

General Orders

SEPTEMBER 2022



FALL COUNCIL

HOME COMING

Fall Council is October 7 - 9, 2022 in Oacoma, SD at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center. Please plan to attend or send a representative of your Post for special training, to include Post Veteran Service Officers.

POW / MIA DAY

POW / MIA DAY

The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the 3rd Friday of September each year. September 16th, please take the time to remember those who were POWs and those MIA, as well as their families.

PATRIOT DAY

PATRIOT DAY

September 11th is National Patriot Day and the US Flag is to be flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset to remember the victims of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania.



BIG TEN CONFERENCE

The Big Ten Conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI October 14-16, 2022. If you would like to attend, registration forms can be found www.vfwwi.com > News > Big 10 Conference 2022

VOD / PP / Teachers Award

All entries for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Awards should be submitted to the Post level no later than October 31, 2022. All questions should be directed to Chairmen, Jerry Seiner, jerry.seiner@hotmail.com or 605-481-1338. All entry forms can be downloaded from the state website www.vfwsd.org > Resources > Programs

www.vfwsd.org



DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL DUES

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The total sent to the Department is \$8.00 and National is \$21.50. This means, any amount charged at the Post level above \$29.50, is considered the Post Dues.

All Post, District, and Department Officers who have not paid their VFW membership dues for the Command Year are expected to pay their dues immediately, thereby setting a good example for other members.

www.vfwsd.org

If you wish to publish something in the General Orders, please have it to Anna by the 25th of every month. Please send in a Microsoft Word document format to anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT DASHBOARD

For those reporting online with the Department Dashboard system and are having a hard time, please call Anna at the Department office 605-332-7441 or email anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

This is a new way to report all the information and it can be confusing. However, together, we can do great things. There is nothing that can't be fixed. Please feel free to play around with the system. If you see something that needs to be fixed or isn't working right, please let Anna know immediately.

The Department is no longer accepting the old Community Service and Hospital & Safety Reports. Everything is on the Department website and should be utilized.

www.vfwsd.org

Together, we can do great things!

District Fall Meetings - District Commanders, please schedule visits for Post Inspections at this time.

- District 1 - September 25, 2022 at 2 pm in Alcester -
- District 4 - September 18, 2022 at 2 pm in Watertown Post #750 -
- District 6 - October 2, 2022 at 1 pm in Aberdeen at the Moose Club -
- District 7 - October 23, 2022 at 2 pm in Chamberlain Post #6436 -
- District 10 - September 18, 2022 at 1 pm in Deadwood Post #5969 - QM/ADJ Anna Arnold

All Posts are encouraged to publish a Post publication of some type to be entered into the contest at the end of the Command Year. There are 2 different categories that are judged, Category 1, Publications of 5 or more during the Command Year and Category 2, 4 or less Publications during the Command Year. The POC for this is Ken Payne, State Inspector.

DESECRATION OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG - Any member who has 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.

******Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Try contacting your local Chamber of Commerce or another Organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day!******

**OFFICIAL:***Anna Arnold*

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:*Tom Hafner*

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
SEPTEMBER GENERAL ORDERS

Congratulations to Anna (our Adjutant/Quartermaster) and Josh, who were married last week. Becky and I, on behalf of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary, wish you the best in your future.

On behalf of the Department, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Comrades who stepped up and participated in the Parkston Celebration of Freedom, Freeman Chislic Festival, Youth Baseball Tournaments, Sturgis Bike Rally, Brown and Turner County Fairs, Scotland Stampede Rodeo, Corn Palace Festival, River Boat Days, South Dakota State Fair, and any other activity I may have missed. Whether you were working the event or hosting in your Post Home you put the VFW front and center. Your presence and participation are and will continue to be the face of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. Again, thank you.

Our Department is in the midst of our prime Membership campaign. Our Life Membership data should be published soon, and with that I am confident we have reached our September 30th Goal of 85%. Our next goal is 92% by November 30th. Retention is a Top Priority this year. Do not let any members expire. Maintain contact and personally ask them to remain a member of our Organization. JVC Collier has a robust agenda concerning Recruiting and Retention, which includes the National Commander's incentives for September. I ask that you support her efforts and our Organization by recruiting at least one member each. As a Team we can reach our Goals.

School is back in session, which means we should be actively pursuing our Youth and Community Service Programs, to include Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year. The Chairman has distributed information concerning these Programs, I ask that you follow his guidance and participate.

