



Department of South Dakota General Orders #11

"YOU'RE NEVER ALONE"

May 1, 2020

DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL CONVENTIONS CANCELLED FOR 2020

1. There will be no General Orders for June 2020

2. Membership. All State Officers and District Officers are asked to assist Posts in membership. This is necessary for the Great State of South Dakota to achieve 100% membership this year. We must all work harder this month as time is running short. Please help your membership drive by putting on a push now to attain your Post membership quota.

3. Audit Reports. Has your Post sent in its last Quarterly Audit Report yet? A review indicated that some Audit Reports are missing, catch them up to date, as they are very important. It is the Post Commander's responsibility to insure that they are sent in on a Quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) timely basis. If you don't know what reports you have sent in, call the State Office to find out. If your Post has not submitted the Quarterly Audit Reports for the year of 2019-2020, all representation of your Post at the Department Convention (The Department Convention for 2019-2020 has been cancelled) however, if a situation should arise that requires action they shall be deprived of voting privileges until the proper adjustment of such deficiencies are presented to the proper authorities, at such time representation shall be restored promptly.

4. Special Olympics. Posts are asked to send their 2020 donations for the Special Olympics Fund to VFW Department headquarters. Our goal this year is \$1,500. \$1,440 donated so far. All Posts are asked to be generous and put us over the top.

5. VFW Buddy Poppy distribution will be conducted under the authority of Section 711, page 98 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and according to the rules of the National Buddy Poppy Committee. Order forms are posted on the Web site, vfwsd.org. According to the National By-Laws, Section 219, all net proceeds of the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be credited to the Post Relief Fund and also deals with authorized expenditures from the Post Relief Fund account. A result of the cancellation of the National and Department Conventions the requirement to purchase Buddy Poppies for Post All-American has been waived.

6. Installation of Officers. Attention is called to Section 217, page 71, Manual of Procedure. The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. They shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed date TBD. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting. Officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3)

years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years. Because of COVID-19 situation the installation basically has no bounds if you can find a reasonable method to accomplish the task. Installation as a group is not a requirement but individually as persons are available will work. Again, at the Post and District level virtual means is suggested and adequate.

7. District Commanders. Attention is called to Section 417, Page 79 of National Manual of Procedures concerning elected District Officers at the District Convention or Spring Meeting. Nomination, election and installation shall be in a manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure. The District Commanders will be installed again at the Department Convention TBD as a member of the Department Council of Administration. Again, as with Post Commanders you can utilize virtual means or what is available in a case-by-case situation.

8. 2020-2021 Post Election Report. Department of South Dakota would like each Post and District to hold their elections at times convenient to them and submit an Election Report. We are asking the Posts that do not submit on line to make a copy and send that copy to the State Headquarters so that we will know the election report has been completed. The deadline is June 1, 2020 and if your election report is not in by the deadline, your Post will be put on the suspension list. All positions must be filled and a member is not allowed to hold more than one elected office, see Section 215 and 216, Eligibility for Office and Elected and Appointed Offices, page 14 & 15. If the election report is not sent in on time the Post and Officers will not receive any information from National and your dues notices will not be sent out to your membership. Again, in this area if you are having issues preventing you from fulfilling this obligation please contact the State Office for guidance.

9. Delegates, District Meetings, Department and National Conventions. With the Cancellation of both the Department and National conventions assigning delegates is not necessary at this time. If a requirement becomes necessary each Post will be notified.

10. National Convention Delegates: With the National Convention cancellation if you paid the \$25 registration to the National Convention it is refundable including the additional delegates at \$10 each.

11. Judging for the All-State team of District Commanders, Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters will be on May 9, 2020, starting at 10:00 am. All report information must be received at State Headquarters by COB May 6, 2020. Please refer to the 2019-2020 Department Membership Program Booklet for details on these contests. A copy is on the South Dakota VFW web site and may be downloaded by going to vfwsd.org.

12. Commemorative Dates. Reference Section 223, Page 76 of Manual of Procedure. Each Post shall make arrangements for observances of Memorial Day. See that suitable grave markers and United States Flags are placed on the graves of deceased members and if practicable, conduct Memorial Day Services in the cemeteries in its locality. Each Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Loyalty Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day. In addition, the Posts should arrange special ceremonies, and all Commanders should alert comrades to their obligations for appropriate commemoration of other dates specified in the Ritual. Remember to report details of these events in your Community Service Report. **Because of the effects of COVID-19 and the inability to have functions we still need a negative report for each event that the ByLaws require from each of you. An email works fine with the event and reason for cancellation (COVID-19).**

13. Peace Officer Memorial Day. The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast until noon on May 15, 2020. All Posts are requested to comply with this order.

14. Unpaid Bills & Expense Vouchers. All members with unpaid bills and expense vouchers that have been incurred during this administration are hereby requested to submit the same for payment by May 25, 2020 so that payment can be made prior to the closing of the books for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2020.

