



DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

General Orders #9 "You're Never Alone"

March 1, 2020

- 1. Absence of the Commander:** During the period of February 28th to March 4th, several of The Department Officers will be in Washington, D.C. attending the Legislative Conference/Voice of Democracy Awards Presentation. During this period, anyone having any questions and/or needing assistance is to contact the State Office, 605-332-7441.
- 2. Special Notice:** 2020-2021 The theme has not been announced yet this year for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. We will let you know next month what they will be.
- 3. March is "Membership Quota Month".** All State and District Officers are asked to assist Posts in membership. If your Post hasn't had a membership team working, now is the time to help organize and join in on the recruiting of members.
- 4. Audit Reports: THIS IS IMPORTANT.** Has your Post sent in its last Audit Report yet? Maybe some of the previous audit reports are delinquent. Catch them up to date, as they are very important.
- 5. Special Olympics:** Post donations to the Special Olympics Fund are hereby requested to help with the 2020 Special Olympics Program. Posts are asked to be generous and to send their donations to VFW Department headquarters. Our goal this year is \$2,600. Thank You to those Posts that have already sent in their donations.
- 6. Post Elections:** Attention is called to Section 217, page 71, Manual of Procedure, Nomination Election, Installation, of Officers and Term of Office. Posts will conduct the Election of Officers in accordance with the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Post Officers shall be nominated in March and shall be elected in April. Nominations shall remain open until the Post is ready to vote.
**Remember that on the 1st of June if you have not submitted your election report you will receive a letter from the Commander-in-Chief suspending your Post until the election report is sent. At that time the Department Commander will issue a follow-up letter and establish a committee to oversee the Post business. All Post business must be overseen by the established committee includes any meetings, any disposition of property, any financial transactions, etc. This is an inconvenience for all persons concerned. PLEASE submit your Complete Election Reports timely. (March nominate; April elections; May installation; June take office when Department Commander does.)*
- 7. 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. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting. An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant. 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.

8. District Commanders: Attention is called to Section 417, Page 21 of National By-Laws. The elected District officers shall be nominated and elected annually at the District Convention or Spring Meeting. Nomination, election and installation shall be in a manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure. The District Commander will be installed again at the Department Convention in June 2020 as a member of the Department Council of Administration.

9. Ritual Changes: Several changes or modifications were made to the 2018 National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual that members need to know about. The one addressed here is a change authorized in the Order of Business – Posts. Section 1004, page 112 and 113 of the Manual of Procedure lists two orders of business for Posts. One being the Traditional and the one added called Order of Business Contemporary we will address the Contemporary. It is shortened up and is approved for Post usage. **However, you can use discretion at the Post and modify to meet your needs.** The approved order is:

1. Call to order
2. Check dues cards
3. Roll call of officers
4. Read, refer membership applications
5. Read minutes
6. Quartermaster's report.
7. Report of Service Officer.
8. Report on Comrades or the families of Comrades in distress.
9. Committee reports.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New business.
12. Good of the order.
13. Close meeting.

The options that you have are to satisfy your needs for a successful meeting.

10. Community Service Record Books: Attention Post Commanders and Community Service Chairpersons. Less than 60 days remain in this year's contest for Community Service Record Books. All Community Service projects completed during the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, should be included when making your Post/Auxiliary Record Book. Record Books must be received by April 18, 2020 and are to be sent to State Headquarters at 5009 W 12th St., Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106. A Community Record Book form may be downloaded from the Department Web site - vfwsd.org.

11. Buddy Poppies: All Posts are reminded to order their Buddy Poppies and poppy supplies and to complete arrangements for their year's poppy distribution. Order forms may be downloaded from the Department Web site - vfwsd.org.

12. Department Convention: The 2020 Department Convention will be held on June 4th-7th in Aberdeen, hosted by Post 17. For more convention information, i.e.: registration, motel information, convention schedule, etc., go to the Home Page at the Department web site - vfwsd.org.

****Attached is a copy of Convention Information, which is subject to minor changes****

13. Convention Ads: All Posts, Districts, Candidates for Department Office and any others are reminded that the deadline for Ads in the 2020 Convention Booklet is due by May 6th, 2020. Ads need to be in camera ready or submitted in digital format. Convention book ad submission form may be downloaded from the Department web site - vfwsd.org.

