

General Orders

DECEMBER 2022



PEARL HARBOR DAY FLY FLAGS AT HALF STAFF

December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Day. All Posts should fly their flag at half staff from sunrise to sunset.

VETERANS DAY REPORTS VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day Reports are due. To send in your reports, please utilize the State Dashboard for reporting. If you need help, please contact Anna at the Department office 605-332-7441.

LEGISLATIVE HEADING 5 TEXT HERE

The Department Legislative Conference, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Award winners is set for February 5th and 6th at the Ramkota in Pierre. The registration form is attached at the end of the General Orders.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

On behalf of the Department Officers: Merry Christmas to all our Comrades, family and friends. Stay safe and wishing you the happiest of Holidays! Thank you to each Veteran that has proudly served our country. And thank you for all that you do to make this organization as great as you are.

Side note, this is a picture of the tree at the Alliance Center where the Department office is located.

Membership

Membership efforts in December should be concentrated on contacting ALL 2022 members who are not current on their membership dues. Now is a good time to lend a caring ear to our Veterans during this Christmas season.

Your Adjutant should be able to view this information in OMS. If you need any assistance, please contact Anna at the Department office at 605-332-7441 or anna@vfwdeptsd.com for more information.

www.vfwsd.org



DEPARTMENT OFFICE CLOSED

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Department office recognizes the same Holiday schedules as the National VFW offices.

The Department office will be closed Friday, December 23, 2022, through Monday, January 2, 2023. Employees will return on Tuesday January 3, 2023.

www.vfwsd.org

If you would like to include something in the General Orders, please have your submission to the Department office no later than the 25th of each month. Send submission via Microsoft word document to anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

DECEMBER 17

Please help us remember, honor, and teach on December 17, 2022 at 11:00 am by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

Wreaths Across America will be at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to remember and honor our Veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each Veteran aloud.

www.vfwsd.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR RAFFLE STUBS AND MONEY FROM THE COMMANDER RAFFLE!

APPROACHING DEADLINES:

- **Voice of Democracy** - To Jerry Seiner by December 7, 2022, jseiner@charlesmixcounty.org
- **Patriot's Pen** - To Jerry Seiner by December 7, 2022, jseiner@charlesmixcounty.org
- **Teacher Award** - To Jerry Seiner by December 7, 2022, jseiner@charlesmixcounty.org
- **Law Enforcement / Firefighter Nomination** - To SVC Dave Baumiller by January 1, 2023 davebaumiller@gmail.com

Mid-Winter District Meetings and the Department Representative

District 1 - February 26, 2023, at 12:00 in Sioux Falls, PDC Barbara McKean

District 4 - TBD, Chaplain Russel Dramstad

District 6 - January 15, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Redfield Legion Building, Commander Tom Hafner

District 7 - February 19, 2023, at 2:00 pm in Lake Andes, A/Q Anna Arnold

District 10 - January 8, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Rapid City, JVC Glynis Collier

The Department has been approved for the use of our 'VFW Logo' on South Dakota License Plates starting January 1, 2023. If you would like to purchase a logo, please contact Anna at the Department office. Email anna@vfwdeptsd.com or 605-332-7441. Each sticker is \$10.00.

This is what the sticker looks like:



Sticker goes here



\$10.00 per sticker

Send check to Department office at:
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57045

****Would make a great Stocking Stuffer for Christmas****
*****Also available for motorcycles*****

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



OFFICIAL:

Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Tom Hafner

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
DECEMBER GENERAL ORDERS

I hope each of you had an inspiring Veterans Day and a joyful Thanksgiving. Becky and I wish every one of you a great Christmas season and a Happy New Year!! Please consider taking the time during the holidays to personally call or send a card and possibly visit those who are confined to their homes or are in retirement homes. Your interest may be the only recognition they receive. **Buddy checks are extremely important, especially during the Holidays.**

National Headquarters is completing a deceased scrub each month the same as occurred last year. It is important that each Post monitor their Deceased Roster for individuals listed as deceased to insure that is indeed the case. Should an individual be mistakenly listed as deceased contact Department Headquarters for assistance in correcting this issue.

National VMS Member Ken Payne is the POC for individuals and/or Posts interested in or wishing to apply for Grants available from National.

Public Servant Nominations (Emergency Medical Technician, Law Enforcement & Firefighters) are due to the Department Chair by January 1, 2023. The Legislative Conference is scheduled for 5 & 6 February 2023 at the Ramkota in Pierre and Moose Lodge in Fort Pierre. Please register soon. The Resolutions & Bylaws Committee and Legislative Committee will be meeting to discuss issues relevant to each. If you have input for either Committee please contact the assigned members.

Retention should be a top priority this month as numerous Continuous member's dues will be expiring in December. As a Department we currently have twelve Posts who need five or less members to reach Quota and another fourteen Posts who need ten or less. Post Membership Teams should be reaching out to the Unpaid members and encouraging them to pay their dues. Posts needing five or less should be able to make Quota by December 31.

