

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

**General Orders #5
“You’re Never Alone”**

November 1, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving

The Department Commander and his staff extend Thanksgiving greetings to all comrades and sisters and their families. On this special day let us give thanks for the privilege of living in the United States.

1. **Audit Reports:** Another quarter has closed. Posts are reminded that your Post Audit Reports are now due. If you are delinquent in any other quarters, please catch up to date.

2. **Community Service Reports:** Our Department Community Service Chairman is in need of Community Service Reports. A few Posts have submitted their reports, however a majority of the Posts have not submitted a report. Deadline for the Department Chairman to forward the report information to National is in **December**, so send your Community Service Reports to Colin Reisner 411 Pine Street, Yankton, SD 57078 or email crize84@gmail.com, as soon as possible.

3. **Education Teacher Award:** The deadline for nomination was November 1, 2019. Post judging should be completed by November 15. Winning entries at the Post level are to be submitted to the Department Chairman, prior to December 15. Each Post is encouraged to have a winner in each of the three categories, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Post winners should be forwarded to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. **Prizes have been set as follows:** Each teacher category will receive a check of \$100. Award presentation will be determined at a later date. A certificate from National will be presented to the school and teacher at the school with a Department representative presenting the award if possible.

4. **Voice of Democracy:** The deadline for Student entries to be submitted to the Posts was by November 1. Post judging should be completed by November 15. District judging should be completed by December 1, 2019. As soon as possible after District judging is completed, the winning entries and tapes are sent to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, PO Box 215, Custer SD, 57730. **Prizes have been set as follows:** 1st Place - \$500, a March trip to Washington, DC, 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 and 5th 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/or plaques will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.

5. **Patriots Pen:** The deadline for Student entries to be submitted to the Posts was by November 1. Post judging should be completed by November 15. District judging should be completed by December 1, 2019. As soon as possible after District judging is completed, send the winning entries to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, PO Box 215, Custer SD, 57730. **Prizes have been set as follows:** 1st Place – the Glenn McFarland Memorial Plaque and \$250 cash; 2nd Place – Plaque and a \$100 cash, 3rd Place – \$50 cash and 4th and 5th Places - \$25 cash. The top 5 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.

6. **Veterans in the Classroom:** November is VFW “Veterans In The Classroom Month”. VFW and its Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer to be presenters in the classroom.

7. **Veterans Day and Reports:** Posts are urged to start planning a suitable program now for the observance of Veterans Day, November 11. Post Commanders, immediately after Veterans Day, submit a report to the Veterans Day Chairman, Cody Mangold 1101 Main Street, Tyndall, SD 57066 or email cody.mangold@hotmail.com. Form can be found on the Web SDVFW.org.

8. **Legislative Conference:** Department Legislative Conference has been set for January 26th and 27th 2020 in Pierre.

9. **Relief Fund:** Section 704, of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, states that a Post or Auxiliary can donate to the Veterans Military Support (VMS) Program by use of the Relief Fund. These programs were a tremendous success in 2016-2017, thanks to all of you that helped. As our men and women serve and sacrifice, let's ensure they receive the necessary help they need, particularly during the upcoming holiday season. Section 704 further outlines other various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used for: A few years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs" was added to this section. This phrase allows the Post to use the Relief Funds for the Voice of Democracy Program or other Americanism programs that are educational. The Relief Fund may not be used for Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow the guidelines in Section 704.

10. **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 by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders.

11. **Solicitation of Funds:** A Post or District soliciting funds outside the geographical area of their community must obtain the permission of the Post or District Commander involved. Any requests for soliciting of funds from outside the Department of South Dakota should be disregarded, unless it has been cleared by a memorandum from Department Headquarters. Any such letters or circulars asking for funds should be sent to Department Headquarters.

12. **Inspection of Post Books:** All Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded that all Post books are subject to inspection According to Section 218, (5) h of the National Manual of Procedures. Department Officers requesting inspections of the books are to be allowed to examine books at a reasonable time at the Post Home.

13. **Dues:** The second membership dues reminder notice for 2020 was mailed to unpaid members in October. Post Officers should conduct a membership campaign to follow up on dues notices.

14. **Review Attachments:** Please review all the attachments in this General Orders as there are several with important information.

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

.....
Happy Anniversary to VFW Headquarters

Some POSTS are still sending to the old address, the forward has expired, please use The appropriate address.

Dept of SD VFW moved a year ago, **our address is 5009 W 12th St., Suite 6A, Sioux Falls SD 57106.** Same phone 605-332-7441 & email vfwsd@aol.com.

.....
Decorated Veterans Pheasant Hunt

Please get your sold and unsold raffle tickets into State Headquarters by November 8th, we need to take count of everything.

The raffle will be on Veterans Day Monday November 11th.