15. Contributions. All Posts that have not done so are urged to contribute \$0.35 cents per member to the Department Hospital Fund, \$0.20 cents per member to the Department Service and Rehabilitation Fund and \$0.10 cents per member to the Memorial Park Fund. All donations should be received at Department Headquarters by May 6, 2020.

16. National By-Laws, Section 213, page 15 – Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions. Any Post in arrears for any financial obligation to District, Department or National, for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, page 39, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, page 40, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

OFFICIAL:

Darwin G Tolzin
Darwin G Tolzin, Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

BY ORDER OF:

Sean D. Johnson
Sean D Johnson, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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2019-2020 Post Election Report

The deadline is June 1st, 2020

Report online to National Headquarters. VFW.ORG

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BUDDY POPPIES

GET YOUR POST ORDER IN TO STATE HEADQUARTERS

Order forms are posted on the Web site, vfwsd.org.

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Department Judging for ALL-STATE AWARDS for 2019-2020

Saturday, May 9, 2019, at 10:00 am

5009 W 12th St. Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, SD

All reports must be into State Headquarters by 5 pm, Wednesday, May 6th, 2020

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REPORTING OF DECEASED COMRADES

Quote from National Membership Department:

If someone pays dues for the current year, they count on your **MEMSTATS** for the complete year. They may disappear from your roster.

Tell members to go ahead and report them as they occur, there won't be any amnesty this coming year. Plus when they report a member deceased, it generates a Sympathy Post Card from the VFW, we don't want that going to the family six months after the member has passed.

COVID-19

What are some best practices to protect me and others?

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection and no medication for treating it. The CDC believes symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. Avoid exposure and avoid exposing others to disease with these simple steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An easy way to mark the time is to hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice while scrubbing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are ill or becoming sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (not your hands) and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Getting a flu shot is recommended.
- Learn to use [VA Video Connect](#) through the VA mobile app store or by contacting your VA care team before any urgent problems arise.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT’S PEN

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition, with the theme “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” is open to all students in grades 9-12. Each state winner competes for the top national \$30,000 scholarship prize. More than 51,000 students competed in last year’s competition. Shruthi Kumar, sponsored by VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska, was the 2020 national Voice of Democracy winner. [Listen to her deliver her award-winning essay.](#)

Students in grades 6-8 can complete in the Patriot’s Pen competition by answering this year’s theme, “What is Patriotism to Me?” Entrants vie for the top award of \$5,000. Ruby Howe, sponsored by VFW Post 334 in Lake Orion, Michigan, took home the 2020 Patriot’s Pen first place prize among more than 138,000 student entries. [Listen to her award-winning entry here.](#)

Cody Mangold Senior Vice Commander

- 1. With *Judge Advocate* and *Surgeon* positions now becoming appointed position within the Department anyone with interest is encouraged to get their names to the Department Office ASAP.**

Department Quartermaster/Adjutant

This is an elected position but looking down the road if anyone is interested to adequately turn over the position it should be a several month task. Get your names to the Department Office.

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

South Dakota is at 95.23% in membership. What can each of you do different to make a difference for your post, community and membership?

South Dakota as of Friday, April 24, 2020

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent
District Totals	1	1673	23	9	330	2035	2120	95.99%
District Totals	4	1098	11	2	238	1349	1447	93.22%
District Totals	6	896	3	2	332	1233	1276	96.63%
District Totals	7	767	12	2	158	939	1004	93.52%
District Totals	10	1797	24	2	253	2076	2158	96.20%
District Totals	99	219	23	3	35	280	303	92.40%
State Total		6450	96	20	1346	7912	8308	95.23%

It has been a crazy couple months' and I realize the game has changed. I'm asking each post to reach out to any known veterans and make sure they are doing okay in today's climate. Now is also the time to look for some new veterans in your areas and try and get them involved. Ask yourself "is no-one joining our post because we haven't evolved with the times". Are you still doing things the same way you've done it for years? Are you putting your post out in the community? Are you getting involved and volunteering in the community?

I'm proud to have been able to assist and/or provide you with membership assistance/information this past year. South Dakota is truly blessed to have such wonderful, caring veterans like you on our team.

I'd like to announce my decision to run for the Department Sr. Vice Commander for the 2020-2021 year. If elected, I will continue to serve my fellow veterans with pride, commitment and heart!

NOTE: If someone pays dues for the current year, they count on your memstats for the year even if they become deceased. Please report them as deceased as there will not be any amnesty this coming year. Plus, when you report a member deceased, it generates a Sympathy Post Card from the VFW, don't want that going to the family six months after the member died.

Thanks again for your support! Please keep working to reach 100%!

Barbara McKean
Dept Jr. Vice Commander
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