



DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
General Orders #1
“Speak Up and Reach Out”

July 1, 2021

***The National Convention moved to Kansas City, Mo.
July 31 – August 3, 2021***

- 1.** Having been duly elected and installed as Commander of the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby command. **All previous State appointments are canceled.**
- 2.** All personal communications to the State Commander can be sent to:
Commander Barbara McKean, 504 S. Wallace St., Parkston, SD 57366,
Email: mckeanbarb@gmail.com
Requests for State Commander or State Officer attendance at events should be coordinated through the State Adjutant's office to ensure availability and deconfliction.
- 3. All OFFICIAL Communications** to the State Headquarters, for the Commander, Sr Vice, Jr Vice and all line officers including the State Adjutant or the State Quartermaster shall be sent to: 5009 W. 12th St. Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.
- 4. Post Commanders:** General Orders will be read at your meetings or printed and passed out, then filed for future use. General Orders will also be posted on the SD VFW Web site-www.vfwsd.org.
- 5. Elected Officers** for the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the year 2021-2022, were elected and installed at the annual convention held in Yankton on June 17th-20th, 2021, and all officers appointed are expected to carry out the duties of their respective offices to the best of their abilities. National and State By-Laws outline the duties of the offices.
- 6. All District and Post Commanders** are asked to select a member or officer to be the Chairperson of VOD, Patriots Pen, Teachers Awards, Buddy Poppy, Veterans & Military Support, Membership, Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT and Scouting citations. Also, appoint a member to be the Post Service Officer and forward the names of these Chairpersons to the State Headquarter along with an email address and phone number.

7. All District Commanders, District Membership Captains, Post Commanders and Post Membership Captains please work to increase your District and Post membership so that you can qualify for the 2020-2021 All-State Team of District and Post Commanders.

8. All Post Commanders are asked to appoint a Chairperson for the observance of Veterans Day 2021. ***THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY.***

9. All Posts: Report **any and all** Community Service projects on your Community Service report. It is so important to get everything on this so we can report to National what South Dakota is doing.

10. All State, District and Post Officers as well as all VFW members are asked to wear the official VFW cover to all District & State meetings and functions held in their communities.

11. The Fall Council of Administration, Commander and Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming will be held at Oacoma, SD on October 8th to 10th, 2021. Further information will be coming soon.

12. The State Convention will be held in June 2022 in Mitchell, with Parkston Post #3298 and Auxiliary as the host Post.

13. National and State Constitutions and By-Laws prohibit the use of the Veterans of Foreign Wars name by private business and commercial businesses operating under the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is prohibited. Posts so operating are hereby directed to take corrective measures to eliminate such practice within 30 days. Again, some of the requirements are being reviewed at the National Convention, so watch for By-Law updates.

14. The 2021 Membership year officially begins July 1, 2021. All Districts and Posts are asked to start their kickoff immediately.

15. Membership plans for the year 2021-2022 both [State](#) and [National](#) are now on the VFWSD Website. There is also an All-State Post and District [qualification tracking sheet](#) on the website.

16. To report continuous, new, reinstated, continuous transfer or non-paying transfers, the Membership form will be used or done by direct membership.

17. Check the [SD VFW Baseball Website](#) or [Department of SD VFW Facebook Event Pages](#) for dates and locations of the 2021 VFW State Baseball Tournaments.

18. 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 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders.

19. HOT ITEMS COMING UP: Bonds, State Fair Manning, Veterans Day, Fall Council of Administration, Homecoming, Big 10 Conference, Schedule for District Meetings, etc.

OFFICIAL:

Darwin Tolzin

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

BY ORDER OF:

Barbara McKean

Barbara McKean, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

NOTICE: ALL reports (Comm. Service, Hospital, Memorial Day, etc.) will come through the State Headquarters in the future. We will then get them to the Chairman for review. This will save confusion for the posts and time changing the data on forms for the web master. PLEASE start sending all reports to 5009 W 12th St. Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 or vfwsd@aol.com or vfwdeptsd@gmail.com.

Elected Department Officers 2021-2022

Commander	Barbara McKean	Post 3298	Parkston
Sr. Vice Commander	Tom Hafner	Post 3298	Parkston
Jr. Vice Commander	Dave Baumiller	Post 5807	Newell
Quartermaster	Darwin Tolzin	Post 2118	Brookings
Chaplain	Russel Dramstad	Post 1776	Huron
Judge Advocate	Sean Johnson	Post 17	Aberdeen
Surgeon	Glynis Collier	Post 2038	Pierre

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Sturgis Bike Rally

Sturgis SD

August 2021

The National VFW membership people will be at the Sturgis Rally again this year recruiting members. They have asked the Department of South Dakota to help out manning the recruiting booth in the Armory downtown Sturgis. I'm working on a schedule of volunteers and am asking for your help. We need people to man the booth from Friday August 6 through Saturday August 14.

