



Lily Lives in the Legion



Above: Lily Post Commander Doug Lynch. Below: Post Adjutant Larry Lynch.



All four men in the room joined the American Legion shortly after they got back from the service. "I returned home on February 6th, and I think those old boys had me tracked down by February 10th," recalled Austin Schiley, who served as Post Commander in 1968. With dwindling numbers, the burden of responsibility has long been on the few--but to paraphrase the Preamble, their innate sense of individual obligation to their community keeps them from burning out.

"This is our heritage and history," said Larry Lynch, Post Adjutant. "It's the last active building in Lily." His brother, Doug Lynch, is Post Commander. "We hope someday someone will want to step up and pick up our work here. But, even if they don't, we'll go until we can't go any more."

Memories flowed as the evening progressed: A Boy Scout Troop Leader who took down a kamikaze plane as a tail gunner during WWII and became a local legend. War stories from Vietnam. Nicknames earned through small town shenanigans. Tales of Hawaiian-style pig roasts during the summer, and dances that would last until the wee hours of the morning. Listening to these Legionnaires talk, a realization was made--this wasn't just camaraderie amongst veterans, but a vibrant oral history of a town now off the map.

Post #156 serves as a lesson to all Posts, in that they are bigger than "just" the American Legion. I left Lily with a renewed sense of what my Post means to my small town, and a certainty that as long as the Legion lives in Lily, Lily lives in the Legion.

By Courtney VanZanten, Department Service Officer
Lily, SD; Population: 0.

The town of Lily formally unincorporated in 2017. Driving into town, it's still well kept; there's an artist from Minneapolis who, with a few friends, owns the majority of the standing houses in town for use as a seasonal photography retreat. Lawns are mowed, and the local historical society has kept town buildings, such as the post office, painted. The only sign of life in Lily most days, however, is the American flag flying proudly in front of the Engebretson-Lien American Legion Post #156.

Post #156 was chartered in 1947, named after Raymond Engebretson, a Marine Corps pilot who lost his life in WWII, and later, Ralph Lien, an Army private who died in Korea. The post home, built in 1949, was funded by Legionnaires selling bonds to community members. The Auxiliary started the same year.

At its all time high in 1981, 94 Legionnaires filled the roster. These days, there are only 14 members who call the Lily post home. Most live in surrounding communities, with a few out of state. Their numbers are small, but dedicat-



Above: Past Post Commander Austin Schiley. Below: Sgt-at-Arms Gary Fossum and Smoke.



ed to the legacy left by their fathers, family and friends before them.

Despite the numbers, activity abounds. There's an annual Turkey Shoot on the last Saturday before Thanksgiving that draws 200-300 people, and a Memorial Day program that always brings a crowd. The Post has an active honor guard, helping out neighboring posts when called upon for funeral honors. The old Post home is slowly but surely getting a new tin roof, with plans to tin the siding as well.

It admittedly isn't what it used to be. The smooth wooden floor that once boasted half a dozen dances every summer rarely gets rented out anymore. It's a significantly smaller group showing up for Post work parties, often relying on cousins and other community members for assistance. And sometimes, it's hard to come up with enough to do an Honor Guard.

The resolve amongst members is evident, however. "Austin has an AK with a 20-round clip. We could put one in the chamber and he could be our one man firing squad. We're not dead yet," Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Fossum offered with a wry smile.

Welcome to this Special Edition of the South Dakota Legion News:

With COVID-19 forcing the cancellation of Department and District-level meetings, information that would normally disseminate to the Posts has come to a standstill. To help reconnect with our entire membership, the Department Executive Committee elected to send out this Special Edition of the South Dakota Legion News.

Inside, you'll find articles typical to the News, but also the South Dakota American Legion Primer. This primer covers all Four Pillars and the programs that fall under them, respectively. Additionally, there's handy information about Department level awards, meetings and opportunities for involvement. If there's a program or project in these pages that grabs your attention, we highly encourage you to reach out to the Chairman or Point of Contact and make your interest known. There is a niche for every Legionnaire out there, and if our programs are led by those who have a passion for them, our organization will be better for it. We have incredible talent and potential within our membership--we're asking you to help us find it!

Answer a 5 question survey and be entered to win a [free South Dakota American Legion T-Shirt!](#) One given away for each District. Find the survey here:

www.sdlegion.org/legion-news

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Carry on the Legacy

Fred Nelson Department Commander



Legion Family,

This past year has been like no other for the American Legion and our country. As I enter the “unexpected” second year of serving as your department commander, I can say without hesitation that the American Legion is both strong and safe in South Dakota. It has been over 100 years now that our four pillars, including Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, have helped to strengthen more than 240 communities in our state. Last year as department commander, I had the chance to see the American Legion successes across our great state. I witnessed our members volunteering and serving their communities. I interviewed and videoed several young members that are now leading their Posts, including Hudson Post 128 Vice Commander Schelske, Post 128 Adjutant Schlup, and Post 23 Commander Siemonsma. Members such as these help to guarantee the future of the American Legion. Our Posts in South Dakota are all special. Every Post is unique. The diverse experiences and backgrounds of the members make up each Post’s distinctiveness.

Some Posts have outstanding Oratorical Scholarship Programs while other Posts have nationally recognized Youth Shooting Sports Teams. Some Posts concentrate their efforts on serving our veterans, and some take great pride in the Children and Youth programs.

I encourage all Posts to work in cooperation with their American Legion Family members. Invite a member of the SAL squadron, the Auxiliary unit, and the ALR chapter to your monthly meeting to provide an update on their activities. In addition, a representative from the Post could visit the SAL squadron, the Auxiliary unit, and the ALR chapter meetings. Members of the Family can work together to host events. Remember, to include applicable successes of your entire American Legion Family on your annual Consolidated Post Report (CPR).

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate Districts 1, 2, and 6 for 100% of their Posts submitting their CPRs. Congratulations to Arlington Post 42 on their new Post home. Thank you, Garrettson Post 23, for donating \$5,000 this past year to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Lastly, thank you American Legion Riders #164 for doing a Law Enforcement Appreciation Ride where you stopped at local law enforcement agencies and thanked officers for their service. Our American Legion Family is alive and well regardless of the challenges we continue to face.

For God and Country, we associate together!

Fred Nelson

Your Department Commander

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel Department Adjutant



Legionnaires,

As I sit in front of my computer, I am contemplating what I should talk about for this edition of the South Dakota Legion News. As the new guy in the office, I find I am learning something new every day and often from a different perspective than I had before. After sitting in the Adjutant’s seat for a little over two months, I would like to address a couple areas from this new perspective.

Membership. If you are like me, I get tired of hearing membership, membership, membership at every meeting. What you often do not hear is why. First and foremost, membership is the financial backbone of the Legion. Just like your home/life cannot survive without income, our Four Pillars programs cannot function without income and our membership dues is that income. When I talk to a veteran about joining the Legion, I often hear them say they are too busy to be a member. What we need to ensure they understand is participation is great, but even if they don’t have time right now to be active, their membership makes a difference because it helps fund those programs for veterans and youth.

Reports. There are a number of reports each post is expected to submit during the year. Yes, I understand paperwork is not high on anyone’s list for fun, but the reports serve a purpose. Using the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) as an example, the data gathered is sent to National Headquarters where it is combined with reports from all the other Posts worldwide. The data is analyzed and used to determine which programs are working and what might be done to improve. The data is also used by the National Commander when he or she reports to Congress on what The American Legion is doing.

I would like to make a recommendation how to make it easier. At the start of the year, go through what is to be reported, and keep a running tally so that at the end of the year, the information is readily available to put into the report and submit. Another example is the Officer Certification Form. The staff at Headquarters often gets frustrated because they need to contact a Post, but the information for the current Commander or Adjutant is out of date. This form which is supposed to be submitted after Post elections keeps our information up to date. The 2020-2021 Department Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual (the one mailed to all posts with the bright yellow cover) is a good place to start for the reports.

Be active. From my seat as Adjutant, I can say without a doubt, an active Post makes a difference. Most members join because they want to continue to serve. The more active your post is in the community; the more veterans will want to join and help. If they see you are making a difference, they will want to help make a difference also. Do not be afraid to advertise what you are going to do and what you have done. An active Post supports the community and in turn the community supports the Post. If the Post has an Auxiliary, or a Sons or a Legion Riders group, get them involved also. It is a proven fact, Posts where the Legion Family is working together, the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders also thrive.

For God and Country,

Kevin Hempel

Department Adjutant

Making the Mission Work:

Community Support, Fundraising and Sweat Equity with DTOM 22/0



Therapy horse Max and Chris Reder in the Ralph Baringer Memorial Equine Therapy Arena at the DTOM 22/0 Ranch in Warner, SD.

This is Part Two of a series on the DTOM 22/0 Ranch. To read about the organization's founding and mission, please read Part One in the June 2020 SD Legion News at www.sdlegion.org.

By Courtney VanZanten, Department Service Officer

When Warner Legionnaire Chris Reder set off to create the DTOM 22/0 Foundation, the Draper Method Equine Therapy Ranch in Warner, SD, he knew he was going to need all the help he could get. He also knew the bureaucracy of getting the VA to sign off on paying for alternative therapies: while strides have been made towards holistic health, there's still a lot to be desired. Reder knew the support would have to be grassroots, so that's exactly what he aimed for.

Observing his mission, it's easy to see the parallels between the work done in the American Legion and the Ranch, and the difficulties faced in maintaining fundraising and community support. "People want to help, but you must give them a reason to help," stated Reder, "And they want to see what it is they are actually helping with. We've learned to always have transparency. Be a very mindful trustee of getting their donations to actually

helping our Veterans. To be frank, it is a TON of work."

The average therapy session at the Ranch ends up pricing out at around \$120. The Ranch recommends 16 sessions on Max, the Draper Method trained horse--making each full therapy regimen nearly \$2000. The Ranch is constantly working to completely cover costs to Veterans, reaching out to local community businesses, civic organizations and Veterans Service Organizations. The local Posts have responded to the call, recognizing Reder's work within the realm of their own mission. "Warner Post #137 donated \$5,000, and Stratford #207 donated \$2,500," Reder stated, "They're helping their brothers and sisters in need. By supporting our program here, they're directly impacting the American Legion pillar of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. We live and breathe it every day."

For many American Legion posts, donation numbers like that are unattainable. But places like the DTOM 22/0 Ranch work off more than just money--sweat equity and stuff are appreciated too. "We raised funds and paid cash for a 50'x60' barn to be built for the therapy arena. The project brought together amazing local businesses like Blumhardt Construction, whose owner was on-site daily for over a month donating all of his time, equipment and supplies to honor his father, who served in the US Marine Corps. Quest Construction donated an entire crew of 5 guys, equipment and supplies for several days to put the roof on the barn, which was a great expense for them. JGE in Aberdeen donated the use of a new telehandler to help with the project. Another local couple just donated an Oliver Tractor to help at the Ranch, and we have had a work truck and riding lawn mower donated from a local couple. It takes a little bit of everything and everybody working together to keep this place going."

Recently, the Ranch was approached by the Aberdeen Homebuilders Association, who wanted to offer workshops to Veterans to teach them the skills needed to acquire jobs within their companies. Reder jumped at the opportunity, and took it one step further--what if the workshops focused on building tiny houses on the Ranch for Veterans who had to travel in for therapy? Some outside-the-box thinking that resulted in a win/win situation--albeit on hold, given the current circumstances with COVID-19.

The DTOM 22/0 Ranch provides a great service to our Veterans, and serves as a guidepost for organizations: show how your fundraising is helping your community, provide alternative ways to give, and always be open to new ideas. Success comes with hard work and dedication to the mission. For Posts who lack either the funds or the manpower, remember that missions can be shared across organizations--find one to support, and run with it. For more information the the DTOM 22/0 Ranch: <https://dtom220.org/>



Veterans Memorials Take Shape West River

After years of work, fundraising and planning, two Veterans Memorials in West River South Dakota have come to fruition.

On July 11, 2020, the Carroll McDonald American Legion Post 246 of Wall and the F.J. Willuweit Veterans Of Foreign Wars of Quinn dedicated the Badlands Veterans Memorial near the library in Wall, SD. The memorial, which consists of engraved brick markers, honors all Veterans from all wars and branches of service.

On June 13th, 2020, Custer Post #46 completed its Centennial Celebration with installation of a memorial bench. The black granite bench was installed at Custer's Veterans Memorial Park. It commemorated triple centennials of the end of The Great War, the founding of The American Legion, and the chartering of Custer Post #46, with engraving on all four sides showcasing the American Legion emblem, the Custer Post #46 emblem, a poppy and the phrase, "Honoring Those Who Served."



Doug Feltman Awarded Gabrielson Trophy



Past Department Commanders present District 6 Commander Doug Feltman with the Gabrielson Award. Pictured left to right: Denny Brenden, Fred Nelson, Doug Feltman, Paul Evenson, Jim Huls and Hugh Holmes.