Our Department met our Goal of 92% by November 30th as we currently stand at 92.5%. Our next milestone is 94% by January 31st. As of these General Orders we have eleven Quota Buster Posts (Lemmon-113.04%, Marty-108.33%, Flandreau-107.69%, Parkston-105.95%, Brandon-103.64%, Quinn-103.03%, Newell-102.22%, Gettysburg-101.72%, Burke-101.26%, Wagner-100.79% & Custer-100.47%) and three Posts who have reached their Quota (Belle Fourche, Chamberlain & Faith). From my perspective our Membership activities and exposure has been well worth the effort (your effort). Just an outstanding job by everyone.

If I can be of any assistance, contact me at the email or phone number (leave a message if no answer) listed below.

Tom Hafner

Commander

tbmhafner@santel.net // 605-661-2750

General Orders

We're at 92% on membership, which is great, but we need to do a little bit better than that this time of year—we should be at 100% and we're expected to be at 102%. Even if your post is at 100% right now, don't start coasting, we still need to be at 102%, let's keep moving forward.

During the month of December 2022, we will be issuing a \$10 grant to the Post or Department for every New or Reinstated member processed during the month. For Posts, this means all New and Reinstated members, Annual or Life, for whom dues are collected for the Post. For Departments, any members-at-large that meet those criteria and have a recruiter recorded for the New or Reinstated member will be recognized.

Payments will be made in early January, so it's time to end 2022 on a high note!!

Next year's shirt will be button-down, short or long sleeve—they run about \$30 per shirt but they'll be something you can wear all year. I will need to know what size you need, and long or short-sleeve preference. I will need to know fairly soon so I can get the order in and allow more turnaround time. These shirts will have a VFW logo with Department of South Dakota but will not have a year, date or name on them.

As always, it's an honor to serve as your Senior Vice Commander,

Dave Baumiller

SD Sr Vice

Greetings Fellow Veterans and Heroes!

November has been a blessed month! We continue to flourish in membership and are maintaining our top 10 status in the VFW nation. We are currently number 7 in the VFW Nation as of today. Great work everyone! We continue to move up the list! I would like to offer a special thanks to all of you who continue to actively recruit and continue your successful efforts in getting us closer to the coveted number 1 standing! I am hopeful that we will be in the top 5 states in membership by Legislative Conference in February.

I attended the "We've Got Your Six" recruiting event in Sturgis on November 5, 2022 and was completely impressed with District 10's outstanding recruiting efforts. They were well organized, had many recruiting tools at their fingertips and made a Very Positive Impact at the Northern Hills Veterans Event. Please keep me informed of your membership efforts as this command year continues. I am just a phone call or email away if you require my assistance.

I was honored to speak at the Pierre Area Veteran's Day Program and represent ALL Veterans in our community. Thank you Oahe Chapter 18 DAV for honoring me with this request.

I would like to remind everyone that recruiting and retention does not stop at the application process. Please send your newly recruited members a Welcome Letter that states when you hold your meetings and reinforce that we strive to serve all of our members and their individual challenges and needs; through genuine compassion for each other and that we regularly conduct “Buddy Checks” as we take care of “Our Own”. When we reach out and tell our members we care, perhaps they will not feel isolated or left behind. “Never Leave a Fallen Comrade Behind!”

National HQs Membership Challenge is in this months General Orders. I encourage all of you to earn more money for your posts and districts through this membership incentive.

I myself have encountered challenges with the membership system and am here to answer all of your questions as the SD JVC as my stated mission is “Membership”!

I am here for you if you need anything or have any questions concerning membership. I am here to serve you. Thank You for Everything You Do for Veterans and their Family Members each day! Let’s Do This SD VFW! One Team One Fight!

Very Respectfully,
Glynis Collier
Jr. Vice CDR
DEPT of SD VFW
dakpatriot@gmail.com
Cell #803-466-7031



GIVING BACK FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

As we enter the traditional season of giving, the Commander-in-Chief has announced a new membership incentive!

We want to end 2022 on a strong note for membership, and to encourage that we will be providing a \$10 grant directly to every Post and Department for each New or Reinstated member they bring in during the month of December 2022!



Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland wants to see our membership grow this year, and there's no better time to go out and spread the word than right now! Posts will receive a grant of \$10 per member deposited via ACH into the Post account for each New and Reinstated member. Departments will also receive this \$10 grant for members-at-large who are submitted with recruiter credit attached.

Remember that a New member is a veteran who has never belonged to the VFW before, and a Reinstated member is one who rejoins after their membership has been lapsed for more than two full years.

When we reach out during the holidays to touch base with and check on our fellow veterans and their families, make sure that we're doing our part to take care of each other. Now is the time to show everyone out there what the Veterans of Foreign Wars is about, because when it comes to membership, *EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!*

This contest will count all New and Reinstated members processed by the Post from December 1, 2022 through close of business on December 31st. Please check the alerts in the Online Membership System (OMS) for updates regarding when processing will close for the end of the calendar year. Deposits will be made through ACH deposit in January 2023.



