



102nd
**ANNUAL CONVENTION
PROCEEDINGS**

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH
DAKOTA
THE AMERICAN LEGION

INCLUDING REPORTS OF
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
2020-2021
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA
June 24-27, 2021



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PROCEEDINGS
ONE-HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of South Dakota
June 24-27, 2021

The Pre-Convention meeting of the American Legion Department Finance Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 24, 2021, in Salon II at the Huron Convention Center, Huron, South Dakota, followed by the meeting of the South Dakota American Legion Department Executive Committee in Prairie Rooms A and B of the same facility at 1:00 p.m.

The South Dakota American Legion Training Committee met at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 24, 2021, in the same room in the Huron Convention Center, Huron, SD.



The Convention Resolutions Committee's initial meeting was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, in the Symposium Room in the Huron Convention Center, Huron, South Dakota. The meetings of the other Convention Committees were held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, in rooms so designated in the Convention Center. The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary/Sons of The American Legion Joint Banquet was held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021, in Dakota Rooms C,D,G,and H, at the Huron Convention Center in Huron, South Dakota with James Troiola, 2nd Leading Candidate for National Commander as the guest speaker.



The 102nd Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of South Dakota was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 26th, 2021, in Huron Convention Center, Huron, South Dakota, by Department Commander Fred Nelson of Spearfish, SD, after a mini concert by the State American Legion Band.

The Colors were advanced and posted by the Color Guard. The National Anthem was played. Department Commander Fred Nelson led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Department Chaplain Justin Warfel offered the invocation after which Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel conducted the POW/MIA ceremony. Department Commander Nelson led the delegates in reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion in unison.

The Call for Convention was read by Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel.

**OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE
ONE-HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

The ONE-HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION of The American Legion Department of South Dakota is hereby called, and in conformity with action taken at the Ninety-Seventh Convention, will be held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24, 25, 26, and 27, 2021.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called to elect officers for the ensuing year and delegates to the 102nd National Convention of The American Legion, to consider any proposed amendments to the Constitution and to transact such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

Representation at the convention will be by Posts. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, each Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates plus one additional delegate and alternate for each fifty or major fraction thereof, memberships shown on the books of the State Adjutant fifteen days prior to the convention, or this year on June 9th, 2021. The Constitution requires that the delegates to the Department Convention be chosen by each Post by election from its own membership. Alternates will have power to vote only in the absence of the regular delegates.

Forms for listing the Department Convention Delegates and Alternates are sent to Post Adjutants. These forms need to be signed by the officers of the Post and mailed to reach State Headquarters, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201 by June 24th, or turned in at the Department Convention Registration desk in Sioux Falls. Note that the 2021 membership identification number of each Delegate and Alternate is required.

In accordance with the Department of South Dakota Constitution and Bylaws, Article IX, Section 3: 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. 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.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A pre-convention meeting of the Department Executive Committee, as constituted, is hereby called and will be held in the Huron Convention Center, Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

A post-convention meeting of the Department Executive Committee, as constituted, is hereby called and will be held in the Huron Convention Center, immediately following the adjournment of the 102nd Annual Department Convention of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

POST/DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Post and District Officials, unless elected as Delegates or Alternates to the Department Convention, have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their respective Posts and Districts.

CAUCUSES

Area Caucuses, for selection of State Vice Commander nominees, will be held in assigned areas, Saturday afternoon, June 26, 2021, immediately following completion of that day's convention business session.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

In accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of Department Conventions of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, convention committees are to be convened for the purpose of compiling policy forming reports to the General Session of the Convention.

Each District shall designate Delegates or Alternates for service on each convention committee and shall file with the Department Adjutant a list of such designees at least two weeks prior to the convening date of the meetings of said convention committees. The convention committees consist of the following:

Americanism — 1 Delegate per District
 Credentials — 1 Delegate per District
 Employment — 1 Delegate per District
 Internal Organization — 1 Delegate per District
 Legislative — 1 Delegate per District
 National Security — 1 Delegate per District
 Next Meeting Place — 1 Delegate per District
 Rehabilitation — 1 Delegate per District
 Resolutions — 1 Delegate per District
 Rules — 1 Delegate per District

The Department Commander will appoint Legionnaires, with membership in good standing, as the Chairperson and Liaison to each of the convention committees.

All convention committees will meet on Friday, June 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at the Huron Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, in rooms designated for that purpose. The directory of meeting rooms will be available upon entry into the Huron

Convention Center on the day of the meetings and also in the Convention Program Book.

The Convention Resolutions Committee will hold its initial meeting, for the purpose of reviewing all convention resolutions to determine the distribution of said resolutions to the other convention committees, on Friday, June 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in the Huron Convention Center, Huron, SD. Room assignments will be announced in the Convention Program Book and will be posted in the convention facility.

Each convention committee chairperson will be responsible for compiling a final report of the actions of their respective committee to the Department Adjutant after their committee has adjourned and prior to the scheduled report of the convention committee to the convention body.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions emanating from a Post shall be forwarded to the Department Adjutant to be in his hands no less than two days prior to the opening session of the Department Convention.

Resolutions which call for an amendment to the Constitution of The American Legion Department of South Dakota must be submitted to the Department Adjutant in the proper form by May 1, 2021. This will ensure that the Department Internal Affairs Commission can screen them in time to allow for the commission's recommendations for approval or disapproval and for the Department Adjutant to distribute copies of these resolutions to all Posts within the Department at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

ELECTIONS

The election of all Department Officers as well as Delegates and Alternates to the 102nd National Convention of The American Legion, shall be a Special Order of Business of the Convention and in accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of Department Conventions of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, will be conducted at 12 O'clock noon on Sunday, June 27, 2021, or at the conclusion of all other business of the Department Convention, whichever occurs first.

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

Fred Nelson
Department Commander



The assembly body gave a warm welcome to the Huron Mayor, Gary Harrington.

Convention host, Post #7 Commander Jake Salathe, delivered his greetings and welcomed the assembled delegates to Huron.

State Vice Commander for Districts 3-8, Harry Boner, responded to the welcome.

Commander Fred Nelson introduced the Honorable Dusty Johnson, South Dakota's Congressman to the United States House of Representatives to address the convention body.

Mike Bekaert, a representative of Senator Mike Round's office, was present to address the convention delegates on behalf of Senator Rounds.

Department of South Dakota Disabled American Veterans Commander, Don Sealock, was introduced and delivered greetings.

Jack Dean, representing the Vietnam Veterans of America, Department of South Dakota brought greetings from that organization.

Director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, Lisa Simoneau, and Shawn Fields from the Sioux Falls Regional VA System were introduced by the Chair and brought greetings from their respective agencies.



At this point, Department Commander Nelson called NEC Jim Huls to the podium for the purpose of an introduction. NEC Huls introduced National Commander Candidate, V. James Troiola, of New York to address the body of the convention.



The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary President, Teresa Huntimer and National Executive Committeewoman, Susie Clyde, brought greetings from the Auxiliary.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the SD Department of Veterans Affairs was introduced and addressed the assembly.



Department Commander Nelson introduced Krisma DeWitt of Watertown, Chairman of the Convention Credentials Committee, for the purpose of providing the Credentials Committee's initial report. Chairman DeWitt presented that report to the Convention.



Commander Nelson then introduced PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank, SD, Chairman of the Convention Rules Committee, for the purpose of a report. PDC Jurgens presented that committee's report to the Convention.

CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The meeting of the Convention Rules Committee was called to order by Chairman Tim Jurgens of Milbank at 1:30p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Huron Event Center in Huron SD.

In addition to Chairman Jurgens, the following were present: Liaison Terry Hanson of Arlington; District 1 – Mike Pauling of Piedmont; District 2 – Cynthia Douglas of Rapid City; District 3 – absent; District 4 – Ted Kimball of Redfield; District 5 – Calvin Hove of Sisseton; District 6 – Terry Hanson of Arlington; District 7 – Greg Johnson of Hartford; and District 8 –Greg Geiman of Wagner.

Cynthia Douglas of Rapid City was appointed Secretary.

Chairman Jurgens led the Pledge of Allegiance and Liason Terry Hanson of Arlington read the duties of the Convention Rules Committee on page 7 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

The committee reviewed 0 resolutions.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Ted Kimball of District 4 made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Pauling of District 1, the Convention Rules Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tim Jurgens, Chairman**

Chairman Jurgens moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Rules Committee, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the rules for the convention adopted.



Department Commander Fred Nelson introduced Doug Harris of Rapid City, Chairman of the Convention Americanism Committee and Chairman of the Department Americanism Commission, to give those reports to the convention delegates. The Convention Americanism report was adopted.

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The meeting of the Convention Americanism Committee was called to order by Chairman Doug Harris of Rapid City on Friday, June 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., at the Huron Event Center in Huron, SD.

Present besides Chairman Doug Harris of Rapid City and Liaison Bill Peters of Sioux Falls were the following: District 1 – Ken Sabers of Sturgis Post 33; District 2 – Doug Harris of Rapid City Post 22; District 3 – No representative; District 4 – Dale Strom of Aberdeen Post 24; District 5 – Noel Cummins of Milbank Post 9; District 6 – Annette Dunham of Iroquois Post 280; District 7 – Shane Lamer of Montrose, Post 154; and District 8 – Wayne Brandt of Yankton, Post 12.

Colors were saluted. Annette Dunham led the invocation. Chairman Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Americanism Committee on page 6 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Bill Peters, Sioux Falls Post 15, was appointed as secretary.

The Convention Americanism Committee reviewed 1 Resolution:

Convention Resolution No. 21-2 was drafted by Clay Kaiser of Post 92, The Resolve clauses states: The Department of South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee will oversee in cooperation with the South Dakota Highway Patrol, a South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy; and be it further

Resolved, the Finance Commission will ensure a yearly line item is included on the annual budget to fund The American Legion of South Dakota's Youth Trooper Academy requirements; and be it further

Resolved, The Department of South Dakota American Legion in Annual Convention assembled 24-27 June 2021 in Huron South Dakota, will officially and fully endorse the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy. Discussion was held.

Dale Strom of Aberdeen moved to adopt the Resolution and Noel Cummins of Milbank seconded the motion, additional discussion was held. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Additional discussion was held regarding other Americanism programs.

1. Oratorical Program timelines were announced by Chairman Harris. Local contests must be completed by January 9th, 2022. District contests must be completed by January 30th, 2022. The district competition dates must be provided to Department by the District Commanders or their representative NLT 15 August 2021. The competition will take place at Midwinter in Oacoma on the 20th of February 2022.
2. Youth Trooper Academy will be held on 12 – 16 July with “Blue Hat” day taking place on the 15th. All Legionnaires are invited to attend.
3. Boys State was held from 31 May through 4 June and included both Juniors and Seniors. The Americanism Commission at their annual meeting in June approved a motion to support the continued inclusion of both Juniors and Seniors into this program. Chairman Harris has passed this information to the Boys State Corporation. He also reported that the Boys State Corporation is still debating on whether to continue allowing Seniors to attend. They will also discuss and decide whether or not to allow a boy to attend two years in a row. More information on Boys State will be provided

by the Deputy Director of Boys State during the convention. Larry Price pointed out to the committee that the only way the rules on who can attend and who is eligible for scholarships (specifically the Samsung), is to author and offer a resolution at the National Convention.

Chairman Harris opened the floor for any other items for the good of Americanism. No further comments were offered.

There being no further business to come before the committee, after the benediction and a salute to the Flag, Chairman Harris declared the Convention Americanism Committee meeting adjourned at 2:21 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,
Doug Harris, Chairman**

Chairman Harris moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Americanism Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention Americanism Committee Report adopted.



The American Legion Department of South Dakota 2021 Oratorical Champion, Fiala Herceg of Aberdeen was welcomed to the stage where she addressed those present and was presented with a plaque in honor of her accomplishments.



Department Commander Nelson and Americanism Commission Chairman Doug Harris, presented the Department Americanism Awards for the 2020-2021 year:

Certificate of Distinguished Service awarded to
Spearfish, Inc. American Legion Post #164 of Spearfish, SD.

Certificate of Meritorious Service awarded to
Olson-Reid American Legion Post #250 of Castlewood, SD.

Individual Americanism Award awarded to
Jack French of Spearfish, Inc. American Legion Post #164,
Spearfish, SD.

Department Americanism Chairman Doug Harris presented each of the goal-size group award winners with the Golden Eagle "Americanism Excellence" traveling trophies. The Golden Eagle Award is presented to a post in each goal size group that submits the best Americanism Program and is based on the number of activities the Post participated in as well as the documentation of the programs.

Post Americanism Award for 15-45 goal-size group awarded to
Jacob A. Heinrich, Inc. American Legion Post #170 of Herreid, SD.

Post Americanism Award for 46-74 goal-size group awarded to

Eddie Robertson American Legion Post #76 of Veblen, SD.

Post Americanism Award for 75-124 goal-size group awarded to

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

Post Americanism Award for 125-350 goal-size group awarded to

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

Post Americanism Award for 351 and larger goal-size group awarded to

Rapid City American Legion Post #22 of Rapid City, SD.

A smaller Golden Eagle mounted on a base was presented to the five Posts who won the Golden Eagle in 2019-2020 to take back to their post and display as a past award winner. Those posts were Canova Post #61, Castlewood Post #250, Volga Post #114, Spearfish Post #164, and Watertown #17.

All other Posts that turned in Americanism Reports will receive an Americanism Certificate, signed by the National Commander for participating in this program.



