

# General Orders

FEBRUARY 2022



## AUDIT REPORTS

### AUDIT REPORTS DUE

Please send in your Audit Report for this past quarter. Remember, if the Department does not receive all 4 reports, your Post will not have voting rights at the State Convention.

## LOYALTY DAY

### LOYALTY DAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

Loyalty Day is on May 1<sup>st</sup> and is the day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Please appoint a Chairperson and forward that information to the Department office.

## BUDDY POPPY

### BUDDY POPPY

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2022 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward that information to the Department office. Reminder, all Poppy orders need to be in the office by April 30, 2022.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWED?

Have you paid your 2021 Membership Dues yet? Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may have expired December 31, 2021. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the Annual Members Let's get this state to 100% in membership.

## Department VOD, PP, & Teacher Winners

Congratulations to the Department of South Dakota VFW Voice of Democracy 2022 Winner, Kathryn Doom from Post #7319, Wagner in District #7! She is in the running as a National Winner. Good luck, Kathryn! Her essay is attached at the back of these orders for your viewing.

Patriot's Pen 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner is Regina Stoesser from Post # 3164, Canton in District # 1! Attached is the essay at the back of these orders for your viewing.

Teacher Award 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner is Megan Baule from Post # 17, Aberdeen in District # 6!



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

### STATE CONVENTION

The 2022 Department Convention will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 in Mitchell, South Dakota.

There are rooms booked at the Kelly Inn and Super 8 Motel in Mitchell. The room rate for Kelly Inn is \$130/night and Super 8 Motel is \$79/night. The Convention will be held at the 4-H Fair Grounds in Mitchell.

Look in the next General Orders for the Agenda and Registration.

## IRS FORM 990

Posts that have tax exemption status need to answer questions on pages 1, 2, and 3 of IRS Form 990. This MUST be filed by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month following the close of the fiscal year. Please forward a copy of this IRS Form 990 to the Department office for tracking.

Posts should have already sent in their Special Olympics donations. However, if you have not, please get that in as soon as possible. The Special Olympics Games are being held in May and the Department wants to present our Donation to them at such time.



## COMMANDER / PRESIDENT RAFFLE

### COMMANDER SPECIAL PROJECT

At this point, there has been a stand still with the Commander's Special Project Raffle. We still have plenty of opportunity to sell these raffle tickets for DTOM 22/0 - Don't Tread On Me.

The 22 stands for the recognized average of 22 Veterans per day being killed by suicide. Th 0 represents the number they would like to strive for. They are a horse farm that is working towards building up the families and support persons to help our Heroes find their purpose again.

Please click the link to check out their website.

<https://dtom220.org/>

**Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance: Reminder, all unpaid members, lose all their VFW sponsored Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. The amount depends on your membership status.**

OFFICIAL:

**Anna Waltner**

Anna Waltner, Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Department of South Dakota  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

BY ORDER OF:

**Barbara McKean**

Barbara McKean, State Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Barbara McKean, Commander  
State Commander  
February 2022 General Orders**

How is your Post & District doing on selling the Commander/President Project Raffle Tickets? Need any tickets, call Anna Waltner at the Dept office at 605-332-7441 and she'll mail them to you. I'm asking that you please sell the tickets you have in your possession. Ticket stubs and money should be mailed to the Dept office. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Membership! Is your Post at 100 +1% yet? If not, what can we do to help? Call Dave Baumiller, Dept JVC at 605-593-3389! He can help you with all your membership needs.

Need help with the Dashboard updates? Let us know and we will set up a training session. This year **every Post Adjutant MUST** make their own updates in the OMS Dashboard. If your Post needs assistance, please contact Anna Waltner at the Dept office for help!

**Upcoming events:**

District Meetings: Mid-Winter - Jan/Feb 2022

- District #1 - Feb 20 at 1 pm at SF Post (Tom Hafner)
- District #7 - Feb 6 at 2 pm at Armour Post (Barbara McKean)

Feb 27 - Mar 3, 2022 - Legislative Conference in Washington, DC - Rick Williamson Only

If there is anything I can do to assist, please give me a call. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Barbara K. McKean*

Barbara McKean

[Barbara.mckean@ujv.state.sd.us](mailto:Barbara.mckean@ujv.state.sd.us)

605-630-0771

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**  
**FEBRUARY GENERAL ORDERS**

First, thank you to the Posts who submitted entries for the Public Servant Award – Aberdeen, Brandon, Custer, Deadwood, Huron, Mitchell, Parkston, Pierre, Sioux Falls, and Vermillion. We had eighteen entries combined. A very respectable amount, thank you again. Commander McKean will announce those selected as winners during the State Convention. Those selected have been forwarded to National for judging.

