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

General Orders #7, January 1, 2020

"You're Never Alone"

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Department Commander and his staff extend New Year greetings to all comrades and sisters and their families.

1. Annual Membership: THIS IS IMPORTANT! Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may expire December 31, 2019 unless you paid your dues in January 2019 through June 2020 then your dues are due in the month you paid them. For example, if you paid your dues in February of 2019, they will be due in February of 2020. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members as soon as possible. Any Post that has an Officer who has not paid his or her dues should collect those dues immediately before their expiration date. Any Officer removed by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post Office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed."

Remember any unpaid member who has let their membership expire, his or her Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance becomes void immediately. It is important for all Post Membership Teams to contact these members as soon as possible.

All Post Commanders should familiarize themselves with Section 220 of the National By-Laws on the election of new officers in the event of inactivity or vacancy in the VFW year.

- 2. Use of Post Relief Funds and Membership: The Department of South Dakota would like your help in taking care of membership dues of long-time members who cannot afford to pay their current dues. Many older veterans, especially our WW II Veterans may no longer realize their dues need to be paid. Check your local nursing homes for eligible veterans who may have been a member in past years. You can use your Post Relief Fund to pay these dues. It will help in our all-out effort to make the State of South Dakota 100% in membership for 2020.
- 3. Mid-Winter Meetings: District 1 TBD

District 4 Sun., February 9th 2PM in Watertown @ 750 Post Home District 6 Sun., February 16th 2 PM in Aberdeen @ Shriners Bldg. District 7 Sun., February 16th 2 PM in Plankinton @ Sr. Citizens Bldg. Main St.

District 10 Sun., January 12th 10 AM in Rapid City @ 1273 Post Home

Other dates to remember:

January 13th will be a tour of the Fort Meade Hospital and Facilities with a Buffalo feed at lunch with the patients. There will then be a trip to the National Cemetery for a tour. Anyone attending please let the state office know. Times may need to be adjusted to match available personnel.

January 14th will be a tour of the National Home in Hot Springs with a Buffalo feed lunch at noontime at the old hospital facilities. Anyone planning on attending please let the state office know. Again times may need to be adjusted to match available personnel.

4.The Department Council of Administration, Legislative Conference, Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet has been set for January 26th & 27th, 2020 at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre. A block of rooms have been set up a the Holiday Inn Express @ \$75.00 each, with rates going up after January 1st. See enclosed notice for registration, motels, schedule, etc.

- **5. Loyalty Day:** Post Commanders, please appoint a 2020 Loyalty Day Chairperson and forward his or her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. Post Commanders; try to plan your Loyalty Day Programs early.
- **6. Buddy Poppy:** Post Commanders, please appoint a 2020 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward his/her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible and make plans for your 2020 distribution. Post Commanders, this is a reminder that all Poppy orders should be in by April 15, 2020 to count in the "All State Post Commanders" ratings. Order blanks are on the VFW Website.
- **7. IRS Form 990:** All Posts that enjoy tax exemption status are advised that they must answer all questions on the IRS Form 990. Submitting a copy of the Post Financial Statement in lieu of answering the individual questions is not acceptable. If the questions are not answered the IRS will return Form 990 to the Post. Report must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year.
- **9.** Checks Sent to Department Headquarters: All checks sent to the Department Headquarters should be made out to "Department Of South Dakota VFW" and marked as to what purpose each check is for. Do not make checks payable to a special account.
- **10. The National Voice of Democracy** Legislative Conference meeting will be February 29th 4th 2020 in Washington D.C, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, VA. The VOD parade of winners will take place at 6:00 pm on March 2nd.
- **11.Sending in Material for General Orders:** All Department Officers, State Chairpersons 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.

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

Cody Mangold – Sr. Vice Commander January 2020 General Orders

Greetings Comrades,

I wish that the Holiday's and the New Year have treated you well. I am looking forward to the New Year with the VFW and all the opportunities available. I do want to share that as of 12/31/2019 only 2 Law Enforcement, 2 Firefighters, and 1 EMT/Paramedic had been turned in. I appreciate those who did turn in packets. I would love to see more applicants put in next year, as I feel it is important to recognize these individuals. I understand that some places do not like to make any nominations due to feeling that it would show favoritism. Please keep all of your hard work for our Veteran's. I am still accepting Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day reports. I want to thank everyone for their hard work with Voice of Democracy this year.

Cody Mangold Sr. Vice Commander 605-770-1030 cody.mangold@hotmail.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota Dept Jr. Vice Commander - Barbara McKean General Orders Jan 2020

I want to thank everyone for their support and patience as I learn and grow with this position. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone and I continue to meet new people and learn new and interesting things daily. My year in this position is chairing our Membership program! I have all post membership plans. If you hold any membership events (roundups), please send me your report. Just utilize the membership plan form.

I've been emailing the post and department stats each week to Commanders, Quartermasters & Membership Chairs. I also have sent out unpaid rosters and at large rosters, so each post can contact potential new members.

Quartermasters have access to many of these reports so please utilize them. If anyone is unsure or needs training, please reach out to myself or Darwin! We are here for you!

The next goal for each post in membership in the State of South Dakota is 94% by January 31, 2020. All posts that are at 94% by the end of January 2020 will be put in a drawing for \$200 with one post receiving a \$200 prize!!!!!

Thanks again for your support! Keep up the good work.

Barbara McKean Dept Jr. Vice Commander 504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366; C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com

January 2020 General Orders

Adam Swift Surgeon

Greetings Comrades!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season with their loved ones!

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Legislative Conference in Ft. Pierre in a few weeks! This will take place January 26th and 27th. As with every Conference, there will be much to talk about and train on so come prepared!

To date <u>I have received</u> 2nd Quarter Hospital & Safety Reports from the following Posts:

District 1: Brandon, Vermillion

District 4: Madison, Milbank

District 6: Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Huron, Pierre

District 7: Armour, Burke, Mitchell, Parkston, Wagner

District 10: Custer, Deadwood, Newell, Rapid City, Spearfish

Bold indicates received within 10-day deadline for judging

1st Quarter Reports I have not yet received:

District 1: Crooks, Freeman, Parker, Sioux Falls, Yankton

District 4: Britton, Dell Rapids, Flandreau, Goodwin, Sisseton, Summit, Webster

District 6: Eureka, Faulkton, Mobridge, Redfield, Selby, Turton, Wessington Springs

District 7: Chamberlain

District 10: Belle Fourche, Faith, Lemmon, Quinn, Sturgis

Please send in your quarterly reports...even if it is late, its better than not reporting!

If you have any questions about your reports, please reach out to me and I will help you. If you have sent yours in but have not received the credit for it, please let me know ASAP so we can figure it out.

Finally, I have some great news to announce! The FCC recently voted to approve a shortened Crisis Hotline Number. Currently, the phone number is 1-800-273-8255 but in the next 18 months, they will go live with the new number: 988! This is a push to make the phone number easier to remember and dial in moments of crisis. When you are in the middle of a Mental Health Emergency, you can not always guarantee that you will remember a standard 11-digit phone number, but the odds improve if it is shortened to 3-digits. Again, this number will take roughly 18 months to acquire funding and set-up, but it is the first step in a faster response to assisting those in need!

Adam Swift
Department Surgeon
605-415-9493
Adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com
"For Our Veterans...We Aim Higher"