Department Commander Nelson introduced PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell, SD, Chairman of the Convention Resolutions Committee, for the purpose of a report. PDC Holmes presented that committee's report to the Convention.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The initial meeting of the Convention Resolutions Committee was called to order by Chairman Hugh Holmes of Mitchell at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Huron Event Center in Huron SD.

The following committee members were present: Chairman Hugh Holmes of Mitchell; Liaison – Kevin Morello of Black Hawk; District 1 – Marv Tisdall of Box Elder; District 2 – Ed Thompson of Custer; District 3 – Gene Opbroek of Gregory; District 4 – Perry Schmidt of Redfield; District 5 – Gary Watts of White; District 6 – Dwight Stadler of Mitchell; District 7 – Mark Winter of Hartford and District 8 – Bob Kucera of Wagner.

Chairman Holmes led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Resolutions Committee on page 18 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Gene Opbroek of Gregory was appointed as secretary.

The Convention Resolutions Committee drafted 3 resolution(s).

Convention Resolution SDAL 21-15 was drafted by the Convention Resolutions Committee to express thanks to Huron Post 7, for hosting a great convention.

Dwight Stadler made a motion, seconded by Gary Watts, to Recommend Do Pass. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution SDAL 21-16 was drafted by the Convention Resolutions Committee. The resolve clause states: By the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota American Legion establish The South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee as a standing committee with a supporting budget for five (5) members with 3-year rotating terms.

Moved by Dwight Stadler and seconded by Gary Watts to forward this resolution to Internal Organization Convention Committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution 21-17 was drafted by the resolutions committee. The resolved clause reads: by The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled at the 2021 Department Convention held in Huron SD June 24 – 27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota make permanent repair of the Flaming Fountain one of their top legislative priorities during the 2022 South Dakota Legislative Session.

A motion was made by Marv Tisdale and seconded by Dwight Stadler. Motion carried.

The Convention Resolutions Committee reviewed and referred a total of 5 Resolutions to the following Convention Committees.

Convention Resolution 21-1 was drafted by the Post 250, Castlewood.

The resolve clause states: by the American Legion Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2020 Department Convention held in Huron, South Dakota, June 18-21, 2020, that the American Legion develop an “Operational Readiness Era” classification and a “Cold War Era” classification for veterans who do not fall into previously defined war eras.

A motion made by Gary Watts and seconded by Mark Winter to forward to the Internal Organization Convention Committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution 21-8 was drafted by the Post 250, Castlewood.

The resolve clause states: By the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota American Legion establish The Training Committee as a standing committee with a supporting budget for five (5) members with 3-year rotating terms.

Dwight Stadler made the motion and seconded by Mark Winter to forward to Internal Organization Convention Committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution No. 21-10 was drafted by the Post 250 of Castlewood.

The resolve clause states: by Post No. 250, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in Huron, South Dakota June 24-27,

2021, That the Department of South Dakota establish the Membership and Marketing Committee as a Standing Committee; and, be it finally RESOLVED, that said Membership and Marketing Committee will be made up of the Membership Chairman who will serve one-year terms, one representative from each Department Vice Commander's area and one representative from each District to serve three-year terms that are staggered for rotation, The Department shall establish the appropriate funding in place to support the committee.

Motion by Perry Schmidt and seconded by Mark Winter to forward to Internal Organization Convention Committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution No. 21-14 was drafted by Post 50 of Sisseton SD. The resolved clause states: By The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in Annual Convention assembled, June 24-27, 2021, in Huron South Dakota, that The American Legion Department of South Dakota include into the employee handbook that a paid salaried employee on the department payroll, whether full time or part time, will be deemed ineligible to simultaneously hold both a salaried position and an elected leadership position with the department.

Motion by Dwight Stadler and seconded by Bob Kucera to forward to Internal Organization Convention Committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution No. 21-2 was drafted by Post 92 of Redfield. The resolve clauses states: The Department of South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee will oversee with cooperation with the South Dakota Highway Patrol, a South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy; and be it further. resolved, the Finance Commission will ensure a yearly line item is included on the annual budget to fund The American Legion of South Dakota's Youth Trooper Academy requirements; and be it further Resolved, The Department of South Dakota American Legion in Annual Convention assembled 24-27 June, 2021, in Huron South Dakota, will officially and fully endorse the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy.

Moved by Marv Tisdale and seconded by Perry Schmidt to forward to Americanism Convention Committee. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Convention Resolutions Committee meeting was recessed at 11:25 a.m. but all were reminded by Chairman Holmes that the Resolutions Convention Committee may reconvene at a later time if needed.

**Respectfully submitted,
Hugh Holmes, Chairman**

Chairman Holmes moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Resolutions Committee, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention Resolutions Committee report adopted.



Department Commander Nelson called on PDC Holmes to continue and give his Educational Scholarship Committee Chairman report. PDC Holmes presented the annual Educational Scholarship Committee Report. The report was adopted.



The Chair then introduced Gene Opbroek of Gregory, Boys State Assistant Director for the South Dakota American Legion, who gave the Boys State Report in the absence of Director Chris VanDelist. The report was adopted. Assistant Director Opbroek proceeded to introduce the 2021 Boys State Governor, Joseph Gebel of Mitchell, who addressed the delegation. Commander Nelson and Assistant Director Opbroek presented Joseph with a plaque that will be displayed at his high school.



Mark Weinmann of Canton, SD was called upon by Department Commander Nelson to give the Convention Internal Organization Commission Report.

CONVENTION INTERNAL ORGANIZATION COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The meeting of the Convention Internal Organization Committee was called to order by Chairman Mark Weinmann of Canton at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Huron Convention Center, Huron, SD.

The following members were present: Chairman Mark Weinmann of Canton; Liaison Harry Boner of Castlewood; District 1 – Skip Collver of Box Elder; District 2 – Mark Frevert of Hot Springs; District 3 – Gene Opbroek of Gregory; District 4 – Perry Schmidt of Redfield; District 5 – Harry Boner of Castlewood; District 6 – Charemon Dunham of Iroquois; District 7 – Patrick Mullen of Madison; and District 8 – absent.

Chairman Weinmann led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Internal Organization Committee on page 6 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Gene Opbroek of Gregory was appointed as secretary.

The Convention Internal Organization Committee had 5 resolutions to review:
Resolution SDAL 21:1 Questioned by Mark Weinmann as to why the resolution was there. By the passing of the Legion Act, that all Veterans after WWII are eligible for the Legion. The need for era's are not needed. After a short discussion it was deemed that the introduction of the "Operational Readiness Act" would be confusing.
A motion by Charemon Dunham was made to recommend a DO NOT PASS, seconded by Mark Frevert, motion passed in a 6-1 vote.

Resolution SDAL 21:8 A short discussion was held regarding the development of the Training committee as a Standing Committee. All District representatives felt it was a good idea. Charemon Dunham noted that upon passing, the Resolution will then go to the Finance committee to help establish a budget.

A motion of a DO PASS was made by Gene Opbroek, Seconded by Pat Mullen, motion passed 7-0.

Resolution SDAL 21:10 After reading the resolution there was some confusion over the number of members on the committee. Why a representative from the State Vice Commanders area and not just the State Vice Commanders, in addition to the representative from each district, make up the committee. There was some discussion about the why or who would represent the areas. It was finalized that the current State Commander would appoint the members of the committee at his/her discretion.

A motion of a DO PASS was made by Skip Collver, Seconded by Pat Mullen, motion passed 7-0

Resolution SDAL 21:14 The author of the resolution was present in the meeting and made a request from the floor to Rescind the resolution at the request of the Post. It was noted by Byron Callies, who was present in the meeting, and approved by the Judge Advocate that once the article was pulled by the resolution author, the committee did not need to vote on what do with the resolution.

Resolution SDAL 21:16 The reading of the resolution made sense to the committee. It was noted that more funds would be needed to help support all of the new committees.

A motion of Do Pass was made by Gene Opbroek, seconded by Perry Schmidt the motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Gene Opbroek of Gregory moved to adjourn, Perry Schmidt of Redfield seconded and motion carried. The Convention Internal Organization Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Weinmann, Chairman**

Chairman Weinmann moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Internal Organization Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention Internal Organization Committee Report adopted.



Weinmann, being Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, then gave the annual report of that committee. The report was adopted.

Department Commander Fred Nelson introduced Dan Sudbeck of Dimock, SD, Department Athletic Commission Chairman, for the purpose of presenting the Athletic Commission Report. Sudbeck presented the annual report of the South Dakota American Legion Department Athletic Commission, and the report was adopted.

Athletic Commission Chairman Sudbeck presented four winning team-autographed, 2019 State Baseball Tournament baseballs to Department Commander Nelson.



Department Commander Fred Nelson called Department Vice Commander, Kevin Morello, Blackhawk, and Department Vice Commander, Harry Boner, Castlewood to the podium. He then presented them with a Past Department Vice Commander's pin and an American Legion Centennial Coin.



The Chair then recognized the 2020-2021 Membership Chairman, Travise Flisrand, who gave his annual Membership and Marketing report. The report was adopted. At this time, Department Adjutant Hempel announced, and Department Commander Nelson and Membership Chairman Flisrand handed out membership awards.

Every member who paid their membership by Veterans Day (Individual Award) was eligible for a drawing where one person from each district was selected. Those that were selected, received personalized mugs and were as follows:

- District 1 -Thomas Hooker, Post 139
- District 2 – Curtis Halverson, Post 303
- District 3 – Paul Olson, Post 89
- District 4 – Terry Braun, Post 67
- District 5 – Dean Steever, Post 37
- District 6 – Kathren Caffee, Post 14
- District 7 – Dan Wyatt, Post 25
- District 8 – Emery Wasley, Post 1

Everyone who recruited a new member by Veterans Day (Recruiter Award) was eligible to in a drawing for winning a Legion wristwatch. The 2021 winner is Craig Sanderson, Sturgis Post 33.

The Department had 12 Posts that achieved 100% membership by Veterans Day and are as follows: Plankinton Post 5, Humbolt Post 62, Egan Post 97, Isabel Post 120, Salem Post 140, Northville Post 149, Vivian Post 157, Fairfax Post 187, Aurora Post 230, Erwin Post 241, Wall Post 246, and Grenville Post 267.

The Post Excellence Award is earned when Posts meet several qualifying criteria. District Commanders can submit these Posts when they have met the requirements. Custer Post 46 won a Post Excellence Award for 2020-2021.

The District Commander in Districts 1 and 2 and Districts 3-8 with the highest membership percentage by March 11, receives a \$250 check to put into their District

fund to use for District needs. This year this award goes to Jon McDonald, District 1 Commander and Bob Thomason, District 4 Commander.

The Department had 25 Posts Earn the 100% Family Ribbon. These included: Plankinton Post 5, Sioux Falls Post 15, Garretson Post 23, Aberdeen Post 24, Madison Post 25, Woonsocket Post 29, Arlington Post 42, Artesian Post 47, Rosholt Post 48, Lake Preston Post 63, Murdo Post 75, Onida Post 79, Bullhead Post 82, Isabel Post 120, Rosebud Post 125, Kimball Post 130, Chester Post 136, DeSmet Post 138, Montrose Post 154, Canistota Post 162, Spearfish Post 164, Herreid Post 170, Philip Post 173, Martin Post 240, and Erwin Post 241.

"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, 2021 over their membership on June 1, 2020 and had at least 15 members for 2020.

15-74 goal-size group — Chauncey Eagle Horn American Legion #125
of Eagle Butte with an increase of 257.14%.

75-124 goal-size group — Frederick Schauer American Legion Post #140
of Salem with an increase of 121.52%.

125-199 goal-size group — Clay Kiser American Legion Post #92
of Redfield with an increase of 105.26%.

200-299 goal-size group — Meade American Legion Post #33
of Sturgis with an increase of 103.97%.

300 and up goal-size group — Rapid City American Legion Post #22
of Rapid City with an increase of 100.17%.

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 their respective Posts. The miniature White Buffaloes were presented to Clear Lake Post 49, Madison Post 25, Yankton Post 12, and Winner Post 169.

Gold Brigade Awards are presented to those membership recruiters who recruit 50 or more new members during a given year. This year, the South Dakota American Legion had 2 recruiters who qualified as Gold Brigade Recruiters. These recruiters are Ed Thompson and Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. They each received a coat, plaque, chevron, and a pin. The South Dakota Recruiter of the Year for 2021 is Ed Thompson who recruited 162 new members into The American Legion for the 2020-2021 membership year. He will receive a plaque from the National Office for this achievement.



Department Commander Nelson called Americanism Chairman, Doug Harris to the podium for the purpose of a presentation. The 2021 South Dakota Eagle Scout of the Year went to Zain Spangler of Wakonda, SD. He was presented with a plaque and addressed the assembly.



Commander Nelson called on Bob Thomason of Selby, Chairman of the Convention National Security Committee, who gave the Convention National Security Committee Report.

**CONVENTION NATIONAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Commander:

The National Security Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Thomason of Selby at 1:30pm, Friday, June 25th, 2021 at the Huron Event Center in Huron, SD. Those present besides Chairman Bob Thomason of Selby were as follows: Liaison - David Booze of Summerset; District 1 – David Booze of Summerset; District 2 – Kevin Morello of Black Hawk; District 3 – absent; District 4 – Bob Thomason of Selby; District 5 – Don Lokken of White; District 6 – Harry Huffman of Ethan; District 7 – Jerol Price of Hartford; District 8 – absent.

Chairman Thomason led the Salute to Colors and Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention National Security Committee on page 7 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Kevin Morello of Black Hawk, Post 311 was appointed as secretary.

