



# DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

## General Orders #4

### “SPEAK UP & REACH OUT”

**October 1, 2021**

1. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held in our beautiful state at Rapid City, SD. The dates are October 15-17, 2021. If you are going you should immediately take care of your hotel reservations, if you have not done so. Please contact State Headquarters for registration and hotel forms, if you need them or you can find them on our website at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org). Go to the news tab> convention and conferences> Big Ten Documents.

2. **Membership Program, 2021 – 2022:** District Commanders, make sure that your Post Commanders have received a copy of the 2021-2022 Membership Program. There have been some rule changes, which are important to everyone. We hope your Post, has by now, launched a vigorous Membership Campaign to sign up new and reinstated members. Dues notices will be sent out 90 days, 60 days and 30 days prior to the expiration date on the member’s card. Remember to collect dues for continuous members as soon as possible, recruit new members, and reinstate those members that have dropped out. ***Note, if you are a continuous member and an officer of the post, and become unpaid, you will be removed and cannot be reinstated this year.***

3. **Post Commanders:** Please assist the District Inspectors and District Commanders in their inspections of your Post, by making sure all the Post books, records and minutes are available on the night or day of the inspection. Please instruct the Post Trustees to comply with Section 218, Page 74, section (11) of The Manual of Procedure “Trustees”.

4. **Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects using the ‘community service report’. This can be found on the department website at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) >resources >templates and forms >community service report (fillable) and (printable). ALL reports go through the VFW Headquarters and will be passed to the chairman.

5. **Commanders:** Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairman yet? Start planning your programs ASAP. Contact local Chamber of Commerce or the appropriate organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day. As described in the Ritual and Manual of Procedure, Sec. 223 – Commemorative Dates, every Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Veterans Day. A report form may be obtained by going to [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) >resources >templates and forms >Veterans Day Report, to report your Veterans Day functions.

6. **Americanism:** Every Post should sponsor vigorous Americanism and Patriotic activities to make strong, direct, patriotic impact in our Schools and upon the general public throughout the year. Patriotic leadership in our communities is important. For example, implementing a program to stop old and tattered US Flags from being flown by letting the community know they can leave old flags at your Post for proper disposal.

7. **Programs:** At this time, all the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Awards program material should be in the possession of the Posts and Schools. Contact your local schools and make certain the contest is underway. Student handouts can be downloaded from the Internet at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) >resources >templates and forms >Patriot's Pen Entry Form / VOD Entry Form / Teacher of the Year Entry Form and Rules of Eligibility. If you have questions concerning VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Awards, please contact the Department Chair: Keith Blume, PO Box 215 Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-4143 or cell phone 605-440-2331. E-mail is [krblume@goldenwest.net](mailto:krblume@goldenwest.net).

8. **Awards for VOD:** The 2021 – 2022 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Awards have been set as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500 scholarship and trip to Washington, D. C. and at least a \$1,000 or more scholarship from the National Contest. In addition, a June trip to the Freedom's Foundation in Valley Forge, PA. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$300 Scholarship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 Scholarship, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Place will receive \$50 Scholarship. Each District will send their District winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Awards will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.

9. **Awards for Patriot Pen:** The 2021 – 2022 Patriot Pen contest prizes have been set as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – the Glenn McFarland Memorial Plaque and \$250 Scholarship; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award and a \$100 Scholarship 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – \$50 Scholarship and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Places - \$25 Scholarship. The top 3 winners in the State will be presented their awards at the Legislative Conference. Awards will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.

10. **Awards for Teacher of Year:** The 2021 – 2022 Teachers Award have been set as follows: Each teacher category, high school, middle school and elementary school will receive an appropriate award and a check of \$100. Award presentation will be at the legislative conference. A certificate from National will be presented to the school and teacher at that school. A Department representative will present the award if possible.

