets four times a year to discuss issues involving the Veterans of South Dakota. The council's main goal is to stand together on Legislative bills to better improve the lives of veterans. The endowment for the South Dakota State Cemetery in Sioux Falls was created by the Veterans Council and is managed by the South Dakota Community with the goal of having \$3,000,000 in the endowment by 2023.

The American Legion Foundation is in its tenth year and has a market value of approximately \$200,000. Donations continue to come in on a yearly basis from Legionnaires and Legion Posts. The foundation is a 501c3 tax exempt

corporation and can receive donations from any companies and individual donors. The board of directors for the foundation has a goal of having \$1,000,000 in the endowment in 5 years.

State Headquarters Staff had a solid year. Judy Greenfield and MaryJo Boner are the corner stone to everything in the office and are a great team working together. Assistant Adjutant / Dept. Service Officer Courtney VanZanten continues to be a valued asset to veterans in South Dakota and additional resource at State HQ for services to our membership.



Mr. Commander, since most of the State Officers have filed complete reports published in the June issue of the South Dakota Legion News, most of the activities of the Department have been covered and reported on. With Kevin Hempel taking over as Department Adjutant on May 1, 2020 after my decision to leave the position due to personal reasons, I would like to congratulate you on a very interesting and successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Travise Flisrand
Past Department Adjutant 2017-2020

GREETING FROM THE INCOMING DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Hello from the new Department Adjutant, Kevin Hempel. As many of you know, Travis decided to resign as the Department Adjutant, and I worked alongside him for the last couple of weeks in April learning a great deal about what this position entails. With turnover completed, I officially became the Adjutant on 1 May.

Let me start with some quick background on myself. I was born and raised in South Dakota, attended Sioux Falls Lincoln High School, and am a graduate of SDSU (Go Jacks!) I retired from the U. S. Navy (Go Navy!) after serving proudly for 30 years. I retired as a Captain. At that point, my wife (Robin) and I returned to South Dakota and opened a small custom woodworking business. When the Adjutant's position opened, I applied and was fortunate to be offered the position. I have been a member of the American Legion for 7 years, and although I am considered a new guy to the Legion, my time has been well spent. Almost as soon as joining, I was recruited to be the Post Adjutant, then served as the 2nd Vice, 1st Vice, followed by the Commander. I served as the District Americanism Officer and was elected the District Vice Commander the following year.

As I followed Travis around for the two weeks before I took over, I quickly learned there are a lot of balls to keep in the air and a large learning curve. With that said, I would ask your indulgence as I get comfortable in the seat. It might take me a little longer to get your answers at first, but I am confident it will all fall into place.

The office staff (Judy, Mary Jo, and Courtney) are great sources of information and will be keeping me on the right track.

This has been and will be a year of changes. With most Department and National events cancelled until the fall, we need to find alternate ways of doing our business of taking care of Veterans and families, as well as ourselves. We can still conduct our programs; we just need to find innovative ways of getting them done. I encourage Posts to do their buddy checks, especially for their older veterans. See if they need something from the store or need help getting something done at the house. Many times, a simple phone call will let them know they are not forgotten and someone is looking out for them.

That is all for now. Let me close by saying I am really pleased to be your new Adjutant and look forward to working with you and our veterans.

For God and Country,
Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN REPORT

Commander:

Welcome to Kevin Hempel as our new Department Adjutant. Kevin comes to us a very well qualified person with great interest in the South Dakota American Legion. We were very fortunate to have many well qualified candidates for the position.

A big thank you to Travis Flisrand for serving the South Dakota American Legion as our Adjutant through the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. During his time, the South Dakota American Legion had a number of significant accomplishments, namely the 100th Anniversary Float that made two National Conventions, a beautiful South Dakota Centennial Coin that sold well; allowing the Department to fund the float and then advanced the South Dakota American Legion Logo on clothing worn by Legionnaires with pride. Travis's contributions to the South Dakota American Legion will be noted for years to come. Thanks again.

Thank You to our office staff for their work during this trying year, Thank you Courtney, Judy and Mary Jo.

With Covid-19 arriving in March, many things have changed at the State and National Level of the American Legion. At the National Level, the Washington Conference held in March was the last face to face meetings held. Everyone was glad to get home without contracting the Virus. The Spring Meetings of the NEC held in May were cancelled, The National Convention to be held in Louisville in August along with the pre- and post-convention meetings of the NEC were also cancelled. The Fall Meetings of the NEC are still planned for October 12-15 in

Indianapolis. ZOOM is being used for meetings at both the State and National level, what would we do without technology?

All Nationally elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next National Convention scheduled in Phoenix from August 27 through September 2, 2021

All national commission and/or committee chairpersons and the current commission and committee members will continue serving in their current position until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Fall Meeting in Indianapolis October 12-15, 2021. Any resolutions needing to come before the American Legion National Executive Committee , including the re-adoption of our legislative agenda, with the exception of those legislative initiatives that the National Legislative Commission deems to have been fulfilled or are no longer relevant, may be brought forth to the National Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.



The per capita dues for the American Legion National Organization will remain at \$18.50 for 2021. The next National Commander will be Elected in Phoenix at National Convention, August 27-September 2, 2021, leading candidates are Paul Dillard (Texas) and Randy Fischer (KY). All National Officers of the American Legion will start a New Year effective with the date that the National Convention would have closed, that being September 3, 2020.

