



Up To Now!

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Jun 8-11 Department Convention, Oacoma
Jun 19 Juneteenth Day, HQ closed
Jun 26-30 Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre
Jun 29 Blue Hat day at Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre
Jul 1 National American Legion College applications due to HQ
Jul 4 Independence Day, HQ closed
Jul 14 Finance Commission Budget meeting, Oacoma
Jul 15 Dept Executive Committee Budget meeting, Oacoma
Jul 27-29 National membership workshop, Indianapolis, IN
Aug 7 Kingsbury County Purple Heart/Gold Star Family event
Aug 25-31 National Convention, Charlotte NC
Aug 31-Sep 4 State Fair, Huron
Sep 4-Labor Day, HQ Closed
Sep 9-10 Legion Golf Tournament hosted by Hermosa Post 303, Rapid City

CONGRATS TO THE 2023 BOYS STATE PARTICIPANTS

The 161 high school juniors and seniors, participated in the 80th Annual Session of The American Legion Boys State of South Dakota, Gavin Pischke of Hartford, who will be a senior this year at West Central High School, was elected as Governor. Elected as Lt. Governor was Dale Kinyon of Rapid City, who is a student at Stevens High School. Austin Jenkins of Leola and Max Altana of Sioux Falls were selected as the two delegates to represent South Dakota at The American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. in July. Kaleb Ringgenberg and Rylan Johnson both of Aberdeen were selected as Alternate Delegates. Landen Matkins of Rapid City was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Samsung, American Legion Scholarship award. Maxwell's application has been forwarded to the National American Legion Selection Committee. The committee will award ten, \$10,000 scholarships to the National Finalists.

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.* Certify your officers NOW. The form for certifying officers is found on page 27 of the Department's 2022-2023 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual

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. The reception is for only Certified SDAL and SDSAL Go-Getters. 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 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.

ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS BEFORE 2023 DEPT CONVENTION

Copies of the Chairman's reports of the various committees that have been submitted for convention consideration can be found on the SD Legion Website. The link is on the home page.

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

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ment 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.

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The State Legion Golf Tournament will be sponsored by the Post 303 of Hermosa and will be held at two different golf courses on different days. The courses will be in Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base. Dates will be September 9 & 10. Mark your calendars and more information to follow.

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 DEPT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER

At this time only one Bid has been submitted to HQ. 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) Due-June 31, 2023

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.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TRAINING TUESDAYS

National Headquarters staff present 60 to 90 minute on line training sessions aimed at Post level Commanders and Adjutants. The topic for Tuesday, June 27th at 6 pm CDT has not been identified yet. If you missed previous training, most have been recorded and can be viewed at legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays.

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

Approximately 20,000 young men all across the US annually participate in Boys State, a Legion program dedicated to promoting leadership. South Dakota Boys State alumni include Senator John Thune, Rep Dusty Johnson, former US Senators Larry Pressler, Tim Johnson & Tom Daschle, news commentator Tom Brokaw, SD Supreme Court Justice Mark Salter, Astronaut Col. Charles Gemar, Al Neuharth Founder of USA Today, Neal Schnoor President of Northern State University, Spencer Gosch Former SD Speaker of the House, Ty Littau, Dennis Daugaard Former SD State Governor, Ryan Brunner Former School and Public Lands Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor for Governor Noem, Reed Holwegner SD Legislative Research Council Director and many, many more

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 is 17,041. As of June 5th, we were at 15,717 or 92.23% 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.

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