



# Up To Now!

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Sep 30 HQ will close at noon to participate in Honor Flight events  
Oct 1 Midwest Honor Flight, SD American Legion Honor Flight  
Oct 10-13 National Fall Meetings  
Oct 13 Dept Executive Committee Zoom meeting  
Oct 22 District 7 Fall Meeting  
Oct 23 District 8 Fall Meeting change from Vermillion to Wakonda  
Oct 29 District 4 Fall Meeting  
Oct 30 District 5 Fall Meeting  
Oct 31 VA Healthcare worker nominations due to HQ  
Nov 11 Veterans Day, HQ closed  
Nov 15 Employer Awards nominations due to HQ  
Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving HQ closed  
Dec 17 Wreath laying at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery  
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  
Jan 11 South Dakota Veterans Council meeting  
Feb 10-13 Department MidWinter Conference in Huron  
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma

## INCLUDED IN THIS UP TO NOW

Included is an informational sheet that briefly outlines various national and state Legion scholarships. Also included is a QR code sticker for updating the Children and Youth fundraising flyer that was sent in an earlier Up To Now. Please see the section on Children and Youth Fund Raiser update which is below.

## HAT IN THE RING

Piedmont Post 311 has endorsed Kevin Morello for Department Commander

## SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION HONOR FLIGHT

Midwest Honor Flight Mission 13 has been named the SD American Legion Honor Flight. It will depart early on Oct 1st. **There will be a Welcome Home Ceremony for the returning flight at the Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena at 9:30 pm October 1st. We want to fill the Arena with Legionnaires to welcome home our Legion Flight. Pass the word and wear your Legion Cap. We would like to see a huge showing of Blue Caps.**

## Children and Youth Fund Raiser Poster Update

A few weeks ago, a flier and letter about the 2023 South Dakota Children and Youth fundraiser was sent to each Post to distribute in their community outlining a method to make an online donation toward Children's Miracle Network and Youth Programs of the South Dakota American Legion, a portion of which would be sent to support the National Veterans and Children Foundation which is where the TAF (Temporary Financial Assistance) program is financed from for each state. On the bottom of the flier was a QR code that once scanned would take you to the donation page on the SDLegion website, Children and Youth page. It was found that the code published failed to work correctly. A sticker is included in this issue of the Up to Now to apply over the top of the QR code on the earlier mailing which will take those that wish to donate to the correct location. Please make copies of this and distribute within your community. Each Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit, SAL Squadron and Rider Chapter within SD was asked to hold a fundraiser to help raise funds for this 2023 C&Y fundraising goal, however if you do not wish to donate to this fundraiser, please direct your donations to the Ameri-

can Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) is not the same program and is not used to support the TAF program so please remember to support either the 2023 C&Y Fundraiser or the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Thank you.

## FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS

South Dakota started a program in 2019 to honor Veterans killed in the line of duty by naming bridges in their honor. Following is a list of upcoming dedications. It would be great if Legionnaires in the area would attend to honor those who have fallen:

Oct 1, Frederic Schroeder, VFW in Madison at 1:00 pm central  
Nov 11, Capt Tommy Callies, Howard High School at 9:30 am  
Nov 11, S2 Wayne, Wagner High School at 2:00 pm

## NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PINS

National Commander Troiola has authorized two separate membership hat pins. The first is for any person that recruits three new members or previous member who were not members in 2022. The second hat pin is for anyone that recruits three previous members who were not members in 2022. These are national pins and must be applied for through National, not Department Headquarters. Auxiliary and SAL members are also eligible for this pin. Additional information for these pins can be found at [www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin) and at [www.legion.org/commander/vets-pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/vets-pin).

## AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

On August 10, 2022, President Joe Biden signed The Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act into law. The PACT Act is a sweeping piece of legislation that covers multiple generations of Veterans. If any of the following conditions apply to you, we highly encourage all to file claims with their local trained and accredited Veterans Service Officer. You can find contact information for South Dakota's County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers here: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>. For Gulf War-era and Post 9/11 Veterans who served in the Middle East or the airspace above, the following cancers and illnesses are now presumptive: Brain cancer, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, and Sarcoidosis. For Vietnam Veterans, the presumptive list for Agent Orange exposure now includes MGUS (blood disease) and Hypertension. Additionally, the PACT Act expanded the presumptive locations to include Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976; Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969; Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30,

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1969; Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980; and Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977.

