

Legion News



VOLUME 87, NUMBER 3

STILL SERVING AMERICA

December 2019

COMMANDER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE CHALLENGE



1. CHOOSE COMMUNITY EVENT
2. SELECT VETERANS CHARITY



EVENT IDEAS:

SOUP SUPPER
POULTRY PARTY
BINGO NIGHT
CASINO NIGHT
CAR SHOW
MUD RUN
5K FUN RUN
FAMILY FAIR
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
BURGER & BRAT FEED
CAR SMASH
MOUNTAIN OYSTER FEED
POTLUCK
SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST
POLAR PLUNGE
FISHING TOURNAMENT
MOVIE NIGHT
KARAOKE CONTEST

LEGION FUNDS:

SDAL FOUNDATION
SDAL EMERGENCY FUND
SDAL TEMP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
SDAL POPCORN FUND
SDAL ED SCHOLARSHIP FUND
SD BOYS STATE
SD YOUTH TROOPER

SD VETERANS CHARITIES:

STATE VETERANS HOME
STATE VETERANS CEMETERY
MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT
DTOM/22 EQUINE THERAPY RANCH
OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN
FLAG AVENUE
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, DAKOTAS
LOCAL CHARITY OF CHOICE

Commander Nelson Challenges Posts: Connect to Community and Give Back

With the holiday season in full swing, giving to others is a pretty easy thought.

Hoping to push that spirit into the new year, Commander Nelson is issuing a Community Service challenge to all posts. "A successful Post is one that provides service to their community and is actively involved," quipped Nelson, "Share American Legion programs, sponsor events, volunteer, and be seen in your blue cap." This challenge, which will run from December 2019 until Department Convention in June 2020, will help posts with community visibility, excellent publicity opportunities and, of course, the chance to be seen by other veterans. For posts struggling to recruit younger veterans, this is a great opportunity, as surveys have shown that younger veterans want posts that are active in their communities and willing to take on projects.

The idea for the Community Service Challenge is simple: engage your community with an event that brings people together, and do it with a purpose. Select a charity, preferably one that is Veteran-centric, and donate the proceeds of your community event to said charity. After completion, report the final numbers to DSO Courtney VanZanten at dso@sdlegion.org. All participating posts will be recognized on the Department's social media pages, in an article in the Legion News, and at Department Convention.

So, what to do? The infographic to the left gives a small sampling of events and possible charities. Comb through other posts' Facebook pages for ideas (a comprehensive list of SD posts can be found in the Notes section on <https://www.facebook.com/sdamericanlegion>). Searching online for fundraising ideas produces thousands of results—the key to success is to find something that will get your community engaged. What suits your town?

Selecting a charity outside of your post is an important part of the Challenge. Choose a charity that piques your posts interests: have you had families apply for Temporary Financial Assistance? Does your post put out flags at the National Cemetery every year? Perhaps a member has recently returned from an Honor Flight. Whatever the case, it's easier to raise money for a cause you believe in. As Ronald Reagan once said, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Below and continued on page 4, there is a short description of each charity listed and where you can go to find information.

About the Charities:

SDAL Foundation

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation works diligently to strengthen and grow well-established American Legion programs centered around Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, and National Security by providing funding through disbursements from the Foundation's endowment. <https://www.sdlegion.org/foundation/>

Continued on page 4...

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Aims to Bring Lenker Trophy "Home"



William F. Lenker was a powerhouse in the American Legion.

A B-17 pilot in WWII, Lenker found his Legion home at Post #15 in Sioux Falls. He climbed ranks throughout the 1950s, and was elected Department Commander in 1961. Not content to rest on his laurels, Lenker went on to serve on the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, eventually serving as the chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission from May 8, 1967 to October 18, 1989. When health issues forced his departure from his chairmanship, the American Legion drafted a resolution that named him Chairman Emeritus of the VA&R Commission. His legacy further lives on in the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy, which is awarded annually to the department of The American Legion excelling in welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents.

In an attempt to bring the trophy "back home," the VA&R commission has agreed to collect information from posts to paint a picture of all the fantastic work done in South Dakota for our Veterans.

Not sure what your post does in the VA&R realm? It is with utmost certainty your post contributes and your numbers matter. Not only does the Lenker application ask for VA volunteer hours (both regular and unscheduled), but also the number of funeral honors and color guards, Temporary Financial Assistance applications, youth volunteers, Service Officer referrals and more. Check over your CPR, make sure your numbers are accurate.

Thank you for all the phenomenal VA&R work you do every day for the American Legion and our Veterans. It's time to honor the great William F. Lenker and bring the National Service Trophy that bears his name to South Dakota where it belongs.



South Dakota Legion News
(ISSN 0745-5801)

Vol. 87 No 3, December 2019

Official Publication of the American Legion of South Dakota

Published six times per year by

The American Legion of South Dakota

14 1st Ave SE

Watertown, SD 57201

Member American Legion Press Association

Member South Dakota American Legion Press Association

Member South Dakota Press Association

Printed at 218 South Egan Avenue, Madison, SD 5757042-0348

Subscription Price: \$5.00 a year, Send subscription request to:

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State Finance Officer — Gary Wolkow, De Smet

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1—David Booze, Piedmont

5—Matt Lagerstrom, White

2—Eugene Iron Shell, Jr., Rosebud

6—Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

3—LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

7—Rodney Smith, Chester

4—Perry Schmidt, Redfield

8—Gregory Geiman, Scotland

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Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD), Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-5842, Fax: 202-224-7482, Toll-Free: 202-875-5268, Website: <http://www.rounds.senate.gov>

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“Carry on the Legacy”

Fred Nelson
State Commander



Legionnaires,

Have you reflected on Veterans Day? Were you busy on that day? From classroom presentations, Veterans Day dinners, and programs across the state, it seems that Veterans were the busiest sharing with others in their communities. To my fellow legionnaires, thank you for your continued service.

