



Up To Now!

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May 24, 2023

May 29 Memorial Day, HQ closed
 May 29-Jun 2 Boys State
 Jun 1 Blue hat day at Boys State
 Jun 4 Athletic Commission meeting—Pierre
 Jun 8-11 Department Convention in Oacoma
 Jun 19 Juneteenth Day, HQ closed
 Jun 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy
 Jun 29 Blue Hat day at Youth Trooper Academy
 Jul 1 National American Legion College applications due to HQ
 Jul 4 Independence Day, HQ closed
 Jul 14 Finance Commission Budget meeting
 Jul 15 Dept Executive Committee Budget meeting
 Jul 27-29 National membership workshop
 Aug 7 Kingsbury County Purple Heart/Gold Star Family event
 Aug 25-31 National Convention in Charlotte NC
 Aug 31– Sep 4 State Fair
 Sep 4 Legion Golf Tournament

INCLUDED IN THIS UP TO NOW

Included in this Up To Now is the Convention Delegate Cutoff list which indicates the number of delegates each post will be eligible for and the number of votes at convention.

WELCOME

C.P. “Van” Van Delist reported for duty as the incoming Department Adjutant May 22nd. He will be working with Kevin until sometime after department convention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET INFORMATION

During the Department Convention in Oacoma June 8—11, a sandwich buffet will be served at noon on Friday and Saturday. Cost is \$20 per person. The Joint Banquet will be held on June 9th. Menu will be roasted chicken, baked potato, vegetable, salad and roll. Cost will be \$35 per person. The Auxiliary Banquet will be held Saturday June 10th and menu will be roast pork loin, baked potato, vegetable, salad and roll. Cost is \$26 per person. You must have a ticket for each event you wish to participate in. None will be available at the door. Ticket orders must be received no later than **May 30th**. To order tickets, send name and address and list the number of Friday lunch tickets, Saturday lunch tickets, Joint Banquet tickets and Auxiliary Banquet tickets requested. Make checks payable to Potter Post 3 and send to John Payer, 25120 344th Ave, Chamberlain SD 57325

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Headquarters has received the 2024 membership cards. Posts who have submitted their officer certifications will be eligible to pick up their cards at the convention registration desk.

DELEGATION FEES FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Each Post is entitled to delegates based on their membership. Delegate credentials (found in the Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual) must be turned in to Department Headquarters by **June 5th, 2023**. Payment of \$7 per delegate must accompany the form from the manual. This is mandatory for all Posts whether they attend the convention or not. Fees can also be paid at registration.

2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Following is the basic schedule of events for the upcoming Department Convention to be held at Cedar Shores in Oacoma

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

10:00 a.m. Finance Commission meeting
 1:00 p.m. Executive Committee meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

9:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
 10:00 a.m. SAL Executive Committee meeting
 10:00 a.m. Resolutions Committee Initial meeting
 11:30 a.m. S.D.A.L.P.A. luncheon/meeting
 1:00 p.m. Convention Committee Chairmen meet with Commander & Adjutant
 1:30 p.m. Convention committees meet
 3:00 p.m. SDAL Foundation meeting
 4:30 p.m. Joint Convention Memorial Service
 6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails/Social
 7:00 p.m. Joint Legion Family Banquet

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 a.m. Registration desk opens
 8:30 a.m. Concert, State Legion Band
 9:00 a.m. Convention Call To Order
 Various speakers and committee reports
 1:00 p.m. SAL Business meeting
 TBD Recognition of Legionnaire of the Year
 Recognition of the Gabrielson Memorial Leadership
 Presentation of History Awards
 ANNOUNCEMENTS
 CONVENTION IN RECESS
 TBD Area caucus for election of Vice Commanders
 5:00 p.m. Go-Getters Reception and dinner
 8:00 p.m. SD American Legion Foundation Fun Auction

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 a.m. Registration desk open
 8:30 a.m. Concert – State Legion Band
 9:00 a.m. Convention business session reconvenes
 Speakers and committee reports continue.
 11:45 a.m. Sweepstakes Drawings
 12:00 noon Special Order of Business - Elections (earlier if all other business is completed)
 Installation of newly elected officers
 Acceptance speech by new Department Commander
 Adjourn Convention, Department Commander
 Post-Convention Dept Executive Committee

GO-GETTERS RECEPTION AND DINNER

A reminder to all Posts. If you have Go-Getters who were not certified at Mid-Winter, but eligible now to attend the Dept Convention Go-Getters reception and dinner, the Go-Getter Certification Form in the Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual must be completed and sent to Department Headquarters by June 5th in order for the Go Getter to attend. If names were sent in previously, they do not need to be sent in again.

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

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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.

CORRECTION TO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT

The Internal Affairs Commission has amended their report to recommend the four resolutions to be reviewed at the upcoming Department Convention should be passed to the Department Convention Resolutions committee for action. The amended report is available online at the Department website.

SDALPA LUNCHEON AT DEPT CONVENTION

The South Dakota American Legion Press Association (SDALPA) luncheon meeting will be Friday, June 9th at 11:30. If you plan on eating, please order your lunch before as it will not be available at the meeting.

CONVENTION SWEEPSTAKES IS HERE

There will be a sweepstakes drawing held at the end of convention. The sweepstakes mailings have already been sent out. A group of volunteers helped stuff the envelopes so a special thank you to Judy Greenfield, Commander Feltman, Rod Smith, Krisma DeWitt, Sue Peters, PDC Wolkow, PDC Holmes, Linda Holmes, PDC Dunham, Annette Dunham, Robin Hempel and Adjutant Hempel. Please consider supporting the sweepstakes, all donations support our Legion programs.

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.

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)." 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**. Additionally, please do not put same as last year. Fill in all the information requested.

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. Deadline for applications is July 1st.

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.

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.

POST CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

Has your Post updated it's Constitution and By Laws? This should be done annually to make sure everything is up to date. Additionally, please ensure Department Headquarters has a copy of your updated Constitution and By Laws. Thanks for your help with this important process.

DID YOU KNOW

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes in U.S. society. Six months earlier, The American Legion wrote the first draft of what later became the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered The American Legion's single greatest legislative achievement. Higher education becomes democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of May 21st, we were at 15,634 or 91.74% of goal. May 17th was the last goal date where all posts should be at 100%. Even though the last goal date is past, posts can still recruit new members and renew those who have not renewed yet. Posts should be contacting their Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2023 and ask them to please renew to support our programs.

55 Posts have made 100% membership or more. IS your post one of them?