Also included in the PACT Act is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, which allows veterans who served at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 and their dependents to bring action in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina against the Department of Defense. Some individuals living at the base between 1953 and 1987 have developed kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, leukemia and other forms of cancer after drinking water was found to contain a variety of toxic compounds. The American Legion is working with Bergmann & Moore, our legal representatives at the Board of Veterans Appeals, to create a Memorandum of Understanding to help Veterans and their families navigate this process. More to come as information is released. We encourage the South Dakota American Legion family to disseminate this information amongst the ranks. If a Veteran has been denied in the past, they need to get into their local VSO and file an appeal. Raise awareness amongst widows of the new presumptive conditions and locations that have been added—if they had been denied or had not applied for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation in the past, they may be eligible now. The best thing a Veteran can do for another Veteran is help them connect to their benefits: Get them into their County or Tribal VSO and get the claim started.

### POSTS WHO HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

The following posts need to contact Judy at headquarters to find out about certifying their officers and membership cards

Dist 1:	Bullhead #82	Dupree #124
	Little Eagle #239	Bull Head #324
Dist 2:	Belvidere #144	Oelrichs #238
	Pine Ridge #251	New Underwood #256
	Kyle #265	Batesland #281
	Porcupine #294	Parmelee #295
	St. Francis #297	Manderson #302
	Norris #310	
Dist 3	Blunt #77	
Dist 4	Rockham #57	
Dist 7	Egan #97	
Dist 8	Lake Andes #10	Parker #30
	Davis #176	

### 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 on February 12th, 2023 at MidWinter conference.

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

DIST. 1 – to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 8, 2023, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

DIST. 2 – 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 - 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 – to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 8 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 15th, same time and place. DIST. 5 – 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 – 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 – 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 - to be held at Al Neuharth Media Center, 555 N Dakota St, Vermillion, January 15th, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Storm Date January 22nd, same time and place.

### FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Districts are scheduling their Fall meetings. Below is the current schedule to date:

Dist 4: Oct 29, Warner, 4:00 meeting

Dist 5: Oct 30, Brooking Post 74, 12:30 meal, 1:00 meeting

Dist 7: Sioux Falls Post 15, 11:00 social, 12:00 meal, 1:00 meet

Dist 8: Oct 23, Wakonda, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting

### REMINDER TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION POSTS TO FILE IRS FORM 990

Federal tax regulations require every American Legion Post to file IRS form 990. This must be filled out by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your organizations accounting period. If the IRS does not receive this form, they will revoke the tax-exempt status of the Post. To get your Tax-exempt status back you have to apply and pay a sizeable fee. This process takes time (months) and can challenge even the most patient of individuals. The form can be downloaded at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf>.

### DEPARTMENT MEMBERS TO ATTEND NATIONAL FALL MEETINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS

The following Department members will be attending the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, NEC Denny Brenden, Commander Doug Feltman, PDC Paul Evenson, PDC Hugh Holmes, Dept Vice Commander Doug Harris and Adjutant Kevin Hempel.

### DID YOU KNOW:

The fifth section of our Preamble and its meaning is TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL WARS...Service in defense of America is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle, the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub-infested oceans, the combats in the wild blue yonder. It means also the un-erasable recollection of the comradeship, the bravery of pals, the teamwork, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex-servicemen and women together in mutual affection, respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

### DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our National goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of September 2 we were at 10,465 or 61.4% of goal. They were determined by taking 3% of our actual membership on July 4th. Rod Smith is this years Membership Chairman.

**2023 goal 17,041 Current membership 9,909 or 58.15% of goal**

Upcoming membership goals

October 13 55%

November 9 65%

Have you done your buddy checks??