If your post does not have access to the on-line membership program (OMS), let me know and I'll help you get the lists you need. Decease any members in OMS as necessary. Not sure, call me and I can check for you. In October I emailed lists of members at large with expired memberships. If they reside in a city close to yours, contact them, preferable in person or by phone. You can send letters also. I have some templates on hand if you need assistance with that!

Remember, we need to look for other ways to do business. You must reach out and talk to the veterans and invite them to join and participate. Look outside the box, how can you do things better, more efficient, easier? There are several of us in the Department willing to come to you – we want your post to succeed. Please let us know if we can assist in any way.

- ❖ Happy Veterans Day on 11 Nov 2019! Your Posts **Veterans Day Program Report** will be due this month. After your Veterans Day Programs, submit your reports to Cody Mangold: <https://vfwsd.org>.
- ❖ Know what else is due! Your **Community Service Report** is due to Colin Reisner and your **Hospital and Safety Report** is due to Adam Swift. The state website has both fillable and printable forms available <https://vfwsd.org>.

I want to wish you and your families the Happiest of Thanksgiving this year! We have much to be grateful for this year. We are all so blessed to be alive and surrounded be other veterans who care so much! I believe in you!

v/r,

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

**General Orders 2019 November
Colin Reisner Judge Advocate**

Comrades,

October 31st ended the second quarter reporting period for both Community Service and Hospital/Safety reporting. I have already received three reports for second quarter. I would like to thank those posts that continuously turn in their reports. I would also like to remind those posts that have not yet turned in their first quarter reports that we accept them late. There are bonus All-State points for those who turn their reports in by the end of the month following the end of the quarter.

On the Community Service report there is room for you to input your donations to the big three and five programs. Please look on the top of the second page for the area to input this data. Please note that your reports

are made to combined with your auxiliary's data. There are programs on the top of the second page for auxiliary information.

Last, please remember that the second quarter report "should" include your youth and education information. Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year were due to the post on October 31st, the same day as the end of the period. You should be including the number of entries for these three programs on the first page of the report.

Colin Reisner
 "Our Country, Not Ourselves"

YOUTH AND EDUCATION:	Money	Hours	Mileage
<i>Citizenship Teacher Award: (Submit to State Chairman - Deadline December 15, 2019)</i>			
Numbers of entries: K-5 _____ ; 6-8 _____ ; 9-12 _____			
VOD: Number of Entries _____ (Students to Post deadline Oct 31, 2019)			
Patriot's Pen: Number of Entries _____ (Students to Post deadline Oct 31, 2019)			
DONATIONS	Money	Hours	Mileage
<i>Use Your Post Membership as of June 30, 2019 to Determine Amount</i>			
Hospital: VFW X \$.35 = _____ (Amount) Aux. X \$1.00 + _____ (Amount)			
Service & Rehab: VFW X \$.20 = _____ (Amount) Aux. X \$.10 = _____ (Amount)			
Memorial Park: VFW X \$.10 = _____ (Amount) Post Assisted at Memorial Park _____			
Cancer Donation: Aux. X \$2.00 = _____ (Amount)			
Use Your Membership Category to Determine Amount:			
National Home for Children: _____ (Amount)			
Veterans & Military Support: _____ (Amount)			
South Dakota VFW Pheasant Hunt: _____ (Amount)			
South Dakota State Fair: _____ (Amount) Post Assisted at Veterans' Building _____			
Special Olympics: VFW _____ (Amount); Aux. _____ (Amount)			
DONATION TOTALS (transfer totals to page 1)			

November General Orders Adam Swift Surgeon

Greetings Comrades!
 Another quarter is done and a new one begins! Please try your hardest to get your Hospital and safety reports in as quickly as possible for accurate recording. My email and address are listed on the reports found on the Department VFW website. Do not hesitate to call or email me with questions!
 Fall Council in Oacoma was great! There was a lot of training and productive discussions about how to help bring the Department into the technological age by utilizing Skype, Facebook, and emails more efficiently. There are many of us that are quite proficient with computers and programs, so if you need clarification or help walking through anything, just reach out to one of us and we will be glad to help!
 November is a big month for us, not just as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but as Veterans! Many Posts are hosting Veterans Day events this month. If you are participating in parades, fireworks, or cookouts please be mindful of your surroundings and any hazards that may be present. If you are traveling for Veterans Day or for Thanksgiving, have your vehicle checked to ensure it is road-worthy for a trip and let friends and family members know when and where you are going. South Dakota weather is expected to be crazy this winter, so be prepared!

Something else that often accompanies the holiday season is depression. Reach out to those that you feel need a buddy and invite them to participate in events with you and remind them that they are not alone! Don't let anyone fall into the depressive spiral this holiday season!

From my family to yours,

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Adam Swift

Department Surgeon

605-415-9493

Adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com

“For Our Veterans... We Aim Higher”