Stay Healthy
For God and Country,
Jim Huls, National Executive Committeeman

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander Nelson:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Americanism Chairman. Your support and leadership for the programs of this vital American Legion Pillar during this unusual year have been greatly appreciated. The challenges started early with widespread flooding during the Fall District meetings and culminated with schools closing throughout the state. Eventually, nearly every program was canceled due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Despite these numerous challenges, the Americanism officers and members pushed forward with school visits early in the school year to get the word out about our excellent programs.

I especially appreciate all those who helped me create and implement the “Big 3” marketing plan. The goal was to create a single page document our members could utilize to explain and market the Oratorical, Boys State, and Youth Trooper programs to High School counselors, students and community leaders

(Scouting/PTA/4-H). Department Staff, Boys State Board members and the marketing team at Northern State University were instrumental in putting this together and creating the materials sent out to Posts and schools. All the cancellations and disruptions make it hard to measure the success or failure of this marketing tool. In conjunction with my partners mentioned earlier, I will continue to refine and utilize this tool for the 2021 school year.

We had a successful Department Oratorical contest (despite a few minor “mess ups” from a new chairman) during the Midwinter conference. Thank you again to all of you who helped pull that off. A special thank you to former chairman, Larry Madsen for mentoring me and helping us all through the process. Five of the eight districts sent a competitor with District 3 competitor (Samantha Leigh Tamanus from Gregory) taking the trophy and \$1,000 scholarship. Unfortunately, the National competition was canceled, but our Department winner still received the \$2,000 scholarship she would have earned by competing in the 1st round of the competition.

2020 Boys State was canceled in early April after the Boys State Board of Directors weighed all available Corona Virus information as well as the predicted path forward. This move was nearly unprecedented, with the only other cancellation taking place during WWII. This decision meant an entire year group of young leaders would be unable to attend this program. After much discussion between multiple Departments and National Americanism leaders, National ruled that **“American Legion departments possess the authority to establish their own criteria for Boys State program eligibility, selection, participation and operation and should proceed with their respective programs accordingly.”** As your Americanism Chairman, I will be lobbying hard to allow this year’s Junior class to apply and attend the 2021 program along with next years’ Junior class (meaning both Juniors and Seniors for 2021). This decision will most likely be made when the Boys State Board of Directors meet this summer to plan for next year. Congratulations go out to several of our 2019 Boys Staters; one received a \$10,000 Samsung Scholarship and another an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. There are many truly outstanding individuals who attend this program and we look forward to meeting the next group.

Our Youth Trooper Academy was also canceled after careful consultation between Department leadership and SD Highway Patrol personnel. Fortunately, this program already allows both Juniors and Seniors to apply and attend. Unfortunately, 2020 Seniors who didn’t attend last year as Juniors, will not have an opportunity to experience this wonderful program. Thank you to all who worked hard to put this year’s program together and continue to adjust to and overcome obstacles to plan for 2021. One highlight from this year was the attendance at the Midwinter Conference by Kellen Hood, the first South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy graduate to join the South Dakota Highway Patrol. See the April 2020 Legion News (located online at [sdlegion.org/legion-news](https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Legion-News-Apr-2020-Web.pdf)) article for a picture: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Legion-News-Apr-2020-Web.pdf>

As I write this report, there has been some exciting news. The Department Executive Committee approved a motion to **“to sanction a 2020 South Dakota American Legion Baseball Program to be administered by Sponsoring Posts, coaches and managers.”** I look forward to the report of our Athletic Commission Chairman and watching a LOT of AL Baseball this summer.

As always, thank you to Rick MacDonald for his leadership and commitment to Scouting!

Finally, we will still have Post Americanism reports to hand in and review. If you believe your post has gone above and beyond, then make sure it reflects in your report. Don't be afraid to brag about your contributions to your community. Take the time to build an impressive report, complete with pictures and appropriate brochures. For the 2020 – 2021 membership year, I hope to gather some of the outstanding reports/packages sent in and add them on our website as “examples” or “roadmaps” for others to follow. Normally the Commission holds their annual meeting during “Legion Day” at Boys State, but that isn't possible this year, so I will work with Commander Nelson to come up with a new date. Will most likely take place in June.



I wrap up this report with a huge THANK YOU to all of you who continue to serve your communities, as you served our country. I ask that you work extra hard next year to engage with the youth of our communities in order to overcome this “lost” year.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas D. Harris, Chairman

ATHLETIC COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The SD American Legion Athletic Commission would like to thank all the Posts who hosted Athletic events this past year, for the upcoming events this year and for all the support given to the commission by Department Commander Fred Nelson and all his staff.

Last year events overall went pretty well with not a whole lot of controversy. Special thanks go out to Lennox, Mitchell, Groton, and R. C. Post 320 for hosting our 2019 St Tournaments. Congratulations go out to our 2019 winners who are as follows: Lennox-St B Sr, Renner Post 307-St A Sr, Renner Post 307-St A Jr. and Britton/Claremont-St B Jr. We also like to thank the Hartford for hosting our 2019 golf tournament. Congratulation goes out to Nicholas Kemper from S. F. East and Post 15 for being out 2019 Scholarship winner of a \$ 1000 at the state level and another \$ 2500 for being the Central Plains Regional Scholarship winner also. A very fine achievement and to my knowledge our first Regional winner ever.

The 2020 St Tournament host are as follows: Post 131 of Brandon/Valley Springs will host the Class A Sr division; Post 39 of Groton will host the Class B Sr division; Post 15 of S.F. will host the Class A Jr division; and Post 92 of Redfield will host the Class B Jr division. This year annual Golf Tournament will again be hosted by the Posts of both Humboldt and Hartford on Sept 12th-13th. They did a

great job last year and said they would do even a better job this year. Again, thanks to all.

