



Up To Now!

Kevin Hempel – Department Adjutant
www.sdlegion.org – Email: adjutant@sdlegion.org

Issued Bi-Monthly from State Headquarters at Watertown, S.D. 57201-0067

Phone (605) 886-3604

No. 3344

August 3, 2022

Aug 11 Dept Executive Committee Zoom meeting at 7 pm central
Aug 26-Sep 1 National Convention, Milwaukee WI
Sep 5 Labor Day, HQ closed
Sep 8 Dept Executive Committee Zoom meeting at 7 pm central
Sep 10-11 SD Legion Golf Tournament
Sep 10 District 1 Fall Meeting
Sep 18 District 2 Fall Meeting, new date for meeting
Sep 24 District 6 Fall Meeting
Sep 25 District 3 Fall Meeting
Oct 1 Midwest Honor Flight, SD American Legion Honor Flight
Oct 10-13 National Fall Meetings
Oct 22 District 7 Fall Meeting
Oct 23 District 8 Fall Meeting
Oct 29 District 4 Fall Meeting
Oct 30 District 5 Fall Meeting
Nov 11 Veterans Day, HQ closed
Nov 15 Employer Awards nominations due to HQ
Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving HQ closed
Dec 23, 26 Christmas Holiday, HQ closed
Dec 31 Law Enforcement nominations due to HQ from Districts
Dec 31 Firefighter nominations due to HQ from Districts

COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP GOAL MESSAGE

After much deliberation and discussion Membership Chairman Rod Smith, Adjutant Hempel and I set the Post goals for 2023 at 2% of your Post 2022 membership. National set South Dakotas goals at 3% of 2022 membership. Every Legionnaire is a recruiter and we want to make our 2% goal and try VERY hard to meet Nationals goal of 3% which would be 115 members over our 2% goal. Membership is all important as if we do not increase our membership The American Legion is not sustainable. By working together and toward our goal we can make it. If every member recruited just one new member, we would double the size of South Dakota American Legion. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

CONTINUOUS YEARS ON DUES NOTICE AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please help get the word out! National has sent a number of dues notices and membership cards with the wrong membership date. In the case of the dues notices, when they pulled the data for "Member since" they used the last date paid rather than the date joining so most of the dues letters say the individual has been a member since 2022. National has since fixed the data problem. This did not impact the actual consecutive years in the data base. Please ensure everyone knows if the date is not correct, please disregard it.

POST MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS

In the past, Posts received a membership roster often called the green bar report which came with the membership cards. Earlier this year National decided not to print this report and did not send it with the membership cards. However, the demand for the report was high and National has decided to print one for each post. Headquarters has received these reports and will be forwarding them to the Posts when we send the Department Adjutants Manual.

988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

For people ages 10-34, suicide is the leading cause of death in South Dakota. Starting July 11, 2022, dialing code 988 will connect people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. People can use the

988 number if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises or other emotional distress. People can also use the 988 number if they are concerned about a loved one who may need crisis support. Please spread the word about the new 988 number.

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION FLOAT

Scheduling of the SD Legion float is changing to Department Headquarters. To schedule the float or check on availability, email hq@sdlegion.org or call 605-886-3604. As before a fee to use the float will be \$20 and should be sent to HQ after reserving the float. It is the responsibility of the organization that wants to use the float to arrange with the current holder of the float where and when to pick up the float.

FIVE ATTEND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP

PDC Terry Hanson, Adjutant Kevin Hempel, Membership Chairman Rod Smith, District 6 Commander Jim Pekron and County Commander Bill Peters attended the workshop

LEGION STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Humboldt Post 62 and Hartford Post 118 are sponsoring this year's State Golf Tournament. It will be held September 10 and 11 at the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford. Registration deadline for the 4 person scramble is September 1st. Contact Fred Lee at 605-413-9451 to register or for more information.

BIDS TO HOST 2027 MIDWINTER AND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Next Meeting Place committee met during the convention. Congratulations to the following Posts:
Post 3 will host 2027 MidWinter Conference at Oacoma on February 19-21, 2027.
Post 15 will host the 2027 Department Convention at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls on June 16-19, 2027.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

The schedule for The American Legion 2022 baseball tournaments is as follows:
State "B" Junior-Aug 5-7 hosted by Post 60, Clark
National Regional- Aug 3-7 hosted by Rapid City
World Series-Aug 11-16 in Shelby, North Carolina.

DIRECT TV DISCOUNTS FOR POSTS

The American Legion has partnered with Commercial Satellite Sales. With this agreement, Posts may be eligible for 15-20% discount on Direct TV programming. This is for Posts only and may not be available for all areas. Contact 800-251-1595 or visit www.cssdtv.com/american-legion for more details.