District 6 Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain was awarded the Department Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award at the Department Executive Committee meeting on July 18, 2020. Feltman, well known in the South Dakota American Legion for his dedication and positive attitude, merited the award with an impressive leadership resume. Over the years, Feltman has served as Post Commander, District Vice Commander, and District Commander. He is currently the Department Legislative Committee Chairman and a legislative lobbyist, and serves on National Security Committee. Additionally, he is an active participant Legion programs: he attends the annual Youth Trooper Academy as a Liaison for the American Legion, and is part of the Boys State Corporation, where he also serves as a Boys State Counselor. He recently announced his candidacy for Department Vice Commander, Districts 3-8.

Past Department Commander Robert C. Gabrielson of Hoven, SD epitomized that type of leadership and personal involvement at all levels within The American Legion to include offices and assignments at the Post, County, District, Department and National level, in addition to serving as a County Veterans Service Officer, and the longest serving member of the South Dakota State Veterans Commission.

The Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award is an annual award for the purpose of recognizing one Legionnaire from The American Legion Department of South Dakota, each year, who has demonstrated superior and inspirational leadership. Present and Past Department Commanders are not eligible for this award. Those eligible consist of current District Commanders, Area Vice Commanders and those other Department Officers as defined in The American Legion Department of South Dakota Constitution and By Laws, Article IV, Section 14. District Commanders who have completed their term of office during the year of the selection will be eligible for the award. Those currently serving as Department Officers, to include the NEC and Alternate NEC, who have previously served as Department Commander are not be eligible for the award. No one is eligible to receive the award more than once.

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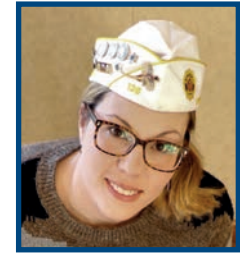
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Children & Youth

The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation's youth. The organization was founded on the principle in 1919, when Children & Youth was declared one of the American Legion's four pillars.

In South Dakota, our hallmark program for Children & Youth is Temporary Financial Assistance, which awards cash grants to minor children of current active duty or American Legion members. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment. Other undertakings include Halloween Safety, Operation Military Kids, Special Olympics and additional local initiatives.



From the Chair

Miranda Krumm, Chester

Legion Family,

Thank you for allowing me to serve another year as your Children & Youth Chairman. I'm excited about our new partnership with Dollar Tree--this will greatly expand the backpack initiative we started two years ago. But today, I want to talk to you about our "bread and butter" Children & Youth program: Temporary Financial Assistance.

Since 1919, The American Legion has remained committed to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and families. The American Legion has a form of direct aid to veterans' children called Temporary Financial Assistance or (TFA) for short.

Through TFA, a post can call upon our American Legion, Department of South Dakota for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children.

Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other available resources have been exhausted.

Temporary Financial Assistance is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants, which contribute to a stable home environment. The TFA grant money help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

Maintenance grants may be used to assist with expenses for basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing and utilities. Maintenance grants cannot be awarded for previously incurred debt, except to prevent disconnection of utilities or stop eviction or foreclosure.

Medical grants for a child may be used to assist with healthcare expenses such as medical care, surgery, medications, dental care, hospitalization and dietary needs. Medical grants require a written statement from a physician outlining the problem, treatment and estimated costs. This type of grant must be approved before services are rendered. Medical grants cannot be awarded for previous medical expenses or care.

To apply for a TFA grant, you must start at your local post. All Temporary Financial Assistance applications originate at the local or post level. A local investigator (American Legion Post Commander or representative) personally visits the family to determine the children's needs. A completed application with supporting documents and proof of military service is forwarded to the department Children & Youth chairman or department adjutant. The designated department representative reviews each case, makes a recommendation, and renders a decision.

Grants can be awarded at both the Department and National Level. It is a one-time application for each level.

Eligibility for Temporary Financial Assistance is limited to minor children of veterans. The parent must have served at least one day of active duty in the Armed Forces. Membership in The American Legion is required.

To find more information, and to download the application, go here:

www.sdlegion.org/children-youth/
POC: Miranda Krumm
joshmirandakrumm@gmail.com

SD Legion Partners With Dollar Tree for Operation Homefront

This year, the South Dakota American Legion is proud to be a part of Dollar Tree Operation Homefront's annual nationwide school supply collection and distribution campaign. Since inception, Operation Homefront has distributed 350,000 backpacks to military (to include Veteran) children. Operation Homefront and Dollar Tree Inc. have joined forces for 12 consecutive years to collect and distribute school supplies for military children.

Utilizing volunteers across South Dakota, the American Legion will pick up donated school supplies throughout the month of July. The donated supplies will then be brought together, organized into complete backpacks and distributed across the state. A special thank you to our volunteers: Steve Nemmers, Hugh Holmes and Kevin Hempel.

Additionally, Operation Homefront will be collecting donated toys during the month of November. As in July, Legion volunteers will gather donations from Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Aberdeen and Watertown locations, and provide toys to families in time for the holiday season. Support the program by donating to one of the four locations today!



SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

Children and grandchildren of veterans are eligible to apply along with veterans. Scholarships will be paid to the Recipient and the post-secondary school that they attend after the completion of the 1st semester.

Applications due March 1, 2021

<https://www.sdlegion.org/scholarship-information/>



Krisa Korkow, a first-grade teacher at the Buchanan K-1 Center, was named the 2020 South Dakota American Legion Educator of the Year. Presenting the award was Huron Legion Post #7 Commander Jake Salathe.

Department Educator of the Year Award

The South Dakota American Legion "Educator of the Year" Award program serves to recognize dedicated and devoted individuals who, on a constant basis, give so much of themselves on behalf of the children of South Dakota: Teachers.

The South Dakota American Legion "Educator of the Year" Award is open to any educator in grades K-12 in any public, private, or parochial school or academy in the state of South Dakota recognized by the South Dakota Department of Education.

The Department "Educator of the Year" will be selected by the Department Education Scholarship Committee from all 8 District winner nominees and will receive a plaque to be presented at a local venue.

It is suggested that each District establish a suitable certificate and/or plaque for presentation to the District "Educator of the Year" during their Spring District meeting.

Nominations from Districts must be to the Department by May 1.

Find the application and more information at:
www.sdlegion.org/educator-of-the-year/
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hugh.holmes@icloud.com

American Legion Blood Donor Program

People have held blood drives and given blood since community service became an American value. It's only natural that The American Legion - with community service as one of its pillars - be heavily involved in blood donation efforts.

The American Legion Blood Donor Program has existed officially since 1942 to help that cause. Each year - especially since 9/11 - Legionnaires have donated in spades, and departments have coordinated efforts at the post level. The Blood Donor Program honors those departments that best participate in blood-donation efforts, recognizing departments in two areas: for post participation and individual Legionnaire participation. Post participation awards are given to departments with the highest number of participating posts. Individual participation awards are given to departments with the highest percentage of individuals giving blood to the program. Departments are separated into five categories, according to membership size, and honored.

Legionnaires participate by giving blood and reporting it to their posts, which mark the donation on their annual Consolidated Posts Reports. Similarly, posts that host blood drives mark their participation on their Consolidated Post Reports, listing number of drives held and total pints donated (for Legionnaires and non-Legionnaires). Pins and certificates are available for recognizing those who show outstanding commitment to the Program.

A healthy donor may donate red blood cells every 56 days or double red blood cells every 112 days, according to the Red Cross. Platelets can be donated as few as seven days apart but a maximum of 24 times a year. Platelets are essential for patients who are undergoing chemotherapy or kidney transplants and have weakened immune systems. Donors are given a brief, confidential health screening prior to giving blood. Often, lingering health problems such as irregular heartbeats or high blood pressure are discovered during these screenings.

<https://www.legion.org/security/blood>

South Dakota American Legion Awards: Firefighter/EMT & Law Enforcement of the Year

We all have them: the local heroes who, day in and day out, work to keep our communities safe. The American Legion recognizes these individuals every year through the Firefighter/EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards. While it goes without saying that the Department wants Posts to recognize its local heroes for what they do, these awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Firefighter of the Year:

The Firefighter of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's Department and National Conventions.

Nominees must A: be a citizen of the United States, male or female; and B: be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer firefighter. Military firefighters are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state firefighter certified.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: <https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter>

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion's Department and National Convention.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Posthumous awards will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the department's selection.

Nominees must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified. Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the nominating department.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: <https://www.legion.org/security/officeraward>

American Legion Amateur Radio Club

The American Legion has formed a special entity to provide a forum for military veterans who today are engaged in a hobby that can also provide emergency communications "when all else fails." During the May 2011 Spring Meetings, the National Executive Committee authorized the establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TA-LARC).

There are estimated to be 700,000 federally licensed amateur radio operators, or "hams," in the United States. Over the years, countless members of the U.S. military were trained as technicians or engineers, and later obtained amateur-radio licenses to continue to use their abilities at home, as both recreation and a public-service commitment.

"The beauty of amateur radio is that it attracts folks of all career interests, from doctors, Ph.D.s, engineers, rocket scientists to mechanics, housewives, construction and office workers, students and everything in between," says Robert L. Morrill, former chairman of the Legion's Public Relations Commission. "Hams provide backup communications to emergency-management agency offices across the country when 'all else fails,' and have done so with distinction in virtually every major disaster when cell towers and commercial communications have been knocked out after earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and man-made disasters."

The club has established an amateur radio station at National Headquarters with the call sign K9TAL (K9 The American Legion) in order to conduct special-event operations on The American Legion Birthday, Veterans Day, etc.; operate SKYWARN during local severe weather; and provide members an opportunity to operate the station during visits to National Headquarters. A special QSL card is provided to all amateur radio stations that work K9TAL on the air.

"The potential to serve here is limitless," Morrill says. "Legionnaires who are hams can help others get licensed, coordinate with local emergency authorities, provide counseling and assistance to schools, and a whole array of other support."

"While some people may think that ham radio is an old technology, the simple truth is that hams were working with digital transmissions long before folks had home computers, and they provided the impetus to make 'wireless' happen. They were transmitting emergency calls from their cars long before anyone had a mobile phone to do the same. Today, hams are conducting broad-spectrum experiments on ham bands that may eventually become routine ways to communicate for all of us."

Membership is free to members of The American Legion family.

POC: Bill Huntimer, Dell Rapids
wphejh@siouxvalley.net
<https://www.legion.org/hamradio>

National Security



The American Legion is an organization of veterans who fought for freedoms, which they are dedicated to keeping and preserving. As one of the Four Pillars it was founded on, the American Legion believes national security is upheld by keeping a well-funded Department of Defense, a good quality of life for troops and a sensible transition between service and separation.

In South Dakota, the National Security pillar primarily serves veterans through local support aimed at helping the families of deployed Active Duty, Guard and Reserve. The Legislative Committee keeps a keen eye on legislation in Pierre, ensuring veterans voices are heard. As a Department, we recognize annually the men and women who serve in Law Enforcement and Firefighting capacities. There is an active HAM radio club who serve to provide communications when "all else fails." In addition, the American Legion Blood Donor program has an active role in several posts across the state.



From the Chair

Doug Harris, Rapid City

(Disclaimer: Most of what you will read in this column is a combination of my last two submissions to The SD Legion News. This time the paper is going out to all members "hardcopy", so I wanted to repeat and expand on those messages). I'm trying to include the 2021 dates for the programs, but at the time of this submission, those dates weren't all available and as such are identified as "proposed". Check at <https://www.sdlegion.org> for updates as they become available.

Americanism: The AL Action Programs of Americanism publication states: that "Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the U.S. flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Programs within this Pillar include 1) Operation Comfort Warriors, 2) Baseball, 3) Scouting, 4) Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, 5) Junior Shooting Sports, 6) Boys State and Nation, 7) Oratorical Contest, 8) Flag Education, 9) School and Student programs, and 10) Citizenship.

First, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2021 Department Americanism Chairman. The support I've received from each of you for the programs of this vital American Legion Pillar during this unusual year have been greatly appreciated. During the 2020 membership year, the challenges started early with widespread flooding during the Fall District meetings and culminated with schools closing throughout the state. Eventually, nearly every program was canceled due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Despite these numerous challenges, the Americanism officers and members pushed forward with school visits early in the school year to get the word out about our programs. For 2021, I ask that you once again get into the schools during the first quarter/semester to inform the counselors/principals/students of the benefits of our many programs.