At this year's mid-winter meeting the following Posts were awarded St Tournament for the 2021 Season. R.C. Post 22 will be hosting the Class A Sr division between July 23rd thru July 27th; Post 6 of Gregory will be hosting the Class B Sr division between July 29th thru August 2nd; Post 15 of Sioux Falls will be hosting the Class A Jr division between July 23 thru July 27th and Post 60 from Clark will be hosting the Class B Jr division between Aug 6th thru Aug 8th. The 2021 Golf tournament site has not been determined yet so if your Post would be interested in hosting please contact Elton Blemaster or Gene Gillen. Since the 2020 season has been cancelled it is anticipated that all 2020 site location will be tournament hosts for 2021 season and the awarded sites for 2021 will be pushed back to 2022. Also, all dates are unofficial until I see what Nationals tournament dates are for 2021. This is all unofficial until we have another meeting to decide the final sites and dates on the next 2 years.

What's up as of May 13th, 2020? Well, have you heard of this thing called COVID 19? Not only is it raising havoc on the country it is also raising havoc on A.L. Baseball. A few weeks ago, we decided we would make a decision on having a baseball season by May 15th due to this COVID 19 thing. Since May 1st we have changed our mind no less than five times. First let's wait and see what's happening with the virus, next we decide we could possibly have a season, and then we changed again thinking it was too big of a risk after listening to all the reports elsewhere but not terrible in SD. At that point I put out a survey to coaches to get their input on the situation and their thoughts of to having a season with some guidelines. The survey comes back overwhelming in favor of going forward with a season. So, on May 9th the Athletic Commission along with Commander Nelson had a 2-hr. meeting to decide the fate of our season. The decision was made to have a season by the Athletic Commission with the consent of our Commander and the DEC who was having a meeting that same evening. Guess what, everyone agreed to having a season with some guidelines for the coaches to follow. That evening everything is great until Sunday May 10th at 2:29 PM I receive an email from National Headquarters stating for the 25 States who were still on the fence about having a season that there were shutting down all National support for A.L. Baseball program for the 2020 season. So that shut down our A.L. season for the 2020 year only. Even though we did have our season shut down we still had to have one more emergency meeting to get approval for teams that were still going to play baseball to be able to use the American Legion name and logo (Baseball patches) which is protected under Trademark laws. Approval was granted to use the American Legion name and logo. Thank You!

In conclusion, I know some teams are still going to play baseball and I wish them the best and stay safe. I feel we all thought we were making the correct decision for allowing teams to play under the A.L. umbrella and the number of calls I have been receiving have been nothing but positive for the a 2020 season and the A.L. stance on baseball. We appreciate the positive comments. We tried.



Mr. Commander thank you for all your help and assistance and that concludes my report and on behalf of the Commission it is our pleasure to serve on the committee of the Athletic Commission.

Respectfully Submitted
Dan Sudbeck, Chairman

ATHLETIC COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-19		\$16,894.06
RECEIPTS:		
Entry Fees	\$7,300.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 4.91</u>	
	\$7,304.91	<u>\$ 7,304.91</u>
TOTAL		\$24,198.97
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		
Scholarship	\$ 500.00	
Commission Expenses	<u>\$5,082.37</u>	
TOTAL	<u>\$5,582.37</u>	<u>\$ 5,582.37</u>
Balance, 5-1-20		\$18,616.60

BOYS STATE DIRECTOR REPORT

Commander,

It is with deep regret I must report that due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic The 2020 South Dakota American Legion Boys State Session has been canceled. This decision was not taken lightly, the Board conducted a mission analysis with key decision points which led to the difficult decision. This year was poised to be a great year, at the time of the decision more than 150 boys were signed up for the session.

In late August to early September we will hold our annual meeting - details are still to be determined as to location and actual dates. We will make it a working session to allow the corporation to plan for the 2021 session. Some of the efforts are; enhancing the experience, forms and processes updates, options for those boys who were unable to attend in 2020 and crafting a return to a six day session.



As always Northern State University has been incredible in supporting the program. In the last year, their marketing department has assisted in creating some great professional promotional materials. As well they have assisted in other marketing support that has been very valuable in recruiting more boys to the program.

Finally, I would like to thank all the individual Posts for their support of this amazing program and providing such a great opportunity to boys in our state.

Respectfully submitted,
C.P Van Delist, Director

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Commander,

As our dynamics within the American Legion continue to grow in many ways, the Children & Youth program is following suit. The Temporary Financial Assistance grants are incredibly beneficial gifts that eligible families receive in a trying time. These grants are not only the veteran families last resort, but the steppingstone to help them back on their feet.

If you have a veteran family possibly in need, please take a moment to reach out to them about the Temporary Financial Assistance grant and how to apply if warranted. Applications can be obtained through the Department Headquarters website at <http://www.sdlegion.org/form/sd-american-legion-tfa-form/> or you can contact me at 605-695-9122. Remember the applications start at post level and with YOU! You're the key to connecting us, and I will, with the utmost speed, continue the process of determining eligibility and granting assistance.

The Children & Youth program over the past year or so has had the pleasure of helping several families. In 2019, we had \$1400.00 given out in grants at state level, and \$550.23 at national level. So far, in 2020, we had \$1142.99 given out in grants at state level, and \$2054.29 at national level. Totaling, \$5,147.51 in grants! Utilizing the National Temporary Financial Assistance program for a maximum of \$1,500 first has helped our state Children & Youth account stay alive longer! Remember our account survives solely on donations only. Individual veteran families may receive a onetime grant maximum at state and national level.