14. National Citations: To qualify for the National Citations that are presented at the Department Convention, Posts must have reported projects in each of the following programs: Youth, Safety, Community Service and Citizenship Education (Americanism) and reports need to be into the State Headquarters at 5009 W 12th St. Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106, by March 20, 2020. The deadline date to get the information to National is April 1, 2020.

15. Memorial Day: The observance of Memorial Day is the obligation of every Post. According to Section 223-Commemorative Dates. Each Post shall properly observe commemorative dates, as prescribed in the Ritual and Manual of Procedure. Please plan a suitable observance in your Community. Place American Flags at the

gravesites of departed comrades of your Post and Veterans of your Community. Remember to report details of these events in your Community Service Report. Memorial Day report form may be downloaded from the Department web site - vfwsd.org.

16. **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.

17. **Spring District Meetings:** See separate sheet on meeting places, dates and times.

OFFICIAL:

Darwin Tolzin
Darwin 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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Please Note: Community Service Reports should be sent to the Department Headquarters for the rest of this Command year. THANK YOU!

The Department is looking for a new VAVS Representative at the Sioux Falls VA. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, PLEASE contact Darwin at 605-332-7441 or 605-695-5006.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District #1: (Department Rep: TBD)

District #4: (Department Rep: TBD)

District #6: (Department Rep: TBD)

District #7: Sunday April 19th, 2 PM at Scotland Post #2966 (Department Rep: TBD)

District #10: Sunday April 26th, 1 PM in Newell @ Sr. Citizens Center (Department Rep: TBD)

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Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander
March 2020 General Orders

Greetings Comrades,

Another month has passed and Spring is upon us (maybe). I am certain though that Easter is coming soon, and so are the next batch of District meetings. I hope all have figured out times for their meetings, and are getting ready for elections. It's not just time for District's Elections, but also for Posts. Please think hard about your election for Post and District officers. Once you have completed the elections please get a copy to the Department and National right away. Election reports need to be turned into the Department office by May,15 2020. I know this may seem far off, but really its 2 months away. I would like to ask everyone to start thinking of the events to

come. We have Post Elections, District meetings and Elections, State Convention in Aberdeen, then the Sturgis Rally. We are looking for some volunteers for the Rally for the booths. National VFW sponsors the event, but it's up to us to man the booths. The dates are August 7-15th and we are looking for people who are willing to help out for at least a few hours a day. I would like to break the shifts up if possible, to make it so it's not such a long day for people. Please let me know if you are able to help and what days. I would like to see as many people come to help as possible. Please feel free to contact me at 605-770-1030 (if I don't answer please. Leave a message with your name and number). Also, can be reached at cody.mangold@hotmail.com
 Yours in comradeship,
 Cody Mangold

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
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NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

For this month's Commander's challenge, we are focusing on total growth in the organization. We will hold a drawing from the top 10 Posts in each division, based on the membership increase in the month of February, to receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account. In addition to the \$1,000, we will randomly draw 10 of the top 20 Posts in each division to receive a special edition KA-BAR combat knife from Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz!

DEPARTMENT "FIRST TO FINISH" INCENTIVE

For the Department that is first to attain 100% in membership, the Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) will each receive:

- ❖ **\$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied toward airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2020, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- ❖ Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, MO, from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- ❖ A fun-filled weekend (May 16-17, 2020) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

South Dakota as of Monday, February 24, 2020

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent
District Totals	1	1670	23	2	291	1986	2120	93.67%
District Totals	4	1096	8	2	213	1319	1447	91.15%
District Totals	6	937	3	3	243	1186	1326	89.44%
District Totals	7	767	11	2	141	921	1004	91.73%
District Totals	10	1792	20	2	231	2045	2158	94.76%
District Totals	99	177	20	2	28	227	253	89.72%
State Total		6439	85	13	1147	7684	8308	92.48%

What are you doing to help your post and district reach 100%. Please don't rely on someone else to do all the work, dig in, get out of your comfort zone and just talk to fellow veterans about their eligibility to join our wonderful organization. I promise, you'll get great satisfaction when you do!

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

Barbara McKean
Dept Jr. Vice Commander
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