

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
General Orders #4
"You're Never Alone"

October 1, 2019

1. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held in Omaha, NE on October 18-20, 2019. If you are going you should immediately take care of your registration and motel reservations, if you have not done so. Please contact State Headquarters for registration and hotel forms, if you need them.
2. **Membership Program, 2019 – 2020:** District Commanders, make sure that your Post Commanders have received a copy of the 2019-2020 Membership Program. There have been some rule changes, which are important to everyone. We hope your Post, has by now, launched a vigorous Membership Campaign to sign up new and reinstated members. Dues notices will be sent out 90 days, 60 days and 30 days prior to the expiration date on the member's card. Remember to collect dues for continuous member as soon as possible, and recruit new members, and reinstate those members that have dropped out. Also, if you are a continuous member and an officer of the post, and become unpaid, you will be removed and cannot be reinstated this year.
3. **Post Meetings:** All Post meetings are to be conducted in accordance with the current Ritual. Post Commanders please comply with page 18 and 19, in the Ritual, covering prayers for the National Home.
4. **Post Commanders:** Please assist the District Inspectors and District Commanders in their inspections of your Post, by making sure all of the Post books, records and minutes are available on the night or day of the inspection. Please instruct the Post Trustees to comply with Section 218, Page 74 of The Manual of Procedure "Trustees".
5. **Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects to Department Judge Advocate, Colin Reisner 411 Pine St., Yankton, SD 57078. 605-464-7544 or email Crize84@gmail.com
6. **Commanders:** Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairman yet? Start planning your programs ASAP. Contact local Chamber of Commerce or like organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day. Every Post should have a planned program in recognition of this day. A report form may be obtained by going to vfwsd.org, to report your Veterans Day functions. Report to Cody Mangold 1101 Main Street, Tyndall SD 57066 605-770-1030 or email cody.mangold@hotmail.com
7. **Americanism:** Every Post should sponsor vigorous Americanism and Patriotic activities to make strong, direct, patriotic impact in our Schools and upon the general public throughout the year. Patriotic leadership in our communities is important. A program to stop old and tattered US Flags from being flown is a suggestion. Let the community know they can leave old flags at your Post for proper disposal.
8. **Programs:** All of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Awards program material should be in the possession of the Posts and Schools. Contact your local schools and make certain the contest is underway. Student handouts can be ordered from the Emblem & Supply Merchandise Catalog, or down loaded from the Internet at www.vfw.org. If you have questions concerning VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Awards, please contact the Department Chairman: Keith Blume, PO Box 215 Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-7142 or cell phone 605-440-2331. E-mail is krlume@goldenwes.net. Remember all entries should be to the Post level by Nov. 1, 2019.
9. **Prizes for VOD:** The 2019 – 2020 Voice of Democracy contest prizes have been set as follows: 1st Place - \$500, scholarship trip to Washington, D. C., a June trip to the Freedom's Foundation and at least a \$1,000 or more scholarship from the National contest. 2nd Place - \$300 Suzie Radigan Memorial scholarship, 3rd Place - \$250 cash, and 4th through 7th Place will receive \$50 cash prize. Each District will send their District winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Trophies and plaques will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.
10. **Prizes for Patriot Pen:** The 2019 – 2020 Patriot Pen contest prizes have been set as follows: 1st Place – the Glenn McFarland Memorial Plaque and \$250 cash; 2nd Place – Daryl and Loretta Halling Memorial Plaque and a \$100 cash 3rd

Place – \$50 cash and 4th through 7th Places - \$25 cash. The top 3 winners in the State will be presented their awards at the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.

11. **Prizes for Teacher of Year:** The 2019 – 2020 Teachers Award contest prizes have been set as follows: Each teacher category, high school, middle school and elementary school will receive a check of \$100. Award presentation will be at the legislative conference. A certificate from National will be presented to the school and teacher at the school. A Department representative will present the award if possible.

12. **VAVS:** We need greater participation by every Post in the Department through taking an active part in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Service) program. Remember the VFW Creed “No One Does More For Veterans “.

13. **District Meetings:** The District meetings are complete, they had medium attendance. THANK YOU to those who came.

14. **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.

15. If you would like to contact the QM/ADJ, use the following: Phone number is: 1-605-332-7441 or cell phone 605-695.5006, email vfwsd@aol.com

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

For Your Information on Vouchers

When sending in vouchers we **absolutely** need your receipts for you to be paid for your room or other expenses.

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Get your Post ready for **Law Enforcement, Firefighter & EMT** of the year. The application is online at vfwsd.org, under the forms tab. Due date is January 1st, 2020 to Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander. 1101 Main Street, Tyndall SD 57066 605-770-1030 or email cody.mangold@hotmail.com

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2019 October General Orders
Sr. Vice Commander
Cody Mangold

Greetings Comrades,

Another month has passed us by and the leaves should be turning colors soon. I have been receiving Memorial Day reports, and look forward to reading some more coming my way. I truly do enjoy reading what you do for your communities.

