

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders #1

"YOU'RE NEVER ALONE"

July 1, 2019

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Commander of the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby command. **All previous State appointments are canceled.**
2. All personal communications to the State Commander can be sent to: Sean Johnson, 1005 Main, Aberdeen, SD 57402. Requests for State Commander or State Officer attendance at events should be coordinated through the State Adjutant's office to ensure availability and deconfliction.
3. **All OFFICIAL Communications** to the State Headquarters, for the Commander, Sr Vice, Jr Vice and all line officers including the State Adjutant or the State Quartermaster shall be sent to: 5009 W. 12th St. Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.
4. **Post Commanders:** General Orders will be read at your meetings or printed and passed out, then filed for future use. General Orders will also be posted on the SD VFW Web site- www.vfwsd.org.
5. Elected Officers for the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United State for the year 2019-2020, were elected and installed at the annual convention held in Madison on June 15, 2019, and all officers appointed are expected to carry out the duties of their respective offices to the best of their abilities. National and State By-Laws outline the duties of the offices.
6. Section 222, Paragraph D, National By-Laws, requires that each Post register at least one delegate for the National Convention. If your Post has not registered one delegate, please do so immediately online at VFW.Org.
7. It is recommended that all who plan to attend the National Convention in Orlando, FL., register in advance online at VFW.Org.

8. The attention of all Post Commanders is directed to Section 222, paragraph C of the National By-Laws. Delegates will not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register with the National Credentials Committee.
9. All District and Post Commanders are asked to select a member or officer to be the Chairperson of VOD, Patriots Pen, Teachers Awards, Buddy Poppy, Veterans & Military Support, Membership, Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT and Scouting citations. Also, appoint a member to be the Post Service Officer and forward the names of these Chairpersons to the State Headquarter along with an email address and phone number.
10. All District Commanders, District Membership Captains, Post Commanders and Post Membership Captains please work to increase your District and Post membership so that you can qualify for the 2019-2020 All-State Team of District and Post Commanders.
11. All Post Commanders are asked to appoint a Chairperson for the observance of Veterans Day 2019.
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY.
12. **All Posts:** Report any and all [Community Service](#) projects to the State Judge Advocate, Colin Reisner, 411 Pine St., Yankton, SD 57078, crize84@gmail.com.
13. All State, District and Post Officers as well as all VFW members are asked to wear the official VFW cover to all meetings and functions held in their communities.
14. The Fall Council of Administration, Commander and Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming will be held at Oacoma, SD on October 6th to 9th 2019.
15. The State Convention will be held June 4th to 7th 2020 in Aberdeen, with Post #17 and Auxiliary as the host Post.
16. Post Homes and Clubroom facilities should be known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and only the abbreviation in lieu thereof is VFW. The use of names such as VFW Club, and VETS Club, etc., lowers the dignity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Watch for By-Law changes that may be forthcoming concerning this issue.
17. National and State Constitutions and By-Laws prohibit the use of the Veterans of Foreign Wars name by private business and commercial businesses operating under the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is prohibited. Post so operating are hereby directed to take corrective measures to eliminate such practice within 30 days. Again, some of the requirements are being reviewed at the National Convention, so watch for By-Law updates.
18. **The 2020 Membership year officially begins July 1, 2019.** All Districts and Posts are asked to start their kickoff immediately.
19. Membership plans for the year 2019-2020 both [State](#) and [National](#) are now on the SD VFW Website. There is also an All-State Post and District [qualification tracking sheet](#) on the website.

20. Under the Direct Dues Program, Post will send payment direct to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.
21. To report continuous, new, reinstated, continuous transfer or non-paying transfers, the DP form will be used or done by direct membership.
22. Check the [SD VFW Baseball Website](#) or [Department of SD VFW Facebook Event Pages](#) for dates and locations of the 2019 VFW State Baseball Tournaments.
- 23. Sending In Material For General Orders:** All Department Officers, State Chairman and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit the material to Department Headquarters or the Department Adjutant by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders.
- 24. HOT ITEMS COMING UP:** Bonds, State Fair Manning, Veterans Day, Fall Council of Administration, Homecoming, Big 10 Conference, Schedule
25. for District Meetings, etc.

