



Up To Now!

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

Phone (605) 886-3604

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May 10, 2024

- May 11 District 5 Boys State Orientation, 4H building, Milbank
- May 12 Mother's Day, Display Flag
- May 15 Membership Target Date– Armed Forces Day 100%
- May 15 Peace Officer Memorial Day, Display Flag
- May 17-19 National Oratorical Contest, Hillsdale College
- May 18 Armed Forces Day, Display Flag
- May 18 Dist 4 Boys State Orientation, SDNG Armory, Aberdeen & Mobridge
- May 21 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 19 Welcome Home Ceremony, Sioux Falls Convention Center 9:30 pm
- May 21 Yankton County What's Brewing VFW Post 791, 10 am
- May 27 Memorial Day **HQ Closed**, Flag at half-staff until noon
- May 27-31 Boys State, Northern State University, Aberdeen
- May 27 SDDVA Memorial Day Program, SD Vets Cemetery 12pm
- May 30 "Blue Cap Day" at Boys State, 8am
- June 1 Consolidated Post Report due to Dept HQ
- June 1 Outstanding Post Commander and Adj awards due to HQ
- June 1 Outstanding District Commander Awards due to HQ
- June 5 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 20, Welcome Home, Convention Center Sioux Falls, 9:30 pm
- June 14 Flag Day, Display Flag
- June 14 U.S. Army Birthday!!**
- June 16 Father's Day
- June 19 Juneteenth Day **HQ Closed**
- June 20-23 Depart Convention, Ramkota, Pierre
- June 24-28 Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre
- June 27 Blue Cap Day at Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre
- July 4 Independence Day **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- July 9 SDAL Foundation Board Meeting, Dept HQ, 9am
- July 12 Finance Commission Budget Meeting, Dept HQ, 9am
- July 13 DEC Meeting, Post 17, Watertown, 1pm
- July 13-14 Dist Commander's & Vice's Training, Dept HQ
- Jul 15 Tee it up for the Troops Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser, Arrowhead Country Club, Rapid City 7:15 am
- July 17 SD Vets Council Meeting, VFW Aberdeen 11am
- July 21 TAL Basic Training, Redfield Post 92, 1pm
- July 21-27 Boys Nation, Washington DC
- July 25-28 National Membership Workshop, Indianapolis, IN
- Aug 17 Commander's Homecoming
- Aug 21 SD Vets Council Meeting, VFW Post 791, Yankton
- Aug 29 Veterans Day at the SD State Fair, Huron
- Aug 29-Sep 2 SD State Fair, Huron
- Aug 23-29 National Convention, New Orleans, LA
- Sep 2 Labor Day **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- Sep 7-8 SDAL Golf Tournament, Webster
- Sep 14 Dist 2 Fall Meeting
- Sep 15 Dist 1 Fall Meeting
- Sep 18 SD Vets Council Meeting Post 22 Rapid City
- Sep 21-22 & 27-29 National Americanism Conference
- Sep 28 Dist 6 Fall Meeting
- Sep 19 Dist 3 Fall Meeting
- Oct 7-10 National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
- Oct 14 Native American Day, **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- Oct 16 SD Vets Council Meeting, Brookings Post 74 11am
- Oct 19 Dist 4 Fall Meeting
- Oct 20 Dist 5 Fall Meeting
- Oct 26 Dist 7 Fall Meeting
- Oct 27 Dist 8 Fall Meeting

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings Legion family!

The time is ticking down to State Convention, and I'm getting excited to see all of you! If you haven't been to convention before, please consider this your invitation to come. Pierre is going to be a lot of fun this year!



Before we get there though:

This year has flown by. And every day, I'm reminded why I continue to serve. Why service within our communities makes a difference or fighting for benefits at state or national levels matters. I see it in each and every one of you in every one of my visits, and for that, I thank you.

I know this continued service comes with challenges—namely, membership—something I don't particularly like talking about. When our forefathers founded the Legion in 1919, they did so with numbers less than ours. In South Dakota, we did not surpass our current membership numbers until after WWII. It should be noted that many of our Posts were formed before 1945, when we had a membership of 12,788. I've laid out what VA numbers predict for the next 25 years, and South Dakota has been lower historically. We survived. Some posts even thrived. It will take some reimaging and readjusting to the needs of new generations of Veterans (pursuing our purpose), but the Legion will still be there. I say this as encouragement—what we do can be done, has been done, and will be done in the future. I ask you this—what is your Post doing to meet the needs of the next generation?