I especially appreciate all those who helped me create and implement the "Big 3" marketing plan. The goal was to create a single page document our members could utilize to explain and market the Oratorical, Boys State, and Youth Trooper programs to High School counselors, students, and community leaders (Scouting/PTA/4-H). Department Staff, Boys State Board members and the marketing team at Northern State University were instrumental in putting this together and creating the materials sent out to Posts and schools. All the cancellations and disruptions make it hard to measure the success or failure of this marketing tool. In conjunction with my partners mentioned earlier, I will continue to refine and utilize this tool for the 2021 school year. Expect to receive multiple copies (with updated information) of the "Big 3 rack cards"...a much more professional and attractive looking product, in your Americanism packets for 2021. These will also be sent out to the High Schools.

Following is a brief description of our primary Americanism programs in South Dakota, along with Point of Contact information--if no Point of Contact is listed, feel free to contact me if you are interested in getting involved.. Volunteers are always welcome.

Sincerely,
Doug Harris
doughinut@gmail.com

Baseball

The goal of American Legion Baseball is to teach courage and respect for others and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism. It is for youth ages 13 to 19 and is sponsored by the Local Post, often partnered with community coaches or a local Baseball Association.

The Department Executive Committee approved a motion to "to sanction a 2020 South Dakota American Legion Baseball Program to be administered by Sponsoring Posts, coaches and managers." While the 2020 season was shortened, there may still be a State level tournament. Hopefully, the program will be fully on track for 2021, with a full season, state tournaments, regional and national tournaments.

POC: Dan Sudbeck
dsudbeck@santel.net

<https://www.legion.org/baseball>

Boys State

Boys State was designed as a program to help our youth understand how our form of government works. It is an all-expense-paid one-week camp at Northern State University in Aberdeen (USD in Vermillion for the Girls) paid for by the Local Post so that youth, regardless of background, have a chance to engage themselves with a program that has successfully been helping develop future leaders for over 75 years.

Proposed 2021 dates are for a 6 day session - May 31st - Jun 5th. 2020 Boys State was canceled in early April after the Boys State Board of Directors weighed all available Corona Virus information as well as the predicted path forward. This move was nearly unprecedented, with the only other cancellation taking place during WWII. This decision meant an entire year group of young leaders would be unable to attend this program. After much discussion between multiple Departments and National Americanism leaders, National ruled that "American Legion departments possess the authority to establish their own criteria for Boys State program eligibility, selection, participation and operation and should proceed with their respective programs accordingly."

As your Americanism Chairman, I will be lobbying hard to allow this year's Junior class to apply and attend the 2021 program along with next year's Junior class (meaning both Juniors and Seniors for 2021). This decision will most likely be made when the Boys State Board of Directors meet this summer to plan for next year. Congratulations go out to several of our 2019 Boys Staters; one received a \$10,000 Samsung Scholarship and another an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. There are many truly outstanding individuals who attend this program and we look forward to meeting the next group.

POC: Chris VanDelist
cvandelist@gmail.com

<http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/>

Oratory

For High School Students Freshmen to Seniors, the Oratorical Contest helps our youth explore what it means to be an American by studying the Constitution and forming their opinion of what it means to them.

Participants will give two speeches to an audience while competing for potentially thousands of dollars of scholarship money: An 8 to 10 minute prepared speech on a topic of their choosing that explains why they value the protections the Constitution



Americ

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to God and country, with a membership of over 100 years ago, the American Legion has been a stalwart champion of patriotic values, moral to law and order, the raising of wholesome youth, an educated and law-abiding citizenship, and Each year, South Dakota Legionnaires sponsor an impressive number of Americanism activities

Trooper, Scouting, Oratorical Cont

gives to them, and a 3 to 5-minute speech on one of four topics that is randomly drawn and given to them just a few minutes before they are to give it. The participants know the topics ahead of time, but don't know which one until right before hand.

2021 Post level Oratorical Contest competitions must be completed by January 10th, District level by January 31st, and Department Level being held at Midwinter on February 21st at 10:30 A.M. in Oacoma.

We had a successful 2020 Department Oratorical contest (despite a few minor "mess ups" from a new chairman) during the Midwinter conference. Thank you again to all of you who helped pull that off. Five of the eight districts sent a competitor with District 3 competitor (Samantha Leigh Timanus from Gregory) taking the trophy and \$1,000 scholarship.

Unfortunately, the National competition was canceled, but our Department winner still received the \$2,000 scholarship she would have earned by competing in the 1st round of the competition.

POC: Doug Harris
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

Scouting

Scouting and The American Legion have been partners since the very first days of The American Legion as they all share the goal of helping our Nation's Youth develop

strong character, physical strength, and mental acuity as members of society.

Scouting is meant for youth ages 5 to 18 - Scouts USA (formerly the Boy Scouts) accepts applicants regardless of gender, but must be in gender specific units. Girl Scouts are for female participants only. As a Post, you could be the Chartering Organization providing logistical and possibly leadership support for the unit.

Scout camps were canceled in 2020 over COVID-19 concerns and its potential spread among large groups, but hopes for a return to a normal schedule in 2021. Finally, congratulations to our 2020 Eagle Scout of the Year, Gabel Goldhorn of Brookings, SD.

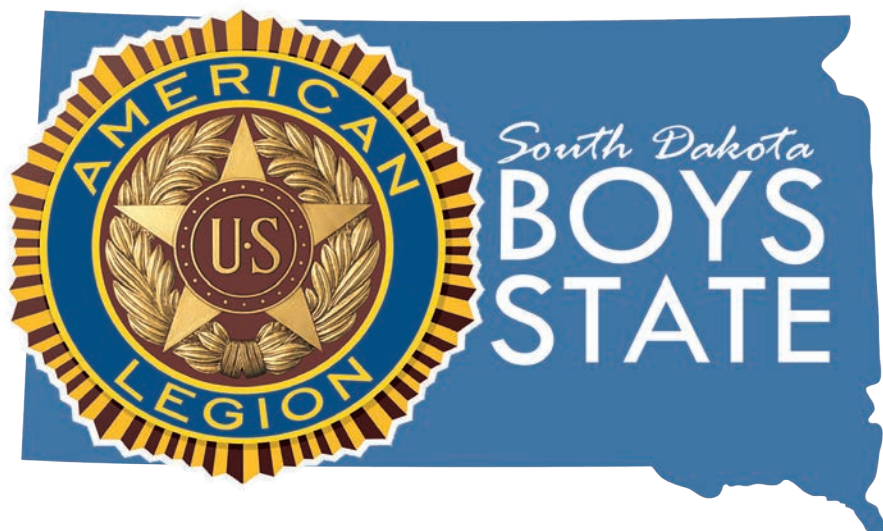
POC: PDC Rick McDonald
rickymac1955@gmail.com
<https://www.legion.org/scouting>

Shooting Sports

The Youth Shooting Sports program is set up to help beginner shooters develop skills which can lead to participation at National-level shooting competitions.

Participants use 0.177 caliber air rifles to learn firearm safety, marksmanship, shooting enjoyment, and competition skills.

Shooting Sports is open to youth ages 8 to 18 and sponsored by the Local Post, often in cooperation with a local 4H shooting sports program. Youth Shooting Sports in



canism

military veterans who take deep pride in the U.S. Flag and all that it means. Since its inception, culture and citizenship. The American Legion's pillar of Americanism embodies its devotion to the respectful observance of patriotic holidays and remembrances.

throughout the state: Boys State, Legion Baseball, Youth Shooting Sports, Flag Education, Youth Trooper Academy, and Voter Registration Drives.

one of the fastest growing programs in the American Legion, as it appeals to a wide range of student athletes.

A big congratulations to the Pierre Junior Shooters, sponsored by Pierre Post #8, for their third place finish at the National American Legion Shooting Sports Competition!

POC: Mike Kraft
bbgunrose@gmail.com
<https://www.legion.org/shooting>

Youth Trooper

The South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy is a partnership between The American Legion and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, the YTA is designed to help our youth understand what is required for a career in Law Enforcement.

The program puts the Trooper Candidate through a week long experience at the State Highway Patrol Academy in Pierre learning how to do basic law enforcement tasks; safely operate a motor vehicle in an emergency situation; and elements of firearm safety and usage in a law enforcement environment.

Proposed 2021 dates are June 21-25. Our Youth Trooper Academy was also canceled after careful consultation between Department leadership and SD Highway Patrol personnel. Fortunately, this program already allows both Juniors and Seniors to

apply and attend. Unfortunately, 2020 Seniors who didn't attend last year as Juniors, may not have an opportunity to experience this wonderful program (stand by for future updates).

Thank you to all who worked hard to put this year's program together and continue to adjust to and overcome obstacles to plan for 2021. One highlight from this year was the attendance at the Midwinter Conference by Kellen Hood, the first South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy graduate to join the South Dakota Highway Patrol (on June 19th, 2020 two more former attendees were members of the SD Highway Patrol Graduation Class #62). See the April 2020 Legion News (located online at sdlegion.org/legion-news) article for a picture.

POC: PDC Larry Price
larrylprice@hotmail.com
<https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/>

Other Links

Flag Education & Advocacy:
<https://www.legion.org/flag>

Get Out The Vote:
<https://www.legion.org/vote>

School Award Medal Program:
<https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/schoolaward.pdf>

Promoting the Big 3

How to Talk About American Legion Programs in Your Community

1. Use the "Big 3" Handout/rack card (see the handout at <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Americanism-Big-3-7-19-ADJ-COLORS.pdf>) You can also make b/w copies of this one page document and take them to the school to hand out to those attending.

2. Where to use the "Big 3":

- a. Schools – Who to talk to about getting in to address the students
 - i. Principals
 - ii. Counselors
 - iii. Debate Coaches
 - iv. History/Civics/English Teachers
 - v. Honor Society Counselors
- b. Parent Teacher Organizations – PTA
- c. Community Groups
 - i. Scout Troops – Area councils (address the Scout Leaders)
 - ii. 4-H Groups
 - iii. Home School Associations/Groups

3. How to talk to Students/Parents

a. Schools – Make sure the students understand who we are and why we offer these programs.

i. Largest Veterans Organization in the world – All of us have spent time in the military and defended our country. Now we believe in working within our communities to pass on our values = reference our 4 Pillars.

ii. Explain what your Post does for your community

iii. Explain what exactly "Americanism" is

1. Oratorical Contest – Learn the constitution

2. Boys State – Learn about government

3. Youth Trooper Academy

b. Parent Teacher Organizations

i. Tell parents about the scholarships we offer. They understand that higher education is very expensive and will be interested in scholarships.

ii. Explain the opportunities to take part in the leadership training/practice offered by BS and YTA.

iii. Explain the public speaking opportunities we offer to improve their son or daughters debate skills.

c. Community Groups

i. Scout Troops – Area councils (address the Scout Leaders):

1. Explain to them how their Eagle Scout candidates can use the opportunities available at Boys State and Youth Trooper Academy to earn their citizenship badges.

2. Boys State = The opportunity to interview their U.S. Senators, Congressman, Governor, State Representatives, etc.

ii. 4-H Groups – Leadership opportunities

1. The opportunity to meet their political representatives and talk to them about impacts on Agriculture.

d. Home School Associations/Groups

i. All "Big 3" programs offer Home Schooled individuals the opportunity to get out into their communities.

1. Oratorical contest: Opportunity to speak publicly and compete with others for scholarships.

2. Boys State and Youth Trooper: Opportunity to meet and interact with other students with similar interests.

4. How to "seal the deal"

a. Oratorical Scholarships: – Show them the numbers!!

i. Consider offering a small scholarship to the winner of your local Post

ii. Find out if the District offers an additional amount at their level

iii. Tell them about the scholarships offered if they win at the Department (state) Level: (1st place winner \$1,000; 2nd place winner \$500; 3rd place winner \$300; and \$100 to the other contestants)

iv. Scholarships offered if they make it to National level contest: \$25,000 for 1st place; \$22,500 for 2nd place; and \$20,000 for 3rd place. Each Department level winner will receive at least \$2,000 for the first round of competition, and another \$2,000 if they make it to round two.

v. Total winnings for someone who makes it to national finals and wins – following this example: Over \$26,000 total!

b. Boys State:

i. Establish a Post level scholarship for your attendees to compete for. Base it on your own standards (e.g. outstanding performance at Boys State, etc.).

ii. Mention the Samsung scholarship they can apply for during the application process. A 2019 SD attendee received a full \$10,000 scholarship.

iii. Attendance makes them competitive for University/Trade School acceptance and additional scholarships.

iv. Gives them points toward application to Military Academies. At least one of the 2019 attendees received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy.

c. Youth Trooper Academy:

i. Offer a small scholarship to the candidate from your local Post.

ii. Let them know that the Academy offers a \$500 scholarship.

iii. Department of SD offers another \$500 scholarship.

iv. Outstanding participants are often offered the opportunity to enter the Trooper academy once they graduate from school. This is an opportunity to get a "shoe in the door". Three former attendees have now become members of the SD Highway Patrol.