This last Mid-Winter Convention I focused on raising funds for the hats and mittens project for youth. In one day, we raised 88 pairs of winter hats and mittens that were distributed throughout the state by districts to schools in need. THANK YOU! I encouraged leadership from all posts present to go back to their home posts and spread the message that the Children and Youth program (Temporary Financial Assistance program) will continue the hat and mitten project at the 2021 Mid-Winter Convention and to bring donations (hat, mittens, or monetary) and to show support

from each and every post no matter how little the donation (or BIG). Togetherness is key!

This past year, as the Children & Youth Chairperson I have grown even more to appreciate each and every youth program, as each one highlights a child's strengths and pushes them towards a brighter future. Encourage your community to explore all these programs as most are no cost to the children. If you need material or information on any of the programs, please contact me.



Lastly, thank you for allowing me to serve as the Children and Youth Chairperson. This position has been humbling and rewarding. The satisfaction of helping our youth is priceless.

Respectfully submitted,
Miranda Krumm, Chairwoman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-19		\$18,647.89
Memorial/Donations	\$1515.00	
Interest	\$ <u>5.07</u>	
TOTAL	\$1555.07	<u>\$ 1,555.07</u>
		\$20,202.96
DISBURSEMENTS:		
TFA's	<u>\$2,542.99</u>	
TOTAL	\$2,542.99	<u>\$ 2,542.99</u>
BALANCE, 5-1-20		\$17,659.97

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Mr. Commander,

Two thousand nineteen was an exciting year for the Educational Scholarship Committee. In 2019, we changed from a loan concept to a scholarship format. We invested \$120,000.00 with the South Dakota Community Foundation. Because 2019 is our first year invested, we did not reap any benefits from our invested money.

Our fund's official name is the South Dakota American Legion Scholarship Fund. With the COVID-19 virus, the economy has gone down and hopefully it will recover, but please help the fund by donating.

Applications and brochures are online at www.SDlegion.org. We are revising the 2019 application for 2020.

We had 10 students submit applications for scholarships and were able to award three students with scholarships. We used money that was not invested with SDCF.

The 2020 Educator of the Year is Krissa Korkow, Buchanan School, Huron School District. She is a 1st Grade teacher. She will be honored in the fall when her school is back in session. A short write-up was in the May 13, 2020's *Up to Now*.

The education scholarships offered by the Department of South Dakota are for post-secondary education, college, or technical school, for veterans, children of veterans, and grandchildren of veterans who meet the requirements as set forth in the Education Scholarship brochure. Please read the brochure for all the current changes. In all cases, the veteran must be eligible to join The American Legion. The student must attend a higher education school in the state of South Dakota unless their plan of study is not taught in any South Dakota school. The fund is self-sustaining through donations.

Annually, the brochure and application processes are reviewed. No monies were added to the fund from the Department's outside income programs. More specific details can be obtained from State Headquarters, your District Education Loan Chairperson, or a member of the state Education Scholarship Committee. The state committee consists of Jerry Mencke, Huron, Mike Elsberry, Tyndall, and Hugh Holmes, Mitchell.

The Education Scholarship Committee expresses our appreciation for the various memorials and donations received this past year, totaling \$305.00. We also thank the Department Executive Committee, State Headquarters, American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, and individuals throughout our great state.

Mr. Commander, thank you for selecting me be the chairman of the Education Scholarship Committee. Airborne!



Respectfully Submitted,
Hugh W. Holmes, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL LOAN

Balance, 5-1-19		\$129,507.14
RECEIPTS:		
Loan Repayments	\$ 5,425.94	
Interest	\$ 19.11	
Memorials and Donations	<u>\$ 270.00</u>	
	\$ 5,715.05	<u>\$ 5,751.05</u>
TOTAL		\$135,222.19
DISBURSEMENTS:		
SD Community Foundation	\$120,000.00	
Scholarships	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$123,500.00	<u>\$123,500.00</u>
Balance, 5-1-20		\$ 11,722.19

**EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Commander,

It is my sincere pleasure to submit this year's report on behalf of the Employment Committee. Among the many great things the American Legion does for veterans, promoting the employment and retention of veterans is one of them. Veterans bring unique skills to any organization. In addition to excellent technical education and training, veterans have a wealth of experience in a broad range of areas, not the least of which is leadership. These skills, along with a work ethic second to none, are hallmarks of veterans, and they bring tremendous value-added wherever they serve. The annual Employment Awards showcase some of the great organizations that support veterans and enables us the opportunity to recognize them for their contributions.

For 2019-2020, we received a total of 6 nominations, in 4 categories: Olson-Reid Post #250 nominated Daktronics for three awards: Employer of Veterans - Large, Employer of Older Workers, and the Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons; Sidney L. Smith Post #24 nominated Ken's Superfair Foods for Employment of Older Workers; Allstate Peterbilt was nominated by Box Elder Post #315 for Employer of Veterans - Small; and Stratford Post #0207 submitted a nomination for Dakota Supply Group for Employer of Veterans - Small.

All the applications were very well done. But, the standouts were Allstate Peterbilt for Employer of Veterans - Small, and Ken's Superfair Foods the selection for Employer of Older Workers. Daktronics was a non-competitive, but still outstanding, selection for both Employers of Veterans - Large, and the Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons. We are very proud of these organizations, and not only congratulate them for their great submissions, but commend them for their support of veterans, and for recognizing the great bang for the buck they're receiving. In the end, both the employer and the veteran benefit. We are confident our selections will fare well at the national level and wish them the best of luck!