11. **VAVS:** We need greater participation by every Post in the Department through taking an active role in the Veterans of Foreign Wars VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Service) program. We need a VAVS person to represent the Sioux Falls area so please if you have an interest contact the Department Office. Remember the VFW Moto “No One Does More For Veterans”.

13. **District Meetings:** The District meetings are still being conducted.

14. **Sending in Material for General Orders:** All Department Officers, State Chairman and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit the material to Department Headquarters or the Department Adjutant by no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. The format will be modified because of publishing on the Web Site in that the General Orders are things upcoming that require Post attention. The input from the Staff Officers and others will still be put on the Web but will be in more of a newsletter format as general information or encouragement from those taking the time to contribute. Nothing is in concrete so if this does not work a better method will be put in place.

15. If you would like to contact the QM/ADJ, use the following: Phone number is: 1-605-332-7441 or cell phone 314-435-5772, email [vfwdeptsd@gmail.com](mailto:vfwdeptsd@gmail.com)

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

**Anna Waltner**

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

**Barbara McKean**

Barbara McKean Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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**For Your Information on Vouchers**

When sending in vouchers we **absolutely** need your receipts for you to be paid for your room or other expenses.  
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Get your Post ready for **Law Enforcement, Firefighter & EMT** of the year. The application is online at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) resources >templates and forms >EMT, Firefighter, & Law Enforcement Officer Application Form. Due date is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to Department headquarters at 5009 W 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 .

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\*\*\*\*All Green Sheet updates need to be updated through the Department office via email. Please updated your own sheet. Going forward, we will not be sending the whole sheet each time.\*\*\*\*

## Barbara McKean, State Commander October 2021 General Orders

Greeting Comrades,

First, I want to let all members know that Darwin Tolzin, State ADJ/QM will “officially Retire” effective Oct 1, 2021. I know for me personally, Darwin has been the one constant, dependable VFW member, friend, mentor since I started in this organization. While he will be greatly missed in the State office, I know he will still attend meetings, conferences, and conventions when possible and this isn’t good-bye. Good news is that we have hired someone to “step into” Darwin’s shoes. Her name is Anna Waltner, Army Veteran, from Freeman, SD. She is spending the month of September training with Darwin. Please welcome her with open arms!

One new item this year is having your Facebook page established by Jan 2022 (active for 6-month requirement for All-American). We can assist any posts during our Fall Council with establishing a Facebook page if needed. Bring your laptops for assistance!

Each Post will also need to sign up and then update the dashboard with the number of new sign-ups for the Action Corps emails. This can be anyone, brother, mother, sister, friends etc. All they need to do is send a TEXT to 50457, then text them the word VFW. Report those numbers to Darwin’s office to be updated in the dashboard (unless you are updating the dashboard yourselves).

- ❖ Get your Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen information sent to all your local schools. I would also like at least one submission from each Post for VOD, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year!
- ❖ The Fall Council of Administration (Homecoming Banquet) at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD is scheduled for Oct 8-10, 2021 (**banquet theme will be “Western”**). Awards for best male/female costume will be presented. Post Commanders and Quartermasters are encouraged to bring a 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee or two with you. At a **minimum, you both or your designee(s) should be in attendance.**

***New this Year:*** *The SD VFW will be featuring our members who have proudly worn the uniform of our country and continue that legacy of service in their communities today. Please visit [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) to access this document.*

Please attend your Post and District meetings. If your Post isn’t having regular meetings, be the change you want to see and call the Commander and request a meeting. If you haven’t attended a State meeting, there is no better time than now. We want you! Reach out for assistance and we’ll help you get signed up to attend. Want to see changes in the VFW, let us know, we can help make that happen. We are open to new, fresh ideas!

If you are unsure of anything you should be doing in your posts, reach out to someone, me, Tom Hafner, past commanders, etc. We are all in this together! One Team! Together, we can make our teams stronger and happier!