Chairman Thomason read the report from the last National Security Convention Committee meeting on Friday, June 7, 2019, at the Sheraton Sioux Falls Convention center.

The committee reviewed 0 resolutions.

Chairman Thomason led a general discussion concerning recent domestic terrorism and rise in cyber-attacks on our critical infrastructure.

With no other discussion, Chairman Thomason called for a motion to adjourn, Kevin Morello of Black Hawk so moved, 2nd by Jerol Price of Hartford; no discussion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Bob Thomason, Chairman**

Chairman Thomason moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention National Security Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention National Security Committee Report adopted.



Buck Deweese, Liaison to the American Legion Riders, was called to the podium for his report by Commander Nelson



Rod Smith of Chester SD, Chairman of the Convention Employment Committee, was called to the podium by Commander Nelson to give that report.

CONVENTION EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The meeting of the State Convention Employment Committee was called to order by Chairman Rod Smith of Chester, Friday, June 25th, at 1:30 p.m., at the Huron Event Center in Huron, SD.

The following committee members were present besides Chairman Rod Smith: Liaison: Gary Warne of Aberdeen; District 1 – John Goeres of Thunder Hawk Post 279; District 2 – Ed Thompson of Custer Post 46; District 3 - Melvin Lee of Winner Post 169; District 4 – Pat Steele of Aberdeen Post 24; District 5 – Russel Mileham of Brookings Post 74; District 6 – Ken Anderson of Chamberlain Post 3; District 7 – Rod Smith of Chester Post 136; and District 8 – Clayton Rados of Wagner Post 11.

Chairman Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Employment Committee on page 6 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Pat Steele of Aberdeen was appointed secretary.

The committee reviewed 0 resolutions.

Rod Smith asked for suggestions for resolutions. Gary Warne handed out a USERRA handout from the SD Department of Labor. He explained recent changes in USERRA rules dealing with re-employment of returning veterans. Gary Warne distributed and discussed Hire Vets Medallion Award Program.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Convention Employment Committee meeting was declared adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rod Smith, Chairman**

Chairman Smith moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Employment Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention Employment Committee Report adopted.



After the Convention Employment Committee Report was given, and in the absence of Greg Dias, Spearfish, Chairman of the Employment Committee, Rod Smith announced the Employment Award winners as follows:

Employer of Veterans, Small - Prairie Hills Transit of Spearfish
Employer of Older Workers - Prairie Hills Transit of Spearfish
Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons - Prairie Hills Transit of Spearfish

Representatives of Prairie Hills Transit, Barb Cline and Lisa Johnson were on hand to accept the awards on behalf of the Company.



Department Commander Fred Nelson introduced the Honorable John Thune, United States Senator for the State of South Dakota, who then brought greetings to the assembled delegates.



The Chair then recognized Warren Aas, Watertown, SD, Chairman of the Convention Rehabilitation Committee for the purpose of giving that committee's report.

CONVENTION REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The Convention Rehabilitation Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Warren Aas of Watertown, at 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, in the Dakota E Room in the Huron Convention Center, Huron, SD.

Those present besides Chairman Warren Aas of Watertown were: Liaison – Jerry Lolley of Sturgis; District 1 – Ken Mower of Piedmont; District 2 – Paul Douglas of Rapid City; District 3 – Absent; District 4 – Absent; District 5 – Betty “Sam” Vaughn of Brookings; District 6 – Katie Schmidt of Wessington Springs; District 7 – Diane Johnson of Hartford; and District 8 – Absent.

Chairman Aas led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Rehabilitation Committee on page 17 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Jerry Lolley of Sturgis was appointed as secretary.

The Convention Rehabilitation Committee was assigned no resolutions for review and action.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Convention Rehabilitation Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren L. Aas, Chairman

Chairman Aas moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Rehabilitation Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Nelson declared the Convention Rehabilitation Committee Report adopted.



As Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Mr. Aas delivered the annual report of that committee. It was adopted. Chairman Aas and Commander Nelson then announced the VA&R awards. The 2020 VA&R Award for Excellence went to Olson-Reid Post 250, Castlewood and the 2021 award went to Spearfish, Inc. Post 164, Spearfish.



Commander Nelson called representatives of the Senior Class at Castlewood High School to the podium. They were awarded The American Legion, Department of South Dakota Good Samaritan Award for bringing the community of Castlewood together to help a classmate during a serious health crisis.



The Chair then called PDC Larry Price of Redfield, SD, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, to the podium for the presentation of the Firefighter of the Year Award. Pete Bolzer of Brookings was on hand to accept this honor and was also named the Midwest Regional Firefighter of the year. The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award went to Luis Tapia of Sioux Falls. Unfortunately, Officer Tapia was unable to be present to accept his award.

Commander Nelson recognized Department Finance Officer, Gary Wolkow of De Smet, who gave the financial report for the Department. A full financial report will appear in the Convention Proceedings. The report was adopted.

Department Commander Nelson called Jim Kurtz, Chairman of the South Dakota American Legion Foundation Board of Directors for the annual report on the foundation. The report was adopted. Chairman Kurtz also announced that the Foundation pledged to donate \$10,000 to the Midwest Honor Flight by November 11, 2021.



Department Commander Fred Nelson called all of the 2021 District Legionnaires of the Year to the front of the stage on the convention floor to be recognized.

District 1— Jack French of American Legion Post #164, Spearfish.
District 2 —Bill Kelly of American Legion Post #303, Hermosa.
District 3 —Michael Wells of American Legion Post #8, Pierre.

- District 4 —Norman Siebrecht of American Legion Post #92, Redfield.
- District 5 —Krisma DeWitt of American Legion Post #250, Castlewood.
- District 6 —Dwight Stadler of American Legion #18, Mitchell.
- District 7 —Jerol Price of American Legion Post #118, Hartford.
- District 8 —John Peterson of American Legion Post #1, Vermillion.

Department Commander Nelson presented a framed Certificate of Commendation to each of the District Legionnaires of the Year.

Commander Nelson called upon PDC Denny Brenden to announce the selection of the 2021 South Dakota American Legion "Legionnaire of the Year."

PDC Brenden announced the selection of Krisma DeWitt, Castlewood American Legion Post #250, as the 2021 Department Legionnaire of the Year. Krisma was presented with the 2021 South Dakota American Legion Legionnaire of the Year plaque to commemorate this important occasion.



PDC Tim Jurgens, Milbank, was called to the podium for the purpose of announcing the name of this year's recipient of the Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award. The winner was Rod Smith of Chester Post #136.



The Chair recognized the Department Historian, Fred Lee, Sioux Falls, who gave his report and announced the winners of the Department History Contest. The report was adopted.

Department Historian Lee called the following contest winners forward and presented each with a plaque to commemorate their accomplishment:

- 1st Place – Narrative History**
Bensley-Rounds Post 280 of Iroquois
Charemon Dunham, Historian
- 1st Place - Yearbook**
Olson-Reid Post 250 of Castlewood
Wendy Flisrand, Historian
- 2nd Place - Yearbook**
Bensley-Rounds Post 280 of Iroquois
Charemon Dunham, Historian



Commander Nelson Announced that caucuses to elect 2 new State Vice Commanders, one from Districts 1-2 and one from Districts 3-8, would convene 15 minutes after convention is recessed with the current State Vice Commanders to be in charge.

Two candidates have announced their bid for the State Vice Commander representing Districts 1-2. They are Eugene Iron Shell Jr. of Rosebud Post #125 and Ken Mowrer of Piedmont Post #311. The delegates of Districts 1-2 voted and elected Eugene Iron Shell Jr. as the new State Vice Commander for Districts 1-2.

The single candidate running for the State Vice Commander representing Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 was Doug Feltman, Chamberlain Post #3. The delegates from those Districts unanimously voted and elected Doug Feltman as the new State Vice Commander to represent Districts 3-8.



Department Commander Nelson led the convention delegates by paying proper respect to our Flag with a hand salute and then declared the 101st Annual Department Convention in recess until Sunday morning, June 27th, 2021, at 9:00am.



SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021



The final session of the 102nd Annual Convention of the South Dakota American Legion was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 27, 2021, by Department Commander Fred Nelson following patriotic music selections by the South Dakota American Legion Band. Commander Nelson led the delegates in a salute to the Colors after which the invocation was offered by Byron Callies, Watertown.



Department Commander Fred Nelson called Governor Kristi Noem (R-SD) to the podium. Governor Noem addressed the convention.



The Chair recognized Jim Kurtz, Garretson, Chairman of the South Dakota American Legion Foundation Board of Directors for the purpose of a report on the Foundation Fun Auction.



Commander Nelson called on Krisma DeWitt, Watertown, Chairman of the Convention Credentials Committee for the purpose of presenting the committee's second report. Ms. DeWitt then proceeded to give the Training Committee's Annual Report, as the Chairman of said committee. The report was adopted.



National Executive Committeeman for the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, Jim Huls, Madison, was called to the stage to give his annual report. The report was adopted.



Out-going Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander, Terry Hanson, Arlington, was introduced by Department Commander Nelson. Commander Hanson reported on the SAL year. The report was adopted.

Commander Hanson then introduced the newly elected SAL Detachment Commander, Casey Hanson, Badger, who then addressed the delegation. Commander Casey Hanson then introduced the SAL Detachment Vice Commander, Shane Lamer, Colton, who delivered a brief greeting.



The Chair recognized Department Children and Youth Chairman, Miranda Krumm, Chester, to give the Children and Youth Committee Report. The report was adopted.

Department Commander, Fred Nelson, presented a “Commander’s Award” to Chairman Krumm for her exemplary work over the last four years as the Children and Youth Chairman.



Commander Nelson called on Courtney VanZanten, Chester, Chairman of the Media and Communications Committee for the purpose of a report from that committee. The report was adopted.

Kevin Hempel, Department Adjutant, was recognized by the Chair, to give the Annual Adjutant’s Report. The report was adopted.

Department Commander Fred Nelson delivered his Annual Commander’s Report. The report was adopted. He then presented certificates to the Department Committee Chairmen and thanked them for their dedication and service to the Department. The Chair then called PDC Larry Price of Redfield, SD, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, to the podium to give that committee’s annual report. The report was adopted. He encouraged more Posts to participate in the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year programs.



Commander Nelson called PDC Charemon Dunham, President of the South Dakota American Legion Press Association for a report on that organization’s activities. The Report was adopted. PDC Dunham also announced the new officers of the Association as well as the winners of the South Dakota American Legion Press Association’s Newsletter competition.

First Place — Greer American Legion

Post #11, Wagner, SD.

Jerry Seiner

Second Place — Thayer-Waters American Legion

Post #146, Colome, SD.

Jeff Hrabanek



Commander Nelson called Steve Stier of Onida, Chairman of the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee, who gave that committee's report.

CONVENTION NEXT MEETING PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The meeting of the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee was called to order by Chairman Steve Stier of Onida at 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Huron Convention Center, Huron, SD, to consider applications for future MidWinter Conferences and Department Conventions.

The following members were present: Chairman Steve Stier of Onida; Liaison – Regan McLurkin of Spearfish; District 1 – Craig Sanderson of Sturgis; District 2 – Jon McDonald of Box Elder; District 3 – LeRoy Madsen of Pierre; District 4 – Tom Perrizo of Aberdeen; District 5 – Tom Henley of Aurora; District 6 – Vilas Kurtenbach of Ethan; District 7 – Fred Lee of Sioux Falls; and District 8 – Wesley Rye of Yankton.

Chairman Stier led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee on page 7 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Regan McLurkin of Piedmont was appointed as recording secretary.

The committee considered invitations and bids to host the 2026 South Dakota American Legion MidWinter Conference and the 2026 Department Convention. Midwinter Conference will be held in Oacoma, February 20-22. Deciding on the location of the Department Convention was tabled until Midwinter 2022.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Steve Stier, Chairman**

Chairman Stier moved for the adoption of the report of the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee Report, the motion was duly seconded and carried. Department Commander Brenden declared the Convention Next Meeting Place Committee Report adopted.



The following Convention report was handed in but not given to the convention body.

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander:

The Convention Legislative Committee was called to order by Chairman Doug Feltman of Chamberlain at 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Huron Event Center, in Huron SD.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Feltman with the following members present. Liaison – absent; District 1 – PDC Phil Anderson of Piedmont; District 2 – absent; District 3 – Larry Madsen of Gettysburg; District 4 – absent; District 5 – Clayton Nei of Castlewood; District 6 – Doug Feltman of Chamberlain; District 7 – John Bachmeier of Sioux Falls; and District 8 – absent

Chairman Feltman led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the duties of the Convention Legislative Committee on page 7 of the Uniform Code of Procedures.

Larry Madsen of Gettysburg was appointed as secretary.

The Convention Legislative Committee was assigned 1 resolution.

Resolution # SDAL 21-17 was drafted by The Convention Resolutions Committee.

Phil Anderson made the motion, seconded by John Bachmier to accept the resolution amended as follows:

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled at the 2021 Department Convention held in Huron SD June 24 – 27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota make one of their top legislative priorities, permanent repair of the Flaming Fountain during the 2022 South Dakota Legislative Session. Motion Carried with a do pass recommendation.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Convention Legislative Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Doug Feltman**



Commander Nelson announced the 2021 Department Convention Sweepstakes winners as follows:

\$1000 – Stanley Jacobson of Canton
\$500 - Derek Adams of Sioux Falls

\$300 – Montfred Liknes of Langford

\$200 – Rodney Fouberg of Aberdeen

\$100 – Harry Eidsness of Canton



Commander Nelson recognized Krisma DeWitt, Chairman of the Convention Credentials Committee for the final reading of the Credential report.