This year's Employment Committee was composed of the following members: Oz Enderby of Lead-Deadwood, Rick Gully of Watertown, Doug Henwood of Spearfish, and Patrick Steele of Aberdeen. I'd like to thank each of the members for their great work in selecting this year's winners!

We hope that in 2020, we're able to get the word out, and receive even more nominations. We are certain there are many more organizations that deserve the recognition.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory K. Dias, Chairman

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN REPORT

Commander Nelson,

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve and continue to serve as your Department Historian. I am working on the Department History for the year so you will have a remembrance of your year as Department Commander. I will also assist those who are working to put their histories together or online for the State Convention next year.

Post Historians should be working on their Post Histories right now for the History contest at our next State Convention. Winners in each category (scrapbook and narrative) can be entered into the National contest. These entries should cover the past years' term of your Post Commanders election to the end of his or her term. Guidelines, including the point system for judging, are found in the Post Officers guide.

Plaques will be presented to the first, second and third place winners at our State Convention. I encourage all post historians to put together a post history, either in book form or online. There could be a category for online versions by next year. I thank all historians and Post members for their hard work and commitment in preparing these reports. Your Post members will appreciate your hard work in the years to come.



Respectfully submitted,
Fred Lee, Department Historian

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander Nelson,

I would like to thank Commander Nelson for appointing me to serve as the Chairman for the Internal Affairs Commission for 2020.

The Internal Affairs Commission met on 14 April 2020 by zoom conference. Present at this conference call were Commander Nelson, Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand, Chairman Mark Weinmann, PDC Byron Callies, PDC Tim Jurgens, and Judge Advocate Gary Schumacher of DeSmet. Annette Dunham of Iroquois was not present.

The Constitution of the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, provides in Article XV, Section 1, that "Any amendment to this constitution may be proposed by any Post, or by the Department Standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. Any amendment proposed by a Post shall be submitted in writing to Department Headquarters at least six weeks prior to the annual Department Convention."

“The Department Adjutant shall present it immediately to the Department Commission on Internal Affairs. At least 30 days prior to said convention, the Department Commission on Internal Affairs shall transmit to all Posts, through Department Headquarters, a full copy of all amendments submitted by Posts, together with the favorable or unfavorable recommendation of the committee thereon, with a brief statement of reasons for such recommendation, and at the time the committee shall in like manner, distribute to all Posts, full copy of any proposed amendment originating with the committee itself.”

Any resolution pertaining to changes of the constitution and bylaws of the Department of South Dakota American Legion must be submitted to State Headquarters no later than six weeks prior to the state convention, for consideration by the Internal Affairs Commission.

The only way the American Legion is able to change, and grow is with resolutions submitted by the local Posts within the Department.

As everybody knows, this is a strange year, and virtually nothing will happen as it should. The Internal Affairs Commission met unofficially by a zoom conference call with a quorum being present. The reason this was an unofficial meeting is because any action taken by this commission would have to be acted on or voted on by the members of this Department of South Dakota American Legion at the State Convention held annually in June.

It has already been decided by our Department Executive Committee that our state convention will not be held this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. If the convention does not meet, then no resolutions could be acted on by the Internal Affairs Commission.

There were several resolutions discussed that will be acted on next year that would change our Constitution and By Laws. These included changing the Department of South Dakota Preamble of our constitution to include All Wars and changing the eligibility to include all veterans who served since December 1941. Delegate dues were discussed as well as some budget items.

Annual reports are welcome from the Sons of the American Legion and The Legion Riders. Sons of the American Legion Commander Terry Hanson informed us that there are six new SAL Squadrons in South Dakota this year, however, there are a few Squadrons still having membership issues. Even so, South Dakota is extremely close to reaching an all-time high in membership. The Sons of the American Legion are a vital part of the American Legion Family and we are very fortunate to have the Sons a big part of our organization. Well done Commander Terry.



Respectfully submitted,
Mark Weinmann, Chairman

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander,

The annual report of the South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee. The members are Chairman, PDC Rod Martens of Piedmont, PDC Gary Watts of White, PDC Rick MacDonald of Hermosa, District 6 Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, and Chris Van Delist of Rapid City.

One resolution was brought forth and passed at our annual convention. However, due to later negotiations with the Governor, the prime sponsor withdrew the legislation.

The Committee met November 5, 2019 via video conference call. Adjutant Flisrand reviewed the SD Veterans Councils priorities and announced the dates for the SD Veterans Roundtables. Three Legislative Roundtables were held in December in preparation for the 2020 legislative session. These roundtable discussions were held in Sioux Falls on December 4th, December 5th in Watertown, and December 7th in Rapid City. Legislative Roundtables are set up each year by the members of the South Dakota Veterans Council to present their agendas to members of the legislature. All Legionnaires are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Legislative Committee meeting was conducted February 10th, 2020, 3:30pm at Post 8 in Pierre, prior to the legislative reception. The legislative reception was held during the evening and was well attended by Legislators and Legionnaires. Our caps are off to the members of Post 8 for their hospitality, and for making the legislative reception a huge success. Since there were no legislative issues brought forth by the American Legion, we set our eyes on other legislation brought forth concerning Veterans. Bills that were tracked and or supported are listed below: Chairman Martens reviewed the legislative bills being tracked by Dept. Headquarters for the Legislative Committee. After discussion, the following recommendations were made on each bill:

SB 2 – Require the Department of Social Services to fully support a statewide centralized resource information system. *Signed by the Governor.*