Barbara McKean

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

605-630-0771

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**  
**OCTOBER GENERAL ORDERS**

One of the most important days in the lives of our Veterans is rapidly approaching. It is time to appoint your Veterans Day Chairperson and begin the planning for your Veterans Day activities. Honor our Veterans appropriately. The reporting form is on the Department website; complete and submit upon completion of your ceremonies.

District Meetings, Fall Council and the Big 10 Conference are on the calendar. Post Officers, Commander and Quartermaster at a minimum, and Post members should plan on attending these meetings. Valuable information is provided, and training conducted that is of interest at all levels.

School is in session. Time to get your Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher Awards Programs going. Also keep in mind Public Servant Recognition/Awards are due soon. Necessary forms are on the Department website.

As of the date of these General Orders the following Posts have submitted a Memorial Day Report. A gain of two Posts. I am confident we can do better.

District 1: Alcester, Brandon & Yankton

District 4: Brookings & Webster

District 6: Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Pierre & Turton

District 7: Armour, Chamberlain, Lake Andes, Marty, Mitchell, Parkston, Scotland, Tyndall & Wagner

District 10: Custer, Deadwood, Newell & Quinn

A Negative Report is necessary if you did not conduct a Memorial Day Program. District Commanders consider having your Posts complete this report during the upcoming District meetings. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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

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

## **Parkston to host traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall next June**

The Parkston American Legion and Auxiliary and the Hutchinson County Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, along with other local organizations, will host the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The Wall arrives Wednesday, June 29, 2022, with a parade through Parkston to the East Park, where it will be set up with volunteers the morning of Thursday, June 30, 2022. A soft opening and viewing is planned for noon that day.

While the 180' x 180' Wall is at the center of attention, Parkston is planning on holding a Celebration of Freedom, continuing through Monday, July 4, 2022, when the Wall will be loaded back onto the trailer for its next destination.

The centerpiece of the celebration is the Wall, but all veterans of past wars will be recognized and honored during the exhibit.

Preliminary plans call for Reville, posting of the colors, Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem each day it is open. There are plans for speakers, food, patriotic displays and entertainment throughout the four-day event, with closing ceremonies each day of a 21-gun salute, Taps and retrieval of the colors.

Other preliminary plans include a car show Saturday, July 2, 2022, and a non-denominational church service on Sunday, July 3, 2022. Planners also will be sending out invitations to many national and state leaders, as well as our local and national congressional delegation.

The Celebration of Freedom committee would like to invite everyone to come and visit the memorial. They also are asking for any volunteers who would like to assist in a variety of ways during the celebration.

Contact local American Legion Representative Cal Luepke, 605-6903394, or the state Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Barb McKean, also from Parkston, 605-630-0771 for more information.

The Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. It stands six feet tall in the center and tapers off in two directions. The Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War and is meant for the purpose of helping rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their hometowns who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington, D.C.

**BIG TEN CONFERENCE**  
**Rapid City, South Dakota**  
**October 15 - 17, 2021**  
**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**October 15, 2021 Friday**

**12 Noon – 7:00 P.M.**

**1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.**

**Registration (Precon Area)**

Training Social Media and All-American Program (**Black Hills Ballroom**)

**Hospitality Room Mixer (Ballrooms D & E) CONFERENCE BADGES REQUIRED Cash Bar**

**October 16, 2021 Saturday**

**7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.**

**8:30 A.M.**

**Registration (Precon Area)**

**Ballrooms A-D**

Ritualistic Opening Ceremonies - Posting of Colors – South Dakota Color Guard

- 1.) Introduction of Guest, Big Ten Officers, National Officers, Past C-I-C's, National Council Members and State Commanders. (Dan Kramer, Conference Chairman)
- 2.) Welcome to South Dakota by SD Commander. (Barbara McKean)
- 3.) Chairman Appoints Parliamentarian.
- 4.) Roll call of Delegates
- 5.) Sec/Treasurers Report
- 6.) Chairman appoints Audit Committee --- (Three (3) Past Chief's to audit Books)
- 7.) Reports from State Commanders
- 8.) Report of Audit Committee
- 9.) Introduction and Comments of National Officers:
  - 1.) Matthew "Fritz" Michelcic ----- Commander-in-Chief
  - 2.) Robert Couture, Director of Communications & Public Affairs
  - 3.) Dan West, National VFW Assistant Adjutant

