

**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 at the Holiday Inn Express @ \$75.00 each, with rates going up after January 1st. See enclosed notice for registration, motels, schedule, etc.

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
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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 **I have received** 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