Following is an update from last month's General Orders concerning Memorial Day and Veterans Day Reports. Additional **Memorial Day Reports** have been received from the following Posts: D1-Sioux Falls; D4-Redfield, Milbank; D6-Mobridge; D10-Belle Fourche. As a Department we are over 73%. Additional **Veterans Day Reports** have been submitted by: D1-Sioux Falls, Brandon; D4-Redfield, Milbank; D6-Aberdeen, Mobridge; D7-Chamberlain; D10-Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Spearfish. Over 58% as a Department. If you have not submitted either report, please do so. Negative Reports are required.

Loyalty Day should be on your calendar. Appoint your Chairperson, schedule your event and submit your Report. The Post All-State selection committee will be meeting in early May; so, to receive credit submit your Report accordingly. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Our Department keeps up the steady march to 100% in Membership. We must step up the pace. We currently have eleven Posts at 100% or greater. Our goal for February should be to at least double that amount. A very attainable goal as the Department has twenty-six Posts who need ten or less members to reach Quota. Do not relax Recruiting and Retention now.

Remember the Veterans and families who may need your assistance during the upcoming months. A phone call may be just what they need.

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

Sr. Vice Commander

Perseverance & Integrity

[tbmhafner@santel.net](mailto:tbmhafner@santel.net) // 605-661-2750

General Orders  
Membership

Department needs 7,111 for 100%, we're currently at 90.43%.

We currently have 140 expired members within in Districts, 1, 4, 7 and 10. We need to work on those presently-expired and unpaid members. District 6 has no expired members at this time—"atta boy" to them!

**Posts at 100%**

<u>District</u>	<u>Post</u>
1	4726 and 3728
4	6361
6	8530
7	1353, 3298, 6436 and 7319
10	2730, 2969, and 3472

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Jr. Vice Commander  
 Dave Baumiller, JVC

Greetings everyone. I want to Thank Commander Barbara McKean on the appointment as the Veteran Service Officer. This is a great honor to be able to continue to serve all of you. For my day job I am the Yankton County Veteran Service Officer. I am still learning (which in this job you are always learning) so please be patient with me, but I have a great group of mentors. A few things I wanted to push out that I have discussed in the past, but still important to put out is for those in Gulf War to those in post 9/11 Middle East deployments there are the 3 Presumptive for exposure. Those are sinusitis, rhinitis, and asthma, and if you were diagnosed with any one of those conditions you should be filing a claim. If you have shown symptoms of these (most common I use is having seasonal allergies, but didn't have them before deployment) we should talk. If you have filed for these conditions in the past and were denied you need to appeal the decision. The VA will not be utilizing the Nehmer Law on these conditions. The Nehmer Law has been utilized for Agent Orange presumptive conditions. What happens with the Nehmer Law is that if you filed for a disability in the past that you were denied and now becomes a presumptive the VA will automatically relook at that claim and back date it. They are currently in the process of completing this for the last presumptive conditions for Agent Orange, and man are they sneaky on how they award the compensation. Please reach out to me with any questions. My work contact Information is:

Office: 605-260-4420

Work Cell: 605-464-0187

Personal: 605-770-1030 (After 5 and weekends)

Work email: [yc-cvso@co.yankton.sd.gov](mailto:yc-cvso@co.yankton.sd.gov)

Personal email: [cody.mangold@hotmail.com](mailto:cody.mangold@hotmail.com)

Cody Mangold

Service Officer



# VFW POST 8530 South Dakota Pheasant Hunt

**November 8 – 12, 2022**

**Gettysburg, SD**

## Description

The hunt is an all-inclusive SD pheasant hunt. Travel lodging, meals, ammunition, bird-cleaning are included. To qualify participants must provide a copy of his/her DD-214 with Purple Heart award designation and honorable discharge.

For consideration DD-214 and contact information must be received by July, 15.

Contact information cant be sent to:  
SD Decorated Pheasant Hunt  
c/o Lonny Potts  
313 W King Ave  
Gettysburg, SD 57442  
605-769-0385



## Department of South Dakota VFW Voice of Democracy 2022 Winner

"America: Where do we go from here?"