SD Legislative Committee Member General Order – December 2022

The Legislative priority below was discussed with the South Dakota Veteran's Council during November's meeting:

The SDVC approved to introduce a resolution to lobby the State of South Dakota to amend South Dakota Codified Law Chapter SDCL 10-4-10 and 10-4-41, to include the service-connected disabilities 70%-90% for the property tax exemption.

I booked my flight for National Legislative Conference & VOD Mar 5-9, 2023, through VTS.

South Dakota is planning our Legislative Conference in Pierre, SD on Feb 5-6, 2022. We celebrate our Departments Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners and take them on a tour of the Capital Building and Governor's Mansion. We follow that with a luncheon and award presentation. We end this Conference with a Legislative Mixer with South Dakota's Politicians.

Want to view VFW Current Legislation? Go to: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills>

v/r,
Barbara McKean
National Legislative Representative – South Dakota

Greetings,

It has been busy and thank you everyone for all the referrals I greatly appreciate it; I have been receiving a lot of phone calls and emails. I appreciate everyone's support which makes this next part more difficult.

I am resigning my position as the Department Service Officer as I have accepted a position with the National VFW as a Service Officer. I will be moving at the end of December to the East Coast. My replacement will be David Huntimer who is a Field Service Officer for the State of South Dakota and is a member of Brandon, SD Post #4726. He will be amazing at the job, and he looks forward to getting to know all of you.

Though it is hard to say goodbye, it really is a "see you later" as I will still be active with the VFW and will get to see you at the National Convention. You all have a great Holiday season and good luck.

Cody Mangold

Department Service Officer

Reminder: District winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest are due on December 7, 2022. Teacher Award nominees also need to be received by December 7. Make sure to send a head and shoulders photo with each entry. Send your essays/nominations to Jerry Seiner, 39396 288th St., Armour, SD 57313. Teacher nominations can be emailed to me at jerry.seiner@hotmail.com or you can contact me by phone at 605-481-1338.

Jerry Seiner

Charles Mix Co. Veterans Service Officer

PO Box 266

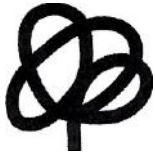
Lake Andes, SD 57356

EMAIL: jseiner@charlesmixcounty.org

PH: (605) 487-7691

FAX: (605) 487-7221

CELL: 605-481-1338



VFW NATIONAL HOME

Santa Shop 2022 Gift Suggestions

Electric hair straightener	Electric blow dryers
Men's toiletries/gift sets	Inexpensive watches
Wallets and billfolds	Winter gloves (adult sizes only)
Inexpensive jewelry-men & women	Insulated lunch bags
Small tool sets	Family games-no Chutes & Ladders, or Candy Land-have plenty
Small coolers	Teen boy or girl body sprays, cologne
Car emergency kits	Travel coffee mugs
Coffee cup sets	Scented body washes and lotions
Nail polish/makeup sets	Teen boy shaving kits/gift sets
Messenger bags	Craft/activity sets
Sports balls-basketballs, footballs, softballs, kick balls and soccer balls	Adult Coloring Books
Christmas tree ornaments/Christmas decorations	Dolls, small, large, white and African American
Sport water bottles/cups	Hot pads/dish towels
All branches of military hoodies, t-shirts, hats for all ages	Sports equipment-bat, ball, gloves, etc.
Make up bags/totes	Sport team coffee mugs, insulated bags, hats, mittens
Sport team hoodies, t-shirts, hats (all ages)	Belts (men and women)
Michigan State University & University of Michigan items	Coffee, tea, and hot cocoa gift sets

*Santa's Shop is a store where our children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. We stock it with gifts appropriate for all ages; children may be shopping for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, big brothers, little sisters, best friends, and other special people. To help with Santa's Shop, donate **new** items appropriate for all ages, but especially for adults. Overflow of generous gifts to the Santa Shop will also be available to the children for birthdays, special events and an incentive closet. When mailing packages or making a delivery, please indicate your gift is for Santa's Shop. Gifts can be delivered to: VFW National Home, Attn: Santa Shop, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Please call 866-483-9642 with questions.*

Thank you!

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW & AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Location: Moose Lodge
910 N Deadwood St, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532
Date: February 5 & 6, 2023
Time: February 5 at 10:00 pm

Registration

Advance Registration: \$75
Registration after January 5, 2022: \$100
(Includes Luncheon meal on Monday and Mixer. Free will donation at the door for
Commander / President Special Project on Sunday evening)
Guest Lunch on Monday: \$20
Cash bar available

Fill out one Registration Form per person

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____

VFW or AUX: _____ Post: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Guest Name: _____

Make checks payable to:
Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Additional information

You must reserve your own room. Rooms have been blocked at:

- Headquarters at Ramkota 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 224-6877
 - Room Rate \$119/night plus tax