“Legion on the Road” took me to many locations of our great state from Pierre, Brookings, Watertown, Milbank, Tabor, Rapid City, Belle Fourche, Sturgis, and Spearfish. It was an honor to attend the opening ceremony of the Canadian Vietnam Wall in honor of the 139 Canadians who lost their lives or are still MIA after they joined the US Armed Forces in Vietnam. Membership dinners brought in many legionnaires to renew or to sign up. Other posts celebrated the 100th birthday of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Veterans Day parade in Rapid City was frigid and challenging on the snow-packed streets. I also had the pleasure to sit with Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and representatives of Senators Thune and Rounds’ during the Veterans Day luncheon at the Rapid City VFW. Going to schools where students prepare Veterans Day programs gives us hope that patriotism is still strong. One community Veterans Day program that stood out for me was when we recognized Veterans living at the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare with their service pins. The BHSU ROTC Cadets gave them a flag and poem, and an Auxiliary covered their lap with a wheelchair quilt. A respectful salute brought many tears of emotion and appreciation to these veterans who served our country. Finally, when in Watertown, I had the pleasure to spend the afternoon at Headquarters, visiting the facility and sitting at the State Commander’s desk. It was enlightening to observe the knowledge of our office staff, Judy Greenfield and Mary Jo Boner, responding to the many phone calls.

Although “Buddy Checks” are usually scheduled for Veterans Day week and the Legion’s birthday, it is important to extend and remember that we should be checking on our fellow legionnaires and their families regularly. Buddy checks help you find out which veteran is in need in your community, reconnect with a legionnaire who did not come to a recent post meeting, or whether they need temporary financial assistance. With the holiday season upon us, the National Commander is challenging us to continue Buddy Checks in the weeks leading up to Christmas to hear what needs they may have.

The next membership dates are December 11 – 75% and January 15 – 80%. Did you identify your post membership chair or recruiter? Each post should have a person who will concentrate on membership, make calls, visit members who did not renew, place reminders in the post newsletter, or send cards, to give just a few examples of outreach actions. Membership takes more than waiting for the check at the mailbox. It requires someone to follow up with fellow legionnaires.

As months go by, are you recording post accomplishments on the Consolidated Post Report (CPR)? It is an active form documenting everything your post accomplishes. It can be posted online or recorded on a paper form. There is no need to wait until the week before the CPR is due. Start documenting your Post CPR today.

As you read this edition, plans will be available for the Mid-winter convention in Oacoma, February 21-23. It is time to reserve your hotel. The Up-to-Now has a tentative schedule and information to reserve banquet tickets. The training committee will have new information to share.

It feels like we went from summer to winter! Many of us have experienced snowy weather early this year. May everyone stay safe! I’ll be attending Legislative Round Tables December 4th through the 7th and the Christmas parties from December 11th – 16th.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all you do for The American Legion. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

For God and Country,

Fred Nelson
State Commander

EDITORIAL POLICY

The South Dakota Legion News is published six times a year to serve its members and interested parties by informing them about Department activities and other relevant issues concerning the veterans of South Dakota. The news and opinions expressed in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, its officers, members, or the Editor. The Editor has the right to edit all articles.

**Legionnaire
of the Year**

Each Post is authorized and urged to select, by majority vote at a regular meeting, a member who gave outstanding service during the year 2019 as their Legionnaire of the Year. This selection pays recognition and honor to a hardworking member of your Post.

Rules governing the selection of the Post Legionnaire of the Year can be found in the 2019-2020 Post Adjutants’ Administrative and Awards Manual.

Barred from this honor are: State Legion Officers, District Commanders, District Vice Commanders, District Adjutants, Immediate Past District Commanders, County Commanders, Post Commanders, and Chairmen of Standing Committees.

After the Legionnaire of the Year has been selected by the Post – the Post must forward the selection form from the Adjutants’ Administrative and Awards Manual to the District Commander to enter their Post Legionnaire of the Year into the District Legionnaire of the Year competition. These forms are to be in the hands of the District Commander at least 15 days prior to the Spring District Convention.

District Legionnaires of the Year will be selected by the District Executive Committee in each District from those nominations submitted by the Posts within the respective District.

District Legionnaires of the Year will be announced at the Spring District Meetings.

Each of the eight District Legionnaire’s of the Year will be eligible for competition in the Department Legionnaire of the Year selection process at the State 2020 Convention at Huron Convention Center in Huron, SD, on June 21-23, 2020.

District Legionnaire of the Year winners must be present at the convention to qualify.

It is truly an honor to be selected among your peers as the Legionnaire of the Year from your Post, District, and Department.



**102nd Annual
American Legion
State Convention
June 18-21, 2020,
Crossroads Convention
Center,
Huron, SD
Reservations:
Phone: (800) 876-5858**

National Executive Committeeman

Jim Huls
NEC



As I write this it is snowing outside and looks like winter, not a happy feeling. Thanksgiving is a few days away. Pat and I attended 100th anniversary Events in Tabor and Milbank America Legion Posts over the Veterans Day weekend. Both Posts did great jobs on the program and banquets. If your Post hasn't had a 100th Anniversary function please do so, it is not to late. When you do, advertise the event so your community knows that the American Legion and your Post is 100 years old.

Congratulations to David R Booze and Eugene Ironshell Jr for being graduates of the 2019 National American Legion College as the American Legion is "building a foundation for the future" with these great Legionnaires.

Also congratulations to Courtney VanZanten our VSO and Assistant Department Adjutant for being featured in the December issue of the American Legion Magazine "I am the American Legion" feature. Very nice interview and article. We are proud of you.