EMAIL IMPERSONATION ATTACKS

The National Head Quarters has issued an email advisory regarding people impersonating national headquarters staff members asking for information. For example, the hackers will use a staff member's name and ask in the email to review a spread sheet or respond to a sent file. This could give the hacker access to your account information. The email may look quite genuine. This could include the actual staff member's name, email address and

CONTINUED ON BACK

phone in the signature line at the bottom of the email. However in the from line it may have the actual headquarters staff name, but the email address will not be a headquarters email. Another scam will be an email sent using the Commander's name and asking to send gift cards for a specific reason. If you receive a questionable email, call the person before opening to ensure it is in fact from them. Another method to increase security for your self, is to set up multifactor authentication for your personal email and other online accountant containing personal data.

ORATORY CONTEST COMPLETION DATES

The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests:

- Post contests completed by January 8, 2023
- District contests completed by January 22nd, 2023
- Department contest will be held February 12th, 2023 at Mid-Winter conference.

The following dates and locations have been set for the District contests:

DIST. 1 –Chair: Ken Sabers, (kcsabers@gmail.com) District contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 8, 2023, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

DIST. 2 –Chair: Doug Harris (doughinut@gmsil.com) District contest to be held at SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St, January 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Storm date, January 15th, same time and place.

DIST. 3 - Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) District contest to be held at Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 15, 2023 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 22nd, same time and place.

DIST. 4 –Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) District contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Storm date, January 22nd, same time and place.

DIST. 5 –Chair: Clayton Nei, (pandcnei@gmail.com) District contest to be held at American Lutheran Church, Castlewood, SD on Jan. 15, 2023, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 22, same time and place.

DIST. 6 –Chair: Kim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) District Contest to be held at the Best Western Hotel 2000 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD, January 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 22th, same time and place.

DIST. 7 –Chair: Linda Liddell (Lliddell08@gmail.com), District contest to be held at the Humboldt Community Center, January 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 22nd, same time and place.

DIST. 8 Chair: Joseph Knoer, (joseph.A.Knoer@usd.edu) District contest to be held at the Yankton Public Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 22nd, same time and place.

FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Districts are scheduling their Fall meetings. As we get the specifics as to where and when the meetings will be held it will be added.

- Dist 1: Sept 10, TBD
- Dist 2: Sept 18, TBD
- Dist 3: Sept 25, TBD
- Dist 4: Oct 29, TBD
- Dist 5: Oct 30, TBD
- Dist 6: Sept 24, TBD
- Dist 7: Sioux Falls Post 15, 11:00 social, 12:00 meal, 1:00 meet
- Dist 8: Oct 22, TBD

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Remember the South Dakota American Legion Foundation when your Post considers donations / gifts. This foundation will be used by future generations of Legionnaires to fund the American Legion programs. Donations can be marked as a memorial to those Legion members who have passed onto Post Everlasting. If the Post knows someone who wants to make a larger donation and needs assistance with ensuring the endowment goes to the programs they want to support, please contact the Dept. Adjutant at adjutant@sdlegion.org.

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTER-NATE DELEGATES

The following have been elected as Delegates to the National Convention in Milwaukee:

NEC Jim Huls of Madison (National Call In)
Alt NEC Denny Brenden of Watertown (National Call In)
PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson (National Call In)
PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington (National Call In)
PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell (National Call In)
PDC Fred Nelson of Spearfish (National Call In)
Warren Aas of Watertown (National Call In)
Krisma DeWitt of Watertown (National Call In)
Doug Harris of Rapid City (National Call In)
Courtney Steffen of Chester (National Call In)
C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City (National Call In)
PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois
Dept Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain
Dept Adjutant Kevin Hempel of Watertown
Noel Cummins of Milbank
Rod Smith of Chester
Travise Flisrand of Badger
Bill Peters of Sioux Falls
Annette Dunham of Iroquois
Jon McDonald of Box Elder
Jeff Hrabanek of Winner
Dan Hunhoff of Yankton
Alternate Delegates are:
PDC Byron Callies of Watertown
Joseph Knoer of Ruthven
Dale Hill of Sioux Falls
Tom Henley of Aurora
Eugene Iron Shell of Rosebud

DID YOU KNOW: We say the Preamble at almost every Legion function. Have you ever stopped to think about what those words mean? For the next Up To Now's, I will address part of the Preamble and what the purpose is. The first one "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER"...This is the introduction. It declares that The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors-and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and Nation. First things have been put first. All that follows is in conformity.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

National gave us the 2022-2023 membership goals for the Department at the Membership Workshop. They set it by taking 3% of our actual membership on July 4th. The National goal is 17,041. We will be getting the goals to each post with the SD Adjutant's Administrative and Awards manual as well as the post membership rosters we just received from National. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

Have You Done Your
Buddy Check Lately?