I hope this information gives everyone the ideas/guidance they need to help their Post representatives get out into the community and push our wonderful programs. If you have any questions, or need additional guidance, please feel free to send me an email: doughinut@gmail.com



From the Chair

Warren Aas, Watertown

Legionnaires,

On behalf of the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission, which consists of Chairman Warren Aas of Watertown, Vice Chairman PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank, Noel Cummins of Milbank, Jim Childers of Spearfish, Jerry Lolley of Sturgis, Carole Gregg of Rosebud, Gary Schumacher of De Smet, and Rebecca Trygstad of Volga, thank you for this opportunity to serve.

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 to make sure our department submits for this award in the future.

Did you know that this prestigious award presented by The American Legion at the national level is named after one of South Dakota's greatest Legionnaires? That's right, his name was William F. Lenker, and the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy is named after him.

The William F. Lenker National Service Trophy is presented annually at the National Convention of The American Legion to the department of The American Legion that excels in welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents.

William F. Lenker was born on March 22, 1923, in Colome, SD, and passed away at age 66 in Sioux Falls, SD. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1949 with a degree in business administration.

He served as a pilot with the 305th Bomb Group, 8th Air Corps, flying B-17's in World War II. He was past commander of Sioux Falls American Legion Post #15 and was past county, district, department vice commander and state commander.

William F. Lenker was chairman of the Select Committee on Special Problems of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. He was a member of the National Commanders Veterans' Planning and Coordinating Committee and he served 22 years as chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion and was named Chairman Emeritus. He also served 10 years on the Governor's Veterans Commission and was chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee for 10 years. What an honor it is to have such a prestigious award named after a great Legionnaire from the Department of South Dakota.

This is a department award (not a post award) and one that our department would be honored to walk on stage at a future national convention and receive this award. Our department has never won this award since its inception in 1929 and we would like to change that by asking our posts to help participate. A lot of the checklist items and numbers required for the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy is taken from your submission of the annual Consolidated Post Report (CPR). So please take time to submit your Consolidated Post Report as complete as possible to help our department compete for this award.

It would be great if our department commander and delegates could walk on stage at a future national convention and receive the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy. Only one department gets the honor and it is time for our department to get recognized.



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

For more than 100 years, the American Legion has been the nation's leading advocate for proper health care and earned benefits for America's veterans. The same can be said for the South Dakota American Legion: no other organization in the state can boast the volunteer hours or outright support of the VA and veterans.

Department level objectives of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation pillar include an extensive VA volunteer program, veterans rehabilitation court mentorship, rural veterans transportation, improving remote healthcare access to rural veterans, and providing final funeral honors to deceased veterans.

Department VA&R Award for Excellence Recognizing Posts working for Veterans

Each year our department presents several deserving awards to our America Legion Posts and individual Legionnaires for their accomplishments in Membership and Americanism. Actually, the awards presented during MidWinter Conference and our annual State Convention are too numerous to mention all of them. But for several years, our department has not had an award in place to honor one of our Pillars of The American Legion, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has met on several occasions and have created an award to recognize and honor a POST in our department that excels in welfare and rehabilitation work for our veterans and their dependents.

This award is a POST award and will be presented on stage annually at our state conventions. It is an award that the POST leadership must complete a questionnaire/checklist and submit it to our state headquarters no later than May 1 annually.

Posts can obtain the questionnaire/checklist by contacting state headquarters or they can print it from our department website under awards.

www.sdlegion.org/dept-var-award-form/

It is our hope that next year (2021) every post in our department will want to submit their checklist to show their accomplishments in the VA&R arena.

Every post does something in their post and community that reflects their efforts and accomplishments in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. By submitting the checklist, your post may be the one on stage at our 2021 state convention receiving this prestigious award.

2019-2020 SOUTH DAKOTA BY THE NUMBERS

243

Posts

17,566

Members

48,606

Volunteer Hours

1,243

Funeral Honors

\$34,328

In Scholarships Awarded

1,083

Pints of Blood Donated

\$75,850

Children & Youth Donations

What is a CPR?

Consolidated Post Reports document a post's activities from June 1 to May 31, and showcase the many ways Legionnaires are making differences in their communities and beyond. At the National Level, the information gathered from the CPR is used in the annual report to Congress, reinforcing the role of the American Legion across the country.

Last year, South Dakota had 195 out of 242 posts report their activity through the CPR. Many posts who did not file claim to have done nothing--but most posts at the very least perform Honor Guards. That in itself is a noble undertaking, and is worthy of recognition. There are 164 different events and activities notated on the CPR. Chances are, the post does more than you think. File the Consolidated Post Report, regardless of how active or inactive you think you are. You add to the numbers on the left.

Congratulations to our three districts who achieved 100% Post CPR completion: District 1, District 2, and District 6. We appreciate your efforts!

And finally, check out where it all comes together at legion.org/bythenumbers. This is the most recent data provided by the Consolidated Post Reports from across the country.

Activate Your No-Cost Legioncare Benefits Today

As a member of the Legion Family--yes, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary, you too--you're eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST To You coverage. But your Confirmation is REQUIRED for activation.

Your beneficiary will receive a check for \$5,000.00 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from or participating in any covered event conducted for Legion business, or \$1,000.00 for all other fatal covered accidents. You pay nothing for this coverage.

The American Legion endorses this coverage to stand by your family with up to \$1,000.00 cash benefits paid straight to your beneficiary, if you suffer a fatal covered accident at home, on the job, in your car, on vacation, while traveling, wherever you are.

Again, this is a free accidental death benefit for all members of the Legion Family. As long as your membership is kept up-to-date, you will only have to sign up once. To sign up for your free coverage:

www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare

SDDVA Offers Reimbursement for Funeral Details

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) reminds congressionally chartered veterans' organizations of the department's Military Funeral Honors program. SDDVA pays \$50 each time an honor guard detail is conducted at the funeral of a deceased veteran.

The program first started in the fall of 2015 and over \$185,000 has been awarded to posts since that time. Payments are made quarterly.

Each application submitted must include information on the veteran, the signatures of a funeral director and post honor guard commander or leader; among other details. If your unit's honor guard is interested in applying for the stipend, you can acquire a Military Funeral Honors form by contacting Jeri Smith at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs at 605-773-7251 or by visiting the website <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

State Veterans Cemetery Takes Shape



South Dakota is in the process of establishing our State's first State Veterans Cemetery. It's located just North of I-229 in Sioux Falls.

Hopes are to have the cemetery completed and operational in Spring 2021. Once complete, the cemetery will consist of many burial options including: traditional in-ground burial, in-ground burial of cremains, columbarium niches for cremated remains as well as a scatter garden.

This cemetery will be open to all eligible veterans and their eligible spouses.

The South Dakota Veterans Council is actively accepting donations for the State Cemetery Endowment Fund. This fund will help the State offset the costs of construction and future maintenance. To donate: <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund/>

For more information on your State Veterans Cemetery please visit the SDDVA website: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov> or call 605.773.3269.

Rural Transportation Options for Veterans

Getting to and from medical appointments can be a great challenge for veterans in South Dakota. No one knew that better than Royce Loesch, past commander of American Legion Post 20 in Fort Pierre.

Loesch was aware of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Highly Rural Transportation grants and in 2015 decided to make application for, and was awarded, a grant for veterans transportation in Stanley County. Loesch's "leave no veteran behind" attitude kept him focused and before he knew it, he and his team had applied for grants for 35 counties in South Dakota.

The VA awards Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRT) to states and service organizations to assist veterans who live in highly rural areas, with their transportation needs to and from the VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, VA Community Care facilities, and/or other approved medical appointments. The VA defines highly rural as less than seven people per square mile.

Free transportation is available to veterans living in the following counties Aurora, Bennett, Buffalo, Butte, Campbell, Clark, Corson, Custer, Day, Dewey, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Hand, Harding, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lyman, Marshall, McPherson, Mellette, Miner, Perkins, Potter, Sanborn, Spink, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, and Ziebach. Partners are currently working to get Todd and Oglala Lakota included in this program.

Veterans in the highly rural counties in eastern South Dakota can contact River Cities Public Transit (605.945.2360) to schedule their transportation to medical appointments. Veterans in highly rural counties in western South Dakota should contact Prairie Hills Transit (605.642.6668).

What is unique about this transportation program is that veterans travel free, vehicles are wheelchair accessible, family members can travel with veteran to medical appointments for free, and the program is locally supported.

Although, the HRT Grants don't benefit all our veterans, there are other resources available to assist veterans. Additional resources for veteran transportation to medical appointments can be found on our website at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/Transportation.pdf>

Wars, conflicts, and battles have been fought throughout the years and continue today. It is important that we complete our promise to take care of the men and women who served, including assisting with transportation to and from medical appointments.

Investing in America's Future

Thousands of veterans will return to school in the next few weeks, and it is important that they understand and utilize their GI Bill® benefits in the pursuit of their education. While the GI Bill® covers nearly every imaginable school related expense from tuition, books, fees, and even a living stipend, we understand that utilizing this benefit can be confusing at times.

There are resources to assist veterans and their families obtain information about how to use their GI Bill® benefits. This information includes how to take advantage of scholarships, how to find out more about housing allowances, book supplies stipends, on-the-job training programs, apprenticeship programs, survivor and dependents assistance or transferring benefits.

Here are some resources available for veterans and families:

County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers – (contact information can be found at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>).

Campus Veterans Resource Centers and Certifying Officials (contact information can be found at: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/colleges.aspx>).

South Dakota's State Certifying Officials Shane Olivier (shane.olivier@state.sd.us) and Ryan Fowler (ryan.fowler@state.sd.us).

These leaders recognize the specific needs and challenges veterans face in transitioning. Their goal is to empower veterans and military-affiliated students to succeed in their educational and vocational goals. It's investing in the future of America.

SDDVA Benefit Update

Pierre--The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is a state funded agency, tasked with assisting veterans and their families in receiving their benefits. The Department works in partnership with tribal and county veterans service officers who assist veterans and families at the local level.

One of the main areas of assistance in is filing claims for veterans and their dependents to the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration. The claims vary from healthcare eligibility, disability compensation, non-service-connected pension, burial, and survivor's benefits. State veteran service officers are well trained in navigating the VA claims process. They complete all paperwork and follow each claim from submission to completion. Within the Department there are

six VSOs in the Sioux Falls claims office, one VSO at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, four field service officers who travel the state assisting county and tribal veterans service officers, two education specialists in the Pierre office, and two claims examiners who ensure all documentation submitted to the VA or other entities is complete and correct prior to filing. The Department also has an appeals expert to assist when a claimant is not satisfied with the decision. This expert will assist veterans in disputing their decision all the way to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington DC. This team works diligently at keeping up with VA rules and regulations and new changes to policies and procedures to ensure each claim is decided fairly.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 opened the door for many

Vietnam Veterans who suffered disabilities due to exposure to Agent Orange herbicides while aboard Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam. Veterans who have a diagnosis of Amyloid Light-Chain Amyloidosis, Chloracne, Chronic B-cell Leukemia, Type II Diabetes, Ischemic Heart Disease, Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma, Parkinson's Disease, early-onset Peripheral Neuropathy, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancer, or Soft-Tissue Sarcoma are now eligible to receive disability compensation for those conditions if the vessel they were on was within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

Veterans who were previously denied for these conditions because they weren't considered "Boots on Ground," are being paid retroactively for their claims. Widows of veterans who passed away from one of the conditions listed above may also be eligible

for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) as well as health care benefits. We encourage anyone who thinks they may be entitled to these benefits to reach out to the SDDVA team or their local county or tribal veterans service officer for assistance.

During this current COVID-19 pandemic SDDVA has continued to serve veterans, their family members, and others who have made contact. Even though operations changed they continue to be a valuable source of information and assistance with all veterans.

The SDDVA encourages all Veterans to explore the benefits they have earned through their honorable service to our country. A directory of local County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers can be found at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>. Additionally, our team of experts can be reached at 605-773-3269 (Pierre office) or 605-333-6869 (Sioux Falls office).

Sons of The American Legion

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L. As a supporting program, many Sons chapters help Legion posts with manpower for programs, funeral details and other Legion functions.



From the Commander

Sons Members and Legion Family,

Well it makes me proud to be part of such a great organization. What a year the Sons of the American Legion had in 2020: we finished number 4 out of the 55 Detachments, with 122.571 percent of membership.

Last year, National gave South Dakota a goal of 700 members, and as your state commander, I set a goal of 1000 members. My goal may have fallen short, but as a state we did it with 851 members total.

South Dakota is sitting at 95.70 renewal rate from last year, which is unheard of. We must be doing something right!

We have had several new posts within the Sons in the past year. If you've ever considered forming a post, or didn't even know that you could form a post, this is the year

to do it! I would love to see records broken again. Sons chapters can be incredibly beneficial for American Legion posts--they can help out with everything that the Post participates in. Please contact me if you're interested in getting a Sons started in your town!