Note the change in the Preamble to our Constitution due to Resolution 1 that changes "Great Wars" to "All Wars" as we recite the Preamble before all our meetings.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman

NEC Resolves to Change American Legion Preamble

The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) passed 19 resolutions during Fall Meetings in October. Two resolutions to make note of include changes to the Preamble and National Oratorical Contest.

With the signing of the LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act – into law July 30 by President Trump, the U.S. government now acknowledges that the military has been involved in at least 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized. As a result of this, The American Legion National Executive Committee adopted to amend the organization's Preamble to recognize the millions of U.S. military veterans from all of these wars and conflicts that have occurred since World War I and II.

Resolution 1 was adopted by the NEC Oct. 16 during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, which amends "the Great Wars" in the Preamble to "all wars." The phrase now reads:

"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;"

2020 Youth Trooper Academy

Do you know of a student that is interested in applying for the 2020 Youth Trooper Academy?

The Youth Trooper Academy is a partnership between the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the South Dakota American Legion.

The Academy provides an intensive weeklong experience at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre, SD. Veteran Troopers provide mentorship and hands-on training in the following areas: firearms safety, defensive driving, crash investigation, traffic stops, leadership, defensive tactics, and criminal law.

The 2020 Youth Trooper Academy will be conducted in Pierre, SD, on June 22-26, 2020.

The Academy will be limited to 24 applicants, 2 each from the 8 American Legion Districts plus 8 others.

Applicants must be a high school junior or senior in good academic standing. The program utilizes a paramilitary approach and is therefore physically and mentally demanding.

Application deadline is March 21, 2020.

To apply, find more information and print application at <http://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy>



Department Adjutant Thoughts

Travise Flisrand
Department Adjutant



"If you build it, they will come." Is the famous quote from the movie "Field of Dreams". This iconic quote is quite applicable to the South Dakota American Legion Posts. The reason I opened this column with this quote is to raise awareness of what "your" Post is "building" for their community in terms of Legion Programs.

For decades we have focused on our membership numbers and trying to get the All Time High for "our" Posts. The success rate of this is questionable as our membership over the past 20 years has been a steady decline losing over 1/3 of our numbers. The Posts who have recent "All Time Highs" and get recognized for awards are the ones who have active programs in their Post. They meet monthly, they have a leadership that knows how to delegate responsibilities to committees that can handle smaller tasks. This makes the Post more efficient in supporting their community while ensuring the American Legion's four pillars are supported.

Having community events, publicizing these contributions to the Community and giving back have a profound impact on the Post credibility in the Community. Posts who desire to grow their membership need to understand the benefits of successful Post programs that the community **KNOWS** about. ("We" as a Department do not toot our own horn well.) Relationships with local newspapers / radio stations and a social media presence are an important part of raising awareness in your community. (Appointing an active Public Relations officer is vital to this effort)

During MidWinter 2019, a Post Activities breakout session was held with Posts broken into three different size groups to have discussions on what the Posts are doing and how successful they feel they are. We did a trend analysis of the information collected and identified the following benefits of having active Post programs that benefit the community:

Increased support from the community to the Post.

Increase of members attending Post meetings.

Increased membership from veterans in the community

To grow a Post with successful programs takes effort and collaboration of more than just the Post officers. The members of the Post must work together on programs by promoting them in the community; which will grow the Post in many ways. Sustained growth of membership is a side effect of successful Post programs and community awareness of the program impact. New members will be more willing to join a successful Post who is seen as an asset in a community.

"If you build IT (a program that benefits the community), they (Membership, volunteers and community support) will come."

For God and Country,

Travise Flisrand
Department Adjutant

Americanism

Doug Harris
Department Americanism Chairman



Happy holidays to my fellow Legionnaires!

It's that wonderful time of year when we get together with family and friends and give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy. One of those blessings is our membership in The American Legion and the opportunity to share our Americanism programs with the youth of our communities.

Hopefully, you've been helping your Americanism Officers by sharing the good news about all the programs we offer, and the generous scholarships associated with those programs. Most notable change for 2020: Scholarships awarded starting with the 2020 American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis are as follow:

Up to 53 department winners competing in first round quarterfinals will receive \$2,000 each.

Up to 15 finalists advancing from first round to second round semifinals will receive an additional \$2,000 each.

Top three finalists receive \$20,000 for first place; \$17,000 for second place; and \$15,000 for third place.

Effective in 2021, the scholarship award for the first place National Oratorical Contest winner will increase to \$25,000; second place will increase to \$22,500; and third place will increase to \$20,000. Learn more by going to The American Legion site: <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>.

Our Post Oratory contests must be completed by January 19th, and the District contests by February 2nd. I look forward to meeting your winning contestants at the State level competition on February 23rd, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The competition will take place during the Midwinter Conference held at Oacoma, SD. I'm also seeking volunteers to help me with that contest. If you are interested, please email me at doughinut@gmail.com.

All of us should be actively recruiting for the Boys/Girls State and Youth Trooper Academy programs from this point forward. You can find all the information you need on <https://www.sdlegion.org> under the programs tab. While I encourage visits to High Schools for obvious reasons, we should also be addressing groups like our local Scout troops and American Legion Baseball players. As a counselor for Boys State, I've found that many of my citizens are either working on their Eagle Scout merit badges or have already achieved that rank. One participant in my city was attending Boys State specifically to complete his citizenship merit badge and knew he would be able to interview U.S. Senators' Rounds and Thune as well as Representative Johnson. He was always first in line during the question/answer periods and asked well thought out and timely questions. A couple of weeks ago, he notified me that he had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

As always, thanks to all our outstanding Post/District Americanism Officers for the time and effort they put into making our programs a success. I ask that all members do what they can to assist these individuals and make 2019-2020 a truly outstanding year.