**12 Noon**

**LUNCH BREAK (Precon Area) CONFERENCE BADGES REQUIRED**

**1:30 P.M.**

**Continue Comments from: National Officers if needed (Ballrooms A-D)**

**Continue Big Ten Business**

- 10.) Old Business
- 11.) New Business – except Elections
- 12.) Any Bylaws
- 13.) Good of the Order
- 14.) Election of Big 10 Officers ----->>> Chairman  
❖ Installation of Big 10 Officers Vice Chairman  
Chaplain  
Sec /Trea
- 15.) Report on Big Ten Conference 2022 in Wisconsin, by Representative
- 16.) Any other Guest Speaker ---- National Officer Candidates
- 17.) Closing Ceremonies
- 18.) Adjourn by new Chairman Donald Lynch

**6:00 – 6:45 P.M.**

**Head Table Reception (Board Room)**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Banquet (Suit and Tie, NO Tuxedo) (Ballrooms A-H) BADGES REQUIRED Cash Bar**

**October 17, 2021 Sunday**

**Delegates Depart**



# South Dakota Women Veterans Alliance Event

FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED EITHER AS A GUARD,  
ACTIVE OR RESERVE MEMBER OR ARE A SPOUSE TO A  
GUARD, ACTIVE OR RESERVE MILITARY MEMBER, TO  
COME TOGETHER AND CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER,  
SHARE EXPERIENCES, AND BUILD A NETWORK OF  
FELLOWSHIP AND SUPPORT.



*Virtual Keynote Address - 12:30p.m.*

*Carey Lohrenz - The First Female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot  
in the U.S. Navy*

**Carey Lohrenz**, knows what it takes to win in one of the highest pressure, extreme environments imaginable: In the cockpit at Mach 2. As the first female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy, having flown missions worldwide as a combat-mission-ready United States Navy pilot, Lohrenz is used to working in fast moving, dynamic environments, where inconsistent execution can generate catastrophic results. In her motivating and engaging keynote presentations, Carey shares her fascinating experiences operating in one of the world's most challenging environments - an aircraft carrier.

*Veteran Leadership Panel - 10:30a.m.*

## *Event Schedule*

**Saturday, October 16th**

**9:00-10:00am** - Registration & Vendor Booths

**10:30-12:00pm** - Veteran Leadership Panel

**12:00pm-12:30pm** - Break & Vendors

**12:30-2:00pm** - Carey Lohrenz Virtual Keynote  
Speech & Lunch

**2:00pm** - Break & Vendor Booths

**2:00-3:00pm** - Shooting Range Activity\*

\*available for an additional fee

\*\*First 500 registrants receive a signed copy of  
Carey Lohrenz's book!



**Colonel Ruth A.  
Christopherson (ret)**



**Danielle  
Konechne**  
Prior Air National  
Guard Security  
Forces



**Amanda  
Kippley**  
Judge Advocate  
General officer  
(previously USAF  
and USAF  
Reserve)



**Moderated by:  
Matt Holsen**  
Prior Sgt. United  
States Marine Corps  
Reserve

OCTOBER 16, 2021 | 9 AM - 2 PM  
SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE  
1600 W RUSSELL ST, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104  
REGISTRATION FEE: \$35

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SDWOMENVETERANSEVENT21](https://bit.ly/sdwomenveteransevent21)

QUESTIONS: [SDWOMENVETERANSALLIANCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SDWOMENVETERANSALLIANCE@GMAIL.COM)

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