The SAL of South Dakota now has its own emblem! Purchase jackets or shirts at Sign Design & Labeling in Colton, SD via

<https://americanlegion.signdesign1977.club/> or 605-446-3353. This company has the right to print the emblem for the state.

I would like at this time to say thank you for the jobs you do within the state. It's great to work with a group of fine people.

**POC: Terry Hanson, Arlington
SAL Detachment Commander
badgerbdad@gmail.com**



Above: SD Son of the Year Thomas Aylward from Arlington.

Left: Arlington Sons of the American Legion Members Terry Hanson, Thomas Aylward and Doug Malone stand in front of the new Arlington American Legion Hall. The Sons played an instrumental part in helping bring the new Post Home to fruition, providing fundraising help and manpower whenever called upon.

In addition to helping build the new hall, the #42 Sons are extremely active in community activities, planning poker runs, bean bag tournaments and more.



ALR Black Hills Chapter Thanks Law Enforcement

SPEARFISH – On Monday, June 22, the Black Hills Chapter of the American Legion Riders rode with Flags flying high and made stops to thank the law enforcement officers at the Spearfish Police Department and Lawrence County Sheriff's Office. The officers were recognized for their ongoing service to the local community.

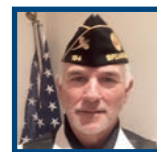
The route included Deadwood's Main street where many tourists made it apparent, they were pleased to see "Old Glory" waving in the breeze behind the motorcycles. Members of the ALR Black Hills Chapter wanted to honor and show respect to each and all officers who dedicate their service to protect and serve the people of our communities. The Riders call on these officers to lead Veterans' funeral escort to the interstate or local cemetery and to help with traffic when supporting various causes.

In the thank-you cards, words of Barbara Boxer, echoed the reminder of what it takes to be a member of the Law Enforcement Family: "Law enforcement officers are never 'off-duty.' They are dedicated public servants who are sworn to protect public safety at any time and place that the peace is threatened. They need all the help they can get."

Chief of Police of the Spearfish Police Department, Curtis L. Jacobs sent a message to the riders "I want to pass along our sincere thanks for the card and the show of support from the American Legion Riders. Your kind deed meant a great deal to all of my employees. These are certainly tough times for Law Enforcement in our country. Although my officers may not see the civil unrest that is occurring in other areas, it most definitely takes a toll on them. Hearing and seeing the distrust and anger directed at LE is very disheartening for those of us who's only goal is to provide a safe community for all. People such as yourselves are why we keep coming to work every day and try to provide the best possible service we can. Thank you again, please pass along my gratitude for what you are doing and have done for our community!"

American Legion Riders

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded servicemembers and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.



From the Liaison

Greetings Legion Family,

This report is a brief summary of SOME of the REPORTED projects by the ALR in SD.

The American Legion Riders Group is a shining star in support of the American Legion mission. Their efforts are centered around the fundamental Pillars of the American Legion.

Riders across the state make their presence known in a variety of ways. Whether its visiting the Veterans at the VA during the annual Christmas Parties, taking part in Legacy Rides that support the children of our fallen, or providing funeral escorts, you don't have to look hard to find our Riders.

Americanism defines everything the Riders stand for. From the patches on their vests to the flags proudly waving on the backs of their bikes as Riders "Lead the Way" at parades, funerals and escorts.

We have 19 Chapters across the state, but would gladly welcome more. If you are interested in starting a chapter, please

contact me. At the Winter Convention in Chamberlain, we hosted a 1 hour meeting and had representatives from 7 Chapters attend. Each shared some highlights of their Chapters 2019 events as well as plans for 2020. The group also approved and set in motion a state-wide Memorial Ride to Pierre. Scheduled for May 29, the purpose of the "Wreath Run" was to meet in Pierre for a BBQ hosted by the Pierre Chapter followed by a Saturday morning ceremonial laying of a wreath at the Capital Memorial Park. COVID-19 managed to delay the ride but not the spirit. It will be rescheduled.

As evidenced by the fortitude of our Riders who rode to the last "Rolling Thunder" and braved the "thunder and rain" from the North South Legacy Ride, we won't let Corona Virus ruin our summer. We want 2020 to be remembered for the "Can Do" spirit shown by what Riders did accomplish in support of our Veterans in 2020. We will "Continue the Legacy" of our Legion Commander and Heritage of the American Legion and American Legion Riders in 2020 and into 2021.

POC: Buck DeWeese

**Liaison to American Legion Riders
deweese@rushmore.com, (605) 722-2361**

Marching On With the Legion Band

Are you a musician? We want you! We're looking for instrumental musicians who have been involved in the South Dakota American Legion Band at some point or would like to be. While we didn't get to perform in 2020, we will plan for the State Convention in Huron in June 2021. This is an excellent opportunity for our Legion Family to get involved as well--Auxiliary, Sons and Riders are all welcome to participate in the Band.

We hope to rally as much participation as possible from within our normal performers and especially those who have been able to join us at some point in the past. We will have our stalwarts who never miss, joined by those who are able to play from time-to-time. As in the past, we will be heavily dependent on added musicians (usually from the convention location area) to augment the band. Many of the players who joined us for past Huron conventions have passed away, moved away or no longer play. For this year, we need to reach out to invite and encourage musicians in the Huron area we know to join our band.

If you know of any potential musicians who might be able to join our ranks, please invite them to join us and get their contact info to us so they can receive subsequent convention information. At the very least, pass on names of potential players to the contacts listed below. We would love to see new instrumentalists join us to serve our veterans!

**Contact Dwayne LaFave: dwayne.lafave@gmail.com, 605-690 1650 or
Marla Mosiman: mmosiman@venturecomm.net, 605-222-3313**



South Dakota American Legion Foundation



From the Chair

Jim Kurtz, Garretson

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation has worked diligently to strengthen and grow well-established American Legion programs centered around Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, and National Security. We strive to live by our mission statement: "Helping Children and Veterans."

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public organization built to support South Dakota American Legion programs in perpetuity. The Foundation is an endowed fund, with investments and distributions managed by the South Dakota Community Foundation, comprised of donations from individuals, families, organizations and businesses.

Raising Money for the Future

One million dollars is a lofty goal, but the South Dakota American Legion Foundation kicked off a five-year campaign to get there, starting in 2020. The end goal would provide annual distributions that would help fund Legion programs now and in the future, providing budgetary means beyond the traditional reliance on membership dues.

Under the leadership of President Jim Kurtz, the Foundation is taking a proactive approach to fundraising. A multi-pronged approach is underway, to include the creation of a donor guide, applying for grants and establishing a potential donor list outside of the American Legion. The other Foundation board members charged with carrying out the plan include NEC Jim Huls, Tim Jurgens, Paul Evenson, Denny Brenden, Ken Sabers, Jerry Mencke, Blaine Hoff, State Commander Fred Nelson, Adjutant Kevin Hempel, Finance Officer Gary Wolkow and Judge Advocate Jay Leibel.

In preparing the Donor guide, the Foundation came across some remarkable 5-year statistics in regards to the phenomenal work being performed across South Dakota—exactly the kind of work the Foundation wants to fund in perpetuity. When promoting the Foundation, use these as selling points—this is your work! Some examples include:



- \$103,443 in Temporary Financial Assistance awarded from the Department and National levels
- 4,124 hours logged in VA hospitals by volunteers
- 5,832 Funeral Honors performed
- 3,428 hours hosting "Support Our Troops" Events
- 80 Baseball teams sponsored across 4 divisions yearly
- 1,486 Youth sponsored to attend Boys State

The Foundation asks each Legionnaire and Post to consider a donation. If a donation isn't in the cards, you may anonymously submit names of potential donors for the Foundation to reach out to—perhaps there's a local business owner whose kids played Legion baseball, or has a soft spot in their heart for Veterans in need. The Foundation needs your help identifying these philanthropists.

Why Donate?

Lasting. Your charitable wishes will be carried out in present and future generations because of the South Dakota Community Foundation's careful investment strategies. The dollars you donate today will keep Legion programs running in the future!

Trust. Gifts will always be administered in accordance with your wishes. If there is a gift of \$10,000 or more, the donor can designate where the funds will be administered.

Flexibility. You can make contributions anytime. Additionally, the South Dakota American Legion Foundation is able to accept a wide variety of assets, other than cash.

Simplicity. One gift can benefit numerous American Legion programs.

Tax Advantage. You'll receive the maximum tax benefit from a gift to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation.

Donations can be made directly on the South Dakota Community Foundation's website at:
<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-donors/south-dakota-american-legion-foundation/>

Donations may also be mailed to:

South Dakota Community Foundation
c/o South Dakota American Legion Foundation
1714 North Lincoln Ave Box 296 Pierre, SD 57501

or

South Dakota American Legion
c/o South Dakota American Legion Foundation
PO Box 67
Watertown, SD 57201

Greetings Legionnaires,

This annual report is traditionally given orally at the Department Convention. The 2020 Convention, along with most other events in our normal lives, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I will use this publication to present my report to you, my fellow Legionnaires.

Your SD American Legion Foundation was organized as a 501(C)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization in 2010. It is professionally managed by the SD Community Foundation, where the principal remains in a permanent endowment. Distributions from the earnings are paid back to the SD Department of the American Legion to help fund the programs of the Legion. With this structure, the principal (corpus) will continue to grow, and distributions will be received each year forever. At the present level, approximately \$8,200 can come back to support the programs of Helping Children and Veterans. This will increase as the fund grows.

Since the beginning, the funds have come from many sources including events such as the Fun Auctions and raffles and by donations from individuals, Legion Posts, organizations and businesses. In 2019 the Board of Directors set a lofty goal of increasing the fund balance to one million dollars, and to do it in five years. We have made definite progress. One year ago, the net assets were \$161,740.17. Today it is just over \$216,500.

Board members have called on many business leaders in this State and beyond, asking them to consider making a contribution. Many have met with success. A number of Legion Posts in SD, veterans and people in general have made very generous contributions. But now, this Covid-19 situation has really de-railed the process. However, they don't call us veterans for nothing. Just like the wars and challenges we have been involved in as individuals, we are optimistic that somehow this pandemic will eventually be a thing of the past.

To all the Posts, Legion Members, individuals and businesses that have contributed to the Foundation recently and over the years, we thank you very much! Some businesses are in a survival mode now, but not all. Some individuals are in a financial bind, but others are not. Some Legion Posts are struggling financially, but others are very sound. If your situation, or the present finances of your business or Legion Post is such that you could consider a donation that will last forever, we ask that you do it. We see memorials come regularly from Posts and individuals in memory of members or friends that have died. These all make a real difference.

Help the Foundation with Purchases Made through AmazonSmile

Did you know you can support South Dakota American Legion programs just by doing your normal online shopping? Amazon has a charitable feature in which they donate money to your favorite charity that is a 501c3. The South Dakota American Legion Foundation is one of these charities. There is not an extra cost to the consumer for this donation—but the shopper MUST use the <https://smile.amazon.com/> website.

By shopping from <https://smile.amazon.com/>, 1% of your shopping will be donated to the Foundation IF you select the "South Dakota American Legion Foundation" as your charity. The Smile website is not compatible (yet) with the Amazon.com App on a smartphone, so you will have to either shop from your phone's browser or on a computer to have the 1% donated.

With online shopping becoming more popular (and quite frankly, necessary with this pandemic), we hope you consider taking the extra step to support the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, and therefore, all of our great Legion programs.





Department Float Available for Events

The South Dakota American Legion Centennial float is available for use by Posts with a minor usage fee of \$20/use to be paid to State HQ. This fee will be used for the upkeep of the trailer/float over time.

To reserve the float, contact Clint Meadows of Vermillion Post #1. All requests for the float must be e-mailed to him at this address: cmead95b@gmail.com. Requests will be fulfilled on a first come, first served basis. This float can also be used without the trailer inside buildings that have doors that have 37" openings and be set up. It takes up an area of 12' long by 3' deep and standing 9' tall. It definitely is a conversation starter.

Posts that will be receiving the float are responsible for picking up at the current location of the float in the state of South Dakota (Yes, this could mean a long drive to pick it up). Upon picking up the float; an inspection will be completed with transferring and receiving Posts together to ensure all parts are accounted for and that it is in good condition. When the receiving Post has accepted the float, they will call and notify Clint Meadows that it is acceptable or if there are any damage/concerns with it.

Reap What You Sow: A Networking Guide for Veterans

By Danielle Konechne

It seems that, although we are more connected than we have ever been--with the internet, cell phones, social media, etc.--we find it hard to authentically connect and build longstanding networks and relationships. Let me share how I overcame the disconnect, and at times discomfort, of building connections and supportive networks.

