



Up To Now!

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

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July 7, 2023

- Jul 14 Finance Commission Budget meeting, Chamberlain
- Jul 15 Dept Executive Committee Budget meeting, Chamberlain
- Jul 15-16 District Commander Training, Chamberlain
- Jul 22 Dept Commander Steffen Homecoming in Chester
- Jul 22 Dept Auxiliary President Homecoming in Gregory
- 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
- Sep 16 District 2 Fall Meeting
- Sep 17 District 1 Fall Meeting
- Sep 23 District 4 Fall Meeting
- Sep 24 District 5 Fall Meeting
- Oct 9-12 National Fall Meetings
- Oct 21 District 7 Fall Meeting
- Oct 22 District 8 Fall Meeting
- Oct 28 District 6 Fall Meeting
- Oct 29 District 3 Fall Meeting
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Observance, HQ closed

DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS AT CONVENTION

Congratulations to the Department Officers who were elected at this years convention:

- Dept Commander- Courtney Steffen of Chester
- Dept Vice Commander Dist 1 & 2- Doug Harris of Rapid City
- Dept Vice Commander Dist 3-8- Rod Smith of Chester
- Dept Sgt At Arms- Greg Geiman of Scotland

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MAKES APPOINTMENTS

Commander Steffen has made the following appointments:

- Bill Peters of Sioux Falls to one year term as Membership Chairman
- Day Wyatt of Madison to one year term as Americanism Chairman
- Mike Kumm of North Sioux City to one year term as Department Chaplain
- Paul Evenson of Garretson to five year term as member of the Finance Commission
- Krisma DeWitt of Watertown to two year term as Department Finance Officer
- Jay Leibel of Madison to three year term as Department Judge Advocate
- C.P. Van Delist to one year term as Department Public Relations Officer
- Kate Schmidt of Wessington Springs to one year term as Department Children and Youth Chairman

COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

Commander Steffen's homecoming will be held at the Chester Community Center, 401 4th St, Chester, SD 57016 on July 22nd, 2023. Social will begin at 2:30 pm with program at 3:30pm. Free will donation meal to follow in conjunction with the Flatlanders Militia Men Poker Run to raise funds for the Chester Veterans Memorial. Please plan on being there to support our new Department Commander.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT HOMECOMING

The new Department Auxiliary President, Patsy Madsen will hold her homecoming July 22nd at the Gregory American Legion Post 6, 223 Main St, Gregory, SD 57533. Social at 11:30am, Meal at noon followed by the program at 1:00pm.

SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING AT CONVENTION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO WON THE SWEEPSTAKES AT THE CONVENTION!

- \$1000 Barry Bultena of Beresford
- \$500 Travis Hedrick of Ft. Pierre
- \$300 Carrie Henrickson
- \$200 Wayne Gutzmer of Black Hawk
- \$100 James Schmitendorf of Rapid City

A special thanks to all those that donated to the sweepstakes. Your donation will help fund our American Legion programs.

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.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Headquarters has received the 2024 membership cards. Posts who have submitted their officer certifications will be eligible to receive their cards. Certify your officers NOW. The form for certifying officers is found in the Department's 2022-2023 Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual online at the Department website.

CERTIFICATION OF POST OFFICERS

As a reminder, Posts conducted 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 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.

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

The dead line has passed and we closed out this year at 52.3%, 36th in the nation as a Department. It is not too late to get credit for all your Post's hard work. Please fill out the form or go online to mylegion.org and completing it there. Our goal this year is 100% Post reporting for CPRs. Thank you in advance for assist-

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ing in this matter. *When calculating volunteer hours it is important to remember to multiply the hours of the event by the number of volunteers.*

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.

BIDS FOR 2028 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION MIDWINTER

Congratulations to Huron for being selected for the 2028 Department Convention!

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter are being accepted. No bids were submitted at the Convention. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the midwinter should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept HQ.

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2024 Mid-Winter	Deadwood	Feb 16-18
2024 Convention	Pierre	June 20-23
2025 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 14-16
2025 Convention	Huron	June 19-22
2026 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 20-22
2026 Convention	Aberdeen	June 18-21
2027 MidWinter	Oacoma	Feb 20-22
2027 Convention	Sioux Falls	June 16-19

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 Altena 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.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

The schedule for The American Legion 2023 baseball state tournaments is as follows:

State "A" Senior- July 25-29, hosted by Post 12, Yankton
State "A" Junior- July 27-30, hosted by Post 45, Harrisburg
State "B" Senior - July 28 - Aug 1, hosted by Post 92, Redfield
State "B" Junior-Aug 4-6 hosted by Post 174, Lennox

National Regional- Aug 2-6 hosted by Post 22, Rapid City
World Series-Aug 10-15 in Shelby, North Carolina.

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.

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.

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.

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION FLOAT

Scheduling of the SD Legion float is maintained at Department Headquarters. To schedule the float or check on availability, email maryjo@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.

2024 MID-WINTER INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mid-winter Conference is being hosted by District 1, and will be held at the Deadwood Lodge, in Deadwood, SD., Friday, 16 February through Sunday, 18 February 2024. A block of rooms has been set aside beginning with 20 rooms for early arrivals on Thursday, 15 February, and another 80 rooms for arrivals on Friday, 17 February. **Anyone requiring a Hospitality Suite or room larger than the standard king or double queen, please contact David Booze at 605-484-5328 for reservation arrangements.** All who require just the **Standard King or Standard Double Queen room, reservations can be made by calling the Deadwood Lodge, phone number 605-584-4800.** The rate for the Standard King or Double Queen room is **\$95 plus applicable taxes.** Be sure to **mention** you will be **attending the American Legion Mid-winter conference.** The Deadwood Lodge is a 100% smoke free facility. The Deadwood Lodge allows dogs; however, all dogs must be declared at the time of making the reservation or upon check-in. Other details such as the Joint Banquet, Go-Getters, and training sessions will be coming soon."

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Our goal for 2022-2023 was 17,041. As of July 6th, we were at 15,787 or 92.64% of goal. 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. Goals for 2024 will be published shortly.

60 Posts are 100% on membership or more.