Doug Harris
State Americanism Chairman

Legionnaires Receive National Appointments

The American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford of the Department of North Carolina has announced the following National 1 year appointments for South Dakota Legionnaires:

Americanism Council:

- Douglas Harris of Post 22 Rapid City—Member
- Lawrence Madsen of Post 135 Gettysburg—Member
- Catherine Schmidt of Post 14 Wessington Springs—Member
- Edwin Thompson of Post 46 Custer—Member
- Christopher Van Delist of Post 22 Rapid City—Member

American Legion Charities, Inc.

- PDC Paul Evenson of Post 23 Garretson -Member

Children & Youth Committee:

- Miranda Krumm of Post 136 Chester -Consultant

Employment & Veterans Preference Committee:

- PNVC Byron Callies of Post 17 Watertown -Consultant

IT Oversight Committee:

- PDC Paul Evenson of Post 23 Garretson -Member

National Security Council:

- PDC Gunner Baatrup of Post 268 of Virgil—Member
- Rodney Smith of Post 136 of Chester—Member
- Ed Stringer of Post 15 Sioux Falls—Member

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council:

- Eugene Iron Shell Jr. of Post 125 Rosebud—Member
- PDC Rod Martens of Post 311 Piedmont -Member

Veterans Employment & Education Liaison Committee

- NEC Jim Huls of Post 140 Salem -Member

Veterans Employment & Education Council:

- Kevin Morello of Post 311 Piedmont -Member

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

- PDC Larry Price of Post 92 Redfield -Chairman

Youth Education Committee:

- PDC Hugh Holmes of Post 18 Mitchell -Consultant

THREE YEAR APPOINTMENTS:

Americanism Commission

- PDC Larry Price of Post 92 Redfield

Convention Committee

- PDC Dennis Brenden of Post 17 Watertown—Member

Membership & Post Activities Committee

- PDC Terry Hanson of Post 42 Arlington-Member

Media & Communications Committee

- PDC Mark Weinmann of Post 128 Hudson—Member

VA&R Health Administration Committee

- PDC Tim Jurgens of Post 9 Milbank—Member

Veterans Education, other benefits & Homelessness Committee

- Gary Wolkow of Post 138 De Smet—Member

All appointments were reviewed and confirmed by the National Executive Committee during its Fall Meetings at National Headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11, 2019.

Legislative Round Table Meeting Schedule Set

The South Dakota Veterans Council will be hosting the legislative roundtable meetings during the month of November. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, Noon on December 4, 2019 at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls, SD.

Thursday, Noon on December 5, 2019 at the American Legion Post 17 in Watertown, SD.

Saturday, 10:00 A.M. on December 7, 2019 at the VFW in Rapid City, SD.

The South Dakota Veterans Council is made up of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A representative from each organization will inform the legislators of the legislative agenda for their respective organization.

We would like to invite all members of the American Legion family to these events and urge you to contact your representative and invite them personally.

Stay in the Know:

<https://www.sdlegion.org/request-emailed-newsletters/>

Commanders Challenge: Charities

Continued from front page

SDAL Emergency Fund

Assists South Dakota American Legion members in times of emergency, such as tornadoes, fire & floods. <https://www.sdlegion.org/donations-to-programs/>

SDAL Temporary Financial Assistance

TFA is designed to help veterans with dependent children that live in the home with the veterans. This program will fill in where the city / county / state assistance programs can no longer provide assistance or the family does not fit the criteria where they can help. <https://www.sdlegion.org/children-youth/>

SDAL Popcorn Fund

Named after the former practice of paying for all the popcorn popped at local VAs, this program helps veterans in medical facilities who need basic necessities. Each medical facility in South Dakota has a VAVS hospital representative who administers this program. Necessities provided can be as simple as toothbrushes and toothpaste or could be fishing poles for a facility to allow patients a chance to get out of the facility for a time. <https://www.sdlegion.org/donations-to-programs/>

SDAL Educational Scholarship Fund

Scholarships of a maximum of \$2500 per person, will be granted, on a basis of need, as long as funds are available. The granting of these loans will be determined by the Department Education Committee, based on need and prospective best use of training sought. <https://www.sdlegion.org/scholarship-information/>

SD Boys State

American Legion Boys State of South Dakota has a two-fold purpose. First, to better help youth understand and appreciate the American system of government and way of life including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Secondly, to give a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of government within the State of South Dakota. Donations to this program can be used for Boys State Scholarships or for program materials. <http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/>

SD Youth Trooper

The Youth Trooper Academy is a partnership between The American Legion of South Dakota and the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Donations to this program go towards the scholarship, ball caps, t-shirts and a BBQ at the end of the week. <https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/>

State Veterans Home

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home provides care for veterans and dependents in Hot Springs, SD. <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-donors/find-funds/michael-j-fitzmaurice-state-veterans-home-endowment-fund/>

State Veterans Cemetery

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Endowment was established to help offset costs associated with the maintenance and upkeep of the State Veterans Cemetery. <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund/>

Midwest Honor Flight

Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit, 100% volunteer organization in Northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and Southwest Minnesota dedicated to providing Veterans with honor, respect, and closure with an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. <https://www.midwesthonorflight.org/>

DTOM 22/0 Equine Therapy Ranch

The DTOM 22/0 Equine Therapy Ranch utilizes their therapy horse, Max, and the Draper Sensory Method to help veterans suffering with PTSD, TBI, chemical dependency and other neurological issues. <https://dtom220.org/>

Operation Black Hills Cabin

Operation Black Hills Cabin is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a comfortable, peaceful and supportive respite to qualified, combat-injured veterans and their families, from the Iraq/Afghanistan operations, in their rehabilitation from their traumatic and stressful experiences while serving the interests of our Nation. <http://www.operationblackhillscabin.org/>

Black Hills National Cemetery Flag Avenue

The Black Hills National Cemetery has an Avenue of Flags that requires weekly maintenance to ensure all of the flags along the Avenue of Flags are maintained in a serviceable condition and provide solemn respect to veterans and family members interred at the BHNC. <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/blackhills.asp>

Volunteers of America, Dakotas

Volunteers of America, Dakotas - Veterans Services Center was established to provide drop-in services for veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The facility is centrally located in the downtown area of Sioux Falls and within walking distance of other community resources. <https://voa-dakotas.org/our-service-areas/homelessness>

Local Charity of Choice

Have another Veterans cause in mind? Feel free to choose them—try to keep it local to South Dakota, if possible.