On a lighter note--before my year is done, I want to celebrate a bit! Consider yourself invited to a border birthday bash in Big Stone City on June 8th. Paul Hassing, the Minnesota Department Commander, and I happen to share the same birthday (June 10th). We decided it would be fun to celebrate together—a way to not only get together with friends, raise a few bucks, have some fun and have one last shindig as commanders.

We'll be hosting the get together in Big Stone City at the American Legion Post #229, 4-8pm, complete with a taco bar—freewill donations will be accepted and split between the two departments. On the South Dakota side, we'll be sending ours to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. PDC Fred Nelson is hosting a motorcycle ride that same weekend, and we'll add to that pot! Come, and bring friends. This will be open to the public.

Whether I see you in Big Stone, Pierre, or down the road, it's been an honor. Thank you for allowing me to represent you all.

Pursue purpose,

Courtney Steffen
Department Commander



UP COMING REQUIRED REPORTS

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

1. Post Officer Certification. This form is found in the Department's Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual, page 27, and is to be submitted to HQ in after the Post officers have been sworn in for the next year.

2. 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 can be found on the Department website. It is also available on line on the National website and is due **June 1st**.

2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 105th Annual American Legion Department of South Dakota Convention will be June 20-23 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Pierre. A block of Rooms are available at the rate of \$109 a night. To make reservations call (605) 224-6877. More information to come in future UTNs.

HATS IN THE RING FOR 2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

Post 311 has endorsed Kevin Morello for Dept Commander
Post 164 has endorsed Brian Dean for Dept Vice CDR Dist 1&2
Post 136 has endorsed Kevin Hempel for Dept Vice CDR Dist 3-8
Post 11 has endorsed Greg Geiman for Dept Sergeant at Arms
Post 164 has endorsed Fred Nelson for Natl Exec Committee
Post 18 has endorsed Hugh Holmes for National Vice Commander
Post 3 has endorsed Doug Feltman for Alt Natl Exec Committee

From Rod Smith of Chester Post 136: "To all members of The American Legion Department of South Dakota—the best Department in The American Legion. It is with regret that I am withdrawing from the run for Department Commander. Family health of both Joyce and I are what caused me to make this decision. I apologize to the Posts in Districts 3-8 for not visiting more of you and will visit as able. Thank you to Chester Post #136 and all post and Legion family who have supported and encouraged me."

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, 2024**. 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.

2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Below is the basic schedule of events for the upcoming Department Convention

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

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 22

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
Recognition of Legionnaire of the Year
Recognition of the Gabrielson Memorial Leadership
Presentation of History Awards
ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONVENTION IN RECESS
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 23

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONVENTION

The following are the titles and first resolved clause of the resolutions that have been submitted for consideration at convention. Those with constitutional intent are enclosed in the print mailing all are available in full form on the Dept website.

24-01 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA DUES- Constitution & By-laws ARTICLE VI DUES, Section 2. DUES – DISPOSITION. to read "Each Post shall pay annually to the headquarters of the Department of South Dakota the sum of \$20.00 plus the amount of National dues assessed each fiscal year for each of its individual members, which said sum shall be distributed as follows:"

24-02 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A STANDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE– TABLED by Internal Affairs pending further study

24-03 SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE- That the American Legion supports the establishment of a standardized system to recognize and appropriately award academic credit or certification for military service based on American Council on Education recommendations of evaluation of the Joint Services Transcript System standards

24-04 SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE- That the member at large appointed by the Commander serve on the SDVC for a term of three years; and, be it finally

24-05 BIRCH-MILLER POST 9 OF MILBANK, SD TO HOST THE STATE A, THE STATE B AND THE JUNIOR LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS- That in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of The Birthplace of American Legion Baseball that the State B Senior and Junior Legion State Baseball Tournaments be held at the newly constructed Legion Field Complex in Milbank, SD Birthplace of American Legion Baseball in 2025 with final dates to be determined prior to the 2025 baseball season.

