

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

**General Orders #3
“You’re Never Alone”**

September 1, 2019

1. **Fall Council of Administration** of the Department of South Dakota, the Commander and Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming, will be held at Chamberlain, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 4-6, 2019. The schedule, registration and motel information was enclosed in General Orders #2 and remains available on the Department web site. The registration form has changed with the ability to attend only the training sessions.
 - a. **All State Officers and Committee Chairmen are hereby asked to submit reports on their programs to Department Headquarters by September 27, 2019 to be included in the Book of Reports at Fall Council. October General Orders are also due September 25, 2019.**
 - b. **Post Commanders, please plan on attending, or sending one of your Post Officers to the leadership training class on Oct. 5, 2019.**
2. **Hospital Fund, Service and Rehab Fund and Memorial Park and Chapel Fund:** All Posts are urged to contribute: 35 cents per member to the Department Hospital Fund for supporting VA Medical Centers in the State. 20 cents per member to the Department Service and Rehabilitation Fund to support our State Service Officer at the VA Center in Sioux Falls. 10 cents per member to the Department Memorial Park and Chapel to support the cost of maintaining the park and chapel located in the Black Hills. All contributions are based on the Post membership as of June 30, 2019. Make checks payable to VFW Department of South Dakota and marked to the appropriate fund with the amount to be donated. In addition, the amounts are to be recorded on the Community Service Report. Mail checks to Department Headquarters, 5009 W. 12th St., Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.
3. **Department and National Membership Dues:** Department - \$8.00 per member, National - \$21.50 per member, **total:** \$29.50 per member. Any amount you charge a member above and beyond the \$29.50 is considered your Post dues.
4. **Fall District Meetings:** Dates of meetings and places have been set and are enclosed in this General Orders.
5. **All Post, District and Department Officers** who have not paid their VFW membership dues are expected to pay their dues immediately, thereby setting a good example for other members. (REF: Section 220 of National By-Laws)
6. **Post Commanders:** Reminder – appoint your Post Chairperson for Community Service, Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Report their names to Department Headquarters and the respective State Chairperson.
7. **Post Commanders:** Every Post should send in a Community Service, Hospital/Safety and Veterans and Military Support Reports to receive the total number of points for the All-State Team contests. Remember the Community Service and Hospital/Safety and Veterans & Military Support Reports and are sent in quarterly.
8. **Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects to Department Judge Advocate, Colin Reisner, 411 Pine St., Yankton, SD 57078, **crize84@gmail.com**
9. **Post Commanders:** Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Post Veterans Day Chairpersons should start planning their programs. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce or like organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day. Every Post should have some planned program in recognition of this day. A report form is on the website to view and report your Veterans Day functions or event.
10. **Post Publications:** All Posts are urged to publish a post publication of some type. A publications contest will be held again this year.

11. **Desecration of U. S. Flag:** Any member who has personal knowledge of any acts of desecration to the flag of the United States of America is asked to report the same to the State Commander or Department Headquarters.
12. **Patriot and POW/MIA Days: September 11** is designated Patriot Day and the United States Flag is to be at half-staff from sunrise until sunset to remember the victims of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year (**September 20, 2019**). Please take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.
13. **VOD, Patriots Pen and Teachers Award:** Remember all entries should be to the Post level by October 31st, 2019. Questions should be directed to Keith Blume, PO Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-4143 or Cell # 605-440-2331. E-Mail: kblume@goldenwest.net. Forms can be downloaded from the vfwsd.org website. Other materials can be downloaded from the VFW website - www.vfwsd.org
14. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held on October 18-20, 2019 in Omaha, NE. Registration & Hotel forms call State Headquarters.
15. **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. **Please send all material in a Word Document.**
16. If you would like to send an E-Mail to the QM/Adj, use the following: E-Mail is vfwsd@aol.com. Phone Number 605-332-7441, or Cell number 605-695-5006.
17. **All Commanders & Quartermasters: PLEASE update your mailing address, phone, email and Skype addresses information at Headquarters, this will be our main line of communication from the State Headquarters.**

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 Wars

**Department of South Dakota
 2015 Fall District Meeting Dates**

District	Date	Time	Location	Representative
#1	Sept. 29 th		Brandon	
#4	Sept. 22 nd	2pm	Watertown	
#6	Sept. 22 nd	1pm	Huron	
#7	Sept. 22 nd	2pm	Parkston (Amer. Legion)	
#10	Sept. 29 th	1pm	Deadwood	

BONDS: These were due by August 31st. I still have many posts that have not sent them in, this needs to be done **NOW** to be in compliance with National.



Fall Council Registration

Please get this in soon, the deadline is **September 27th**, 2019

Forms are on line at vfwsd.org

All Posts: **Veterans Military Support (VMS) Donations** go directly to Kansas City.
This used to be National Military Service

National VFW Headquarters
406 W 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Attn: Linda Ferguson

Be sure to make a copy of your donation check to send to us at SD Dept. office for your records.

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A **Veterans Stand-down** will be held in Sioux Falls at the J M Bliss Post 628 on Friday September 20th starting at **9:00 AM**.

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Please note & help: Email Headquarters if your post has a Facebook page. We would like the address so we can add your link to our VFWS D website & VFW SD Facebook page, this will give even more opportunities for your page to be seen.