Department Commander, Fred Nelson announced the time had arrived for the election of delegates and alternate delegates to the 102nd Annual National American Legion Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. District Delegates and Alternate Delegates were nominated from the Spring District Meetings held in March and April. Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel read the nominations for delegates to the national convention, nominated during the spring district meetings.



ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Department Adjutant Hempel announced that there were 3 unfilled slots for Delegates, as a resolution was approved for all national call-ins to be automatic delegates, which totals 10 delegates. The Department Commander, Adjutant, National Executive Committeeman, and immediate Past Department Commander are also automatic delegates.

Following nominations from the convention floor, the following Legionnaires were elected as Delegates to the 102nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion in Phoenix, Arizona; PDC Mark Weinman of Canton (member of Hudson Post # 128), Dan Hunhoff of Yankton (member of Tabor Post #183), Rod Smith of Chester, Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, PDC Byron Callies of Watertown, PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson Post #23, PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank, PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington, PDC Larry Price of Redfield, Warren Aas of Watertown (member of Sisseton Post #50), Alt NEC and PDC Denny Brenden of Watertown, PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell, PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois, Jon McDonald of Box Elder, John Bachmeier of Sioux Falls Post #15, Eugene Opbroek of Gregory, Annette Dunham of Iroquois, Travise Flisrand of Castlewood, and Courtney VanZanten of Madison (member of Chester Post #136). Department Commander Gary Wolkow of DeSmet, immediate past Department Commander Fred Nelson of Spearfish, NEC Jim Huls of Madison (member of Salem Post #140), and Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel of Watertown (member of Chester Post #136, are all automatic delegates to the national convention.

Department Adjutant Hempel announced that there were 15 unfilled Alternate Delegate slots. Following nominations from the convention floor, the following Legionnaires were elected as Alternate Delegates for the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ: Noel Cummins of Milbank, Michael Pauling of Piedmont, Susan Shrader of Tabor, Eugene IronShell of Rosebud, Jeff Hrabanek of Winner (member

of Colome Post #146), Bob Thomason of Selby, Bill Peters of Sioux Falls Post #15, and Tim Brookes of Sioux Falls (member of Montrose Post # 154).



Department Commander Nelson opened nominations for Department Sergeant-at-Arms for 2021-2022.

Greg Geiman of Scotland, SD, (member of Wagner Post #11), was nominated by Jay Youngbluth of Wagner. The nomination was seconded.

Subsequent calls for further nominations were unanswered. A motion was made to close the nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Greg Geiman of Scotland, SD, for 2021-2022 Department Sergeant-at-Arms for The American Legion Department of South Dakota. **The motion carried.**



Department Adjutant Hempel announced that Eugene Iron Shell Jr. of Rosebud Post #125, was elected during the District's 1 and 2 caucus as their new State Vice Commander and that Doug Feltman of Chamberlain Post #3, was elected during the caucus of Districts 3-8 as their new State Vice Commander.

A motion was made by Dave Gutzmer of Lake Preston to approve the two State Vice Commanders, motion was seconded by PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington. **The motion carried.**



Department Commander Fred Nelson opened nominations for the office of Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of South Dakota.

Gary Wolkow of DeSmet SD, was nominated for Department Commander by Dave Gutzmer of Lake Preston, SD. The nomination of Gary Wolkow for Department Commander was seconded by Terry Hanson of Arlington, SD.

Subsequent calls for further nominations were unanswered. A unanimous ballot for Gary Wolkow for Department Commander was cast. Following the completion of the vote, Department Commander Gary Wolkow was duly elected to serve as Department Commander of The American Legion Department of South Dakota for the 2021-2022 American Legion year.



The newly elected officers were called to the stage and Past Department Commander Denny Brenden of Watertown, SD, conducted the Oath of Office installation ceremony. Judy Wolkow, the newly installed Department Commander's wife, pinned the Department Commander's lapel pin on Department Commander Gary Wolkow's lapel. PDC Denny Brenden presented Department Commander Wolkow with his white Department Commander's cap.

Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel presented the newly elected State Commander, Gary Wolkow, to the Convention for his acceptance speech to the assembled delegates.



Newly elected State Commander Gary Wolkow assumed the chair for the closing ceremonies and following the benediction and the retirement of the colors, declared the ONE-HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION of The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, adjourned.



**THE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
102nd ANNUAL CONVENTION
Huron, South Dakota
June 24-27, 2021
REPORTS OF OFFICERS
AND COMMITTEES**



DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

Article IV, Section 4 of the Department Constitution provides that: "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. 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 disbursement made. Such reports shall be placed before the Convention by the Commander and printed in the Annual Convention Proceedings. 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."

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2020 – 2021

Department Commander, Fred Nelson	Spearfish
Department Vice Commander Kevin Morello, (Districts 1-2).....	Piedmont
Department Vice Commander Harry Boner, (Districts 3-8)	Castlewood
National Executive Committeeman, Jim Huls	Madison
Alternate Executive Committeeman, Denny Brenden	Watertown

Adjutant, Kevin Hempel	Watertown
Assistant Adjutant & Service Officer, Courtney VanZanten	Madison
Finance Officer, Gary Wolkow	De Smet
Sergeant-at-Arms, Verle Whipple	Clear Lake
Judge Advocate, Jay Leibel	Madison
Chaplain, Justin Warfel	Spearfish
Historian, Fred Lee	Sioux Falls
Americanism, Doug Harris	Rapid City
Children & Youth, Miranda Krumm	Chester
Membership Chairman, Travise Flisrand	Castlewood

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

District 1: Jon McDonald	Box Elder
District 2: Eugene Iron Shell Jr.	Rosebud
District 3: Gene Opbroek	Gregory
District 4: Bob Thomason	Selby
District 5: Matt Lagerstrom	White
District 6: Cynthia Hoffman	Plankinton
District 7: Patrick Mullen	Madison
District 8: Jennifer VanRoekel	Parker

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYISTS

PDC Byron Callies	Watertown
Chris Van Delist	Rapid City
Doug Feltman	Chamberlain
Kevin Hempel	Watertown

VA HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center, Larry Panning	Sioux Falls
Ft. Meade VA Medical Center, James Childers	Spearfish
Hot Springs VA Medical Center, Angela Koch	Hot Springs

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS

Aeronautics, Jim Huls	Madison
Athletic, Dan Sudbeck	Dimock
Boys State, Chris Van Delist	Rapid City
Cemetery, Mike Kain	Lead
Educational Scholarship, Hugh Holmes	Mitchell
Employment, Greg Diaz	Spearfish
Internal Affairs, Mark Weinmann	Canton
Legislative, Doug Feltman	Chamberlain
Media & Communications, Courtney VanZanten	Madison
Membership & Marketing, Travise Flisrand	Castlewood
National Security, Mark Mills	Custer
Public Safety, Larry Price	Redfield
Training, Krisma DeWitt	Watertown
Trust Fund, Randall Rakness	Watertown
VA&R, Warren Aas	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, 2021

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 347,912
Certificates of deposit	17,500
Education loans receivable	122,008
Inventory	8,398
Marketable equity securities	702,827
Property and equipment	
Equipment	40,648
Vehicles	52,576
Leasehold improvements	3,320
Accumulated depreciation	(84,328)

Total Assets	\$ 1,210,861
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LIABILITIES

Payroll taxes payable	\$ 34
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Total Liabilities	34
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Net Assets

Temporarily restricted	188,246
Unrestricted	1,022,581
	1,210,827

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,210,861
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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, 2021

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Revenues and Gains			
Membership dues	\$ -	\$ 245,665	\$ 245,665
Sales of merchandise	-	77,897	77,897
Cost of merchandise sold	-	(37,243)	(37,243)
Donations	10,238	-	10,238
Interest and dividends	643	24,415	25,058
Realized gain on sale of investments	-	25,739	25,739
Unrealized gain on investments	-	88,968	88,968
Other	2,000	60,690	62,690
Total Revenues and Gains	12,881	486,131	499,012
Net Assets Released From Restrictions			
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(4,859)	4,859	-
Expenses			
Program services:			
Children and youth	-		
Athletic commission	-	959	959
Veterans services	-	2,400	2,400
Education loans	-	1,500	1,500
	-	4,859	4,859
General and administrative	-	307,149	307,149
Fundraising	-	10,639	10,639
Total Expenses	-	322,647	322,647
Change in Net Assets	\$ 8,022	\$ 168,343	\$ 176,365
Net Assets, Beginning	\$ 180,224	\$ 854,238	\$ 1,034,462
Change in net assets	8,022	168,343	176,365
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 188,246	\$ 1,022,581	\$ 1,210,817

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS

June 30, 2021

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	\$282,174	\$17,707	\$ 18,839	\$ 5,687	\$ 500	\$ 5,247	\$ 18,258	\$ 347,912
Certificates of deposit	17,000							17,500
Education loans receivable							122,008	122,008
Inventory	8,398						8,398	8,398
Marketable equity securities	702,827							702,827
Property and equipment								
Equipment		40,648						40,648
Vehicles		52,576						52,576
Leasehold improvements		3,320						3,320
Accumulated depreciation		(84,328)						(84,328)
Total Assets	\$ 1,022,615	\$ 17,707	\$ 18,839	\$ 5,687	\$ 500	\$ 5,247	\$ 140,266	\$ 1,210,861
LIABILITIES								
Payroll taxes payable	\$34							\$34
Total Liabilities	\$34							\$34
Net Assets								
Temporarily restricted		17,707	18,839	5,687	500	5,247	140,266	188,246
Unrestricted	1,022,581							1,022,581
	1,022,581	17,707	18,839	5,687	500	5,247	140,266	1,210,827
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,022,615	\$ 17,707	\$ 18,839	\$ 5,687	\$ 500	\$ 5,247	\$ 140,266	\$ 1,210,861

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
 Year Ended June 30, 2021
 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	\$ 245,665	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 245,665
Sales of merchandise	77,897							77,897
Cost of merchandise sold	(37,243)							(37,243)
Donations		1,600		4,200		3,413	1,025	10,238
Interest and dividends	24,415	2	2				639	25,058
Realized gain on sale of investments	25,739							25,739
Unrealized gain on investments	(88,968)							88,968
Other	60,690		2,000					62,690
Total Revenues and Gains	486,131	1,602	2,002			3,413	1,664	499,012
Net Assets Released From Restrictions								
Restrictions satisfied by payments	4,859		(959)			(2,400)	(1,500)	
Expenses								
Program services:								
Children and Youth								959
Athletic commission		959						
Veterans services		2,400						2,400
Education loans		1,500						1,500
	4,859							4,859
General and administrative	307,149							307,149
Fundraising	10,639							10,639
Total Expenses	322,647							322,647
Change in Net Assets	\$ 168,343	\$ 1,602	\$ 1,043	\$ 4,200	\$	\$ 1,013	\$ 164	\$ 176,365
Net Assets, Beginning	\$ 854,238	\$ 16,105	\$ 17,796	\$ 1,487	\$ 500	\$ 4,234	\$ 140,102	\$ 1,034,462
Change in net assets	168,343	1,602	1,043	4,200		1,013	164	176,365
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 1,022,581	\$ 17,707	\$ 18,839	\$ 5,687	\$ 500	\$ 5,247	\$ 140,266	\$ 1,210,827

STATE COMMANDERS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGION MEMBERSHIP

Legionnaires,

This will be my final article submitted while serving as your Department Commander. As my term winds down I thought my schedule would open up, however, my calendar is still busy to the end of the State Convention.

Two Years! It has been an “AWESOME” two years and it was an “HONOR” to serve as the Department Commander of the best Department in The American Legion. The Department of South Dakota works hard at its mission of promoting the Four Pillars. There is no doubt that our American Legion members are “Veterans Strengthening America”.

Our headquarters staff are efficient and dedicated. Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel, DSO/Assistant Adjutant Courtney VanZanten, Judy Greenfield and MaryJo Boner are knowledgeable and very helpful. Each of them plays a key role in the success of our Department. I would like to thank each of them for their continued dedication.

I am writing this last report from the grounds of Northern State University in Aberdeen, where I am spending the week at Boys State 2021. The Boys Staters are energized, and the counselors are succeeding at directing the energy in a productive direction. Witnessing the dedication of the Boys State staff is eye opening. They have long days and thrive on the upbeat, high-energy of the Boys. It is early but I can see that Boys State 2021 will be a huge success. Thank you to the dedicated staff.

I spent Memorial Day here at Boys State and spoke at their Memorial Service. They honored thirty-six Boys Staters who lost their lives in service to our country. I see on Facebook that members and Posts across the state were out in force this Memorial Day helping to honor those that lost their lives while serving to protect our country.

After the cancelation of the Mid-Winter Convention, the 2021 Spring District Meetings were well attended, and American Legion business was shared throughout the Department. It was nice to meet in person and connect with Legionnaires across the state. I encourage everyone to continue to be involved.

This year will be remembered as one that took us from a virtual world to a renewed excitement of coming together to promote the mission of The American Legion. The Department of South Dakota carried on the legacy with celebrations, parades, fundraisers, in-person meetings, oratorical scholarship programs, Boys State, Legion Baseball, shooting sports, and flag etiquette programs. Membership and Marketing Committee and the Media and Communications Committee were reorganized and are meeting their assigned missions. We are still using Zoom for some meetings, and I believe this will continue when needed.