Fall District meetings, Fall Council/Homecoming and the Big 10 Conference are in the upcoming weeks. We have several topics on the agenda for Fall Council, which will be of interest and benefit for all. Attendance at District meetings and Fall Council by all Posts is essential for our continued success. District meeting dates are published in these General Orders. District Inspections will be conducted during your Fall meetings; District Commanders and Quartermasters review the Inspection Form and have the necessary documents available. Fall Council is scheduled for 7 – 9 October in Oacoma. Agenda and Registration Form are on our website.

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 are going to be at the Huron State Fair from the 1st to the 6th. We are setting up a Membership booth for a District 6 membership drive. We will be on the midway by the food vendors and by the army recruiters. If you do come to the fair, please wear something that says "VFW". Getting the VFW name out there is a big part of this whole deal.

Dave Baumiller

Sr Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans and Heroes!

July and August were full of Membership drives! Yankton, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Parkston, and Brandon Posts held membership drive during River Days, Sioux Empire Fair, a Golf Tournament, Freedom Days and Pigskin Days. That's the way to be successful posts and members!! Way to Go! Thank You So Much for Your Efforts Team Players!

I have emailed the Membership Plan Excel Worksheet to the District Commanders in hopes of motivating all posts and Districts to submit their Membership Plans! Most of the state has not turned their Membership Plans into the State Adjutant or the State JVC CDR (Me). If your Membership Plan is not turned into Anna or I by 1 Oct 2022, You WILL NOT be considered for White Hat Selection-No Exceptions.

I am hopeful you will meet this challenge. More White Hat Selections we have means we will be in the running for top state awards! Let's help CDR Hafner win at the National Level this Year.

Last year SD was 39th (bottom third) in membership goals. We can reach the top 10% if we work as a team to reach higher standards of membership goals.

Also, after you sign up members, please be sure to send them a welcome letter informing them of when you meet and your post events within the next 90 days. This allows new members to plan around their schedules to attend meetings and events when they have an opportunity to help.

I have attached CDR Hafner's Membership Goals for the 2022-2023 command year in word format. You can print this out or email it to your Post CDRs and QMs to pass out to their members.

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

Membership Goals / Objectives

1. Build a stronger VFW for the future
2. Instill Mentorship, Team building and Esprit de Corps among members
3. Provide Veteran Service Officers (VSO) outreach to Posts and Districts
4. Ensure ALL veterans living in the State of SD are aware of the Programs, Benefits, and Assistance available through the VFW
5. Increase Membership and Participation in the VFW
6. Recruit more Life Members
7. Increase Legacy Life Membership
8. Recruit New and Recover Unpaid Members
9. Retain and Mentor Existing Membership
10. Encourage cooperation between Posts for Membership Drives
11. Encourage Involvement within your Communities and to get the word out what the VFW is all about
12. Change the image of the VFW to a family friendly and modern environment
13. Embrace and welcome all Veterans!
14. Encourage Family Members to join the Auxiliary
15. The Membership Program is a Post program. We need to ensure we involve our members in Recruiting and Retention. We still have too many members who are not renewing their membership. Encourage members when they sign up or renew their membership to become Life Members. They can use the 12-month payment plan. Offer Incentives or Discounts, get creative!
16. We are only as strong as our Membership Status!!
17. Membership Achievement Goals
18. Increase the number of New Members by 5%
19. Increase our Life Members by 10%
20. Increase Reinstated Members by 5%
21. Increase Legacy Life Members by 5%
22. Average 95% Retention for Posts in South Dakota
23. Student Veterans Chairman - This Chairperson will work with the Recruiting and Retention team to gain access to the State Universities and Colleges. He or She will assist the team in recruiting Student Veterans. The VFW will help the Recruiter obtain a computer, tables, signs, table covers, and other things needed through a grant from National VFW.

**Sean Johnson State Judge Advocate
Categories of Good Standing**

Election Report	QuarterMaster Bond	Post Inspections	Audit 1	Membership Plan
------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	----------------	------------------------

Dist 1 – 2	Dist 1 – 5	Dist 1 – 11	Dist 1 – 8	Dist 1 - 8
Dist 6 - 1	Dist 4 – 6	Dist 4 – 8	Dist 4 – 3	Dist 4 - 8
	Dist 6 - 7	Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 7	Dist 6 - 8
	Dist 7 – 10	Dist 7 – 13	Dist 7 – 3	Dist 7 - 10
	Dist 10 – 10	Dist 10 – 5	Dist 10 -7	Dist 10 – 7

Donations Programs	Donation Obligations	Poppies Ordered
---------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

Dist 1 – 9	Dist 1 – 10	Dist 1 – 9
Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 - 9
Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 10
Dist 7 – 13	Dist 7 – 13	Dist 7 – 13
Dist 10 – 9	Dist 10 – 10	Dist 10 - 8