24-06 SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS-the American Legion supports the rights of property owners

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 or-

der for the Go Getter to attend. If names were sent in previously, they do not need to be sent in again.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION BANQUET INFORMATION

The American Legion Family Joint Banquet will be Friday, June 21st, 2024 at the Ramkota Conference Center, 920 W Sioux Ave, in Pierre. No Host Bar 6:00 pm Banquet 7:00 pm
Transportation to and from the banquet is available. Please ask at the Registration table when you pick up your tickets.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Adults \$35 per ticket _____
(Total)

_____ Children \$20 per ticket _____
(Total)

Total enclosed: _____

Please make checks or money orders out to:

American Legion Pierre Post 8

Please Send ticket requests to:

Convention Banquet Tickets

ATTN: Mike Wells, Convention Finance Chairman

PO Box 621

Pierre, SD, 57501

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION

The annual fun auction will be held in Pierre during the State Convention on June 22. 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 special talent in any particular area, such as, quilting, wood carving, wood-working, baking, etc, please consider making something to be auctioned off at the fun auction.**

2028 & 2029 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER

Bids for the 2028 MidWinter are being accepted, at this time only one bid has been submitted from Chamberlain Post 3. 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.

Bids for the 2029 MidWinter and Department Convention are being accepted at this time as well.

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2024 Convention, Ramkota, Pierre, June 20-23

2025 MidWinter, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, Feb 14-16

2025 Convention, Crossroads Hotel, Huron, June 19-22

SDAL BASEBALL UPDATE

Team registration is open now, the cost is \$100 until May 15th then it will go up to \$200. Registration will close on May 31, 2024. New this year, Resolution No. 17, Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs, adopted at NEC Fall Meetings October 2023, established policies and procedures which mandates sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screenings for adult participants of American Legion Baseball.

ALL Coaches, managers, and volunteer staff members of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams and players, who are

18, must complete a background check and abuse awareness course prior to conducting any meetings, events, practices, or games that involve youth participants.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

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

State "A" Senior- July 30- Aug 3, Brookings

State "A" Junior- Aug 1-4, Pierre

State "B" Senior - Aug 2-6, Salem

State "B" Junior- Aug 9-1, Groton

2024 SDAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The SDAL annual golf tournament will be held in Webster, SD over the weekend of September 7th and 8th, 2024. Register today by calling Chad Hesla at 605-881-0007. For more information contact Athletic Commissioner Elton Blemaster 605-280-2023 or Athletic Commissioner Gene Gillen at 605-415-0885

VETERANS, SEE WHAT'S BREWING!

The SD Dept of Veterans Affairs will be hosting "Coffee and Conversation" programs in Yankton, Chamberlain, Eureka and McIntosh. These programs are in partnership with County Veterans Service Officers. The department welcomes the opportunity to visit one-on-one with veterans and see what's brewing!
May 21 Yankton What's Brewing VFW Post 791, 10:00 am

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

This needs-based scholarship is designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized. Children of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater or who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001 are eligible. All applications new or renewal must be submitted using the online scholarship submission system **NO LATER THAN Wednesday, April 10, 2024.**

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Total amount of scholarship funds awarded in 2023: \$1,484,122

DEPARTMENT LEGION COLLEGE

Congratulations to the following Legionnaires who completed the 2nd Annual South Dakota American Legion College April 27-28; Linda Hessaa, Post 266; Patrick Branco, Post 15; Gregg Burrer, Post 189; Arlo Jurrens, Post 88; Marv Tisdall, Post 315

2024 NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

Applications are now being accepted at Department Headquarters for this year's *National American Legion College* which will be held in Indianapolis November 17-22, 2024. Applications can be found on the National website, <https://www.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.

NATIONAL COMMANDER MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

Commander Seehafer will award a "Be the One" pin to any Legionnaire who obtains two new members, one to replace you and one for growth.