Allow me to start from the beginning. I have been in the Real Estate business over 15 years, which is hard for me to even wrap my head around. My career started out pretty humbly. I had a desk, a phone, no money, no prospects, and no idea what I was doing. You see, I came from Security Forces, which didn't require phenomenal communication or people skills. Rather, it required a chain of command, respect and boundaries. I would quickly learn, as I integrated into the civilian world, that things worked a little differently.

Was I difficult to deal with? Yes, I was. I was strict, disciplined, and straight to the point. All characteristics that sound great on paper, but when dealing with peoples lives, and usually, their biggest asset, it wasn't a perfect match. Did I get people what they wanted? Of course. Did I sell their home FAST and for the MOST amount of money? Absolutely. That's what everyone wants, right?! Wrong. I would quickly learn I was missing something very important.

I began to obtain client feedback and that is what started a very eye-opening experience. To my surprise, most of my clients were not 100% happy with how I was doing business with them, or for them. I was missing a connection and relationship with my clients. They wanted to know I understood

what they were going through. Instead, I had been leading with zero emotion. I decided something had to change and that's when my journey into learning, understanding, and developing the appropriate skills to build networks and connections began.

Trust me, these were taboo words for me. As an introvert, I really did not enjoy the idea of "networking." Luckily, I had some of the greatest mentors who were always there for me. At first, I didn't understand why. Why would they help me, lift me, pour into me? But, eventually I would come to understand: You reap what you sow.

For me, that is the one KEY to networking--sowing. Many will go into networking opportunities with their focus on reaping and benefiting from others. However, I believe networking is actually the opposite. Networking is going into any opportunity or situation with a mission to help and/or support others. It's thinking "how can I add value?" Everyone has knowledge and skills that can add value. It's important to take the time and realize what gifts and skills you have - and then share them. As you share your gifts with others, they will in return share theirs with you. Because, you reap what you sow.

Beyond phenomenal mentors, I also extensively studied people and personalities. I am very curious as to why people are who they are. It absolutely fascinates me. Everyone has a story, and I find each and every one very intriguing. I read books, went to seminars, and took numerous courses on how to better understand people. The secret? The best way to truly connect with others is to simply LISTEN to them.

Learning skills like those mentioned abo-

ve to combat any struggles with connections and networking is the best way to move forward. In addition to those, I use FORMing as a technique when connecting with people. There are a lot of versions of this, however, this is the one that stuck with me the most. The most important point to remember is that there is no better way to bless someone or honor someone than to genuinely listen and learn about them. Here is a how I use the FORMing technique:

- F- Family
- O- Occupation
- R- Recreation
- M- Message

How do you apply this? Well, it's simple and that's exactly why I like it. Just ask them about their family, and then LISTEN. Ask about their occupation, and then LISTEN. Ask what they like to do for fun/hobbies, and then LISTEN. Finally, relay whatever message you have to share with them.

My favorite thing about the veteran/military community is everyone has something in common: our service. If you are at a service oriented event, half the work is done! Just ask, "what branch were you in?" The ice is broken and the rest is easy. The best part? Because service members are generally mission oriented, they make some of the best connections and will be great resources for you in the future. Attend that District meeting--Sow away, and everyone will reap the rewards.

Danielle Konechne is a successful realtor with Fisher Sisters Associates in Sioux Falls, an Air Force Security Forces veteran, and founding member of Post #325, an all-women American Legion Post in Sioux Falls.

Department Calendar

AUGUST 2020

- 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- 22: Boys State Board & Corporation Meetings, Aberdeen, SD

SEPTEMBER 2020

- 1: Last day for Preamble Poster Order
- 3-7: SD State Fair, Huron, SD
- 7: Labor Day, HQ Closed
- 12-13: SD American Legion Golf Tournament, Hartford, SD
- 18: Air Force Birthday
- 18: District 4 Fall Meeting, Akaska, 7:30pm
- 19: District 5 Fall Meeting, Sisseton, 2:30pm
- 20: District 3 Fall Meeting, Hoven, 2pm
- 25: District 6 Fall Meeting, Arlington, 7pm
- 26: District 7 Fall Meeting, Dell Rapids, 2pm
- 27: District 8 Fall Meeting, Wakonda, 2pm

OCTOBER 2020

- 3: District 2 Fall Meeting, Rapid City, time TBD
- 4: District 1 Fall Meeting, Box Elder, 12:30pm
- 13: Navy Birthday

NOVEMBER 2020

- 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- 11: Veterans Day, HQ Closed
- 26: Thanksgiving, HQ Closed
- 27: Thanksgiving Observed, HQ Closed

DECEMBER 2020

- 10: Sioux Falls VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 12: Hot Springs VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 13: National Guard Birthday
- 13: State Veterans Home Christmas Party
- 14: Ft Meade VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 20: Space Force Birthday
- 23-25: Christmas Observed, HQ Closed
- 25: Christmas, HQ Closed

JANUARY 2021

- 10: Posts to have completed Oratory Contest
- 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, HQ Closed
- 31: Districts to have completed Oratory Contest

FEBRUARY 2021

- 15: Presidents Day, HQ Closed
- 19-21: MidWinter Conference, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, SD

Submit Stories for the Legion News

Greetings from the editor! The Legion News has been my baby for the last 2.5 years, and I'm so excited that we were finally able to give her an upgrade in design and get her out to you. I hope you enjoy, as it will be returning to hardcopy print in February 2021 for an experimental three-issue run. Please provide feedback, and if you know of anyone interested in advertising, send them my way!

The South Dakota Legion News is always accepting submissions, and with the new format, there's a lot of room to tell our story. That said, we have the opportunity to revamp how we curate the paper, so here's a few guidelines on submitting a news story:

1. Focus your story/caption on one or more of the Four Pillars. Everything we do as a Post is part of our mission, let's sell it that way!

2. Provide a quality picture. There's nothing more frustrating than an interesting story with low quality or blurry images that I cannot put to print.

3. Include details, like first & last names, locations and dates.

4. Going forward, there will be a Post Spotlight (like Lily on the front page) and a Member Spotlight (Tom Saunders, opposite page). If your post would like to be considered, or you have a member you want honor, give me a short write-up to select from.

Thank you for your support in this, Courtney VanZanten
dso@sdlegion.org

Member Spotlight:

Tom Saunders, Stratford Post #207

Name: Tom Saunders

Post: Stratford Post #207

Military Service: US Army Air Corps WWII, Fire Control Gunner on a B-29

Civilian Occupation: FBI (retired), and VP for Dacotah Bank in Aberdeen.

Why Nominated: Tom returned to his home Legion Post in Stratford after he finished up his career at Dacotah Bank and jumped in with both feet. He was elected as Stratford Post 207 Commander and the Post revitalized under his leadership. Tom has also served as Post Historian, twice taking Runner-Up in the State competition. Other positions he has served in Post #207 include Adjutant, Chaplain, and his current position as Americanism Officer. Tom proudly attended the Second Annual SD Boys State in 1941 and continues to be a huge supporter of the program. He has been serving his Community, State and Nation for years.

Right: Tom Saunders stands for a surprise parade held in honor of his 95th birthday. Post #207 organized the parade with appearances by local fire and law enforcement to recognize Tom's milestone and to thank him for his service.

Below: The Stratford Honor Guard (George Hansen, Pat Wolberg, Greg Milbrandt and Harley Hansen) leads a fire truck in front of Tom Saunders' home in Aberdeen on July 23, 2020.



South Dakota Legion Gear Available Through SignDesign

The South Dakota American Legion is utilizing the new department emblem to create brand awareness throughout the state, starting with a line of clothing offered through Sign Design of Colton, SD. South Dakota Sons gear is also available, and Auxiliary is in the works for emblem approval. Posts can request gear to be customized for their specific post--a great option for Honor Guards or Post Officers.

The line includes a large variety of items: ballcaps, jackets, polo shirts, quarter zips, long and short sleeve dress shirts and t-shirts. Items can be purchased in multiple colors, with no minimum order required. Additionally, the T-shirts and jackets are available with the general American Legion emblem. Shipping is available.

Sign Design is owned and operated by Shane Lamer, an Army veteran and member of the Ruste-Wahl Post #154 of Montrose, SD. Lamer is excited to bring high-quality gear to the Department for this project, and welcomes suggestions for any future products. Find the store here:

americanlegion.signdesign1977.club



STATE LEGION GOLF

Tournaments

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

~
Saturday & Sunday

September 12th & 13th, 2020

Central Valley Golf Course, Hartford, SD

Registration Deadline: September 1st, 2020
Cost: \$440 per team
Pre-Register with Fred Lee: 605-413-9451
For Drawing
Registration day of tournament:
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Start times: Saturday 12:00 PM
& Sunday 9:00 AM

Sponsored by
Humboldt Legion Post 62 & Hartford Legion Post 118

Updated Preamble for Sale Through Department HQ

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. At the 2019 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, the American Legion National Executive Committee adopted Resolution 1, which amends “the Great Wars” in the Preamble to “all wars.”

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion now reads:

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 percent 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 goodwill 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.

Department Headquarters has negotiated a deal to get new Preambles ordered that will measure 36” x 52.5” in either Portrait or landscape orientation (example below). Being poster material, the Preamble will need to be placed in a frame. Cost is \$30 each.

Ordering has been extended until September 1, 2020. Delivery will be during the Fall meetings. Contact HQ at hq@sdlegion.org or call (605) 886-3604 to place an order.



PREAMBLE

TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



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 PERCENT 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.

Membership & Post Activities



From the Chair

Travis Flisrand, Castlewood

2020 is definitely a year we all will remember. With the challenges of COVID-19 we currently face, The American Legion is more important now than ever. The Four Pillars of the American Legion (Veteran Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Defense) are needed at this time in our communities.

Membership is not a unique part of the American Legion or any other organization. Members are an essential asset and the starting point of EVERYTHING "American Legion". The members are where the heart and compassion come to do more for our Veterans, youth, and communities. Without members, we lack the manpower to work and support our Four Pillars; from the fundraising, to the countless hours given in continued service to our communities. There isn't a Post that would not welcome additional members to help lessen the workload in the Post.

I have an opportunity to dedicate this year to the American Legion and not pursue my next job. Personal reasons have placed me in this position, and I am taking advantage of this time to help an organization I find beneficial to our communities and our State. I am part of the American Legion because I believe in our mission, I see the dedication and selflessness of fellow members and most importantly, the camaraderie of friends that solidified my dedication.

The 242 American Legion Posts in South Dakota are all unique in their members, communities and obstacles. Successful Posts are not built overnight, it takes time for members to build a reputation in the community and be seen as an asset. In 2019, the Department held a workshop and collected information from Posts. When analyzed, a common theme emerged: "The more active the Post programs are in a community, the more support the community give the Post, the more members show up to the meetings and the more new members the Post is able to recruit and retain."

Please reach out to me if you would like any assistance at your Post, County or District for recruiting/community outreach/revitalizations. We ask you to communicate as early as possible to line up events.

Goaling for 2021

This year's model is to ensure the goals are attainable for all Posts and that making goal is the standard, surpassing goal is expected of all. Post goals are based on what they have at the 100% target date on June 17, 2020 for CURRENT members. All transfers and deceased members should have been accounted for (as long as a Post reported the deaths).

The membership list of paid members for 2020 was downloaded from the National database and membership by Post was counted. The expectation is every Post will reach 100%, retaining all members and recruiting new members. Commander Nelson's challenge is for every Post and District to achieve 103% of goal. Awards this year will be for those Posts going above the goal standard.

Renewals

Every Legion member who has been around for more than a few years knows that the renewal notices come out after July 1st for the upcoming year. If a member has not renewed by mid-September, their name gets put into a printing job for the 2nd round of membership reminders that comes out in mid-October. If a member pays after the mid-September date, they WILL get a renewal notice in October. There are a total of up to 6 renewal notices per year that could be sent out. The choice is up to the member how many reminders they want. Posts can suppress renewal notices for their member if they fill out their Post Data Report out and make the correct marks. Then the Post is responsible for calling on their members to remind them to renew.

At the bottom of this page is a membership card, feel free to cut it out and sign up a new member today.

How to Maintain

As we all know every Post is not identical to another, similar in many ways, but differ based on the members who belong to it. The only way for a Post to be successful and build their services in their community is through dedicated members who believe in the mission in supporting the Four Pillars of the American Legion. Without a core group of individuals who have the heart and desire to serve their communities, there is nothing to build on. It takes belief in what we do is truly helping veterans, their families, our youth and our communities.

The first step in every mission is to identify what you want to accomplish and what impact will it have when the job is done?

RETAIN, RECRUIT & EDUCATE

Knowing the skills of the local members who are available is a definite deciding factor on what you can accomplish.

The second step is outlining the steps needed to achieve this goals you have identified and assigning members who have those skills to make those steps contribute to the mission of the Post.