2020 MidWinter Conference

Arrowwood Convention Center Chamberlain, SD

Friday, February 21, 2020

10:00 a.m. – Dept. Finance Commission Meeting—**Howe**
 12:00 p.m. - Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
 1:00 p.m. - Dept. Executive Committee Meeting —**Howe**
 6:00 p.m. - No-Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
 7:00 p.m. - Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet—**Oacoma/Wheeler**

Saturday, February 22, 2020

7:30 a.m. - Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
 8:00 a.m. - Joint Opening Session - **Hale/Oacoma**
 8:25 a.m. – Bill Oxford, National Commander Remarks
 10:00 a.m. - Recess Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
 10:10 a.m. - **BREAKOUT SESSION:**
 (A) MyLegion – **Wheeler Room**
 (C) Constitution & By-laws– **Howe Room**
 11:00 a.m.
 (C) Legion Resources, Structure and Delegation-- **Glass Room**
 12:00 p.m. - **Noon Lunch Break**
 1:00 p.m. - **BREAKOUT SESSION:**
 (A) Awards/Reports – **Hale/Oacoma**
 (D) Public Relations/Social Media - **Wheeler Room**
 (C) Legion Programs—**Howe Room**
 2:00 p.m. (C) Conduction a Meeting --**Glass Room**
 2:55 p.m. - All assemble in Conference—**Hale/Oacoma**
 3:45 p.m. –Membership Report/ Awards/Turn-In
 4:15 p.m. - Popcorn Fund Turn-In
 4:20 p.m. - Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
 4:30 p.m. - American Legion Riders – **Executive Board Room**
 5:00 p.m. – Dept. Membership Committee Meeting—**Hale/Oacoma**
 6:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Reception, Chamberlain Community Center
 7:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Smorgasbord, Chamberlain Community Center
 8:00 p.m. - Hospitality Rooms, Arrowwood Resort Hotel rooms

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:30 a.m. - Non-Denominational Service—**Wheeler Room**
 10:30 a.m. - SD American Legion – State Finals – High School Oratorical Contest—**Wheeler Room**

SAL: meet Saturday morning in the Missouri Winds Room following joint session.

2020 MidWinter Conference agenda and times are subject to change

We wish everyone a very
Happy and Safe Christmas
and New Years Holiday.
Happy 2020!

Joint American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL Banquet
 Friday, February 21st, 2019
 Arrowwood Resort & Convention Center, Chamberlain, SD
 Deadline to order tickets: **January 31st, 2020**

Banquet Tickets \$30.00 each, # Tickets Ordered _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

Menu:

_____ Steak & Walleye, Baked Potato, Carrots, Salad, Coffee or Tea

Dietary Restriction: _____

Mail ticket order to:

John Payer
 25120 344th Ave
 Chamberlain, SD 57325

Make checks payable to: Chamberlain American Legion

Tickets are pre-sold only; no tickets will be sold at Mid-Winter.

National Commander to attend Midwinter Conference



James "Bill" Oxford
 American Legion
 National Commander
 2019-2020

The South Dakota American Legion is happy to announce that National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will be in attendance at our MidWinter Conference.

James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34

Mark Your Calendar

December 2019

- 3: Governor's Budget Address, Pierre, 1:00 p.m.
- 5: Education Scholarship application due at State Headquarters
- 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Japan attacked 1941
- 11: Auxiliary Christmas Party, Yankton Human Service Center, 2:00 p.m.
- 12: Auxiliary Christmas Party, Sioux Falls VA Hospital, 2:00 p.m.
- 13: National Guard Birthday
- 14: Auxiliary Christmas Party, Hot Springs VA Hospital, 2:00 pm.
- 15: Auxiliary Christmas Party, Hot Springs State Vets Home, 2:00 p.m.
- 16: Auxiliary Christmas Party, Fort Meade VA Hospital, Sturgis. 2:00 p.m.
- 25: Christmas Day, Legion Headquarters office closed
- 31: New Year's Eve

January 2019

- 1: American Legion Baseball registration opens
- 1: New Year's Day, Legion Headquarters office closed
- 7: Opening 93rd Legislative Session, Pierre, 12:00 p.m. Noon.
- 7: Governor's State of the State Address, Pierre, 1:00 p.m.
- 16: Deadline for Go-Getter Certification to State Headquarters
- 18: Deadline for 2020 sports bids to State Headquarters
- 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Legion Headquarters office closed

February 2019

- 2: Groundhog Day
- 2: Four Chaplains Sunday
- 6: Department Legislative Committee Meeting, Pierre Post, 3:30 p.m.
- 6: American Legion Legislative Reception, Pierre Post, 5:30 p.m.
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 17: President's Day. State American Legion Headquarters office closed.
- 21-23: **MIDWINTER CONFERENCE** – Cedar Shores, Chamberlain
- 21: Department Finance Commission Meeting, Chamberlain
- 21: Department Executive Committee Meeting, Chamberlain
- 22: Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet, Arrowwood Resort, Chamberlain
- 23: American Legion State Oratorical Contest Finals, Chamberlain

years of military service. Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cahah's Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates. Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team. An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service. Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggard and Dawson.