A new member is any person joining for the 2024 year who was not a member in the 2023 year. Transfers do not count.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/seehafer_twonewmembers.pdf

103 PERCENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

National Commander Seehafer will award his "Be the One" pin to any post, district, county, and/or Dept commander and membership chair who achieves 103% of their membership goal for 2024.

https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/2024_103percentmembership.pdf

NATIONAL COMMANDER POST EXCELLENCE AWARD

To qualify, a post must achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submit a the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attain a 90% renewal rate, and community activity. The standard is as follows:
Membership: Attain at least 103% of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.

Consolidated Post Report: CPR submitted by July 1.

90% Renewal Rate: Renew at least 90% of their 2023 members.

Community Activity: The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community.

Certification for the award: The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to Dept HQ. List should include the post name, phone number, address and commander's name. If possible, provide with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that the projects were to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. Dept HQ will forward to National Headquarters.

100% AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON

American Legion National Commander Seehafer will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100% membership by the 2024 100% membership target date. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and/or any combination of an Auxiliary unit or Sons squadron. Each must achieve 100% membership to qualify for the award. The Dept HQ will forward to National Headquarters.

VA HEALTH CARE EXPANSION

The VA has announced that all veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military – at home or abroad – will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. All veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty will also be eligible to enroll.

SD DEPT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS RESOURCE BOOK

The South Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs (SDDVA) has developed a resource book to educate veterans on the benefits and resources that are available to them and their family. This is a great guide with 60 pages of useful information. You can access the guide at the SDDVA website <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/>
Or directly at: [https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/Other%20Publications/2023%20Resource%20Book%20\(July\).pdf](https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/Other%20Publications/2023%20Resource%20Book%20(July).pdf)

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)

This Year the Department received \$38,311 for the LIT Program.

Every legionnaire who signs up for any of the LIT programs brings money right back here to our Department.

As a member of the Legion Family, you're eligible for No Cost LegionCare Insurance. \$5,000 NO COST To You Accidental Death Protection if traveling on official American Legion business. \$1,000 Accidental Death Protection for all other covered accidents. Activate your NO COST To You insurance coverage today.

<https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/>

You may also qualify for Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage Plans through LIT with a portion of your dollars spent coming right back here to the Department. Last year alone LIT returned

to the department \$17,917.65. <https://www.thelit.com/>

NEW VETERANS DISCOUNT ON HOTELS!!!

Ramkota Companies now offers a 20% discounted rate for ALL Veterans at 10 locations in South Dakota. Use the links below to book online or you can call the hotel and ask for the Veteran's discount.

Aberdeen - Best Western Hotel and Conference Center
https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.42041.html?promoCode=VETERAN&singleRate=true

Chamberlain/Oacoma - Cedar Shore Resort
<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=62000&promo=VETRNS>

Deadwood - The Lodge at Deadwood Resort
<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=61991&promo=VET>

Pierre - Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=67230&promo=VETS>

Pierre - ClubHouse Hotel & Suites
<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=61910&rate=VET>

Rapid City - Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.42048.html?promoCode=VETERAN

Sioux Falls - Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel
https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-details.42038.html?rateCode=8K

Sioux Falls- ClubHouse Hotel & Suites
<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=61911&promo=VETS>

Sioux Falls - AeroStay Hotel
<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=64817&promo=MILT>

Watertown - Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=75667&rate=VETERANS>

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Good morning on this serene May day without a breeze. We are approximately six weeks away from the Department Convention, marking the conclusion of an outstanding year. As of today, our membership stands at 15,371, falling 729 short of our budget goal. With the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024, I seek your assistance to reach our target of 16,100 members. Those receiving this message have been, and continue to be, staunch supporters of your Post, which in turn aids the Department and National. I urge you to encourage just one family member or friend to renew their membership or join the American Legion.

I extend my gratitude for your unwavering support throughout this year. I realize you may grow weary of my focus on membership. However, recruiting and retaining members is a challenging endeavor, and your efforts have been commendable. Membership remains the primary source of revenue for the Department. To put it in perspective, our membership count in 2010 was 23,415, which is now 8,044 less, underscoring the increasing difficulty in enlisting veterans to join our ranks.

As we enter the final two minutes of the game, I urge you to give your utmost effort. Let's conclude this match with strength, and regardless of the outcome, we can stand tall, knowing we've given our all.