During every program / event the Post puts on, the Post public affairs member should work with local media to ensure the community knows what you are doing and how it benefits them. The more the community knows of the Posts programs, the more support you will get in future ones, especially if it benefits them.

New Members

It is important to welcome new members into the Post. Taking their membership money and not talking to them until next year does absolutely no benefit for the Post, especially if they live close. New members need to be invited to the next Post meeting, educated in the fact that the meeting is merely there for members to communicate about the Post programs, it is not what the Legion is about. Taking care of veterans, promoting positive Americanism programs with the local school and supporting the Four Pillars is what the Legion is about. Making sure veterans are visited whenever they need it, performing funeral honors, taking care of deployed members families; the list goes on of what we can do for us veterans. The important part is "make new members feel welcomed and needed", build a relationship with them as brothers and sisters who are veterans.

Redefine Revitalization

The past few years Post revitalizations have consisted of a team of Post, District and State officers sitting down and calling members to get them to renew their memberships. This is a good practice for getting renewal in the Posts and is a short term fix. What Legion members should consider is that there is a longer term solution to the struggles of renewal of membership.

Training and education of new and existing members is something that gets neglected. The assumption that a member knows what the organization is all about is an incorrect assessment. This Legion News edition is a great resource to have members read to give them basic knowledge of South Dakota American Legion Programs. Another resource is "Basic Training" through the www.legion.org/training course that is free to American Legion members. Ignorance (just not knowing what the Legion is about) is one reason members do not renew, they just do not see the benefit to them or to veterans if they are a member. Education and training all members should be an active part of every Post.

Post members can request to have a revitalization done through the Dept. Adjutant or Membership Chairman. Additional members available to assist include the Dept. Service Officer (to assist members and local veterans with VA benefits), District Commanders or any resource the Post requests. We encourage Posts to request assistance early so coordination of all assets can be called upon to help the Post meet their goals and expectations of the revitalization.

Take Credit for Your Volunteerism

By Gregory Dias, SDAL Employment Chair

Have you ever given much thought to your involvement in the American Legion? Sure, you go to meetings, attend functions, and perform a wide variety of services for both veterans and your community. But, have you ever taken the time to reflect on the myriad of things that you do? In the event that you would, you may be surprised at the value you bring to the table, and how that might actually translate into job marketability.

Our organization is made up of people, each one possessing a wide variety of talents and skills. Legionnaires all have military service in common, which already gives them a baseline of skills such as leadership, coping with stressful situations, dependability, teamwork, problem-solving, among many others. However, whether or not you've pondered it, your involvement in the Legion has been building upon your skill-set. Prospective employers are always looking for people who possess these skills, and clearly communicating them can give you a competitive edge over other job applicants.

Whether or not you're in the market for a new job, it might be worthwhile to take some time to update your résumé. Including your volunteer work is a great way to set yourself apart from others, your Legion activities in particular. Employers recognize that people who volunteer are generous with their time, are generally hard workers, and have a desire to make a difference in their communities. When listing volunteer activities in your résumé, if the work you've performed relates directly to the job you're applying for, it's acceptable to include it in your work experience section. Otherwise, creating a Volunteer Activities section might be more logical. Either way, make sure to list any offices you've held, special projects you've worked on, or other noteworthy accomplishments, so prospective employers can garner a broader understanding of all you have to offer as a candidate, and the additional hard or soft skills you possess as further evidenced through your volunteer activities.

Being a veteran is something to be proud of, and membership in the American Legion is an important way we can continue to maintain our connection with fellow veterans, and to serve others. Being a leader in the Legion demonstrates you have special abilities that could be very valuable to any organization. Don't be afraid to take credit for your honorable service and contributions. It lets prospective employers know you have abilities which set you apart from the crowd, and just might help land you that next great job!

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name)

(Mailing Address)

(City)

(E-mail)

(Date of Birth)

(Phone Number)

(State) _____
(Zip) _____
(Post #)

Male Female
(Gender)

(Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

Signature of applicant

Date

Name of recruiter

30-009

District Commander Updates

1



David Booze, Piedmont

In the beginning, over 1,000 war weary World War I American Expeditionary Forces' commissioned officers and enlisted servicemembers, met in Paris, France, 15-17 March 1919, and birthed "The American Legion" to mutually assist veterans, servicemembers, families, and communities through personal and governmental action.

Each veteran's time and resources vary. However, each member adds voice strength as American Legion Leaders pursue local, state, and federal support. Membership numbers drove Congressional key legislation, i.e., consolidating separate agencies' veterans' programs under the Veterans Administration, GI Bill, POW/MIA Accountability, Agent Orange, Blue Water Navy, Burn Pits, and 2019 American Legion Act to highlight a few actions.

Our Emblem's words, "American Legion," ties the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism." We've inherited a steadfast respected Legacy personifying "The American Legion" principles and pillars.

I challenge all Legionnaires to leave no Veteran or Servicemember behind. "Retain, Recruit and Educate" all to be part of The American Legion Family and perpetuate the American Legion Legacy for today's and tomorrow's veterans!

2



Eugene IronShell, Jr. Rosebud

I send greetings to the South Dakota American Legion Family from District 2. Hopefully you are all safe and well.

It makes me extremely proud to be a member of The American Legion when I see all the great things that posts all over the country are doing for their communities in spite of the pandemic challenges.

Congratulations to the posts in Murdo, St. Francis, Custer and New Underwood for achieving 100% in membership. Remember that every Legionnaire is a recruiter. Reach out to your fellow Veterans and invite them to join our great organization.

I look forward to continuing on strengthening our membership in regards to the posts on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. They comprise 40% of the posts in our district.

Finally, as we begin our 102nd year of service let us remember to always carry on the legacy and traditions that our grandfathers that fought in the Great War started for us. The four pillars that we were founded on are just as relevant in 2020 as the were in 1919.

For God and Country.

3



LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

"Dedicated to the service and sacrifice of our Veterans." Words easier said than done, with all that has been going on for the year 2020 and COVID-19. Like many of you with health issues, it would be nice to get together with our Legion Family members, but safer not to.

Pierre Post #8 is tackling a large remodeling project currently: replacing the logs in the 1940 log cabin. The Post is keeping with historical accuracy--the logs are coming from the Black Hills, just as they did when the post was built. Additionally, the paint currently on the building will be sandblasted off, returning all logs to their natural beauty.

With those Posts I have talked with, they haven't held any meetings and won't until this pandemic ends. Please take this time to reach out to the Veterans in your post, and see if there's anything you can do to assist. The virus has had a large impact on a lot of lives, and we need to do what we can to help each other.

We are tentatively planning the Fall District Meeting for September 20th, 2020 in Hoven, SD. There will be a light lunch served at the Legion Hall at 1pm, with the meeting starting at 2pm.

Hopefully, with God's help, all of us will get through this and return to our local post and do things we do best: help our communities and the young people.

4



Perry Schmidt, Redfield

Hello to all the Legion members of District #4, I HOPE ALL are in good health and staying safe in these times of the COVID-19 virus. I would like to say a grateful thank you the membership of District #4, Post Commanders, Post Adjutants and all of the local Post members. You are the backbone of the organization. Thank you for all of your many hours of hard work--it makes a difference in our world out here in the Great State of South Dakota. I know that the people of your local communities respect and appreciate the service they receive from all of you.

The events of District #4 have had a tough time being held as scheduled, with many being postponed or cancelled. Looking forward to visiting with you at the Fall District Meeting to be held in the Akaska Community Center, Friday, September 18th. A Social will be at 6:00 PM, Meal at 6:30 PM and the Meeting at 7:30 PM.

There will be an election of Commander and Vice Commander for the District that was postponed from the Spring Meeting. Bob Thomason has agreed to Run for Commander, we still need someone to fill the Vice-Commander position. Please consider serving the District as our next Vice. You will find it to be a very rewarding experience.

Thank you for all the help and support the last two (+) years as your Commander.

5



Matt Lagerstrom, White

The advent of The Virus has been a challenging time for everyone, and for our organization which has a basis in being social, it has been especially difficult. Fortunately, our Posts are out doing good things every day for other people in order to further the mission of The American Legion. In the early part of The Virus' impact, Posts across the District set up "Buddy Checks" to assure their members had some way of getting food and getting to appointments. Around Memorial Day, our Posts were forced to reinvent their Memorial Day Observance, and the response from the communities we serve was heartwarming. If it was a simple Honor Guard at the Cemetery, or a more elaborate gathering at the Community Veterans Memorial our Posts and the communities they serve did their best to remember that the freedoms that we have enjoyed in the past were not easily won, and many people and their families had to endure much hardship to earn the ability to freely socialize with those that we cherish, to worship as we desire, and to pursue lifestyles which are not dictated by an oppressive government making decisions for us. As we move forward as an organization, we must always remember our founding ideal was as an organization which seeks to take care of Veterans, their families, and the communities which we live in. If the last few months have been any indication that is a mission which our Posts have not forgotten.

6



Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

We "The American Legion" know how important it is to have community support, without which we would not be as effective as we are. I think everyone would agree that The American Legion has very good community support in South Dakota.

We need to be active in the community and let it be known that The American Legion is there for them also. We need to continually get our name out there as much as we can and always express our appreciation for community support.

District # 6 is utilizing various certificates of recognition. In The American Legion Catalog, you can order a certificate maker disc, which contains many printable certificates that can be presented to businesses and/or community members. This is an easy and cost effective way to get the Legion name out, and also let the people know that we appreciate what they do for us.

The acceptance and appreciation for these certificates has been great. If the Post does not have access to a computer or someone willing to take this project on, they contact me and tell me what certificate they want and who it is to be presented to. As an example, the Plankinton Post contacted me for certificates for flying the US Flag. I printed 48 for them and mailed them to the Adjutant and he presented them. We have also presented a certificate for the bugler who played Taps at services and for a business that loaned us a public address system.

7



Rodney Smith, Chester

The fuel that keeps The American Legion programs functioning is the volunteers who make them happen. Whether the volunteers are from the community or the Legion family it seems the help needed to make it work is there. The American Legion Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Riders provide many helpers in those post where they are active.

A few examples in District 7 are VA Hospital volunteers, drivers for the veterans to get to their appointments, help for those who need help around their home. Painting a house for a veteran or just making a call to see how they are getting along. Many posts present the colors at every sporting event and are available to talk to students about youth programs. Funeral Honors, to me, is the most important volunteer duty that we as a Legion family can provide for a fellow veteran.

Recognition of these VIP's is very important and takes on as many ways as there are post. Certificates of appreciation, thank you notes in the local paper, medals or challenge coins. Some of the volunteers are recognized at community picnics, potluck-suppers, wwor banquets and given the public recognition they deserve.

As volunteers we live the line from our Preamble "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;" Thank you all for that you do.

8



Greg Geiman, Scotland

It's been an honor to serve as the District 8 Commander for the last three (and some change) years. Being able to travel from town to town, and making a lot of new friends along the way--its truly been an enjoyable experience. I highly recommend anybody interested to step up and take the job on September 27th.

As a District Commander, one of my duties was to visit local posts and check in on the post well-being. Seeing how other posts and Legionnaires do things, I was often able to go back to my home post with good ideas. It's great to see so many posts doing important work in their communities.

One observation I've made over the years as District Commander: The programs of the American Legion are what really attract members, and an active post with active programs has a much better chance of retaining those members. Do what you can to be an active post--we're all busy (I work 50 hours a week!), but you make time for what is important for the Veterans. As the old saying goes, if you want something done, ask the busy person.

The experience of District leadership is a rewarding one. I've made lifelong friends, seen every small town south of Parker and east of Platte, and have been inspired by the work of my fellow Veterans. Again, if you've ever been interested, now is your chance to run.

For God and Country!

Chaplain's Corner

Jeremy Warfel
Department Chaplain



Legionnaires,
“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” These words, the preamble of the United States Constitution, establish that our forefathers were united in purpose. The preamble of the constitution defines the goal of our national union, a goal shared by the average American citizen. Upon what principles, though, was our constitution based?

To understand the foundational principles of the constitution, we need to look to another early American document; the Declaration of Independence. Where the preamble of the Constitution defines the goal of our nation's union, the Declaration of Independence defines its purpose. That purpose? The securing of “unalienable rights” endowed upon man by his Creator.

The founding fathers of our great nation understood that man does not exist for government but, rather, that government exists for man. More to the point, government exists to protect man's ability to exercise the rights given him by God. In early American thinking, this was referred to as natural law theory. Our forefathers were rightly convinced that there is a natural order to the world, a way in which it was designed to function, that certain laws governing human rights and behavior were as inherent to the universe as is the law of gravity. And they believed, they knew, that these natural laws were designed and put into place by God himself.