OFFICIAL: BY ORDER OF:

Darwin Tolzin

Darwin Tolzin, Adjutant
 Department of South Dakota
 Veterans of Foreign Wars

Sean D. Johnson

Sean D. Johnson, Commander
 Department of South Dakota
 Veterans of Foreign

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AIL American Income Life

Everyone should have received their notice that they have FREE accidental death and dismemberment insurance through the above listed company. If you as a VFW member in good standing only and who submitted the membership card you will be eligible for up to \$3500.00 in benefits. AIL is committed to start processing within 24 hours of receiving the claim. If you have any questions please contact this office and we will assist and get you the answers you need. If you did not receive a card and want one please contact us. We did get returns from bad addresses.

GENERAL ORDERS

In trying to keep information being sent Commander Sean Johnson has established a policy that “if you do not have information pertinent to the General Orders” you are not required to submit anything. This is in trying to keep the amount of material at a minimum. We are sure that it is easier to distribute 4 or 5 pages rather than 10. The State Office will continue to submit on a weekly basis the information on what Posts have contributed to and programs they have supported.

Commander Sean Johnson South Dakota VFW

Hello, Comrades. Thank you for putting your confidence in me, my leadership, and our new line officers. It is our goal to serve you, and the state of South Dakota, to the best of our abilities.

Special thanks to Danny Frisby-Griffin, Sharon Mitchell, Vern Hanson, Post 2638, and everyone who helped with the 89th annual VFW Convention in Madison. It takes a great deal of work to organize and host an event of this size and they did a wonderful job.

In the year ahead I want to focus on my theme of *You're never alone*. I want every veteran in our state to know they are never alone – they have all of us, and the VFW – to support them. I invite you to join me in this mission by greeting veterans at your meetings, at the VA, or in your community and reminding them to reach out if they are struggling. Make sure you know how to reach the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, texting 838255, or visiting <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> for free, confidential support 24/7. It's our duty to be there for one another.

My overall Mission is to raise money for combating PTSD and PTSD research. We will be having a \$10,000 raffle fundraiser over 36 weeks and the money raised will go to the Colton Levi Derr Foundation to continue their mission to eradicate 22 a day.

Later this year we will announce an exciting new membership incentive-based program. If you've let your membership expire, please consider renewing. Invite veterans in your community to join and learn about all the good services the VFW provides. This is the year we will revitalize our organization and strengthen our bonds.

Line officers, council members, and I will be visiting posts throughout the year and I encourage you to use these visits to share your successes as well as any difficulties you may be having. It's our desire to support you and help you remove any obstacles to having a robust presence in your community. I encourage you to contact the state office in between visits if you need any assistance.

Next month the 120th VFW National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL from July 20th-24th. If you haven't registered, please do so as soon as possible. We want to see many SD veterans and auxiliary members in attendance.

We are still looking for people to help with recruitment during Sturgis Bike Rally in August. If you can attend part or all of the rally, please contact me at 605-228-1636, Ken Moss at 605-580-7799 to volunteer. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your national officers and meet veterans across the country. I am honored to serve as your Commander this year. Remember, you're never alone

July 2019 General Orders

Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

I am humbled and honored to be elected to be the Senior Vice Commander for the Department of South Dakota. I know this year will be a busy one. I want to congratulate everyone who was elected to the Council of Administration. I want to say a big thanks out to the Madison VFW and their Auxiliary. Without you we would not have had the great convention we did. I also want to congratulate Sean on being elected to Commander of the Department of South Dakota. I look forward to working with everyone. I would like to ask that you start turning in your Memorial Day reports as soon as possible. I have already received some, and appreciate those who turned theirs in. Remember to also send in the Veterans Day, and Loyalty Day reports. Also, you can start working on the nominations for the EMT/EMS, Law Enforcement, and Firefighter of the Year. I consider those very important as they deserve recognition for their work for our communities. I know reports seem to be annoying at times, but they do serve a purpose. Not just the reports I am responsible for, but also the