It took the effort of all our members, our Posts, and Districts to embrace the membership challenge this year. Membership Chairman Travise Flisrand worked with the leadership team to emphasize recruitment and retention. Throughout the year, we have been back and forth between first and second place with other departments. Currently, we are in second place with a 96.7% of the national goal.

The new “MyLegion” seems to be working for more Posts and I am hoping with memberships being processed again that we may regain the lead. Congratulations to Districts One, Two, Four, and Seven for exceeding 100% of their membership goal. Congratulations to District Commander Eugene Ironshell Jr. for being a Race-to-the-Top Award winner. The latest reports have some accuracy issues, so I apologize if I am missing any Districts.

Looking back, some special moments are etched in my memory. I felt humbled and honored to receive two star quilts at district meetings, one by the commander and posts members in Eagle Butte and the second one by Eugene Iron Shell Jr., District Two Commander, in Martin. Posts centennial celebrations in Garretson, Custer, Milbank, as well as parades in Wagner, Arlington and a Valentines Social in Tabor are only a very few of these moments. I had the honor to participate in the ground breaking of the State Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls, and help at the first annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair – “We’ve Got your Six.”

I would like to thank the Vice Commanders, District Commanders, all committee and commission chairs, NEC Jim Huls and alternate NEC Denny Brenden, Past Department Commanders for their advice and support. I also would like to thank the South Dakota American Legion Family and I am grateful for the support of my local American Legion Family #164 during my campaign and two years as Department Commander. You are all appreciated! To my wife Micheline, also known as the Commander’s Aide, thank you for sharing the many long drives and the events over the two years.



Being your Department Commander gave me the honor to meet Legionnaires in every district, enjoy local events, help promote the four Pillars of The American Legion but most of all to carry on the legacy into a new centennial. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention in Huron.

There is little doubt in my mind that 2019-2021 will not be forgotten, 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!
Fred Nelson, Your Department Commander

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Department Commander Nelson:

This report is being written and read to satisfy the requirement in the Constitution and By Laws which requires the Department Adjutant to write and present to each annual convention, a report covering all activities not covered in the annual reports of the Committee Chairs and other State American Legion officials. As this was my first year as the Department Adjutant, it has been quite a learning curve. Adding all the challenges the pandemic it has been a very interesting year.

The American Legion Department of South Dakota is a member of the South Dakota Veterans Council (SDVC) along with five other Veterans Service Organizations. The council meets approximately four times per year. The main goal of SDVC is to address and support issues involving veterans of South Dakota. The Council continues to raise money for the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery endowment fund through the South Dakota Community Foundation. Additionally, great progress is being made in completing the State Veterans Cemetery, giving a place on the east side of South Dakota for Veterans to be honored as they are laid to rest. There is ongoing discussion on what to do with the building the SDCF owns on the South Dakota State Fair property. No decision has been made to date.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 issues, many committee meetings as well as the Midwinter Convention were cancelled for 2021. District Spring meetings for 2020 were cancelled, so elections of District Commander for the even years was held during District Fall meetings. Even though many committees did not meet in person, a number of meetings were held via Zoom to meet deadlines and to ensure business was accomplished. I am happy to report District Spring meetings for 2021 were held as scheduled.

The Department Executive Committee (DEC) received a request from the Department Assistant Adjutant and news paper editor, Courtney Van Zanten, to allow the South Dakota Legion News to be sent to all South Dakota Legion members. Courtney felt Legion information was not making it to the Legionnaires due to the cancellation of many meetings as well as many Posts refraining from holding meetings due to the pandemic. Courtney proposed offsetting the cost of the paper by allowing advertisement by businesses. The DEC approved the request for a one-year test, and they would reconsider it again after the test period.

The Department usually purchases a new vehicle every three years. However, due to the increase in the price of vehicles, the amount that had previously set aside for the purchase was determined to not cover the cost of a vehicle. The decision was made to delay the purchase for one year to save additional money for the vehicle purchase.

The transition to the new MyLegion and the Personify Pgo system by national headquarters has not gone as well as expected. It has impacted the staff's ability to process memberships as well as view reports and limited the assistance we could give to Posts. I certainly hope national headquarters can correct the issues and the systems allow us to conduct business in a timely manner.

Judy Greenfield and Mary Jo Boner continue to make the headquarters office successful. They have been instrumental in ensuring our department functions and programs succeed. I certainly could not have made it through my first year as Adjutant without their help and dedication.



Since most of the Committee Chairs and State Officers have filed their reports which will be available on the Department website for review, most of the activities have been covered and reported on.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Hempel, Department Adjutant

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN REPORT

Legionnaires:

It appears that the Covid Pandemic is finally passed by us. Great, now back to normal business. At the National level of the American Legion, business continued although by different means, ZOOM, the last face to face meeting was the Washington Conference in March of 2020. The 2020 Spring and Fall Meetings of the NEC and the Washington Conference of 2021 were all held virtually as well as several special meetings.



The American Legion’s Legislative agenda for the 117th Congress, 1st session represents the American Legion’s position based on the Four Pillars, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. Briefly the bullet points are: Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits, Improve Health Care for Women Veterans, Telehealth/Rural Health, Address the Forever War, Citizenship for Honorable Service, Pay the Coast Guard, Close the 90/10 Loophole, Military Awards for Minority Veterans, Peer Support, Protect the American Flag and Global War on Terrorism Memorial. Further explanation is available on the Legion’s website or in the Legion Magazine.

The NEC recently adopted a vision for the American Legion; “Veterans Strengthening America”, and a Mission; “To enhance the wellbeing of America’s veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.” and a Values statement; “A veteran is a Veteran”, Selfless Service, Family and Community Engagement, American Values and Patriotism, Advancing the Vision, Honoring Those Who Came Before Us. This Vision, Mission, and Values statement expresses the who, what and why of the American Legion, the nation’s largest organization of wartime veterans.

Some of you have already watched the #48 Indy car race in several races on National Television. The Indy 500 on Memorial Day will feature the #48 American Legion Indy car. The National organization is expecting great benefits in Business Development, The American Legion Brand Exposure, Membership, and fundraising from this sponsorship.

The 2nd leading candidate for National Commander James Troiola from New York will attend our convention in Huron.

Congratulations to Paul Evenson on his appointment as Chairman of the Marketing Commission. Our Department has had very few National Chairmen over the years and Paul will do us proud in this position.

Congrats to Commander Nelson, Membership Chairman Travis and all Legionnaires on the outstanding job on membership this year. Also congrats to District 2 commander Eugene IronShell jr on his 2nd place finish in the "Race to the Top" national award.

Veterans Strengthening America,
Jim Huls, NEC

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Commander,

I would like to thank Commander Fred Nelson for appointing me to serve as Department Service Officer for 2020-2021.

As Department Service Officer, I have the unique privilege of directly serving Veterans and their families in helping them obtain and utilize the benefits they have earned through service to our country. The VA is undoubtedly its own mountain to climb, and I am happy to be a guide of sorts.

I started the year with big hopes for more outreach. My travels took me to Isabel, with a fantastic meeting with Veterans from several posts out there. Unfortunately, COVID hit shortly thereafter, and my outreach slowed to a stop. Since the world has slowly opened back up this spring, I have gone to Gregory, and am back in the saddle for anyone open to hear me preach the good word of the VA. It is a great reason to get Vets together.

I am thrilled to report that State, County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers around South Dakota utilizing the American Legion Power of Attorney have secured \$36,290,041 in VA benefits for South Dakota Veterans and their families in Fiscal Year 2020. These Service Officers worked hard through the pandemic, finding ways to help Veterans when "in person" was not possible, and they should be recognized for their hard work and dedication. If you have not thanked your local Veterans Service Officer lately, please do so!



Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney VanZanten

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT

Commander Nelson:

Disclaimer: This report was due prior to Boys State, and the State Convention, so some of the verbiage will be “future tense” and some “past tense”. I know that’s confusing but imagine trying to write it under those circumstances. The report you are given at the convention will most likely change, to reflect the latest situation.

Thank you, Commander Nelson for the opportunity to serve as your Americanism Chairman for the last two years.

Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires! On behalf of the Americanism Commission, I welcome you to the 2021 convention and encourage you to have a great time telling the other members how much fun you had presenting the Americanism programs in your community. As someone who grew up taking part in these programs, I can tell you that the impact they have on our youth is truly amazing. I know it has been much harder to get into the schools, community events were canceled, and other youth programs such as 4-H and Scouting were limited, but you persevered. Thank you!

Since this is an annual report, I will take a few minutes to cover the different programs in a little detail. First, the Oratorical Program. This is the only program that managed to make it through the pandemic without being canceled. We had six competitors this year (up from five last year) and the quality of the presentations was impressive. For the second year in a row, National canceled their competition, but this year, they announced slightly ahead of time that they would be presenting a \$5,000 scholarship to those individuals who won at the Department level. That was a huge improvement over the \$2,000 they awarded last year. It also helps make marketing a little easier. Fiala Herceg, from Aberdeen, took first place this year (her second year of competing) and walked away with \$6,000 in scholarship monies. Thank you to all the volunteers and “voluntolds” who helped with the last two years competitions! Now for a bit of a “side note”: As my Post interviewed the candidates for Boys State this year, I found that several of them were members of the debate team. If you have boys and girls like this, you should actively recruit them to take part in this program next year.

Boys State 2021 moved forward after being canceled in 2020 and was held “in-person” with both Juniors and Seniors being eligible. The dates for this year were May 31st – June 4th and approximately 275 boys are expected to attend, up from about 240 in 2019. Legion Day will be held on Thursday the 3rd of June, so come on up and observe Boys State in action. Spend the day in Aberdeen and hang around to watch your boys compete in the annual Boys State Olympics that evening. Despite missing a year and losing the recruiting help of the 2019 Boys Staters to graduation, you still managed to recruit a large number of participants. There will also be an increased number of new counselors at Boys State this year as our Director attempts to build “depth” into the staff. A huge thank you to all those legionnaires and SD Army Guard members who believe in this program and volunteer their time to make

it the success it is. Finally, thanks again to SDAL Foundation for the \$2,000 grant to this program!

Youth Trooper Academy is also moving forward for an in-person session this year after being canceled in 2020. The date was changed from the normal June timeframe to July 12 – 16th due to scheduling conflicts. The 24 statewide participants have been selected and notified. If you are sponsoring a participant, remember to get your tuition check (\$200) sent to Department ASAP. One of the great measures of success with this program is that there are now four past participants who wear a South Dakota Trooper uniform. Legion Day for YTA will be Thursday July 15th. It's always exciting to watch our youth in action as they dress up in padded gear to "meet" the police dog, check out the SWAT vehicles and fire police weapons. A special thank you to the South Dakota Troopers who helped recruit, plan and administer this program, and to Larry Price who works closely with them.

Many of you have already started the American Legion Baseball season and will be busy coaching, travelling with, and supporting your players this summer. Thank you to all those Posts out there who make this possible. While the 2020 season wasn't canceled, there were still many challenges caused by the pandemic. Things promise to be mostly "back to normal" this year with a state competition, National Regional competition and a national competition. Of special note, Post 22 Baseball in Rapid City was awarded the 2022 and 2023 National Regional tournaments; come and check out their brand-new stadium. Finally, a huge thank you to the members of the SDAL Athletic Commission who work tirelessly to bring it all together. Support your local teams by attending their games!

South Dakota Scouting continues to march on. Thank you to those Posts' and individual Legionnaires who work year after year to help mentor our youth through their sponsorship/support of Scout Troops. If your post does not have a troop, but would like to help, remember that you can co-sponsor a troop in your area. Existing troops can always use financial support and volunteers. If you do sponsor or co-sponsor a troop, remember to submit your Eagle Scouts for the annual "Eagle Scout of the Year" competition. Thank you to Rick MacDonald who continues to lead by example as the SD Americanism representative to Scouting.

South Dakota's Junior Shooting Sports teams continue to be competitive. At least one of our shooters has been invited to take place in the national competition in Colorado Springs in 2021. 2020 was a successful year for the Pierre Post 8 shooters and their coach Sean Kruger, as they were awarded 3rd place in team competition at the national level. Thank you to the coaches and mentors of our teams who teach our youth gun safety and the joy of competition!

Finally, I would like to again mention the changes the Commission has made over the last two years. We've worked hard to provide the Posts with tools they can use to market our programs. The "Big 3" was created to provide posts with a simple, all-in-one information sheet that could easily be updated, posted, printed off and distributed to schools and students. We also built a "roadmap" for how, and to whom you should promote the "Big 3". We hope this helps the Post train their Americanism Officers and other members. We attempted to help the Post Americanism Officers by updating the Post Americanism Report to include explanations for the many different categories and providing them with an example of a winning report. We



worked closely with the Boys State staff and Northern State University to create other attractive marketing materials. A very special thank you goes out to Mary Jo Boner at Department Headquarters. She was our biggest supporter and hardest worker in bringing this all together.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Department Americanism Chairman for the last two years. I hope I, and the members of the Americanism Commission have helped bring our programs into the 21st century and provided you with helpful tools to make your jobs easier. Please take advantage of those tools and feel free to offer suggestions on how we can continue to improve them. I hope to see you all at the Department Convention in Huron.

Respectfully,
Douglas D. Harris, Chairman

ATHLETIC COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. Commander:

Well, here we are again to start another season and we just can't wait to get it started after a rough year in 2020. Not just for baseball but for every program that the American Legion offered. Technically we were put on hold for 1 year and we all got a break from the real world and are now ready to put all our programs on fire again.