To our founding fathers, these “truths” were “self-evident.” Man and his governments are subject to “the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God.” But who is that God? When our founding fathers spoke of God, they knew of no other than the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Where our currency states “In God We Trust”, it references that very same God. And here in South Dakota, where our motto states that “Under God the people rule” we mean the same God as did our forefathers.

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are, you may be surprised to learn, theological documents. They define an understanding of government's relationship to man firmly founded upon a Judeo-Christian worldview. They were not ashamed to openly state their dependence upon the God of the Bible, and they acknowledged exactly that when they set quill to parchment, drafted our founding documents, and set in place the nation we are blessed to live in today. Grace & Peace,
Chaplain Justin Warfel

From the NEC

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman



Greetings Legionnaires,
So, what has your NEC been doing for the last 5 months. Not much, just trying to stay healthy. I was in Washington in March for the Washington Conference and the Nation Commander Oxford's testimony before the joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. I was really glad to get home because the Covid 19 was just getting going then and hoping that I didn't catch it traveling. Since then the Spring Meeting of the NEC in Indianapolis was cancelled as well as the Nation Convention in Louisville. Several Zoom meetings were held to take care of necessary business.

All National Appointments to Commissions, committees and councils for the coming year remain the same as last year. All will be in place until the Fall Meeting of the NEC in October 12-15 in Indianapolis 2021. Next event will be the Fall Meetings of the NEC in October 2020 in Indianapolis.

National Commander Bill Oxford will be in South Dakota for our MidWinter in Huron in February, 2021. Leading Candidate for National Commander is Paul Dillard of Texas and 2nd Leading Candidate is Randal Fischer from Kentucky.

The challenge for the coming year is rebuilding our programs that stopped mid-year and then were lost. Thank You to all Officers, chairman and members for not giving up and continuing to serve the American Legion. We will get through this.

For God and Country
Jim Huls
NEC



South Dakota Taps

Numbers reported to Dept HQ May 20,2020-July 24, 2020

“The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.”

Benjamin Disraeli

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| #1 Vermillion | Clem Powers | #33 Sturgis | Chris Mechling | #183 Tabor | Romain Pavel |
| #4 Mobridge | Virgil Binfet | #33 Sturgis | James Schmidt | #183 Tabor | Richard Vlasak |
| #4 Mobridge | Melvin Hausman | #35 Highmore | Donald Matre | #183 Tabor | Joseph Zdenek |
| #4 Mobridge | Erling Sather | #35 Highmore | Robert Sheffield | #184 Estelline | Harold Hines |
| #4 Mobridge | Tony Voller | #36 Bonesteel | Robert Schmitz | #186 Eureka | Perry Rau |
| #4 Mobridge | Richard Wales | #41 Alexandria | Edwin Schultz | #189 Hosmer | Leo Goehring |
| #6 Gregory | Kenneth Berens | #42 Arlington | Harley Jamison | #189 Hosmer | John Haerter |
| #6 Gregory | Wayne Bortz | #42 Arlington | Jean Syverson | #189 Hosmer | Miles Henselman |
| #6 Gregory | Russel Evans | #42 Arlington | Ron Thompson | #189 Hosmer | Dennis Kimmes |
| #6 Gregory | William Schueneman | #48 Rosholt | Rodney Voss | #193 Irene | Freelan Aune |
| #7 Huron | Wilbert Bertsch | #50 Sisseton | Karol Hibben | #194 Parkston | Anthony Kummer |
| #7 Huron | Darrell Bult | #52 Armour | Leonard Buck | #200 Bruce | Thomas Davis |
| #7 Huron | Paul Espinosa | #53 Canton | Reynold Eneboe | #209 Raymond | Leonard Uecker |
| #7 Huron | Albert Haskell | #53 Canton | Bastian Lems | #216 Ramona | Daniel Stout |
| #7 Huron | Paul Kingery | #53 Canton | Wilbur Meelberg | #217 Hayti | Charles Trumm |
| #7 Huron | Lawrence Mastel | #60 Clark | Darold Christiansen | #220 Herrick | Clark Miller |
| #7 Huron | Arlan Selland | #60 Clark | Robert Neal | #229 Big Stone City | Lester Benson |
| #8 Pierre | Gale Anderson | #60 Clark | Richard Paulson | #229 Big Stone City | Donald Verheul |
| #8 Pierre | Harry Hasek | #60 Clark | Lowell Pederson | #229 Big Stone City | Richard Wellnitz |
| #8 Pierre | James Melstad | #63 Lake Preston | Lester Wienk | #233 Nisland | William Fricke |
| #8 Pierre | Leonard Sheppard | #65 Dell Rapids | James Berg | #239 Little Eagle | Justin Archambault |
| #8 Pierre | William Voss | #65 Dell Rapids | Harry Persinger | #249 Delmont | Myron Lippert |
| #9 Milbank | Arlo Dockter | #66 Lemmon | Charles Edwards | #257 Greenwood | Ben LaPointe |
| #12 Yankton | Keith Christopherson | #66 Lemmon | Wilbur Hintz | #262 Claremont | Wayne Cutler |
| #12 Yankton | James Cope | #66 Lemmon | Ronald Johnson | #263 Hetland | Mayo Neilson |
| #12 Yankton | Ted Mickelson | #66 Lemmon | Loren Miller | #268 Virgil | Larry McBride |
| #12 Yankton | Francis Schneider | #66 Lemmon | Willard Ottman | #272 Pollock | Eldon Hollaar |
| #12 Yankton | Arthur Tuttle | #68 Hecla | Dale Shelton | #273 Frederick | Edwin Bretsch |
| #13 Wakonda | Robert Bernston | #69 Doland | Wayne Pulfrey | #273 Frederick | Leonard Lahr |
| #13 Wakonda | Arthur Fairfield | #71 Hot Springs | Carlton Anderson | #273 Frederick | John Luoma |
| #13 Wakonda | Burton Orr | #71 Hot Springs | Leland Bristol | #276 Long Lake | Norman Merkel |
| #13 Wakonda | Darrell Vognilid | #71 Hot Springs | William Curley | #280 Iroquois | Joseph Connolly |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Dick Anderson | #71 Hot Springs | Erly Duerson | #287 Mission | Lester Emery |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Lyle Benson | #71 Hot Springs | Paul Grieder | #295 Parmelee | Robert Gassman |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Lyle Boysen | #71 Hot Springs | Richard Norene | #303 Hermosa | Alan Christensen |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Charles Brown | #72 Beresford | Vernon Johnson | #308 Eagle Butte | Daniel LaPlante |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Robert Burckhard | #72 Beresford | Kenneth Kaltenbach | #311 Piedmont | Sam Avila |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Keith Connelly | #72 Beresford | Larry Lantaff | #311 Piedmont | Carl Carlson |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Alan Crosby | #72 Beresford | Don Merriman | #311 Piedmont | Clarence Heilman |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Simon DeJonge | #72 Beresford | Leland Saugstad | #311 Piedmont | Carl Honorable |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Alvin Duffert | #74 Brookings | Clifton Christopherson | #311 Piedmont | John Kepler |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Charles Gaut | #74 Brookings | Harold Neuberger | #311 Piedmont | Donald Policky |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Robert Gillespie | #74 Brookings | Clayton Sloat | #311 Piedmont | Harold Stoltenburg |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Steve Harding | #78 Leola | Elmer Zulk | #311 Piedmont | Paul Worm |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Clifford Haviland | #81 Toronto | Mary Schnarr | #315 Box Elder | Thomas Mundaniohl |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Howard Hovland | #83 Timber Lake | Lloyd Kjellsen | #319 N. Sioux City | Albert Cole |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Raymond Johnson | #88 White | Gladys Hickerson | #319 N. Sioux City | James Ingenthron |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Les Lameyer | #91 Dallas | Donald Lang | #500 South Dakota | William Butler |
| #15 Sioux Falls | James Moore | #94 White River | John Baumann | #500 South Dakota | Melvin Cumming |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Harvey Nelson | #94 White River | Russell Olson | #500 South Dakota | Sidney Eagle Shield |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Glenn Nelson | #94 White River | Eugene Olson | #500 South Dakota | Donald Heisz |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Francis Nolz | #96 White Lake | Leland Glissendorf | #500 South Dakota | David Johnson |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Richard Olson | #102 Faulkton | August Schmidt | #500 South Dakota | John Larsen |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Stephen Olson | #105 Nunda | Bob Klassy | #500 South Dakota | Mayer Rademacher |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Stephen Olson | #105 Nunda | David Larson | #500 South Dakota | Claire Rotherham |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Ertis Osterberg | #105 Nunda | Howard Maher | #500 South Dakota | Richard Stroffus |
| #15 Sioux Falls | George Regan | #105 Nunda | Donald McCuen | #500 South Dakota | Harold Weinberg |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Donald Renner | #109 Gary | Glenn Emmons | #500 South Dakota | Ronnie Wylie |
| #15 Sioux Falls | James Rogers | #109 Gary | Dale Reynolds | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Donald Rypkema | #109 Gary | William Haynes | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | George Sachen | #111 Bridgewater | Belvin Gillings | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Michael Schuldt | #115 Platte | Gary Johnson | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Kermit Staggers | #115 Platte | Roland Bunde | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Leonard Stahl | #118 Hartford | Vernell Johnson | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Harry Torgerson | #118 Hartford | Gary McKay | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Gene Tornow | #128 Hudson | Donald Hagen | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Sidney Trenholm | #128 Hudson | Robert Torkelson | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Ronald Vetter | #129 Waubay | Bradford Bisgard | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Harold Waite | #129 Waubay | Louis Holman | | |
| #15 Sioux Falls | Richard Wareham | #131 Valley Springs | Sylvan Vugteveen | | |
| #17 Codington Co. | William Carlson | #135 Gettysburg | Philip Hagny | | |
| #18 Mitchell | Henry Bos | #135 Gettysburg | Francis Kirby | | |
| #18 Mitchell | Paul Graff | #135 Gettysburg | Gerald Peters | | |
| #18 Mitchell | Gary Ringling | #135 Gettysburg | Henry Westphal | | |
| #21 Hurley | Waldo Jorgensen | #136 Chester | Henry Park | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Lloyd Anschutz | #138 De Smet | John Fox | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Erly Audiss | #138 De Smet | Shawn Hansen | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Stephen Bambeck | #138 De Smet | Thomas Leckey | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Darrell Brady | #138 De Smet | Frank Savona | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Frank Dallago | #138 De Smet | Roy Wade | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Eugene Ewing | #138 De Smet | Donald Wendell | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Robert Garness | #139 McIntosh | Marvin Bail | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Glenn Gatenby | #139 McIntosh | George Genoff | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Kenneth Herman | #139 McIntosh | Joseph Hartman | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Merlin Hughes | #139 McIntosh | Seferious Ternes | | |
| #22 Rapid City | James Stambaugh | #143 Midland | Kandus Woiite | | |
| #22 Rapid City | Jack Younie | #145 Howard | Leo Spader | | |
| #23 Garretson | Willard Moe | #149 Northville | Donald Siebricht | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Arthur Buntin | #151 Mellette | Rollin Craft | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Gordon Campbell | #152 Menno | Arlo Auch | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Arthur Dahme | #159 Hoven | Walter Wenz | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Alvin Dutenhoffer | #166 Emery | Gerald Ruden | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Willis Heiser | #169 Winner | Gabrial MedicineEagle | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Bernard Jacob | #169 Winner | Dwight Schaeffer | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Leonard Lippert | #170 Herried | John Ochsner | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Cyril Rousseau | #170 Herried | Richard Senftner | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Kenneth Seyer | #172 Edgemont | Neil Zerfoss | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Frank Waldt | #173 Philip | Keith Emerson | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Charles Woodward | #175 Baltic | Theodore Sullivan | | |
| #24 Aberdeen | Robert Wuertz | #179 Kennebec/Rel | William Hansen | | |
| #31 Lead | Joseph Caropino | #180 New Effington | Franklin Navratil | | |
| #31 Lead | Willis Steinlicht | #183 Tabor | John Becvar | | |
| #33 Sturgis | Eldon Herring | #183 Tabor | Alvin Bloch | | |
| #33 Sturgis | Robert Hutches | | | | |

Utilizing MyLegion in Your Post

MyLegion.org is a powerful membership tool underutilized by Posts. Within the website, the authorized Post user--which does not necessarily have to be the Adjutant--can do a myriad of membership updates. Some of these include: Membership Renewals, Adding New Members, Transferring Members, Updating Member Contact Information, Accessing Reports for Potential New Members in the Area or in Post 500, and reporting deaths within the Post. Posts can save incredible amounts of time and paper by using MyLegion.

To set up an account for your Post or to update your Authorized User, go to MyLegion.org, scroll to the Post/County/District section, and click on Authorization Form.

For assistance setting up a MyLegion account, or general questions regarding MyLegion, contact State HQ at (605) 886-3604 or email hq@sdlegion.org.