By: Kathryn Doom

On September 11th, 2001, America launched into a new period in her history: the war on terror. Now, the world watches as America withdraws its forces from Afghanistan, bringing an end to this era. Although many will always remember the 9/11 attacks and turmoil that followed, my generation, the future of America, will not. Today, we hold a blank slate, an opportunity to write a new outline for the future of America.

What will be our new thesis? "Every dream starts with a dreamer," Harriett Tubman once said, and America has certainly never run out of dreamers. 245 years ago, our founding fathers dreamt of a government of the people, by the people, for the people. 158 years ago, Abraham Lincoln, along with countless others, dreamt of freedom for all, regardless of race. 58 years ago, Martin Luther King dreamt that "every valley be exalted, every hill and mountain be made low." And every day, our military forces and veterans, put their lives at risk for the dream of a safer America. So who are our dreamers today? The students writing on this very prompt. The 6-year-old who asked you what "democracy" meant this morning.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once took up his well-worn pen and wrote "America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race." From its conception, America has acted as a precedent for the world. From securing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity to touching the moon, our influence has undoubtedly inspired countless others. Because of this position of power among the countries of the world, we must ensure that our image is one to be highly respected.

Hundreds of years ago, William of Ockham introduced the theory of Occam's Razor. Essentially, when faced with a problem, the most frequent answer is that which is simplest: going

back to the basics. This is what I propose for America: going back to the basics. What has been the dream for our country since its beginning? The pursuit of liberty and justice for all. This fundamental necessity transcends time. Mountains will always exist to ascend, new ideas will always exist to be shared. This was what our forefathers envisioned for the country, and they wrote it into our constitution. But could they ever have foreseen Ruth Bader Ginsburg standing before the Supreme Court, arguing for the rights of women? Even though we have reached further than the horizon of our

ancestors' dreams, we can not give into stagnation. We can see over the hill, to an even brighter horizon.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not what America gives us but what we give to America. The past few years have been pervaded with political divides. However, the COVID pandemic has taught us the importance of protecting our communities and serving others. Now, perhaps more than ever, the call to unity rings across the nation. We must decide whether we will become the "indivisible" nation we claim to be and strive for progress and growth together or use our split opinions as an excuse for inaction. Can we ignore these invisible political boundaries to acknowledge what brings us together? Each American is united by the dream of democracy and love for their countrymen. Continuing to "cancel" those of differing opinions leads only to the detriment of the nation. We are the American mosaic, not a melting pot, as Jimmy Carter once declared, and each and every opinion adds value to our identity.

What will we choose: growth or stagnation? What will be the first action carved into this blank slate? We are the dreamers of America. The responsibility of upholding the American paragon is ours. We must scale the mountain before us to allow future generations to see the brilliance of the next horizon. We must do this hand-in-hand, letting the world know America will not be divided.

## Department of South Dakota VFW Patriot's Pen 2022 Winner

How can I be a good American?

By: Regina Stoesser

To be a good American, I believe you must first take a step back and look at the roots this country was originally founded upon. This country was built from the ground up with slabs of perseverance, individualism, and the undying desire for freedom. This new foundation was then packed with the rich soil of patriotism, and rays of death defying love for this country. To be a good American, I believe you must understand the blood, sweat, and tears that watered the seed of our great nation. I also believe that in order to be a good American, you simply need to be grateful for the gardeners who died watering this seed, and forever thank God for this great elm tree of a nation we call home.

In order to show your love for this country, don't take your freedoms for granted. As you get dressed each day, be grateful for the freedom of choosing what you get to wear. As you sleep soundly under your roof each night, be grateful for the freedom of having such comforts. As you go to work or school each day, thank God you have the freedom to be a lifelong learner. Part of being a good American is understanding the freedoms blooming all around, and recognizing your gratitude for them. Respect your flag, thank God for blessing the red white and blue. Stand tall for your national anthem, thank those who have died as you feel the pounding thu-thump of a beating heart beneath your hand. Speak freely, vote, educate yourself, but make sure you understand how much of an honor it is to do so.

America is without a doubt the greatest country in the world, and it's important for Americans to understand how fortunate it is to be a part of it. The road to being a good American is all about understanding how lucky you are to be able to plant your own roots in this land of the free, and making sure to not take it for granted. To be a good American, I believe you need to understand the seeds it took to grow this nation's mighty branches, and make sure to water them for future generations. With that said, long live the land of the free, and home of the brave. God bless America.