My report begins with the start of baseball registration. Registration for the 2021 season started January 1st and is going strong. The majority of our A school are already registered and are anxious to get their season rolling. Most B schools are registered also but they usually are not quite as quick. I have had many inquiries in new team formations in the state and with any luck we might be up anywhere from 2 to 5 teams this year which would be great.

As far as tournament sites go: Since the 2020 season was postponed, all 2020 sites were pushed back to 2021 and the 2021 selected sites will be pushed to 2022. So, we are good for this season and next. The next time application for State Tournament sites will need to be submitted will be by Dec 31st, 2021, for the 2023 season. Sites selected for this year are as follows: St B Jr Tournament-Redfield, Aug 6th thru 8th; St B Sr Tournament-Groton, July 30th thru Aug 3rd; St A Jr Tournament-Pierre, July 23rd thru July -27th; and St A Sr Tournament-Brandon, July 23rd thru July 27. Also, Sioux Falls will be hosting this year's National Regional Tournament. Tournament sites for 2022 are as follows: St B Jr Tournament will be hosted by Clark; St B Sr Tournament will be hosted by Gregory; St A Jr Tournament will be hosted by S.F. Post 15 and the St A Sr Tournament will be hosted by R.C. Post 22. Also R.C. Post 22 will be hosting the 2022 and 2023 National Regional Tournament.

This year's American Legion golf tournament will be hosted by Wakonda on Saturday Sept 11th at Glenridge Golf Course in Irene and Sept 12th at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion. The people to contact to reserve a spot are John Peterson at

605-660-5821 and Jim Logue at 605-359-1247. Please keep this weekend open, it will be a great time to meet some new and old friends. This is truly a fun weekend, and I would like you to recruit as many teams as possible.

On a matter of sending our St B champion to Wisconsin for a season ending tournament with teams from 4 or 5 other states we have decided not to do so. The reason for the decision is because the start of the high school football season is around the corner and players starting college. It is just too difficult to get teams to commit to going to this tournament. Instead, we will consider making a donation to a program within the American Legion organization.



Commander Nelson, that concludes my report and on behalf of the Athletic Commission I would like to thank you for all your help and support and letting us serve on the Commission.

Sincerely,
Dan Sudbeck, Chairman

ATHLETIC COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-20		\$18,616.60
RECEIPTS:		
Entry Fees	\$-----	
Interest	<u>\$ 1.16</u>	
	\$ 1.16	<u>\$ 1.16</u>
TOTAL		\$18,617.76
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		
Humboldt golf tournament	\$ 200.00	
Commission Expenses	<u>\$1,026.20</u>	
TOTAL	\$1,226.20	<u>\$ 1,226.20</u>
Balance, 5-1-21		\$17,391.56

**BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commander,

I am pleased to serve as the chairman of the National Cemetery Committee, and I am honored to submit this annual report. The Black Hills National Cemetery is located just outside of Sturgis in the beautiful Black Hills. The Cemetery has over 30,000 interned and conducts over 900 funerals a year. The Bureau of Land Management recently donated an additional 180 acres. This extra space will take the facility well into the next century.

The committee I chair is small as there are only two of us; myself and Brian Dean. We make up in enthusiasm with what we lack in numbers. Our committee sits on the Black Hills National Cemetery Advisory Board, which provides the Department with a voice on the Cemetery's operations. We serve as a liaison to the

Cemetery's Director. The Board conducts numerous fund-raising events throughout the year, with the monies raised going directly to the Cemetery for projects that exceed the Cemetery's funding from the VA. We are currently working on moving several trees to block the view of some newly constructed private buildings. We are also finalizing plans to upgrade the flag poles located throughout the Cemetery, including the Avenue of Flags. The upgrading of the flag poles is a long-term endeavor, with 18 planned for this year. These two projects alone will be funded by some of the \$17,000 contributed by the Advisory Board.

The South Dakota American Legion is responsible for the Memorial Day Ceremony at Black Hills National Cemetery on an every other year basis. The Department of South Dakota's National Cemetery Committee is responsible for the planning and organizing the Memorial Day Ceremony. This year we planned for a complete Memorial Day Ceremony on-site, but due to COVID and the VA restrictions, no more than 20 people will be allowed. Given these restrictions, it will be a small and relatively private ceremony with the posting of colors, the National Anthem, a volley of three, and the playing of taps. We will place a limited number of wreaths and will have a chaplain's prayer. God willing, we can get back to normal next year.

That is the long and short of what our committee has done for the National Cemetery Committee this past year. I hope we have provided you with helpful information.

Respectfully,
John M. Kain, Chairman

BOYS STATE DIRECTOR REPORT

Commander,

It is with great pleasure I can report we are a GO for the 78th Session of South Dakota American Legion Boys State, May 31 – June 4, 2021, at Northern State University.

We currently have 270 boys signed up. This year we decided to include seniors in the session to allow them an opportunity that they were robbed of due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. With the strong showing from Boys this year we will be taking into consideration continuing to allow Juniors and Seniors in future Sessions. This decision will be left to the Board to decide.

We will hold our annual meeting for the corporation on Sunday May 30th at Northern State University. Some agenda items are future incorporation of Seniors, Changes to the Bylaws to better reflect the corporation organizational structure, 2022 Session Dates, Annual Meeting date changes, and election of officer.

I thank every Legionnaire for their continued support of this great program. Additionally, I thank all the volunteers who



come together to put on such an important event. Without all their dedication we could not fulfil our mission to help America's youth understand and appreciate the American system of government and way of life including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and to give young men a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of South Dakota State government.

Respectfully submitted,
C.P Van Delist, Director

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Commander:

Zero TFA Claims!

First of all, I want to thank the SD American Legion Foundation for the \$1,500.00 of Grant Funds to the Children and Youth Committee. The funds were used to procure backpacks filled with school supplies for children of all ages going into the 2020-2021 school year.

Before the Backpack Program started Operation Homefront reached out. Operation Homefront's mission is to build strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive — not simply struggle to get by — in the communities they have worked so hard to protect. The representative from Operation Homefront informed the Children & Youth Committee of their annual 2020 School Supply drive through Dollar Tree stores. The drive is based on donations at checkout with miscellaneous school supplies from glue sticks to paper. Children & Youth volunteers signed up at several Dollar Tree store locations to include: (3) Sioux Falls, (2) Mitchell, (1) Watertown, and (1) Aberdeen. Once a week the volunteers did a pickup at each of their designated locations of school supplies for four weeks in July during the drive. The representative of Operation Homefront encouraged us to give them to veteran children in need first and if those needs were met in the area to broaden the scope to the surrounding community children that would also benefit. Their goal was to help in any way!

In the beginning of August, all school supply donations and purchased backpacks through the South Dakota American Legion Foundation were centralized to the Chester American Legion Auxiliary, where volunteers sorted supplies, stuffed backpacks for distribution.

In total, with the Grant Funds 335 backpacks, and 24 teacher bags carrying 3,902 school supplies from the above-mentioned Dollar Tree stores from the Operation Homefront 2020 drive made their way out the door to 335 deserving children from veteran children to the reservation children, Department of Social Services children, and to school representatives handing them to their most needy within their grasp. Each and every representative could not have been more thankful especially this year!

The Backpack Program involved the following recipients from the Sioux Falls Army National Guard, and the following communities: Watertown, Mt. Vernon, Aberdeen, Rosebud, Faith, Mitchell, Brandon, Garretson, Chester, Eagle Butte,

White Lake, Chamberlain, Alexandria, Wessington Springs, Huron, and Stickney/Corsica.

The next drive was the Toy Drive! We teamed up with Dollar tree, Operation Home Front and the SD AL Foundation for another great experience I was able to be a part of! Handing these bags out before Christmas filled with toys to children was a complete joy! The veteran families that received them were very thankful this season.



Total of donated items from dollar trees: 5,647. The SD AL Foundation donated \$750 for 750 gift bags for the toys to be put in. These gift bags went out to the deployed South Dakota units and the units currently going through medical in Sioux Falls during the holidays.

Thank you again SD AL Foundation, this Backpack Program and holiday toy drive was a great success!

Respectfully,
Miranda Krumm, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-20		\$17,659.97
Memorial/Donations	\$ 950.00	
Interest	\$ <u>1.64</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 951.64	<u>\$ 951.64</u>
		\$18,677.61
DISBURSEMENTS:		
TFA's	<u>\$1,555.27</u>	
TOTAL	\$1,555.27	<u>\$ 1,555.27</u>
BALANCE, 5-1-21		\$17,056.34

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Commander:

Two thousand twenty/twenty-one was another exciting period 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. Since our fund had been established for more than a year, we reaped the benefits of having just over \$5600.00 to award our first scholarships using the fund in March 2021.

The committee voted to award four scholarships. The winners are Allison Gross, Brookings, \$2000.00; Carter Jahngig, Hurley, \$1500.00; Megan Linke, Woonsocket, \$1000.00; and Aaron Linke, Woonsocket,

\$1000.00. Carter is attending Dakota State University and Allison, Megan and Aaron are attending SDSU.

We received one donation of \$100.00 in 2020 and another donation from the South Dakota Sons of The American Legion for \$1000.00 in March 2021. Thank you, Sons!

Applications and brochures are online at www.SDlegion.org. We are currently revising the application for 2021/2022 scholarship year.

The 2021 Educator of the Year is Audra West, nominated by Post 22. She is a 4th Grade teacher at Blackhawk. She will be honored in the fall when her school is back in session.

The education scholarships offered by the Department of South Dakota are for post-secondary education, college, or technical schools, for children of veterans, grandchildren of veterans, and 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 listed on the application must be a member of the South Dakota 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, Paul Weidenbach, Lesterville, Michael Pauling, Piedmont, Philip Egeberg, Brookings, Ed Hruska Jr., Sioux Falls, and Hugh Holmes, Mitchell.



The Education Scholarship Committee expresses our appreciation for the various memorials and donations received this past year, totaling \$1100.00. 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 to be the chairman of the prestigious Education Scholarship Committee. It is a great honor. Up, up, and away!

Respectfully Submitted,
Hugh W. Holmes, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Balance, 5-1-20		\$11,722.19
RECEIPTS:		
Loan Repayments	\$ 7,008.75	
Interest	\$ 1.51	
Memorials and Donations	<u>\$ 1,025.00</u>	
	\$ 8,035.26	\$ 8,035.26
TOTAL		
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Scholarships	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 1,500.00	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
Balance, 5-1-21		\$18,257.45

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 enable us to recognize them for their contributions.

For 2020-2021, we received a total of 4 nominations, in 3 categories: Olson-Reid Post #250 nominated Kones Korner of Castlewood for one award: Employer of Veterans - Small; Spearfish Post #164 nominated Prairie Hills Transit of Spearfish for three awards: Employer of Veterans - Small, Employer of Older Workers, and the Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons.



The committee had hoped to receive more nominations this go-around. Nonetheless, the submissions we did receive were superb. In the end, Prairie Hills Transit performed a full sweep of the awards for which it was nominated. They have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to veterans, be they members of the public or those whom they employ. We are very proud to have such a fine organization within South Dakota, and they set a great example for others to follow.

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. This is the 2nd consecutive year each committee member volunteered to serve, and I would like to thank each of the members for their dedication.

For 2021, I would like to ask for the assistance of all posts to look closely at deserving organizations in their area and take some time to submit a nomination. It is very important that we call attention to the great work these institutions do for our fellow veterans, and by formally recognizing them it can encourage others to take notice and follow in their footsteps.

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. It has been a difficult past year and a challenge for historians to complete some sort of history for their posts. I will also assist those who are working to put their histories together or online for the State Convention in June.

Post Historians should be working on their Post Histories right now for the History contest at our 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. If you intend to participate in the History book contest, get it to me in early June or hand it in at the information desk at the convention by 3 pm Friday afternoon. I will need to judge them that evening in order to present plaques on Saturday.



Guidelines, including the point system for judging, is found in the Post Officers guide. Plaques will be presented to the first, second and third place winners at the State Convention in Huron.

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 soon. 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**

Fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to thank Commander Nelson for appointing me to serve as the Chairman for the Internal Affairs Commission for 2021.

The Internal Affairs Commission met 3 times by ZOOM conference to accomplish its mission. On 26 April 2021, 11 May 2021, and 20 May 2021. A quorum was present at all three of the zoom conferences.

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.

There are several resolutions that have been submitted this year to the Internal Affairs Commission for consideration.

The resolution SDAL 21-1 was submitted by Post 250 of Castlewood was to develop an Operational Readiness Era Classification and a Cold war era classification for veterans who do not fall into previously defined war eras.

THE COMMISSION VOTED TO SEND THIS RESOLUTION TO THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE WITH A DO NOT PASS RECOMMENDATION.

Resolution SDAL 21-2 was submitted by Post 92 of Redfield. This resolution would make the Youth Trooper Academy an official program of the South Dakota American Legion in cooperation of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, however we would request a line item in the annual budget to fund the program.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED REMOVE THE 2ND RESOLVE CLAUSE AND A DO PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-3 was submitted by the Internal Affairs commission that would change the name of Shannon County in the State Constitution in District 2, to read Oglala Lakota county in District 2 Department of South Dakota American Legion. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A DO PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-4 was submitted by the Internal Affairs Commission that would amend the constitution of the Department of South Dakota Legion to read as: For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; .to foster and perpetuate a one hundred 'Americanism' to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in ALL WARS; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

THE COMMISSION VOTED A DO PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-5 was submitted by Post 88 in White would remove the financial limit set forth in the Constitution for the Children and Youth committee and have the Finance Commission create a line item in the annual budget for an amount not to exceed \$300.00 for the Children and Youth Committee.