SB 35 – Revise the appropriations for the State Veterans Cemetery and to declare an emergency. *Signed by the Governor.*

SB 84 -Authorize service animals in-training to enter certain establishments. *Signed by the Governor.*

SB 124 -Revise provisions regarding group pheasant hunts for disabled veterans. *Signed by the Governor.*

SB 156 – Repeal provisions regarding the South Dakota Veterans Commission. *Signed by the Governor.*

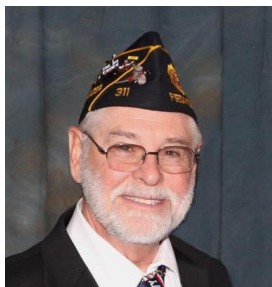
SR 701 – In support of rescinding the Medals of Honor given to United States soldiers for the involvement and participation of the soldiers in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890. *Deferred to the 41st day.*

HB 1030 – Revise certain provisions regarding the Board of Technical Education. *Signed by the Governor.*

HB 1034 – Make an appropriation to fund tax refunds for elderly person and person with disabilities and to declare an emergency. *Signed by the Governor.*

HB 1036 – Revise provisions regarding the issuance of certain military specialty plates. *Tabled.*

HB 1062 – Increase the financial empowerment of state residents. *Signed by the Governor.*



HB 1069 – Authorize certain veterans to attend courses offered at post-secondary technical institutes without payment of tuition. *Signed by the Governor.*

HB 1083 – Rename the post-secondary institutes as technical colleges. *Signed by the Governor.*

I would like to thank members of the Legislative Committee for their dedication.

Commander, thank you for allowing me to serve as your chairman and to be a part of your successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Martens, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander:

First of all, THANK YOU for allowing me to be Membership Chairman for the 2019 - 2020 year. The year has been a challenge for all of us. The Covid 19 Virus has given us all a do over to see if we can do it better and correct any mistakes we may have made along the way.

Membership is the backbone of any organization. Without members what is there? I feel that membership should be the first and foremost priority of The American Legion. We need members to fulfill our obligation to all of our FOUR Pillars. Veterans Affairs and Rehab, Children and Youth, Americanism, and Homeland Security. We as an organization need members to do anything and everything. If just half of our 17,323 members would sign-up or renew just one member each, that would give us 8,661 members more than what we have now. Add them to our total now and we would have 25,984 wow.

The American Legion is a changing organization that has allowed more veterans to be eligible for membership with the Legion Act and a few of them are joining. We need to find ways to get more of them. We cannot forget the FEMALE and Native American Veterans. They all served as a crucial part of the military and we need to get more of them active in or great organization. The days of this being the good old boys club are gone. As I have heard many times over the past year, try to make all negative situations a positive. This is Great advice for all. With this all being said, I will now throw out some numbers. The three-year comparison is by districts, Posts over 100 % where we all should be. Then the total under 15 minimum.

2018 posts over 100 %: Dist. 1 had 7, Dist. 2 had 7, Dist. 3 had 2, Dist. 4 had 3, Dist. 5 had 2, Dist. 6 had 7, Dist. 7 had 7, Dist. 8 had 4. Total of 39

2019 over 100 %: Dist. 1 had 8, Dist. 2 had 17, Dist. 3 had 2, Dist. 4 had 2, Dist. 5 had 3, Dist. 6 had 5, Dist. 7 had 8, Dist. 8 had 5. Total of 49

2020 Dist. 1 had 7, Dist. 2 had 4, Dist. 3 had 4, Dist. 4 had 2, Dist. 5 had 2, Dist. 6 had 5, Dist. 7 had 8, Dist. 8 had 6. Total of 38

Along with this we had a total of 29 Posts under 15 members.

Statewide totals for 2020 are Area 1&2 Kevin Morello 85.29 %, Areas 3-8, Harry Boner 86.63 %, Post 500 82.80 %, District 1 David Booze 91.86 %, District 2 Eugene Iron Shell 80.22 % , District 3 Leroy Madsen 85.33 % , District 4 Perry Schmidt 84.56 % , District 5 Matt Lagerstrom 83.67 % , District 6 Doug Feltman 85.74 % , District 7 Rodney Smith 90.30 % , District 8 Greg Geiman 88.61 % .



I feel we need to get back on track with the monthly Membership team conference calls like last year. More information gets put out in a short time if everyone participates. Again, Commmander Nelson, THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve as Membership Chairman. I am looking forward to working with everyone next Year.

Respectfully Submitted
Ed Stringer, Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP FUND

Budget Amount 2019-2020	<u>\$8,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$8,000.00
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Committee, Travel & Awards	<u>\$4,627.64</u>
Balance in Fund, 5-1-20	<u>\$3,372.36</u>

**TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Mr. Commander,

The Trust Fund was doing great in 2019, but then 2020 came and it is a different story. The market has shown about a 20% decline so far this year. The committee met once this past year and agree that the fund take an even more conservative approach than in the past. The fund has averaged 2.29% annual yield, even with the negative market so far in 2020.

In 2019, \$136,318 was added to the fund from other accounts within the Legion. The year-end market value as of April 29,2019 was \$422,095, compared to a year end market value on April 28, 2020 of \$551,906. If you take out the \$136,318 investment, we show a net loss of \$6,507so far. The current asset allocation for the trust is as follows:

Cash Alternatives is 2.8% which currently yields 0.24%

Fixed Income 36.4% with an average yield of 3.40%

Equities is 53.2% with an average yield of 1.54%



Real Assets is 4.6% with an average yield of 2.27%

Alternative investments 2.8% with an average yield of 4.39%

Miscellaneous .2% with an average yield of 0.24%

The committee met with the investment manager and agreed to monitor the fund as needed in the coming year.