I hope you have your chairperson for Veteran's Day and have everything lined up.

Please starting working on getting your contacts and getting your Firefighters, EMT's/Paramedics, and Law Enforcement nominations ready.

I am sure most of you have had your homecomings, and presented colors, and walked in the parades. I want to thank you all for your community involvement. It does not go unnoticed.

Please free to contact me. I prefer e-mail as I respond faster, but if you call me please leave a message and I will return your phone call.

Yours in Comradeship,

Cody Mangold Sr. Vice Commander

cody.mangold@hotmail.com

605-770-1030

1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066

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General Orders – Oct 2019
Barb McKean Jr. Vice Commander

Membership - what are **YOU** doing to make a difference. The same status quo will not work or be enough. We need to build our membership, not just maintain. Everyone needs to actively recruit. Every post needs to be setting up recruiting tables at community and school events. We need to portray an enthusiastic and positive image about the VFW. Only then will new members want to be part of our team.

Change is inevitable. The only thing constant in this world is change. Start moving forward and embrace all the positive tools and events the VFW offers. Don't complain, especially to your fellow post members or comrades, especially if you are not doing anything to improve your post. Remember, no-one likes to be around negative people! Reenergize your posts, ***be the change you want to see!*** Personally, invite members to your monthly and district meetings. Invite members to attend state & national conventions. Only then will others understand all the wonderful things the Department of South Dakota VFW is doing so they too can pass it onto new, potential members. If you are not utilizing the Dept VFW website, you are missing out and so are your post members. If you do not have access to a computer, seek someone in your post that does.

❖ ***TO DO: Dept of SD VFW website has changed to: <https://vfwsd.org> If like me, I had the old one saved in my favorites (cached info). You need to delete the old SD VFW website and save this new link on your computers, so you get the current forms, information, etc.***

District Commanders, Post Commanders and Quartermasters – you lead your team (POST(s))! As elected officers of your District/Post, there are minimum expectations required from ALL of you! Some of them are submitting your quarterly Audit Report, Community Service Report, Hospital and Safety Report and Annual Membership Plan. District Commanders, please follow-up with your posts to make sure they are

submitting these reports as required! I understand a few comrades are frustrated, tired and/or burned out. Without your past leadership, efforts, guidance and experience, we wouldn't be where we are today. You've been faithful, hardworking members for so many years and you will not be forgotten! So, thank you!

Now is the time to mentor your replacements so our organization stays relevant and strong! If needed, take a break and step away, reenergize and come back! We are only as strong as our membership! We are all cut from the same cloth! We do what we do for our veterans because we are proud of our military and volunteering is in our blood. Please stay active and positive. Mentorship is essential for our growth and survival! The newer and sometimes younger veterans need your guidance, wisdom and mentorship. **If you are unsure of anything that you should be doing in your posts, reach out to someone, Darwin, me, past commanders, etc. We are all in this together! One Team!**

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you this year. My year as Dept Jr. Vice Commander will focus on MEMBERSHIP! I am here for you. Together, we can make our teams stronger and happier! Comrades, what do you say, let's do this!!

Barbara

Barbara McKean
Dept Jr. Vice Commander
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com or barbara.mckean@uj.s.state.sd.us

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**October 2019
Judge Advocate Report**

Comrades,

Here are the latest and greatest of the Community Service Reports I have received for the quarter ending July 1. Please forgive me for the tardiness of getting this out.

District 1

Alcester, Brandon, Vermillion, Yankton

District 4

Madison, Milbank, Sisseton, Watertown

District 6

Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Pierre,

District 7

Armour, Burke, Lake Andes, Marty, Mitchell, Parkston, Scotland, Tyndall, Wagner

District 10

Custer, Deadwood, Newell, Wall-Quinn

Colin G. Reisner, Judge Advocate
"Our Country, Not Ourselves"

**Surgeons Report
Fall Council 2019
Adam Swift**

Comrades,

Many of us are blessed to enjoy this Halloween with our children, grandchildren, or even neighborhood children, so there are a few safety tips I wanted to pass along:

When walking with the children:

Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars. Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

When driving in neighborhoods:

Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully. Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Fall Council of Administration is right around the corner! I am excited to see everyone at Oacoma! There is a lot to learn and discuss. I will make myself available to anyone that needs to discuss the Hospital & Safety Reports. I will be presenting an updated list at that time of all of the Posts that have submitted their reports, and which have not. Please ensure you are getting these reports in. I suggest that you send something to me, even if you have nothing to report...even if it is just a simple email. "Nothing to report" is better than "Nothing heard". With all of the raining and flooding that the state has experienced in recent weeks, be aware of your surroundings! I hope everyone travels, to and from, safely!

September was Suicide Awareness Month; did you conduct any "Buddy Checks" during the month of September? 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"