Until next time,
God Bless you and your families
God Bless the American Legion
God Bless the United States of America

Bill
605.360.6547
bpeters0551@gmail.com



RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA DUES

ORIGIN: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota American Legion is dedicated to the well-being and advancement of veterans, active-duty military personnel, their families and communities plus state and nation through its four chartered pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth, and

WHEREAS, The Department of South Dakota American Legion requires funds to ensure long-term sustainability and effective execution of its programs, activities, and operations inherent in its four pillars, and

WHEREAS, said funding is sourced by membership dues submitted to the Department of South Dakota American Legion Headquarters, and

WHEREAS, said membership dues have remained unchanged and have not been increased to keep pace with the last decade's inflation factors, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the U.S. Inflation Calculator, since 2014 the buying power of a single dollar to present day 2024, of said programs and activities, its cost elements have increased an average of 31.1 percent, and

WHEREAS, the inherent built in National American Legion membership program milestones, and Department of South Dakota American Legion Constitutional and fiscal year timing implementation delays, any Department dues increase can only be implemented effective 1 July 2025, and

WHEREAS, The National American Legion has already recognized the impact of inflation, anticipated the milestone delays, and during the National American Legion 2023 National Convention raised the National American Legion Dues by \$5.00 to be effective 1 July 2024, and

WHEREAS, The National Headquarters has changed payable dates for each year and allowed for multi-year membership, and

WHEREAS, a decade of unchanged Department Constitution ARTICLE VI DUES Section 2 DUES – DISPOSITION, which reads “Each Post shall pay annually to the headquarters of the Department of South Dakota the sum of \$15.00 plus the amount of National dues assessed each fiscal year for each of its individual members, which said sum shall be distributed as follows:” and,

WHEREAS, “Department Dues assessed approximately a decade ago of \$15.00 per member, and its buying power then versus now as affected by inflation rounded to the nearest whole dollar substantiates an increase to \$20.00 dues per member, an increase of \$5.00 per member, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, hereby amend The Department of South Dakota American Legion's Constitution & By-laws ARTICLE VI DUES, Section 2. DUES – DISPOSITION. to read “Each Post shall pay annually to the headquarters of the Department of South Dakota the sum of \$20.00

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA DUES

ORIGIN: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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plus the amount of National dues assessed each fiscal year for each of its individual members, which said sum shall be distributed as follows:” and be it further

RESOLVED, The Constitution and By-laws of the American Legion Department of South Dakota, ARTICLE VI, Section 3, be revised as follows “PAYABLE DATE. Annual dues shall be payable July 1st of each year, for the succeeding calendar year.”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that said increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 of the Department of South Dakota American Legion Dues shall be effective 1 July 2025 for the subsequent years, and be it further

RESOLVED, Increased dues revenue generated by this adjustment shall be allocated towards supporting essential programs, services, and administrative functions of the American Legion Department of South Dakota; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Adjutant of the American Legion Department of South Dakota shall take necessary actions to update membership materials, including membership applications and renewal forms, to reflect the new dues structure.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source: **Internal Affairs Commission**

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Recommend Approval Recommend Approval as Amended Recommend Consolidation

Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____

Other Action: _____

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: _____

EXSUM

RESOLUTION NO. 24-03

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

ORIGIN: C.P. VAN DELIST, POST 22, DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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In its resolution, The American Legion advocates for the recognition and appropriate awarding of academic credit or certification for military service.

The American Legion recognizes the dedication of the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide top-notch training and education to military personnel, often equivalent to or exceeding civilian standards. This resolution emphasizes that American Council on Education (ACE) already evaluates military training and calls for collaboration between post-secondary institutions, the DoD, and relevant agencies to establish a comprehensive framework for assessing military training and experience for civilian postsecondary credit and/or certification.

The Legion compels Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation requiring post-secondary institutions that accept federal funding to adopt policies recognizing the educational value of military education, training, and experience. Additionally, it calls for transparent procedures from all postsecondary institutions for evaluating military training and experience and granting credit where appropriate based on established ACE standards. The American Legion underscores that federal funds, already invested in military training, should not be duplicated in programs like Tuition Assistance or the GI Bill, and advocates for a system that facilitates the transition of servicemembers into post-secondary education and civilian careers while addressing critical skills shortages in the workforce.