We are in a bear market and expect volatility into 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Rakness, Chairman, Trust Committee

SUMMARY OF ASSETS AS OF APRIL 30, 2019

Description of assets	Market Value	Assets
Cash (money market)	\$13,180	3.18%
Bonds (fixed income)	\$128,383	30.94%
Common Stock (Equities)	\$194,980	47.00%
Real Asset Fund	\$16,317	3.93%
Alternative Investments	<u>\$62,021</u>	<u>14.95%</u>
	\$414,881	100.00%

VA&R COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander,

On behalf of the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission, which consists of Chairman Warren Aas of Watertown, Vice Chairman PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank, Noel Cummins of Milbank, Jim Childers of Spearfish, Jerry Lolley of Sturgis, Carole Gregg of Rosebud, Gary Schumacher of De Smet, and Rebecca Trygstad of Volga, it gives me great pleasure to present the following Department VA&R Commission report.

I am proud to welcome Carole Gregg, member of Rosebud Post #125, as the newest member on our VA&R Commission. We thank Carole for volunteering her time and talent to help make our VA&R program the best we can be.

There are numerous awards every post in our department can win throughout the year and be recognized for their achievement either at our MidWinter Conference or on stage at our annual department convention. There are Americanism awards, Membership awards, and several individual awards Legionnaires can win, but never an award to recognize a post for the good work they do for VA&R. Well that is now changed. One of the major projects our commission has been working on is making

all the posts in our department aware of the new VA&R Award for Excellence. This award is open to every post in our department that will recognize one post for their outstanding work and accomplishments in VA&R. All posts can apply for the award and we encourage all posts to submit for the award. The criteria for the award are on our department website and you may also contact our State Headquarters for assistance. The deadline for all applications for this new award is May 1 of each year. The winning post will be recognized on stage at our next state convention. The Department VA&R Commission meets twice per year. Once face-to-face and the other is by teleconference.

Another award your VA&R Commission is working on is submitting our department for the national award called the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy. This is an award our department should be in the running each year but for whatever reason, we never applied for the award. The VA&R Commission is working to make sure our department submits for this award in the future. The winner of this award is recognized on stage at each National Convention. This is one the most prestigious awards presented at our national convention. Wouldn't it be great if the Department of South Dakota is called up on the stage and presented this award? We can do this with your help.

As a member of the National VA&R Commission, I had the privilege of attending the Washington Conference to listen and participate in the national VA&R agenda. I make a point to bring back all the information I can get my hands on from our meeting and make it available to all VA&R Commission members in our department.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) is available for any veteran in your community that may have fallen on hard times and needs some financial assistance to get back on their feet. TFA is generally one-time grant money and other requirements apply. Your post commander has more details about TFA.

If you are a veteran and would like to check into getting enrolled in the VA for healthcare, we encourage you to stop in and see your local Tribal or County Veterans Service Officer or contact DSO Courtney VanZanten for assistance.



Thank you, Commander Nelson, for allowing me the privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Department Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission during your year. We encourage all Legionnaires to attend their post meetings. Ask your fellow members if they need a ride to the meeting. You'll be glad you did.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren L. Aas,
Chairman, VA&R Commission

**V.A.V.S. COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Thank you, Commander Nelson, for appointing me as the VAVS Committee Chairman this year. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and our organization.

It can sometimes be a challenge to do this job but it's like the period at the end of a sentence – it's necessary and there to serve a purpose, and that's what we do.

I would like to thank everybody who contributes to the popcorn fund, Special Olympics, and all other various needs that we are here to fill. Our veterans do great and small things that are very much appreciated by those in need. Time spent visiting or handing out cookies is sometimes all it takes to put a smile on the faces of those we serve. Please continue to volunteer and keep the donations coming!



Respectfully submitted,
Ken Van Kekerix, VAVS Chairman

VAVS COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-19		\$4,217.75
RECEIPTS:		
From General Fund	\$1,600.00	
Interest	\$ 1.18	
Memorials and Donations	<u>\$3,730.00</u>	
	\$5,331.18	<u>\$5,331.18</u>
		\$9,548.93
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		
VA Facilities	\$5,600.00	
Bank Service Fee	<u>\$6.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$5,606.00	<u>\$5,606.00</u>
Balance, 5-1-20		\$3,948.93

2019-2020 AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT AWARDS

POST AMERICANISM AWARDS

Goal-Size Group 15-45:

Orville Redding American Legion Post #61, Canova, SD

Goal-Size Group 46-74:

Olson-Reid American Legion Post #250, Castlewood, SD

Goal-Size Group 75-124:

Burrows-Young American Legion Post #114, Volga, SD

Goal-Size Group 125-350

Spearfish, Inc. American Legion Post #164, Spearfish, SD

Goal-Size Group 351 and larger

Codington County, Inc. American Legion Post #17, Watertown, SD

Certificate of Distinguished Service:

Spearfish, Inc. American Legion Post #164, Spearfish, SD

Certificate of Meritorious Service:

Otto-Quande-Renville American Legion Post #50, Sisseton, SD

Individual Americanism Award:

Jack French, Spearfish, Inc. American Legion Post #164

These Posts will receive the Golden Eagle Americanism Excellence traveling trophies. All Posts that submitted entries will receive Americanism Certificates for conducting and documenting their individual Post Americanism Program.