Community service, and also the Hospital and Safety. I know you all are doing the work so please take the credit for your good works. We do not know what you are doing for your communities if you do not tell us. Again, I want to thank you for entrusting me with this great honor. I need to remind you that if you call and I do not answer Please leave me a message. I have been receiving a large amount of spam calls lately.

“Looking out for Veteran’s”

Cody Mangold

Sr. Vice Commander

605-770-1030

cody.mangold@hotmail.com

1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066

**Barbara K. McKean
Jr. Vice Commander
July General Orders**

Membership Mission

To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with a strong tradition of service, leadership and community outreach.

This Program, in addition to the National Membership plan, offers every member the opportunity to serve their local VFW Post and at the same time earn incentives at the Department, District, Post and individual award levels, plus personal satisfaction. **All membership contests start on July 1, 2019.** Every member is encouraged to participate in all the department and national membership contests. You are also encouraged to participate and help develop a membership program for your post by having membership roundups. By choosing to help your post with membership, you will be performing an outstanding service for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and have an opportunity to earn prizes and awards.

Goals

1. To increase membership and participation in the VFW
2. Present a positive image of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to our veterans, families and community
3. Build a stronger VFW for the future
4. Instill team building and Esprit de Corps amongst members
5. Provide veteran service officers outreach to post and districts
6. Ensure the 66,223 veterans living in the state of South Dakota are aware of the programs and assistance available through the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The National & South Dakota Membership Program along with the Post and District Membership plan form are all located at our VFW State of SD website: <https://vfwSD.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp> under Forms.

Thank you for entrusting me to serve you this year in the capacity as Jr. Vice Commander for 2019-2020. It is truly my honor to work alongside my fellow veterans! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you this year. My year as your Jr. Vice Commander as you can see from above will focus on Membership. Let’s work hard this year! Have a fun & successful year comrades!

Barbara McKean

Jr. Vice Commander

504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366

Adam R. Swift
Department Surgeon
General Orders July 2019

Greetings Comrades!

I would like to start off by first expressing my sincerest appreciation to all our Comrades of the Department of South Dakota VFW for your vote of confidence in me to rise to the Department Level of our organization as your Department Surgeon! I would like to congratulate Commander Danny and President Mary, along with and the members of the 89th Annual Department Convention Committee, on a successful 89th Annual Department Convention! Also, many thanks go out to the hosts at Ronald Westby VFW Post 2638 for their hospitality in Madison, South Dakota!

This year as Department Surgeon, I will be responsible for the Hospital & Safety Programs for the Department. I strongly urge every Post Commander to see to it that each Post is participating in these programs. Please do not forget that all reports are due to me quarterly (August, November, February, and May). For full points in the judging for All-State, the reports must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month following the close of the quarter. The Hospital & Safety Form can be found and downloaded on www.vfwsd.com under Resources>Reports & Forms. When submitting your reports, please ensure that both pages of the form are completed before submitting.

If you know any veterans in crisis, or are at risk of a crisis, reach out to them and see how they are doing and let them know that there are brothers and sisters that care for them and are willing to help if needed! Just as Commander Sean Johnson reiterated at our Department Convention, “22 veteran suicides a day is 22 too many!”

Veterans Crisis Line: connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, and text messaging service. Call 1- 800-273-8255 and Press 1, text 838255 or visit www.VeteransCrisisLine.net.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 605-415-9493, or via email at adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com. I am here to help any way I can! Again, I look forward to serving the veterans of the State of South Dakota as the Department Surgeon!

Adam Swift
Surgeon, VFW Department of South Dakota

“For our Veterans, We Aim Higher”