THE COMMISSION MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLVED CLAUSE TO READ, "THAT LINE ITEMS BE CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT BUDGET, PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMISSION AND APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" AND VOTED FOR A DO PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-6 was submitted by Post 88 in White to allow for changes in voting procedures during the time of National pandemics or other emergencies when regular attendance at the Annual State convention is impossible due to the better interest of public health.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A DO NOT PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION AND ALSO RECOMMENDED FURTHER STUDY ON THE CONCEPT.

Resolution SDAL 21-7 submitted by post 88 in White would set the installation date of newly elected District Commanders to coincide with the election and installation of the newly elected Department Commander at the annual State Convention.

THE COMMISSION VOTED TO RECOMMEND DO PASS OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-8 was submitted by Post 250 of Castlewood to establish the Training Committee as a Standing committee with a supporting budget for Five members with Three-year rotating terms.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO SEND THIS TO THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AS IT DID NOT REQUIRE A CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.

Resolution SDAL 21-9 was submitted by Post 250 in Castlewood ensure that minutes from each committee meeting are disseminate to every chartered post within 30 days of the committee meeting.

THE COMMISSION VOTED A DO NOT PASS OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-10 was submitted by post 250 in Castlewood and would require that membership of the Membership and Marketing committee will be made up of the Committee chairman for a 1-year term, and a representative from each Department Vice Commanders areas and from each District to serve staggered three-year terms. The membership and marketing committee shall be established as a Standing Committee. Appropriate funding shall be in place to support the committee. THE COMMITTEE VOTED TO SEND THIS RESOLUTION TO THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Resolution SDAL 21-11 was submitted by the Internal Affairs Commission to accurately reflect in the Constitution and By-Laws the Committees, Commissions, Convention Committees, and Temporary Committees that currently exist in the American Legion, Department of South Dakota.

THE COMMISSION VOTED A DO-PASS RECOMMENDATION TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL-21-12 was submitted by Post 250 of Castlewood proposes that Department Vice-Commanders have the ability to direct and make official visits to Districts, Posts and events on the behalf of the Department for the good of the American Legion without restriction or the need for an official call from the Department Commander and the allotted amount under the budget to assist with their expenses.

THE COMMISSION VOTED A DO NOT PASS RECOMMENDATION TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Resolution SDAL 21-13 submitted Post 250 of Castlewood requires replacing the eligibility dates in the constitution that read from 7 Dec 1941 to 31 December 1946, 25 June 1950 to 31 January 1955, 28 February 1961 to 7 May 1975, 20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990, and August 1990 to a date determined by the US Government to the phrase of “any time after 7 December 1941”.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS A DO PASS FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

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,

Here is the annual report of the South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee. The members of the committee are Chairman Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, PDC Rod Martens of Piedmont, PDC Gary Watts of White, PDC Rick MacDonald of Hermosa and Chris "Van" Van Delist of Rapid City. The lobbyists for this year were Doug Feltman, Adjutant Kevin Hemple, PDC Byron Callies and Chris "Van" Van Delist.

Because of Covid, the Legislative Round tables were cancelled this year. In light of that The SD Veterans Council met on the 13th of January 2021 at Post # 8 in Pierre. I attended the meeting as a guest. The Council discussed the bills that were likely to be of a concern to Veterans and set the Council's priorities. That evening the Veterans Council hosted a Legislative reception with all Legislators invited and it was well attended by the Veterans Council and Legislators.

On the 10th of February 2021 the Legislative Committee met in Pierre at Post # 8. Roll called showed the following committee members present: Chairman Doug Feltman, PDC Gary Watts, Chris "Van" Van Delist. Committee men Rick MacDonald and Rod Martens attended by Zoom. Also in attendance were State Commander Fred Nelson, Adjutant Kevin Hemple, NEC Jim Huls and Lobbyist Byron Callies,

Adjutant Hemple summarized the Veterans Council meeting. The Legislative Committee then reviewed and discussed 27 bills, and a decision was made on each on how we were going to proceed.

There were 13 House bills that were discussed, and we were going to: watch 4, support 7, do not support 1, and no action on 1 as it was defeated in the House committee.

There were also 14 Senate bills that were discussed, and we were going to: watch 6, support 2, lobby in support of 2 and remove 4 from the list.

There was one Senate Resolution that was placed on the watch list also.

The evening reception was hosted by Post # 8. All Legislators received a written invitation, and it was well attended. This reception gave the Legislative Committee, the Legion Lobbyist, and Legionnaires an opportunity to meet the Legislators, get to know them and give them our recommendations and thoughts on particular bills that had an impact on Veterans. At both receptions while talking to the Legislators, it is very obvious that The South Dakota American Legion has a good and respected relationship with the Legislators in the State.

Post # 8 again did an excellent job in hosting the reception and served a delicious supper to all in attendance. Thank you. If anyone wants more information on a particular bill, please contact me at (605) 234- 4143. Here is the results of the bills on the Legislative Committee's list:

HB 1017 - revise the appropriation to construct cold storage building in Sioux Falls
- Signed by the Governor

- HB 1018 - authorize the construction of a National Guard Readiness Center in Sioux Falls - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 1019 - appropriation to the South Dakota Ellsworth Development - [Deferred to the 41st. day](#)
- HB 1020 - appropriation to continue the veteran's bonus program - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 1033 - update certain provisions relating to the SD retirement system - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 1055 - authorize certain children eligible for registration with a state-approved distance learning - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 1057 - establish resident tuition requirements for veterans and armed forced personnel and family members - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 10-65 - adopt the emergency medical personnel licensure interstate compact - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- HB 1122- require official declaration of war before the National Guard may be deployed overseas - [Deferred to the 41st. day](#)
- HB 1206 - increase the allowable reimbursement for certain headstones for military personnel - [Tabled](#)
- HB 1276 - appropriation for capital improvements to the State Veterans Home - [Tabled](#)
- HB 1277 - appropriation for the installation of a sprinkler system at the State Veterans Cemetery - [Tabled](#)
- SB 27 - revise off-campus tuition rates at institutions governed by the Board of Regents - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 33 - appropriation for certain costs related to the commissioning of the USS Pierre - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 65 - create an exception to the dual compensation prohibition for state employees for military service - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 81 - authorize certain flags and flagpoles to be located on residential property within a community improvement district - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 84 - appropriate finds to support Veterans Memorial Centers in South Dakota - [Tabled](#)
- SB 151 - appropriation to provide for infrastructure to support Ellsworth Air Force Base - [Tabled](#)
- SB 180 - revise certain provisions regarding revenues generated by and donations to the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 181 - make an appropriation for road improvements leading to the State Veterans Cemetery - [Signed by the Governor](#)
- SB 188 - appropriation to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery - [Tabled](#)
- SR 701 - resolution in support of rescinding the Medals of Honor given to Unites States soldier for the involvement and participation of the soldiers in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890 - [Adopt as amended](#)



Commander Nelson I want to thank you for having faith in me and allowing me to serve as chairman of the Legislative Committee. I also want to thank the members of the Legislative Committee and the Lobbyists for the South Dakota American Legion. We had a very good year and it would not have been possible without your support, dedication and willingness to travel for the good of The American Legion. Thank You!!

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Feltman, Chairman

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Commander,

I would like to thank Commander Fred Nelson for appointing me to serve as the Chairman of the newly formed Media and Communications Committee for 2020-2021.

Our new committee set out with the purpose of opening communications with our membership through both traditional and social media avenues. To accomplish this task, I have had the assistance of my team: Samantha Broshard of Eureka, Michelle Eosso of Rapid City, Patrick Merrill of Box Elder, Brian Siemonsma of Garretson, and liaison from the Membership and Marketing Committee, Travise Flisrand of Castlewood.

Through several meetings held over Zoom, the committee decided upon social media strategy, to include campaigns celebrating African American Military History and Women's Military History. Efforts to expand reach over other platforms, such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram are also underway, with various levels of success. The committee looks forward to addressing the ever-evolving world of communication in today's social media realms—a challenge necessary to thriving in the 21st century.

In traditional media, the South Dakota American Legion News was brought back to print for all membership—first as a special edition in August 2020, and fully starting in February 2021. The overall reception has been positive, and blue hats enjoy having the direct communication delivered to their door. We are working with Leader Printing of Madison, SD to run advertisements in the paper to defray costs. While it started off slower than anticipated, the advertising base is steadily growing.

I will wrap up my report with some excellent news: South Dakota performed very well at the national contest for The American Legion Media Alliance. Commander Fred Nelson won Department Social Media Campaign for his Legion on the Road Series, the South Dakota American Legion News won best Department publication, and the South Dakota American Legion



Foundation Donor Guide won the Innovation Award for the 2020-2021 year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney VanZanten, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Department Commander Nelson,

The 2020-2021 year in the South Dakota American Legion had a few challenges that were unprecedented. The “Pandemic” of COVID-19 started our year off with our hands tied, most of our Legion Posts were restricted in their activities to include membership recruiting. My slogan for this year’s membership was “Retain, Recruit and Educate”. The goal with the slogan was to support National Commander Oxford’s mission of retention of American Legion members within Posts.

We started off the new year with a goaling model that focused Posts on retaining the members they had at the end of the 2019-2020 year. Overall, this goaling model was more successful than previous years’ goals. Districts 1, 2, 4 and 7 met their goals by the May 12th target date for 100%. 133 of 241 Posts reached their goal by this same date. Our Department has led the Nation for most of this year in membership numbers bringing your team many accolades from the National leadership team.

Commander, your request to restructure the Department membership council into the Membership and Marketing (M&M) Committee is starting to blossom into an asset for the Department. The committee is made up of the following members: Dist. 1 Bridget Keller, Dist. 2 Troy Falardeau, Dist. 3 Jacob Schaefer, Dist. 4 Chris Reder, Dist. 5 Phil Keller, Dist. 6 Keith Larsen, Dist. 7 Abby Bartosh, Dist. 8 Joseph Knoer, Area 1-2 Larry Zimmerman and Area 3-8 Dave Gutzmer. The committee has decided to focus on service-related projects to highlight the South Dakota American Legion utilizing our National motto of “Veterans serving American”. The focus is to get Posts to work together on community service projects in either funding or volunteer hours with organizations. During these projects we will leverage the media coverage events to educate the public on what the South Dakota American Legion accomplishments are utilizing numbers reported in the Consolidated Post reports.



Thank you for this opportunity to continue serving in the South Dakota American Legion.

Travis Flisrand, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP FUND

Budget Amount 2020-2021	\$ 8,000.00
Membership award from National	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$10,000.00
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Committee, Travel & Awards	<u>\$6,150.50</u>
Balance in Fund, 5-1-21	\$3,849.50

TRAINING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Commander,

It has been a privilege to serve as the Training Committee Chair this past year along with the following members: PDC Byron Callies, Vice Commander Kevin Morello, Department Assistant Adjutant Courtney VanZanten, and Don Fuller. The Commander's vision and mission statements for the Committee have provided excellent direction for this newly formed committee. As directed by the Department Commander, the Training Committee has worked on developing training for all levels within the department from member to Department Officers.

Since the formation of the Training Committee in 2019, it has accomplished the following tasks. Classes were prepared and offered at MidWinter 2019; classes were prepared for MidWinter 2020 but were not conducted due to the cancellation of that meeting. The committee is currently developing a Training Plan for the Department which will address not only the purpose, mission, and tasks of this committee, but will also outline a plan to develop a Department Legion College, exportable training for all levels within the Department, and criteria for course development and evaluation. The committee is also looking for skilled instructors to conduct face-to-face or video training. Another initiative that the committee is considering include establishing a once-a-month video training opportunity for members similar to the National Training Tuesday events.



The Training Committee continues to encourage all Legionnaires to provide input, suggestion, and ideas for courses, delivery, methods, and instructors. Our mission is to reach all Legionnaires and we appreciate input that is helpful in doing just that.

Respectfully submitted,
Krisma DeWitt, Chairman

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. Commander,

What a year 2020 has been. What started out to be a projected bad year ended up quite the opposite. The committee met once this past year and agree that the fund keep the present account objective of mid-conservative. The fund has averaged 26.61% annual yield. The year-end market value as of April 28, 2020 was \$551,906, compared to a year end market value on April 30, 2021 of \$704,856.

The current asset allocation for the trust is as follows:



Cash Alternatives is 2.1% which currently yields 0.02%;
Fixed Income 33.8% with an average yield of 2.92%;
Equities is 59.2% with an average yield of 1.06%;
Real Assets is 2.1% with an average yield of .01%,
Alternative investments 2.9% with an average yield of 5.89%.

The committee met with the investment manager and agreed to monitor the fund as needed in the coming year. We hope the fund will continue to perform in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Rakness, Chairman

SUMMARY OF ASSETS AS OF MAY 4, 2021

Description of assets	Market Value	Assets
Cash (money market)	\$14,567	2.1%
Bonds (fixed income)	\$238,360	33.8%
Common Stock (Equities)	\$417,773	59.2%
Real Asset Fund	\$14,722	2.1%
Alternative Investments	<u>\$20,419</u>	<u>2.9%</u>
	\$705,840	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 Mission, Gary Schumacher of De Smet, and Rebecca Trygstad of Volga, it gives me great pleasure to present the following Department VA&R Commission report.

The Department VA&R Commission is scheduled to meet twice per year. We try to meet once in person and the other by teleconference. However, due to the

COVID pandemic and safety reasons, our commission meets by teleconference or Zoom meetings. We hope to meet in person in the near future.

