



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. 3360

March 15, 2023

Mar 15 Department Legion College applications due to HQ
Mar 18 District 3 Spring Meeting
Mar 19 District 6 Spring Meeting
Mar 25 District 1 Spring Meeting
Mar 25 Youth Trooper Academy application deadline
Mar 26 District 2 Spring Meeting
Mar 31 Applications for Department Legion College due
Apr Post elections held
Apr 1 District 8 Spring Meeting
Apr 2 District 7 Spring Meeting
Apr 7 Good Friday, HQ closed
Apr 15 Legion Service day at Wings of Valor
Apr 22 Department American Legion College
Apr 23 District 4 Spring Meeting (rescheduled due to weather)
May 1 Deadline for submitting Boys State applications
May 1 Nominations for William Lenker VA&R award due at HQ
May 1 Good Samaritan nominations due to HQ from Districts
May 1-3 National Commander visits South Dakota
May 8-11 National Spring Meetings
May 15 Deadline for early Baseball registration
May 29 Memorial Day
May 29-Jun 2 Boys State
Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Ocoma
Jun 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy
Jul 1 National American Legion College applications due to HQ

UP COMING REQUIRED REPORTS

The following reports or inputs will soon be due. Please take the required actions as needed:

1. Post Data Report. The Posts will be receiving this form by mail shortly. This report identifies the dues amount for the post as well as the mailing address for the dues and post. It is due to HQ by April 15.
2. Post Americanism Report. This form reflects what the Post has accomplished for Americanism programs. It is also used to select the Golden Eagle award for excellence in Americanism programs. This report can be found in the Department's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 19, and is due to HQ May 1st.
3. Post Officer Certification. This form is found in the Department's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 28, and is to be submitted to HQ in May after the Post officers have been sworn in for the next year.
4. Consolidated Post Report (CPR). The CPR is the Post's method to report what has been accomplished for the year. The data is used by the Department and National Headquarters to report on activities of The American Legion. The form will be included in a future Up To Now or can be found on the Department website. It is also available on line on the National website and is due June 1st.

HATS IN THE RING

Spearfish Post 164 has endorsed Brian Dean for District 1 Commander

Garretson Post 23 has endorsed Andy Lyngen for District 7 Commander

Arlington Squadron 42 has endorsed Terry Hanson for National Executive Committeeman

DEPARTMENT LEGION COLLEGE

The Department of South Dakota will be hosting its first Department Legion College on April 22, 2023. Twenty applicants will be selected for the initial program. The prerequisites are 1. Must have a minimum of three years of continuous membership. 2. Must have completed the American Legion Basic Training Course and include a copy of the completion certificate with the application package. 3. The Post Commander or Adjutant must endorse the application. 4. You must have Internet access to do the course by Zoom. Applications can be found on the SD Legion website under Training or by contacting HQ. Deadline for application has been changed to 31 March 2023.

BASEBALL UNIFORM PATCHES

There has been much discussion about the possibility of having to use the new baseball emblem starting in 2024. We just received guidance from National Headquarters where the old patch with crossed bats will remain the patch required on uniforms until further notice and is unknown if it will change any time soon. The new baseball logo can be used for digital media or anything that is clearly advertising or promotional in nature.

BOYS STATE AND YOUTH TROOPER REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Boys State registration can be found on the South Dakota Boys State website, the address for applicants:

<http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/boys-state-application/>

The registration fee for Boys State is \$225 per student and is payable to the Boys State Treasurer. **Registration closes on May 1, 2023.**

The Youth Trooper Academy is another outstanding program of the South Dakota American Legion. Registration/Application forms can be found on the website here: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/YTA-Application-New-002.pdf>

The deadline for applications is March 25, 2023. Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/>

APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RAFFLE

“Any individual or group who wishes to conduct a raffle needs to provide written notice to the SD Secretary of State before selling any tickets for a raffle. They must also give thirty days written notice of the time and place thereof to the governing body or designated administrative official of the county or municipality in which it intends to conduct the raffle. SDCL 22-25-25(6).” The above quote is taken directly from the SD Secretary of State website. Note the specific statute number quoted in the previous Up To Now was incorrectly typed. For additional guidance, please refer to the Secretary of State's website.

CERTIFICATION OF POST OFFICERS

As a reminder, Posts will be conducting their election of officers in April and installation of new officers in May. As soon as the installation is complete, the Adjutant must submit the Officers' Certification to Department Headquarters. Information can be found on pages 27-28 in the Department Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual. Even if the Post officers remain the same, the form **MUST BE SUBMITTED**.