Quarter 1 Documents Due

	Coop With Other ORG's	Citizenship	Community Involvement	Relief/ Aid To Orthers
Americanism				
Dist 1 – 9	Dist 1 – 11	Dist 1 – 9	Dist 1 – 8	Dist 1 – 11
Dist 4 – 7	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 - 8
Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 8	Dist 6 – 8	Dist 6 – 10
Dist 7 – 11	Dist 7 – 12	Dist 7 -13	Dist 7 – 10	Dist 7 - 11
Dist 10 - 9	Dist 10 - 9	Dist 10 – 10	Dist 10 – 8	Dist 10 – 8

Cooperation With Others	Safety	National Home	Youth Activities	VOD/PP
--------------------------------	---------------	----------------------	-------------------------	---------------

Dist 1- 11	Dist 1 – 11	Dist 1 – 11	Dist 1 – 11	Dist 1 - 11
Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 9	Dist 4 – 8	Dist 4 - 9
Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 8	Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 – 10	Dist 6 - 10
Dist 7 – 12	Dist 7 – 13	Dist 7 – 13	Dist 7 - 11	Dist 7 - 13
Dist 10- 9	Dist 10 - 10	Dist 10 – 10	Dist 10 - 9	Dist 10 – 10

Additional Reports

Dist 1 – 10
Dist 4 – 8
Dist 6 – 10
Dist 7 – 13
Dist 10 -9

These are the reports that are not in yet as of 08 – 2022 Please work hard to get them in when you have time. Other news of my position is I have participated in 2 training Classes so far about Parliamentary Procedure which is a big part of the position. Thanks for your hard work and let's try to complete the Quarter 1 Requirements before fall Convention in Oacoma.

Thanks

Sean Johnson

From the desk of the State Surgeon,

Greetings everyone! Where has summer gone? Semptember is here, kids are back in school. Drive safely when driving around the schools, be on the lookout of kids walking or riding their bicycles on the way to and from school. The same goes for school buses, pay attention to those flashing red and yellow lights on those buses. KIDS are our future, some, maybe one day be a great military leader!

Until next month,

Robert C Harrington

Department Of SD VFW

State Surgeon

This past month I got a productive start on post inspections getting 5 done including the 4 most northern. I have collected information handouts from Mitchell as well as the state cemetery plus info on unmet needs and other VA grants This along with the usual recruiting material from the national web site I put in a packet I left with the posts for their use. Also had along packs membership apps if a post needed which one was getting low. Reminded the posts of my as well as the Dept offer to help if they are having as recruiting event.

At the Fall District Meeting I am planning on recognizing the team of the VOD and PP judges that mead my job so easy with the district winner this year. Thank You

Bill Orton

District 4 Commander

National Legislative Committee September 2022 GO's Barbara McKean

Greeting Comrades - I will be traveling to the National Legislative Committee meeting in Washington, DC, September 12-15, 2022 to discuss the National Legislative Priority Goals with our State Senator's and Representative. Please advise me of any issues or concerns I may need to be aware of.

Support Today's Veterans and Military

Please contact or visit your congressional representatives and stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 117th Congress. These priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find your congressional representatives, visit www.vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Play a Role in the Process

Be engaged and help us ensure that these priority goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:

- Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
- Text "VFW" to 50457
- Scan the QR Code

VFW Celebrates as Landmark PACT Act is Signed into Law

Aug 10, 2022

WASHINGTON — After years of persistent advocacy, National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Tim Borland, families of loved ones affected by toxic exposures and other veteran service organizations,

stood together behind President Joseph Biden at the White House as the *SFC Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, the landmark bill focused on assisting toxic-exposed veterans, was signed into law, Wednesday morning.

“What an honorable moment in history for veterans!” exclaimed Borland after the event. “The PACT Act becoming law is the largest expansion of veteran benefits since the creation of the VA. My sincerest thanks to the members of Congress, I am so proud of all the hard work VFW staff, our Action Corps and VFW members everywhere did to push Congress to pass this bill and was honored to represent our organization at the White House on this historic day.”

The PACT Act, as it’s commonly known, is named after Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson who passed away in 2020 from conditions related to toxic exposure during his service in the military. The comprehensive bill expands health care for generations of veterans who up until now had the arduous task of proving their conditions or illness a result of service-connected exposure to toxic substances or environments, such as the burn pits many Post-9/11 veterans were exposed to during deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill enacts VA provisions for 23 presumptive conditions for rare respiratory diseases and cancers and creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure.