Our meeting agendas are full and we discuss and act on several issues brought up by our commission members. Every commission member brings something to the meeting table whether it be a resolution, a unit homecoming, an award, a legislative bill, and the list goes on. We listen and act on all issues brought to our meetings.

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 no award to recognize a post for the good work they do for VA&R. Well, that is now changed. We now have a VA&R Award for Excellence. This award is open to every post in our department and we 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 is on our department website under Forms or you may also contact our State Headquarters for assistance. The deadline for all applications for this award is May 1 of each year. The winning post will be recognized on stage at our next state convention.

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. The VA&R Commission is working toward a goal of possibly submitting our department 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. We can only do this with your help, so we ask each post to submit their Post Consolidated Report to state headquarters. This report will reflect the information needed so our department can extract and consolidate the VA&R data from the report and submit for the award.

As a member of the National VA&R Commission, I've had the privilege the past years to attend the Washington Conference to listen and participate in the national VA&R agenda. We make a point to bring back all the information we can get our hands on from our meetings 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 in your county or contact our Department Service Officer 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 and ask your fellow members if they need a ride to the meeting. You'll be glad you did.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren L. Aas, Chairman

V.A.V.S. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

No report submitted.

VAVS COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, 5-1-20		\$3,948.93
RECEIPTS:		
Interest	\$.45	
Memorials and Donations	<u>\$3,323.00</u>	
	\$3,323.45	<u>\$3,323.45</u>
		\$7,272.38
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		
VA Facilities	<u>\$2,400.00</u>	
	\$2,400.00	<u>\$2,400.00</u>
Balance, 5-1-21		\$4,872.38

**SUMMARY OF 2021 AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CONVENTION AND CONVENTION
COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The following Convention resolutions were reviewed for the 2021 year to be considered at the Department convention.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-1

Submitted by Olson Reid American Legion Post 250, Castlewood

Title: Develop Operational Readiness Era/Cold War Era War Eras

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, that the American Legion develop an “Operational Readiness Era” classification and a “Cold War Era” classification for veterans who do not fall into previously defined war eras.

The resolution was not passed.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-2

Submitted by Clay Kaiser American Legion Post 92 of Redfield SD

Title: SDAL fully/officially endorse the SD Youth Trooper Academy

RESOLVED, the Department of South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee will oversee with cooperation with the South Dakota Highway Patrol, a South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Finance Commission will ensure a yearly line item is included on the annual budget to fund The American Legion of South Dakota’s Youth Trooper Academy requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Department of South Dakota American Legion in Annual Convention assembled 24-27 June, 2021, in Huron South Dakota, will officially and fully endorse the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy.

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-3

Submitted by the Internal Affairs Commission

Title: Article IV, Section 11 of the Constitution of the South Dakota American Legion be amended to read Oglala Lakota County instead of Shannon County

RESOLVED, by the Internal Affairs Commission, in regular meeting on 20 April 2021, by ZOOM meeting, that Article IV, Section 11 of the Constitution of the South Dakota American Legion be amended to read Oglala Lakota County instead of Shannon County as a county in District 2, Department of South Dakota American Legion.

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-4

Submitted by the Internal Affairs Commission

Title: Constitution of the Department of SDAL is amended to match the National Organization (Association to Associations and War to Wars)

RESOLVED, By the Internal Affairs Commission of the South Dakota American Legion in regular meeting on 20 April 2021, in a ZOOM meeting, That the Preamble to the Constitution of the Department of South Dakota American Legion is amended to read:

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents in our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principle of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-5

Submitted by Higgins-Jessen Post #88 of White, SD.

Title: The Constitution of the Department of South Dakota, Article VI, Section 2.b shall be amended to remove the \$300 restriction

RESOLVED, By the Higgins-Jessen Post 88, of The American Legion of South Dakota assembled at their Meeting at White, SD, August 31, 2020, The Constitution of the Department of South Dakota, Article VI, Section 2.b shall be amended to remove the \$300 restriction to read:

“That a line item be created in the Department Budget, proposed by the Department Finance Commission and approved by the Department Executive Committee for The Music and Parade fund for the promotion, expenses, and participation of musical organizations at the annual Department Convention; and for The Department VAVS Committee, for the assistance to volunteer services at the three Veterans Administration Medical Centers in South Dakota, and the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. Such expenditures are to be approved by the chairperson of the VAVS Committee; and for The Department Children and Youth Committee, provided that a sum not to exceed \$300 per year be allowed for the necessary travel and expenses by the chairperson of the Department Children and Youth Committee.”

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-6

Submitted by Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88, of White SD.

Title: The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to allow for casting ballots in the event that the Department Annual Convention must be cancelled due to a public health emergency

RESOLVED, By the Higgins-Jessen Post #88 of The American Legion of South Dakota assembled at their regular Meeting in White, South Dakota, March 29, 2021, The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to allow for casting ballots in the event that the Department Annual Convention must be cancelled due to a public health emergency, like the COVID-19 Pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, Article VIII shall be amended to add a new section: “Section 2. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES – In the event of a State-government recognized public health emergency which may make attendance at the Annual Department Convention impossible due to attendance restrictions in the better interest of public health, the Department Executive Committee will deliberate and decide the fate of the immediate Annual Convention. If the Convention is canceled, the Department Executive Committee and Headquarters Staff will inform the Posts of the Department and work to assure Delegate Credentials are obtained and member addresses are verified in accordance with Article IV and reasonable timeliness to allow for mail-based voting.”; and be it further

RESOLVED, Article IX shall be amended to add a new section: “Section 4. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES:

(a) In the event the Annual Department Convention is canceled in accordance with Article VIII-Section 2, the Department Executive Committee will develop a ballot that will be mailed to all duly appointed Post Delegates as defined by Article IV which will include:

1) Any candidates for open elected offices from declared candidates and eligible-incumbents, and

2) Any Resolutions that have been received according to Article XV

(b) To allow reasonable discussion and to assure relevance of the election, completed ballots received within thirty calendar days of the start of the election shall be considered valid. All ballots that are received must be verified by the Department Executive Committee before the results of the election are announced.

(c) As is current accepted practice at a “regular convention”, if only one delegate’s ballot is received from a Post by the deadline, it shall count as the entire Post vote in accordance with Article IV Section 2. Otherwise, Post votes will be allocated according to the proportion of votes which were received from the Post’s delegates.

(d) To encourage debate and prevent unintended long-term changes, any resolutions passed by absentee voting will have a “sun-set” expiration date of the next “normal” Department Annual Convention.”; and

RESOLVED, The Department Executive Committee shall appropriately amend The South Dakota Uniform Code of

Procedure in accordance with Article IX, Section 1(b) to account for absentee voting during a canceled convention due to a public health emergency; and be it finally

RESOLVED, Once this resolution is approved, it shall be considered in immediate effect.

The resolution was not passed.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-7

Submitted by Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88 of White SD

Title: The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to set the term of office for District Commanders to be two years with the starting date of their term being at the inauguration of the newly elected Department Commander

RESOLVED, By the Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88 of The American Legion of South Dakota assembled at their regular Meeting in White, South Dakota, March 29, 2021, The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to set the term of office for District Commanders to be two years with the starting date of their term being at the inauguration of the newly elected Department Commander; and be it further

RESOLVED, To support this change, Article IV, Section 8 of The Department Constitution of The Department of South Dakota shall be amended to read: “There shall be elected a District Commander, from each of the even number districts at the regular spring district meeting held in the even numbered years, and from each of the odd numbered districts at the regular spring district meeting held in odd numbered years. Such District Commander shall take office and assume his/her duties immediately upon his/her election their duties at the same time and place as the newly elected Department Commander is installed.”; and be it further

RESOLVED, During the time between the Spring Meeting and the Department Convention installation ceremony, the Outgoing and New District Commanders shall have all privileges of their office, understanding the Outgoing Commander is still the voting member of the Department Executive Committee until the New Commander is formally installed in office, and they shall work together to assure a smooth transition of responsibility and continued delivery of the Department’s Programs; and be it finally

RESOLVED, Once this resolution is approved, it shall be considered in immediate effect.

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-8

Submitted by Resolution Committee

Title: The Department of South Dakota American Legion establish The Training Committee as a standing committee

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South

Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota American Legion establish The Training Committee as a standing committee with a supporting budget for five (5) members with 3-year rotating terms.

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-9

Submitted by Olson Reid American Legion Post 250, Castlewood

Title: That the Department of South Dakota amend the Bylaws, Article II, Section 3: getting committee minutes to the Posts

RESOLVED, by Post No. 250, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in Huron, South Dakota June 24-27, 2021, That the Department of South Dakota amend the Bylaws, Article II, Section 3, adding to (c) “He/she shall disseminate minutes from each Committee to every chartered Post within 30 days of the committees meeting unless otherwise stipulated in fewer days within the Constitution and Bylaws.”

The resolution was not passed

Resolution No. SDAL 21-10

Submitted by American Legion Olson – Reid Post 250 of Castlewood, SD

Title: The Department of South Dakota establish the Membership and Marketing Committee as a Standing Committee

RESOLVED, by Post No. 250, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in Huron, South Dakota June 24-27, 2021, That the Department of South Dakota establish the Membership and Marketing Committee as a Standing Committee; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that said Membership and Marketing Committee will be made up of the Membership Chairman who will serve one-year terms, one representative from each Department Vice Commander’s area and one representative from each District to serve three-year terms that are staggered for rotation, The Department shall establish the appropriate funding in place to support the committee.

The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-11

Submitted by Internal Affairs Commission

Title: Modify the Constitution and By-Laws to change commissions and committees

RESOLVED, by the Internal Affairs Commission of the American Legion Department of South Dakota in regular meeting assembled in Huron, South Dakota on June 24 – 27, 2021, that the Constitution and By Laws be modified to make permanent the following commissions and committees identified; and it be finally

RESOLVED, that Article IV, Section 6 be changed to read “Section 6. COMMISSIONS and COMMITTEES. The following commissions and committees shall be permanently established with the chairperson appointed

annually except where identified differently in these Constitution and By Laws or the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of Department Conventions or the American Legion Department of South Dakota

- a) The Executive Committee is the governing body of the organization charged with the administration of the affairs of the Legion between Conventions. It shall be composed of the Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders and the District Commanders of which there shall be one from each district. The National Executive Committeeman and the immediate Past Department Commander shall also be members of the Executive Committee. The Department Judge Advocate will be an Ex-officio member.
- b) Commissions:
 - a. Americanism Commission
 - b. Athletic Commission
 - c. Finance Commission
 - d. Internal Affairs Commission
 - e. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
- c) Committees:
 - a. Permanent Committees
 - i. American Legion Trust Committee
 - ii. Children and Youth Committee
 - iii. Education Committee
 - iv. Employment Committee
 - v. Legislative Committee
 - vi. Media and Communications Committee
 - vii. Membership and Marketing Committee
 - viii. National Cemetery Committee
 - ix. Public Safety Committee
 - x. Training Committee
 - xi. Veterans Administration Voluntary Service Committee
 - b. Convention Committees
 - i. Americanism Committee
 - ii. Credentials Committee
 - iii. Employment Committee
 - iv. Internal Organization Committee
 - v. Legislative Committee
 - vi. National Security Committee
 - vii. Next Meeting Place Committee
 - viii. Rehabilitation Committee
 - ix. Resolutions Committee

Temporary Committees – are committees specifically created to fulfill a specific purpose, appointed by the Commander and dissolved when their mission is complete
The resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-12

Submitted by American Legion Olson – Reid Post 250 of Castlewood, SD

Title: Amend Article V of the Bylaws of the Department of South Dakota to allow the Department Vice Commander(s) to carry out more duties.

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, approve an amendment to Article V of the Bylaws of the Department of South Dakota to allow the Department Vice Commander(s) the ability to direct and make official visits to Districts, Posts and events on the behalf of the Department for the good of The American Legion without restriction or the need for an official call from the Department Commander and the allotted amount under the budget to assist with their expenses.

The resolution was not passed

Resolution No. SDAL 21-13

Submitted by American Legion Olson – Reid Post 250 of Castlewood, SD

Title: Change service dates

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, approve the replacement of the currently listed Service Dates within the Constitution of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, Article III, Section I with the newly adopted phrasing found with the National Constitution of The American Legion Section IV, Section 1.1.A.ii, where the previously listed Legion Date Era's have been replaced by the phrase of "any time after December 7, 1941".

The resolution was adopted

Resolution No. SDAL 21-14

Submitted by Otto-Quande-Renville American Legion Post 50 of Sisseton SD

Title: Eligibility of a paid employee to hold an elected office

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in Annual Convention assembled, June 24-27, 2021, in Huron South Dakota, that The American Legion Department of South Dakota include into the employee handbook that a paid salaried employee on the department payroll, whether full time or part time, will be deemed ineligible to simultaneously hold both a salaried position and an elected leadership position with the department.

Resolution pulled by author.

Resolution No. SDAL 21-15

Submitted By: Resolution Committee

Title: Establish a Public Safety Committee as a standing committee

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled in the 2021 Department Convention, held in Huron, South

Dakota, June 24-27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota American Legion establish The South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee as a standing committee with a supporting budget for five (5) members with 3-year rotating terms.

The resolution was adopted

Resolution No. SDAL 21-17

Submitted By: Resolution Committee

Title: Support of the Flaming Fountain

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in regular meeting assembled at the 2021 Department Convention held in Huron SD June 24 – 27, 2021, that the Department of South Dakota make permanent repair of the Flaming Fountain one of their top legislative priorities during the 2022 South Dakota Legislative Session

No action was taken.

2020-2021



FRED NELSON

“Carry on the Legacy”

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