**Veterans Affairs
and Rehabilitation**

**Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer**



Greetings Legionnaires!

It's that time of year—snow seems to be sticking around, family and friends are gathering...in small spaces, with closed windows...and lord only knows the last time Uncle Bob washed his hands. Or, in my case, the last time the toddler *actually* covered their mouth when they coughed. Uggggh.

As many of you may have heard, the VA now offers urgent care, thanks to changes in the Mission Act. So when you somehow manage to come down with a cold after an Uncle Bob drop-in, it's now much easier to get treated outside the VA (though it is important to note, you don't have to go to a civilian doctor if you don't want to. The VA says that most of its locations, including hospitals and community-based outpatient clinics, offer same-day services for most situations).

If you are enrolled in the VA health care system and have received VA medical care within the last 24 months, you should be eligible for this Urgent Care program. Not sure if you fit that criteria? Call 1-833-483-8669 any time of day to check and confirm your eligibility.

Once you've confirmed your eligibility, visit <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com> to find an authorized clinic near you. This is very important, because if you visit an "out-of-network" urgent care clinic, you will be responsible for all charges.

Also on the website above is an important notice that is indeed important. This printout provides detailed instructions for the Veteran, the urgent care clinic, and the pharmacy. Having used the benefit myself, I will say that this printout made everything go incredibly smoothly—even with the woman vet problem of a different last name (a little confusion at the pharmacy, but hey—never had a bill). Speaking of bills...

Co-Payments for Office Visits

Priority Groups 1-5. There is no co-payment for the first three visits during a calendar year. For all subsequent visits, the co-payment is \$30.

Priority Group 6. If the visit is for medical treatment related to combat and chemical exposures such as Agent Orange; contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, NC; Gulf War Syndrome, etc., as well as some mental illnesses, there is no co-pay for the first three visits during a calendar year. For all subsequent visits, the co-payment is \$30. If the visit is not related to these conditions, the co-payment is \$30 per visit, for all visits.

Priority Groups 7-8. The co-payment is \$30 per visit.

There is no co-payment for any Priority Group for flu shots.

Bottom line, this is a great benefit for veterans. Use the system!

Happy holidays, Legionnaires. I hope they find you as happy AND healthy as possible.

Merry Christmas,

Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer

P.S.,
Check out this handy infographic! It hangs nicely on a side of the fridge, in case you wondered. :)

**District Oratory
Contest Information**

District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:

DIST. 1 – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (ksabers@rushmore.com) 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 12, 2020, 1:00pm. Storm date, January 19, same time and place.

DIST. 2 – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Paul Douglas (pwdouglas@gmail.com), 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at Rapid City American Legion Post 22, 818 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City, January 12, 2020 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 19, 2020 2:00 p.m. same place.

DIST. 3 - (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 12, 2020 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 19 same time and place.

DIST. 4 – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 5, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 12th, same time and place.

DIST. 5 – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shelli Romeu (shelli.romeu@gmail.com) PO Box 284, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Watertown Post home, Jan. 19, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 26, same time and place.

DIST. 6 – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorenson Dr., Chamberlain, SD, 57325, January 5th, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 12th, same time and place.

DIST. 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Huntimer, wphejh@siouxvalley.net, 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. District Contest to be held at Humbolt American Legion Post Home, Humbolt, SD 57035, January 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 19th same time and place.

DIST. 8 – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Chair: District Contest to be held at the Yankton Public Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date February 1, 2020, same time/place.

VA URGENT CARE QUICK START

FOR NON-EMERGENT SYMPTOMS SUCH AS...

Colds	Flu-like Symptoms
Ear infections	Painful Urination
Minor injuries	Bumps & Bruises
Pink eye	Sprains
Skin infections	Wheezing
Strep throat	Flu Shots

1. FIND PROVIDER

Visit
<https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/>
to find an authorized clinic near you

2. CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY

Call 1-833-483-8669 24 hours
a day to check eligibility

3. RECEIVE CARE

Print off "Important Notice"
on the Urgent Care Benefit Website
above and bring to clinic

4. BILLING

Co-pays differ by Priority Group and
number of visits.
See VA website for details.

**2020 Eagle Scout
of the Year**

The Department Headquarters is accepting nominations for the 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award. The nomination forms are currently available from the Department Headquarters. Nomination forms are also available on The American Legion website at www.legion.org.



It is important to note that the State Headquarters must receive the nominations no later than March 1, 2020. The Department Eagle Scout of the Year will be selected by a panel and that nomination will be submitted to National HQ in Indianapolis, IN.

The National 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will be announced during the 2020 Spring Meetings of The American Legion in Indianapolis.

The individual selected will join the Youth Champion delegation and participate in the 102nd Annual National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28-Sept 3, 2020.

Membership

“Membership is Strength, Let’s Get Stronger!”



Ed Stringer

Good evening to all. I have been looking at the last four weeks membership reports and we are behind last year by 71 members to date . All 8 Districts are moving in the right direction. The following is last 4 weeks % of goal for each District.

Table showing membership trends by district from Oct 17 to Nov 7, 2019, including goal percentages and year-over-year change.