“Too many of our brothers and sisters have succumbed to illnesses connected to toxic exposure,” said Borland. “That is why this bill has been the VFW’s #1 priority for the past few years, and we weren’t going to give up until it was passed.”

Passed by the Senate on Aug. 2, the bill was in limbo for almost a month as procedural hurdles, amendment considerations, and shaky support among some Senators caused the bill to stall before it was passed overwhelmingly with a vote count of 86 – 11. For almost a week leading up to the final vote, VFW members, PACT Act advocates and other veterans held a fire watch on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, holding a constant vigil for six straight days until it was announced the bill passed.

“With one voice, we told Congress ‘Every veteran counts’ and they listened,” said Borland. “I encourage every eligible veteran to join the VFW, so we can continue to secure and improve the health and benefits for veterans, service members and their families. The veteran’s voice has strength, and it is even stronger when we are all together.”

The PACT Act is the latest achievement on the long list of legislative victories the VFW has fought for since its inception, part of the legacy of the VFW’s veteran advocacy that continues to carry on into the future.

“After 123 years, the VFW continues to show we are alive and well, and that ‘No One Does More for Veterans,’ because for the VFW ‘EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!’” said Borland.

Greetings Veterans,

I am sure most of you have now seen that the PACT ACT did in fact pass. With these two additional presumptive were added to Agent Orange exposure which are hypertension and Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS). With this change for Agent Orange is also the opening of the exposure to include Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. Guam was also added, and their timeframe is much longer. Roughly 20 more presumptive were added to the Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans, and due to the list of them I would recommend contacting your local County, Tribal, or State Veteran Service Officer for clarification. You are also more than welcome to contact me on the list, but I will give caution as currently there are a lot of unknowns to if there is going to be specific criteria to these conditions. One thing that I saw that I thought was great is that with some of the cancers listed for the Gulf War state "of any type." This is key because before with cancers they would connect some of the types, but not all. One question I have been getting asked a lot is can I file my claim now on the new presumptive, and the answer is yes. The catch to filing now is the date of claim will be adjusted to October 1, 2022, and by the way, the PACT ACT was written the VA may not even look at the claim until January 1, 2023, at the earliest. Now some of the claims are being pulled now to start the process, but it is not guaranteed as with the influx of claims to be filed means the Veterans Benefits Administration needs to hire more people to process the claims. Fortunately, some of the offices had been able to start adding to their teams proactively and appears that they will be adding many more here coming soon. In October at the Fall Council of Administration, I will be teaching a Post Service Officer class, and in the later part of the Class, I plan on going over more of the PACT ACT. I have some great VFW Service Officer Training scheduled in September and after that training, I am sure I will know more. I also want to briefly discuss the Camp Lejeune Lawsuits with the water contamination and exposure. There has been discussion on this topic to include if this could affect your VA benefits and compensation. The recommendation that has been given from the National Veteran Services team is to file all Camp Lejeune presumptive through the VA first and to **NOT** sign a contract with any attorneys with the lawsuit currently. The reason why is because when it comes down to it a person very well may not be able to keep both awards, and that some money could be recouped later. The lawsuit is what is considered a tort claim and as being as such normally a veteran is not able to receive both payments and must forfeit one. In the end looking at things it would be better for the veteran to file the claim with the VA for benefits, as the veteran and their families would benefit more through that than any lump sum that may be paid out. Please with any questions or concerns please reach out to me or any of my fellow County, Tribal, and State Service Officers.

Cody Mangold

Department Service Officer.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contest

Jerry Seiner, Department Chairman

Now is the time to be contacting your schools and encouraging them to have students participate in the VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests.

Talk to your school Superintendent, Principal or English teacher and promote our program. I have found talking directly to the teachers gets the best results. Some of the schools require the students to write an essay as part of their curriculum. This has worked well and the quality of the essays is greater once the students realize they will be graded on the assignment.

Remember, Districts need to have their winner to me by December 7, 2022. Each must submit a recording of the essay, a printed copy and a picture.

Contact me by phone or email at 605-481-1338 or jerry.seiner@hotmail.com with any questions you may have.



COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of September 2022!

It's that time of year; the kids are going back to school and it's time for the VFW to get back to the basics of growing our membership!



To encourage this, for the month of September 2022, the top five Posts in each membership division based on recruiting, renewing, and reinstating the most Annual members will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 award. This will count New members, Annual members who renew their dues, and lapsed members who pay their Annual dues to the Post. Whether you're out there bringing a new veteran into the organization, encouraging your existing members to continue their membership, or bringing back lapsed members to the Post, we want to see every Post out there making the effort to grow our membership because -

EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!



Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on August 31st to September 30th.