Smaller Golden Eagles will be presented to the 2018-2019 Americanism award winners to keep at their Posts for display. These Posts were: Herreid Post #170, Custer Post #64, Volga Post #114, Spearfish Post #164, and Watertown Post #17.

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

Employer of Veterans (Small) – Allstate Peterbilt of Rapid City; nominated by Box Elder Post # 315

Employer of Veterans (Large) – Daktronics of Brookings; nominated by Castlewood Post #250

Employer of Older Veterans – Ken’s Superfair Foods of Aberdeen; nominated by Aberdeen Post # 24

Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons – Daktronics of Brookings; nominated by Castlewood Post #250

Each Employment Award winner will receive a Certificate of Appreciation plaque from National Headquarters signed by the National Commander.

AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY TARGET DATE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Five Posts and one District are recognized for membership achievements by the American Legion's birthday target date, March 11, 2020. These posts receive a plaque recognizing their achievement.

Eagle Butte Post #308 was presented a plaque for having the highest percentage increase in the Department for the 15-74 goal-size group, at 157.58% of goal.

Chamberlain Post #3 was presented a plaque for achieving 117.65% of goal in the 75-124 goal-size group.

Madison Post #25 was presented a plaque for achieving 121.43% of goal in the 125-199 goal-size group.

Yankton Post #12 was presented a plaque for achieving 101.79% of goal in the 200-299 goal-size group.

Winner Post #169 was presented a plaque for achieving 94.68% of goal in the 300 and up goal-size group.

District 1 was presented a plaque for achieving 90.91% of goal by the Legion's Birthday, March 14, 2019

HIGHEST PERCENT INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE AWARD

"Pride of the Prairie" White Buffalo traveling trophies for each goal size group were awarded to those posts in each of the 5 goal size groups which had the highest percentage of increase in membership on June 1, 2020 over their membership on June 1, 2019.

15-74 goal-size group — George E. Sperbeck American Legion Post #30 of Parker with an increase of 533%.

75-124 goal-size group — Charles Curry American Legion Post #49 of Clear Lake with an increase of 111%.

125-199 goal-size group — McKibbin-Mosher American Legion Post #25 of Madison with an increase of 114.50%.

200-299 goal-size group — Roy Anderson American Legion Post #12 of Yankton with an increase of 105%.

300 and up goal-size group — Clem Mortenson American Legion Post #169 of Winner with an increase of 105.50%.

This year a miniature White Buffalo was presented to the Posts who won the traveling "Pride of the Prairie" White Buffalo trophy last year to keep and display in the respective Posts. The miniature White Buffaloes were presented to Eagle Butte Post #308, Ethan Post #261, Hermosa Post #303, Sturgis Post #33, Hot Springs Post #71.

ROBERT C. GABRIELSON MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, South Dakota

This award is presented to an American Legion member, who is eligible according to the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and who has demonstrated superior and inspirational leadership. The winner is presented with a suitable personal plaque, has his/her name engraved on a perpetual plaque on permanent display at State Headquarters in Watertown, SD; and is featured in an article in the next available edition of the SD Legion News. The honor this year went to Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, Post #3.

DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRES OF THE YEAR

- District 1 – Jerry Apa, American Legion Post #31, Lead
- District 2 – Chris Van Delist, American Legion Post #22, Rapid City
- District 3 – John Fette, American Legion Post #8, Pierre
- District 4 – Robert Schulte, American Legion Post #92, Redfield
- District 5 – Robert Johnston, American Legion Post #50, Sisseton
- District 6 – Randall Jungemann, American Legion Post #59, Wolsey
- District 7 – Andrew Lyngen, American Legion Post #23, Garretson
- District 8 – Robert Kisely, American Legion Post #11, Wagner

DEPARTMENT LEGIONNARE OF THE YEAR

Chris Van Delist, American Legion Post #22, Rapid City

Each District Legionnaire of the Year receives a framed Certificate of Commendation. The Department winner of this honor will receive a plaque to commemorate this achievement.

DEPARTMENT EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Krissa Korkow, Buchanan School, Huron School District.

The Department Educator of the Year will receive a plaque honoring their service to their students and our educational system.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

- Abigail Boner Olson, Castlewood - \$2500
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Alyssa Juelfs, Belle Fourche - \$1500
- Dakota State University
- Joan Knutson, Spearfish - \$1000
- South Dakota State University

DEPARTMENT EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Gabel Goldhorn of Brookings, South Dakota

The Department Eagle Scout of the Year winner will receive a trophy in honor of their accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL CHAMPION

Samantha Timanus of Gregory, South Dakota

The Department Oratorical winner will receive a trophy as well as a plaque for display at their High School in honor of their accomplishment.

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD

Madison Reece of Spearfish, South Dakota

For “giving of herself to help others”, Madison Reece of Spearfish has been awarded the Department Good Samaritan Award. Madison will be Sophomore at Spearfish High School and received a plaque in honor of her steadfast dedication to helping Veterans and their families in her community and for being a true Good Samaritan.

SILVER BRIGADE RECRUITER AWARDS

Ed Stringer, Patrick W. Herried Post #911, Sioux Falls
Eugene Ironshell Jr., Chauncey Eagle Horn Post #125, Rosebud

These members have enrolled 25-49 new members into the American Legion by the May target date. They receive a silver pin and a silver certificate.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

Ed Stringer, Patrick W. Herried Post #911, Sioux Falls
Ed recruited 35 new members into the American Legion this year and will receive a plaque in honor of his accomplishment.



FRED NELSON

2019-2020

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH
DAKOTA**