As a department we are in a 4.6 % incline for membership. Compared to last year at this time 13,590 members and to date 13,519 we are 71 down from last year. We are 4th. in the nation over all with 72.550 % of our 65% goal. 1,407 members over goal of 65%. Over goal and under last year . What do we need to do to get above last year? We need to keep doing what we are doing and RETAIN the members we had . Loss of last years members is our biggest downfall. I just today ,sent out 62 letters to members on my go getter list asking them to renew their membership. My list at post 15 is 191 members and all but 62 have renewed so far. Their are different ways to go for renewals. If you are at an information booth , take your post non paid list with you and watch for people on your list. As you see them ask in a polite tone to renew. Remind them of what their dues go for: Boys State, Youth Trooper, Oratorical, Legion Baseball, Veterans Support, remind them of the \$1,000.00 L.I.T. insurance that goes with membership dues. We need members active and inactive.

Keep up the good work and if you want help with anything. Let me know. If I can't come help I will get someone to give you a hand.

MEMBERSHIP IS STRENGTH, LETS GET STRONGER !

Ed Stringer
Membership Chair

Table titled 'Department Membership as of November 25, 2019' showing State Vice Commanders, District Commanders, and State Totals.

Membership Percentages by Posts / Districts

*As of November 25, 2019

Table for District 1 (75.4%) showing membership percentages by post, including Belle Fourche, Nisland, Newell, Vale, and others.

Table for District 3 (69.9%) showing membership percentages by post, including Blunt, Pierre, and others.

Table for District 5 (71.2%) showing membership percentages by post, including Andover, Grenville, Lily, and others.

Table for District 7 (72.5%) showing membership percentages by post, including Chester, Madison, Nunda, and others.

Table for District 2 (65.8%) showing membership percentages by post, including Allen, Martin, and others.

Table for District 4 (70.5%) showing membership percentages by post, including Aberdeen, Claremont, Columbia, and others.

Table for District 6 (72.4%) showing membership percentages by post, including Hitchcock, Huron, Virgil, and others.

Table for District 8 (74%) showing membership percentages by post, including Centerville, Chancellor, Davis, and others.

Table for District 2 (65.8%) showing membership percentages by post, including Allen, Martin, and others.

Table for District 4 (70.5%) showing membership percentages by post, including Aberdeen, Claremont, Columbia, and others.

Table for District 6 (72.4%) showing membership percentages by post, including Hitchcock, Huron, Virgil, and others.

Table for District 8 (74%) showing membership percentages by post, including Centerville, Chancellor, Davis, and others.



Table showing membership percentages by post for various districts, including Andover, Grenville, Lily, Pierpont, Roslyn, Waubay, Webster, DAY CO, Big Stone City, Milbank, Strandburg, GRANT CO, Britton, Kidder, Langford, Veblen, MARSHALL CO, New Effington, Old Agency, Rosholt, Sisseton, Wilmot, ROBERTS CO, Bradley, Carpenter, Clark, Raymond, Willow Lake, CLARK CO, Watertown, CODINGTON, Astoria, Clear Lake, Gary, Toronto, DEUEL CO, Bryant, Castlewood, Estelline, Hayti, HAMLIN CO, Aurora, Brookings, Bruce, Elkton, Sinai, Volga, White, BROOKINGS CO, AURORA CO, Chamberlain, Kimball, Pukwana, BRULE CO, Gann Valley, BUFFALO CO, Ethan, Mitchell, Mount Vernon, DAVISON CO, Alexandria, Emery, Ful-Frm-Epiphany, HANSON CO, Alpena, Wessington Sprgs, JERAULD CO, Artesian, Letcher, Woonsocket, SANBORN CO.

Go-Getter Certification Deadline

All South Dakota American Legion Posts are reminded that the deadline for certifying their Go-Getters to qualify for the Early Bird Go-Getter status is Wednesday, January 31, 2020.

All Go-Getters who are certified to State Headquarters by Wednesday, January 31, 2020, will be entitled to attend the Go-Getters reception and dinner at the MidWinter Conference in Chamberlain, SD, on February 22, 2020. Post Adjutants must certify the Go-Getters from their post.

For God and Country

Patrick Lewellen
Department Chaplain



Greetings American Legion Brothers and Sisters:

It's hard to believe that winter came early and arrived with a crisp bite in the air barring down on South Dakota. So bundle up and pull up that second blanket as we celebrate our Veterans this Veterans Day and prepare our hearts and our homes for Thanksgiving as we give thanks to the Lord.

This is the day the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it, (Psalm 118:24). I remember those words of scripture my uncle Tony, the past Montana American Legion Department Chaplain, said to me many years ago. I'm grateful for his service to our country in WW II and grateful for his encouragement in my life. It's one more season of my life that I'm so grateful for. The month of November has so many dates that remind me of being grateful. November 11th is Veterans Day and we are grateful to the veterans and all who have fought for our freedom. This Veterans Day, we give thanks for the 24 million Americans who strengthen our nation with their service and sacrifice. Armistice Day began in 1919 which celebrating the end of World War I and November 11 has been celebrated as Veterans Day in the United States since 1954. The United States of America observes the day with ceremonies and parades that honor the sacrifice and dedication of those who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

There may be no better way to honor a veteran than in prayer. Whether it is offered in a religious service, or privately, or silently as a parade passes by, or in a personal card or note, prayer can connect you, a veteran and God in a meaningful and productive way.

Here are five specific kinds of prayers you can pray for veterans. "Published in the Guide Post", by Bob Hostetler Posted in Military Outreach Stories, Nov 10, 2015

5 Prayers for Veterans:

1) *To Feel Honored*

"God, please let every veteran of our nation's armed forces feel truly and appropriately honored by the attention and appreciation of their fellow citizens. Let no one feel forgotten or neglected. Let every man and woman, young or old, feel the deep and enduring gratitude of our nation and its inhabitants."

2) *To Be Understood*

"Father God, You know that it can be difficult for a person who has returned from battle or stressful military service to reintegrate into 'normal' everyday life. You know that veterans can feel isolated and alone even in the midst of their friends and families because there are few around who understand their experience. So I ask you to place in the path of our veterans those who do understand (or strive to), that they may feel less alone. Remind them often that while their fellow human beings may never fully comprehend, you see, you know and you identify with them in everything."