There will be three shifts per day of 4 hours each from 9 am to 9 pm.

Please share this with your membership and have them contact me if they're able to help out. I've got about 24 shifts to fill and could use all the help you can muster.

Thanks
Kris Fenton
307-689-0086
Post5969@midconetwork.com

BUDDY POPPIES

GET YOUR POST ORDER IN TO STATE HEADQUARTERS

Order forms are posted on the Web site, vfwsd.org. We would appreciate orders in multiples of 500 if possible.

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REPORTING OF DECEASED COMRADES

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 Card from the VFW, we don't want that going to a family six month after the member has passed.



News from the Staff Members and Committee Chair's

Barbara McKean, Commander

July 2021 General Orders

Comrades - It is my distinct honor and privilege to now serve as your 92nd Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander for South Dakota. I want to thank everyone for electing me as your VFW State Commander. I am truly humbled and honored and ready to selflessly serve as we continue the tradition of serving American Veterans, service members and family worldwide.

My theme for this year is Stand up and Reach out. There are still way too many Veterans taking their own lives. I'd like to raise money this year to help raise awareness and prevention of Veterans suicides as well as women veteran's issues and concerns. With the help from our Auxiliary, all money raised this year will be donated to DTOM 22/0 Foundation & Veterans Ranch in Warner, SD. About the DTOM 22/0 Foundation and Veterans Ranch:

1. They are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation.
2. DTOM is a military acronym that stands for Don't Tread on Me.
3. The 22 stands for the recognized average of 22 Veterans per day being killed by suicide.
4. The 0 represents our goal.
5. DTOM 22/0 Foundation Mission Statement and Vision

The mission of the DTOM 22/0 Foundation and Veterans Ranch is to provide a safe place for healing and recovery for military service members, veterans, and their families while encouraging engaging, and positively impacting their lives through hope, faith, and family activities, and helping them learn to live again with purpose.

I would be remised if I do not use my role as your State Commander to reach out and be an advocate for Women Veterans! My goal is to try and get more women veterans to join the VFW, come to meetings and get involved.

This year our Membership Guide looks a little different. It is now titled Program and Membership Guide and it includes a checklist as well as my Expectations for Posts and Districts. I want to get back to the basics at the Post level. We need to become more involved in the running of our Posts, programs, and Military events. This year in addition to reaching 100% in Membership, we will be making sure Posts have the right officers, tools and resources to get your inspections completed, membership round-ups, quarterly reports submitted and programs like VOD, Patriots Pen, LE, Firefighter, EMT, Teacher of the Year nominations submitted. We also need to get reports filed for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Loyalty Day.

I am confident with the quality of elected and appointed VFW officers throughout the state of South Dakota that we can accomplish this during the 2021-22 Command year. We will do it together, one team!

State Commander Initiative: Good Will Tour – set up schedule to visit all posts/communities. Coffee with the Commander round-up.

Expectations:

1. Share Best Practices w/ other posts
2. Eliminate toxic Leadership; correct deficiencies
3. Don't use rubber stamp – conduct financial reviews
4. Post Suspension – bring posts back in good order and reinvigorate them
5. Members – sign up for partners in patriotism program (donations) won't receive any more solicitation mailings
 - District Commanders to Meet (in person) w/ their Post Commanders.
 - Active participation in VFW programs, recruiting and annual events.
 - and more participation in state conventions, and district and post meetings.

Moving forward to 21-22 command year, we really need to reach out in our communities and schools and solicit or nominate folks for our annual awards (LE, Firefighter, Teacher, EMT) and Patriots Pen and VOD. Our submission numbers were very low this past year, so I'd like to see more participation this coming year.

House Keeping:

- **Dress Code:** Dept Meetings: Official business, suit, or dress pants (dress) and jacket. Commander shirt or VFW attire for other meetings, VFW Headgear
- National is encouraging all post to establish & maintain a Social Media Presence i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- All Posts MUST Work Together with your Auxiliaries. Our Command Fundraiser will be selling raffle tickets (pending).