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-03

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

ORIGIN: C.P. VAN DELIST, POST 22, DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

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WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the well-being and advancement of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of academic post-military degree, certification and credentialing universally recognizable by employers for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) spares no expense to provide servicemembers with some of the best training and education in the nation paid for by federal budgets of the United States in various technical, leadership, and academic fields; and

WHEREAS, Military service often involves extensive training and education that is equivalent to or exceeds the standards of civilian colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated most training of military occupations using Joint Services Transcripts and provides "recommendations and validated competencies" for awarding post-secondary credit for such training; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 2,800 institutions of higher learning signed the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership (DoDVEP) Memorandum of Understanding formerly Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) agreement, to provide educational opportunities to servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees; and

WHEREAS, DoDVEP functions in cooperation with higher education associations to expand and improve voluntary post-secondary education opportunities for servicemembers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, There are many high demand technical career fields in critical shortage of qualified employees in the civilian workforce that require training, education and certification; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and providing standard credit for military service can facilitate the transition of servicemembers into postsecondary education, civilian careers, and promote lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Such recognition can contribute to the attainment of educational goals and further professional development among veterans and recognition can contribute to fulfilling the critical skills and employment shortages in the civilian sector of employment; and

WHEREAS, Federal taxpayers spend more than \$150 billion a year on federal financial aid, \$30 billion on GI Bill benefits, and \$1 billion on military tuition assistance, while students, states, and employers spend billions more, servicemembers are still required to take courses that have been recommended by ACE for credit; and

WHEREAS, The DoD has already paid for the training of its personnel for their military occupations and the taxpayers of the United States should not be burdened by paying for the training again in the form of the Tuition Assistance, GI Bill or any federally funded training programs; and

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-03

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

ORIGIN: C.P. VAN DELIST, POST 22, DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 3 of 3

WHEREAS, DoD Tuition Assistance, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education or any form of the GI Bill requires this evaluation, and a fully completed degree or certificate plan to ensure compliance with DoD and VA regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, That the American Legion supports the establishment of a standardized system to recognize and appropriately award academic credit or certification for military service based on American Council on Education recommendations of evaluation of the Joint Services Transcript System standards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion urges all post-secondary institutions to work collaboratively with the Department of Defense and relevant military agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive framework for assessing military training and experience for college credit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion calls upon Congress to enact legislation that requires all post-secondary institutions that accept federal government funding to adopt policies recognizing the educational value of military service and provide appropriate postsecondary credit in accordance with American Council on Education recommendations and validated competencies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion encourages all post-secondary institutions to establish clear and transparent procedures for evaluating military training and experience, granting credit where appropriate, and ensuring that veterans receive fair and equitable treatment in the pursuit of higher education; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 12, Fall 2014, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" and National Convention 2016, Resolution No. 322, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" be superseded and rescinded.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

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Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: _____

Other Action: _____

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: _____

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-04
SUBJECT: SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE
ORIGIN: POTTER POST # 3 CHAMBERLAIN, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The South Dakota Veterans Council (SDVC) plays a very important role in the Legislative process in South Dakota advocating for veterans; and

WHEREAS, For the SDVC to remain effective in this process it must establish long term goals and become visionary; and

WHEREAS, All of the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) on the SDVC have a three person voting seat on the council; and

WHEREAS, The South Dakota American Legion (SDAL) is structured that the current Department Commander, and the Department Adjutant have a seat at the table and the Department Commander appoints one other Legionnaire and those three are the voting representatives of the SDAL, this occurs annually; and

WHEREAS, The Department Commander changes each year, and the appointed member could change each year it is not conducive to building and maintaining the vision of the SDVC; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Department of South Dakota in annual convention assembled, June 20-23, 2024, in Pierre, SD, That the member at large appointed by the Commander serve on the SDVC for a term of three years; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That at the end of the initial three year term the current Department Commander may appoint that same member at large to serve an additional three-year term, for a maximum total of six years consecutively representing the SDAL.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

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Signature of Chairman or Secretary: _____

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

SUBJECT: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9 OF MILBANK, SD TO HOST THE STATE A, THE STATE B AND THE JUNIOR LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL IN MILBANK, SD.