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LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Every Legion post has those special Legionnaires that go above and beyond. There is a special person always volunteering to do what ever he or she can do to make it better This is the time of the year for the Post to recognize that special person by selecting them as the Legionnaire of the Year. Once selected they can also compete at the District and Department level. Additional information and nomination forms can be found in the SD Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual as well as the SD Legion website. Nomination packages are due to the respective District Commander 15 days prior to Department Spring meetings.

2023 NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

Applications are now being accepted at Department Headquarters for this year's National American Legion College (NALC) which will be held in Indianapolis November 12-17. Applications can be found on the National website, legion.org/college and are due to Department Headquarters by July 1st. DO NOT send them to National as they must have the Department's approval first.

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD

The South Dakota American Legion Good Samaritan Award was initiated to recognize those individuals or groups who give of themselves to help others. A narrative with supporting documentation must be forwarded to the District Commander **ten days prior** to the Spring District meeting.

WILLIAM F LENKER VA&R AWARD

During the 2019 State Convention a resolution was passed to create a VA&R Leadership award. The VA&R Commission created the criteria for the award that will be a Post competition. Additional information and nomination form can be found on the Department website under forms . **Forms are due before May 1, 2023** to State Headquarters.

VETERANS WRITING WORKSHOP

Brian Turner, Army Veteran and award winning author will be holding a free Veterans Writing Workshop on March 21st in the Center for Western Studies from 2 to 4 at Augustana University. He will also be doing a reading and book signing from 6 to 7:30 pm on March 20th at the Froiland Science Center on the campus.

DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS

Note change. Due to weather, District 4 meeting was postponed from March 12 and rescheduled to April 23rd.

- Dist 1 25 Mar Spearfish, 11:00 lunch, 12:00 meeting
- Dist 2 26 Mar Hot Springs, 11:30 social, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 meeting
- Dist 3 18 Mar Ft Pierre Moose Lodge 11:00 Social, 11:30 lunch, 12:00 meeting
- Dist 4 23 Apr Cresbard, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow
- Dist 6 19 Mar DeSmet 12:00 social, 12:30 lunch, 1:30 meeting
- Dist 7 2 April Hartford, 1:30 social, 2:00 mgt
- Dist 8 1 April Springfield, 1:00 social, 2:00 meeting with light lunch to follow

BIDS FOR 2028 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MID-WINTER

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter and Department Convention are being accepted. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the convention should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept HQ.

BASEBALL

A reminder early online team registration for \$100 off the fee ends May 15th.

LEGION NEWS STORIES

Although the Department's Legion News will be on line, we are still looking for stories and photos of what the Legion is doing around the state. We really need the input from the Post level to tell your story. Please send your stories and photos to Headquarters at P.O. Box 67, Watertown SD or email to adjutant@sdlegion.org

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

It is that time of year again where we need to document what we are doing in our communities. **When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.** Please fill out the form that will be sent out or by going online to mylegion.org and completing it there. Our goal this year is 100% Post reporting for CPRs. Thank you in advance for assisting in this matter.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

About 20 veterans take their own lives by suicide everyday. Buddy checks are an important part of Veterans helping Veterans. Take the time to reach out to veterans even if they are not Legion members. The National Commander has started a program called "Be The One." He wants us all to be the one that helps those veterans in need. The VA has a hot line, 1-800-273-8255. You can also dial 988 if you or someone you know needs help, please use the hot line. "Be The One" to make a difference.

AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Have you completed the Basic Training Course? It is a great way to better understand your American Legion. The course covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities. Following the Course Conclusion, a 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales. Take the Basic Training course online at www.legion.org/training.

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION

The annual fun auction will be held in Oacoma during the State Convention on June 10. This event has grown through the years and has become an event that is well attended and supported by the American Legion Family. All proceeds from the fun auction are donated to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Please consider donating items to the fun auction. **If you have a talent in any particular area, such as, quilting, wood carving, woodworking, baking, etc, please consider making something to be auctioned off at the fun auction.** These items are very well received. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW:

Some of the numbers for the American Legion programs each year
12,000, Posts through out the United States
2,000, Participants in American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
20,000 Participants in Boys State
2,500 Scouting units sponsored by Legion Posts
4,500 Legion Baseball Teams

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of March 12th, we were at 15,079 or 88.59% of goal. The next membership goal is April 19th where all posts should be at 95%. Posts should be contacting their Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2023 and ask them to please renew to support our programs.

43 Post have made 100% membership, is your Post one of them?