Senior Vice Commander Tom Hafner General Orders July 2021

First and foremost, I want to thank you for electing and allowing me to serve as your Senior Vice Commander. I also wish to congratulate Barbara McKean on her election to the position of Department Commander. As a Department we had a challenging year on all fronts, however through outstanding leadership and guidance from Commander Mangold and the Department Office we persevered. During the upcoming year I will be in total support of both Commander McKean and the Department Office. As I see it the duties of this position are to support and assist the Commander and Department in whatever manner they deem appropriate. They should expect and will get no less. With your support I anticipate an extraordinarily successful year.

I have been assigned as Chairman of the Public Servant Recognition Program for the upcoming year by Commander McKean. This Program consists of recognizing Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement Personnel and Firefighters for their public service. Communities like Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Yankton, Sturgis, and Mitchell to name a few have large full-time forces from which to select an applicant in each of these areas. Smaller communities should consider submitting at least one candidate in a category on a rotating basis. The application forms are on the Department website. Put out feelers now and begin your selection process. District Commanders please address this issue in your Fall District meetings. Without your support the Public Servant Recognition Program will fail in South Dakota. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

If you have not already done so, submit your 2021 Memorial Day Report to the Department Office. A Negative Report is necessary if you did not conduct Memorial Day activities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Senior Vice Commander. You will receive my best effort. 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 // 605-661-2750



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
Dave Baumiller
July 2021 GENERAL ORDERS

Per the State Commander's guidance, each Post and District is to submit a Membership Plan. The form is on the State website (www.vfwsd.org) as is the Department of South Dakota 2021-2022 Membership Plan. Please complete and submit your Plan early. Tailor your Plan to "what you do best" and what works for your situation. Review the 2021-2021 Membership Plan and formulate a plan of action that will assist you in meeting the Membership Achievement Goals. Tailor your Plan to "what you do best" and what works for your situation. Your ideas will be shared with all entities. Although National has not established our State Quota as of these General Orders, I would guesstimate it to be around 8,100, plus or minus, a very attainable goal. Post and District Membership Chairpersons should consider forming a team to help with your Recruiting and Retention efforts. Please forward the name, email and phone number of Post and District Chairpersons to me. I would like to have all 53 Posts and 5 District Membership Plans submitted as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Vice Commander, you will receive my best efforts. You can contact me for assistance at the email and phone number listed below.

Dave Baumiller
Jr. Vice Commander



Judge Advocate
Sean Johnson
General Orders July 2021

Hello and welcome to the new year under our new Commander Barbara McKean. I hope all is well starting out the year. Please start looking at your information to complete your next Community Service Report **due no later than** 10 Days after July 31. If you need a copy of the forms they are available on the State website. If you need a copy mailed to you let us know, if you need help filling them out give us a call at 605-332-7441. Thanks for your help on this issue, we are going to have a very successful year.

Thank You
Sean Johnson



**Surgeon
Glynis Collier
General Orders July 2021**

Hello all,

First, I'd like to mention how much fun I had at the state convention in Yankton this year! Commander Cody and his team truly rolled out the red carpet for us all! I am excited to take on this new role as the State Surgeon within the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. I ask for your patience as I begin learning the duties that are expected of me within this role. My main concern as the State Surgeon is to stay abreast of all of the reports each month and quarterly. I will then compile them at the end of the year. Please continue to report as you have been for the past year and send your reports to the State Quartermaster through your Post Surgeon and he will in turn send them to me. Your quarterly reports are due to your Post Surgeon no later than the **tenth day** of each month.

I would also like to know which VFW Posts **do not** have computer and internet capability so that I may mail you copies of all the reports the state office requires you to submit each quarter. If you do not have computer or internet capability, please have your Post Commander or Quartermaster call me on my cell phone at **803-466-7031** so that I may have your mailing address to send you blank copies of each of the established reports within our department **as soon as possible**. If I do not answer, please leave me a voice message or text me and identify yourself and your position within your VFW post and provide your post mailing address.

I look forward to working with you **all** this year and thank you for everything you do each day for Veterans and their Family Members.

Respectfully,

Glynis Collier
State Surgeon
Dept. of SD, VFW

VFW Riders
General Orders
Dave Baumiller, Chairman

VFW Riders

At the State Convention we signed up 8 new members. We also voted on an awesome new jacket patch. See below

I'm asking any/all available riders to present the flag at the All-Star baseball game in Webster, August 15. This is a BIG deal, the first All-Star game in 25 years.