ORIGIN: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9, MILBANK, SD

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, Milbank is the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball, July 17, 1925 by action of the South Dakota American Legion at the Department State Convention in Milbank, SD 1925; and

WHEREAS, A Baseball Granite Monument recognizing Milbank as the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball is visibly located and displayed along Highway 12 near the entrance to the Grant County Veterans Park. The monument was erected by Birch-Miller Post 9 American Legion on the 25th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Baseball is one of the premiere youth programs of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion Baseball program has been successful for ninety seven (99) years and has enabled thousands of American youth to participate in the American sport; and

WHEREAS; Due to the loss of what was Legion Field properties to the Milbank School District, a new state of the art baseball complex named Legion Field Birthplace of American Legion Baseball is being constructed with plans for multiple fields to accommodate all levels of baseball with the main field completed for playing in 2023; and

WHEREAS; Birch-Miller Post 9 has hosted over the years numerous American Legion Baseball Tournaments, including but not limited to, Regional, State, Central Plains Division II Tournaments, American Legion All Start as well as our own Arnold Larsen Invitational Tournament which is held the first weekend in June; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Baseball Teams from as far away as Las Vegas, Kansas City, Missouri and Viroqua, WI have played in Milbank, SD the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball; and

WHEREAS, Milbank is capable of handling such tournaments with four motels including most recent Grand Stay Motel, several eating establishments, tennis courts, golf course and Unity Square fitness center with swimming pool; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, that in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of The Birthplace of American Legion Baseball that the State B Senior and Junior Legion State Baseball Tournaments be held at the newly constructed Legion Field Complex in Milbank, SD Birthplace of American Legion Baseball in 2025 with final dates to be determined prior to the 2025 baseball season; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Convention Resolution No. 22-14 “That in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of The Birthplace of American Legion Baseball that the State A, State B and Junior Legion A and B State Baseball Tournaments be held at the newly constructed Legion Field Complex in Milbank, SD Birthplace of American Legion Baseball in 2025 with final dates to be determined prior to the 2025 baseball season” be superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

SUBJECT: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9 OF MILBANK, SD TO HOST THE STATE A, THE STATE B AND THE JUNIOR LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL IN MILBANK, SD.

ORIGIN: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9, MILBANK, SD

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON _____

Page 2 of 2

Adjutant:///Original Signed\\\ Post: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9

Other authorized source:

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- Other Action: _____

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: _____

EXSUM

RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS.

ORIGIN: NATHAN HOFFMAN, POST 78, DISTRICT 4, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 1 of 2

In its resolution, The American Legion advocates for the fair and just treatment of landowners provided under the Constitution of the United States of America.

The American Legion recognizes the value and importance of the Constitution, which is the Supreme Law of the Land and by our Pre-amble, are sworn to uphold and protect it.

The American Legion compels Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation defining consistent due process to protect our citizens from un-just practices regarding Eminent Domain Laws. Additionally, it calls for transparent communication regarding any and all requests for the use of Eminent Domain including disclosing any foreign interests involved with the application.

RESOLUTION
The American Legion Department of South Dakota
One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota
June 21, 22, 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS.

ORIGIN: NATHAN HOFFMAN, POST 78, DISTRICT 4, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, property rights have come into question within our own state and nationally due to Eminent Domain laws, and

WHEREAS, Roy S. Hickman Post 78 of the Department of South Dakota by our Preamble is dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution of the United States, and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution have been violated in regards to "The right of the people to be secure in their person, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches" and "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person to life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.", and

WHEREAS, these Amendments have been violated in the disguise of Eminent domain to be used for private gain or profit.

RESOLVED, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, that the American Legion supports the rights of property owners; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the American Legion urges that Eminent Domain be used only for the good of all citizens and be approved through proper channels that do not violate our National Constitution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the American Legion calls upon Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation that fairly and justly defines due process under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution that allows for protection of property owners from private entities applying for the use of Eminent Domain

RESOLVED, the American Legion encourages any projects with any foreign ownership or interests receive increased scrutiny by the State of South Dakota and the United States Government when requesting the use of Eminent Domain.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

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