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NOTE: Burger King in Sioux Falls is looking for Full Time Equipment Technicians and would like to hire a veteran. See a manager or email EQUIPTECH@CaveEnterprises.com.

Solicitation of Funds: (i.e. Raffles, phones, etc) Please see Section 214 of the Manual of Procedure. The Department President and/or Department Commander projects are fully approved by the COA. Other Post, District or other fundraisers need Department approval to go beyond their area of influence (example: Pheasant Hunt is Post sponsored with Department approval).

Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander
September 2019

Greetings Comrades,

Another month has passed us by. It's time for football and for leaves to be changing colors. With the changes comes time to appoint a Veteran's Day chairperson if you haven't already.

Sturgis Rally went well, but we are in need of more volunteers for next year. It's time to start thinking about coming out and joining in the fun. I want to thank the Sturgis Veteran's club, and Deadwood for hosting all of us.

Now is also the time to go out and start talking to the police/sheriff/state troopers for nominations. Please remember the EMT's and firefighters There has been so much good work by them that they need to be recognized.

All entries and reports please send to: cody.mangold@hotmail.com or to 1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066. I look forward to all entries and your reports.

I want to thank you all for your hard work, as taking care of our Veterans, you do not receive enough thanks. Please remember that if you call me leave a message so I may get back to you.

Cody Mangold
Sr. Vice Commander Dept. of South Dakota
cody.mangold@hotmail.com
605-770-1030
1101 Main St.
Tyndall, SD 57066

Barbara K. McKean
Jr. Vice Commander
September General Orders

I hope this reaches you in good spirits. As you are aware, our membership drive started 1 July 2019. What does this mean to you?

1. First, please make sure your post has sent me your membership plan for both your Post and District!
2. Second, now is the time to start reaching out now to those annual members that need to reinstate. Send them a letter, encourage them to become a life member. What incentives can your post provide (i.e. pay \$100 if they move from an annual to life member). I have sample letters if you'd like a copy...
3. Third, recruit new members! There are Veterans in our communities that no-one has ever asked to join the VFW! This is a shame. Everyone wants to be asked! Call your Veterans Service Officer and ask them who the Veterans in your communities are. Do something different, it isn't about the numbers as much as it is including and recognizing ALL veterans who are eligible to be part of the VFW.
ACTIVELY RECRUIT!!
4. Forth, take every opportunity to recruit new members! Veteran's Day, Memorial Day Program, Loyalty Day, etc. (set up a sign-up table and sell poppies). If your community is having a pancake breakfast or function during football or basketball game, set up sign up table and sell poppies...

I will send out statistics closer to the end of the year. But for now, your Quartermaster can provide all that information to you using their access to the Online Membership System! Don't wait – start working on recruiting NOW.

First thing **I need is EVERY POST AND DISTRICT membership plan (form is on VFWSO website)**. This isn't a recommendation. Commander & Quartermasters should check that all posts are submitting ALL required reports. If anyone is new or just wants assistance, please reach out and ask. I'm a past quartermaster and am a Post Commander so I'd be more than happy to help. Once completed, just email to me at Barbara.mckean@ujf.state.sd.us.

You can also access the membership material Order Form on the VFWSO Website. I would recommend at your next District Meeting you vote to make one order for entire District and the District just pay the cost of shipping, etc. You can also order for your own post. Make sure you have the most recent recruiting information (lots of great stuff).

v/r,
Your Membership Chair
Barb McKean
Department Jr. Vice Commander
630-0771

General Orders September 2019 **Adam Swift, Surgeon**

Comrades,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and safe summer so far. It has been eventful and productive on the West River end of the state with the 79th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and The Central States Fair in Rapid City! To date (8/25/2019), I have received 18 out of 55 Posts that have submitted Hospital and Safety Reports. This is roughly a third of our Department for the first Quarter of 2019-2020. Going forward I hope to see more and more Posts submitting their reports on or before the 10th of the month following the close of a quarter (November 10th, February 10th, and May 10th)

Reports received BEFORE August 10th:

District 1: Brandon
District 4: Brookings, Madison, Milbank
District 6: Huron, Pierre
District 7: Lake Andes, Mitchell, Parkston, Wagner
District 10: Custer, Deadwood, Rapid City

Reports received AFTER August 10th:

District 4: Watertown
District 6: Gettysburg
District 7: Marty, Armour
District 10: Newell

If you submitted your report to me, but do not see your name on the list above, please call me or email me as soon as possible so we can find out what happened. Some Posts are still using last year's form with Colin's address and email on it, please make sure these reports are replaced with the updated form from the Department website (www.vfwsd.org). Commanders, please work with your Post Surgeons to get these reports done as

timely as possible. If anyone has any questions about how to complete these reports or what should go into it, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for answers!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Oacoma at Fall Council in October. There will be a lot of training and instruction that will take place. Post Commanders, if you know of members that have never attended one of these in the past and have a strong passion for the organization, please encourage them to attend. It is a great opportunity for networking and connecting with others.

Are you conducting "Buddy Checks" on a regular basis? When was the last time you reached out to someone you know, but haven't seen in a while? Call them, invite them to join you for coffee, bring them down to the Post-anything to remind them that they are thought about! A simple phone call can do more for a struggling veteran's mindset than most people realize!

Remember: 22 per day is 22 too many!

Adam Swift

Department Surgeon

605-415-9493

Adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com

"For Our Veterans... We Aim Higher"