3) *To Be Healed*

"Lord, You know how deep a warrior's wounds go. You know the loss that many of our veterans in body and soul. You know the memories that haunt them and the scars that many of them continue to carry. Please bring healing to those veterans who still hurt. Please grant patience and wisdom to those around them who cannot understand but can sometimes help the healing process. Please apply both natural and supernatural medicine to their wounds."

4) *To Be Rewarded*

"Father, please turn your gaze to those men and women who in their military service have sacrificed time, comfort, strength, ambition, health and prosperity for the peace and safety of family and friends and others they've never even known. Please reward them a hundredfold for all their sacrifice and service. Bless them far beyond all their expectations. Reward them richly for all they have given."

5) *To Know You*

"Almighty God, You know every veteran by name. You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, both material and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7), the peace of Christ to rule in their hearts (Colossians 3:15), and 'joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand' forevermore (Psalm 16:11)."

As we begin to gather with our families, friends and loved ones for the holiday season, A Bible Verse for Thanksgiving. Psalm 100, giving thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ:

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Department of South Dakota Taps



Reported to HQ, July 30, 2019-September 25, 2019

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." *Benjamin Disraeli*

Post #6	Gregory	Charles Kayl	Post #65	Dell Rapids	Richard Dressen
Post #8	Pierre	Beryle Bessert	Post #65	Dell Rapids	Arnold Heinemann
Post #12	Yankton	Donald Simpson	Post #71	Hot Springs	Frank Rasmussen
Post #15	Sioux Falls	Charles Dawdy	Post #71	Hot Springs	Earl Stombaugh
Post #15	Sioux Falls	John Loner	Post #74	Brookings	Richard Minor
Post #15	Sioux Falls	Donald Lounsbery	Post #76	Veblen	Charles Sweetmilk
Post #17	Codington Co.	Richard Wilkey	Post #77	Blunt	Lavon Kozel
Post #18	Mitchell	Dewayne Blacksten	Post #93	Letcher	Vincent Effling
Post #18	Mitchell	Lanny Eller	Post #108	Bradley	Merle Kolden
Post #18	Mitchell	Roger Smith	Post #115	Platte	Harry Luurs
Post #22	Rapid City	John Flohr	Post #120	Isabel	Larry Barnica
Post #22	Rapid City	James Furchner	Post #120	Isabel	James Hamblet
Post #22	Rapid City	Frank Gutierrez	Post #141	Langford	Orlyn Johnson
Post #22	Rapid City	Eugene Haviland	Post #146	Colome	Alvin Kalenda
Post #22	Rapid City	Larry Kientz	Post #148	Conde	Julius Kolb
Post #22	Rapid City	Louis Kunde	Post #161	Wentworth	Edward Hexom
Post #22	Rapid City	Darold Peterson	Post #161	Wentworth	Vernon Riedel
Post #22	Rapid City	Verlin Richardt	Post #164	Spearfish	Wayne Bryant
Post #22	Rapid City	Arvid Stolpe	Post #174	Lennox	Barri Baloun
Post #22	Rapid City	Larry Vail	Post #174	Lennox	Marvin Bultena
Post #22	Rapid City	Frederick Wylezik	Post #174	Lennox	Duane Greenfield
Post #23	Garretson	Orval Knock	Post #174	Lennox	Kenneth Jerden
Post #23	Garretson	Dean Lerdal	Post #184	Estelline	Alvin Anderson
Post #24	Aberdeen	Deal Deuel	Post #184	Estelline	Ronald Holter
Post #24	Aberdeen	Robert Milstead	Post #184	Estelline	Gaylan Nelson
Post #24	Aberdeen	Orville Wiest	Post #184	Estelline	Andrew VanDyke
Post #25	Madison	John Eaker	Post #229	Big Stone City	Mickey Doren
Post #25	Madison	Edward Hulscher	Post #229	Big Stone City	Lewellan Hanson
Post #26	Stickney	John Olivier	Post #229	Big Stone City	Francis Jurgens
Post #32	Belle Fourche	Joseph Allender	Post #229	Big Stone City	Virgil Sis
Post #33	Sturgis	Richard Callen	Post #229	Big Stone City	Albert Vedder
Post #42	Arlington	Douglas Halseth	Post #240	Martin	Gary Holean
Post #42	Arlington	Arthur VanMoorlehem	Post #240	Martin	L. Nollett
Post #43	Centerville	Roger Bly	Post #246	Wall	Merl Flatt
Post #43	Centerville	John Thomson	Post #264	Bowdle	Mike Mitzel
Post #50	Sisseton	Darrell Anderson	Post #267	Grenville	Daniel Ewalt
Post #50	Sisseton	Robert Schmaus	Post #267	Grenville	Richard Sichmiller
Post #60	Clark	Boyd Joens	Post #267	Grenville	Halvor Skaarhaug
Post #60	Clark	Howard Schrader	Post #272	Pollock	Richard VanBeek
Post #60	Clark	DuWayne Wallen	Post #292	Tulare	Caroll Ames
Post #61	Canova	Robert Miller	Post #308	Eagle Butte	Kenneth Curley
Post #61	Canova	Larry Williams	Post #308	Eagle Butte	Leon Red-Dog

⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

My prayer is that our country will always remember our veterans.

Please be grateful for all we have in this season of our life and have a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Take time to read a portion of God's word each day, and pray for our troops.

God has not called us to see through each other, But to see each other through. Our God is an awesome God.

I will be praying for our leadership and all our American Legion Family.

God Bless you and God Bless America,

Patrick Lewellen
Department Chaplain

