

# General Orders

JANUARY 2023



## LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

### LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Conference is in Pierre on February 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## LOYALTY DAY

### LOYALTY DAY

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2023 Loyalty Day Chairperson and forward the name of that individual to the Department office.

## BUDDY POPPY

### CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2023 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward the name of that individual to the Department office. All orders should be in by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in order to make All-American.



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the VFW may have expired on December 31, 2022. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the continuous members as soon as possible. "Any Officer removed for 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."

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing you a Happy New Year, bursting with fulfilling and exciting opportunities. And remember, if opportunity doesn't knock, build a new door!



## LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

### AGENDA

Attached to the back of the General Orders is the tentative agenda for the Legislative Conference and registration. If you have any questions, please contact the Department office. 605-332-7441 or email Anna at [anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com)

## IRS FORM 990:

All posts with a tax exemption status are advised that they must answer all questions on the IRS FORM 990. Submitting a copy of the Post Financial Statement in lieu of answering the questions will not be accepted. The IRS will return your form and you will be considered not in compliance. Report must be filed by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month following the close of the fiscal year.

## SENDING IN MATERIAL FOR THE GENERAL ORDERS

ANYONE CAN PUBLISH INPUT

All Department Officers, State Chairpersons, and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit material to Department Headquarters by no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month preceding the publication of the General Orders.

*The Department wants YOU to submit items to the General Orders!*

### Mid-Winter District Meetings and the Department Representative

District 1 - February 26, 2023, at 12:00 in Sioux Falls, PDC Barbara McKean

District 4 - February 19, 2023, at 2:00 in Watertown, Chaplain Russel Dramstad

District 6 - January 15, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Redfield Legion Building, Cmdr Tom Hafner

District 7 - February 19, 2023, at 2:00 pm in Lake Andes, A/Q Anna Arnold

District 10 - January 8, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Rapid City, JVC Glynis Collier



**OFFICIAL:**

*Anna Arnold*

Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW

**BY ORDER OF:**

*Tom Hafner*

Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JANUARY GENERAL ORDERS

2023 has arrived. Hopefully, each of you had a great Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. The winter has been extremely challenging. Please stay connected with our less fortunate and homebound Veterans and families with a phone call or visit.

Our Council of Administration/Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 5 & 6, 2023 at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre. Register as soon as possible. Rooms are blocked off at the Ramkota in Pierre. Registration Form is included in these General Orders.

The Audit, Budget, Legislative & Bylaws Committees are scheduled to meet Sunday morning, followed by the COA Conference in the afternoon. All Committee members are encouraged to attend. If you have input for any of these Committees or the COA contact the appointed members or Department Headquarters. Monday's schedule includes a luncheon and the introduction of each District Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teachers Award winners and the announcement of the State winners in each category. Preceding this ceremony, the students will have the opportunity to visit the State Capital. The Legislative Mixer will be held Monday evening.

The Commander-in-Chief has asked each Post to recruit at least one new member this year. A number of Posts in the Department have not reached that goal. Continue your Recruiting efforts.

**Retention must be at the Top of our calendar for the next few months. Following is an overview of each District's remaining Unpaid Total and of that number the Total Expired Members including the Total Number that will Expire on or before January 31, 2023. District 1 – Total Unpaid (185) / Expired/Expiring 1/31 (77); District 4 – Total Unpaid (110) / Expired/Expiring 1/31 (44); District 6 – Total Unpaid (178) / Expired/Expiring 1/31 (38); District 7 – Total Unpaid (48) / Expired/ Expiring 1/31 (27); District 10 – Total Unpaid (153) / Expired/Expiring 1/31 (94). The numbers tell us that as a Department we have (280) members who have Expired or will Expire on January 31. Our Post Recruiting/Retention Membership Teams should be making every effort to Retain these Comrades. We must take care of these Veterans. Let no one behind.**

**Our Department currently stands at 93.5%. Our next goal is 94% by January 31<sup>st</sup>. As of these General Orders we have twelve Quota Buster Posts (Lemmon-113.04%, Marty-108.33%, Flandreau-107.69%, Parkston-105.95%, Brandon-105.10%, Chamberlain-103.57%, Quinn-103.03%, Newell-102.22%, Gettysburg-101.72%, Burke-101.26%, Wagner-100.79% & Custer-100.71%) and three Posts who have reached their Quota (Belle Fourche, Faith & Huron). Every Post should strive to join this group.**

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

I hope everybody had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

From the 27<sup>th</sup> of January to the 4<sup>th</sup> of February the VFW South Dakota will have a booth at the Black Hills Stock Show. As most of you know, this is a big event, drawing visitors from around the country, this is District 10's Time to Shine. We'll be setting up a schedule for volunteers at the January District 10 meeting.

We also need to start working on our annual members, I would really like to see us at 102% paid by the end of January.

Next year's shirt will be button-down, short or long sleeve-they run about \$30 per shirt but they'll be something you can wear all year. I will need to know what size you need, and long or short-sleeve preference. I will need to know fairly soon so I can get the order in and allow more turnaround time. These shirts will have a VFW logo with Department of South Dakota but will not have a year, date or name on them.

As always, it's an honor to serve as your Senior Vice Commander,

Dave Baumiller

SD Sr Vice

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Greetings Fellow Veterans and Heroes!

December is the month for holiday cheer with family and friends. I hope you enjoy yours.

January 2023 is upon us and we have a new National Commander Challenge which is attached below.

I am keeping these GOs short and sweet. Please continue to do your Buddy checks!

I am here for you if you need anything or have any questions concerning membership. I am here to serve you. Thank You for Everything You Do for Veterans and their Family Members each day! Let's Do This SD VFW! One Team One Fight! Happy New Year!

Very Respectfully,

Glynis Collier

Jr. Vice CDR

DEPT of SD VFW

[dakpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:dakpatriot@gmail.com)

Cell #803-466-7031



## COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

**Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of January 2023!**



**As we enter a new year, we challenge all of our VFW Posts to make a resolution to increase our membership numbers!**

For this month's Commander's Challenge, we are focusing on increasing our total membership to reach the goal of 102%+ this year!

For the month of January, we will be tracking all Posts' membership increase through the month: New members, Renewing members, Reinstated members, all increases will count for this contest!



**At the end of January, the Post that leads each membership division will receive \$1000 deposited into the Post account!**

**Let's get out there to recruit new members, retain our existing members, and bring lapsed members back into the fold! It's time to start the new year off strong because**

**EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!**

This contest will count the Post's total membership from January 1st through close of business January 31st. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.



## South Dakota Legislative Committee Member Report December 2022

During this holiday season, I would like to thank you for your service to our country and for keeping us safe. May this beautiful holiday season wrap you in the warmth and love from all those you hold dear. And as we celebrate the holidays this year, know that you will always be near and in our hearts and prayers. I pray you enjoy a holiday filled with happiness and safety.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and may your New Year be BRIGHT!**

**Last Chance for Congress to Support Veterans this Year:** The Senate must pass this critically needed legislation before the end of the 117th Congress. Contact your senators today and tell them to pass [H.R. 1361](#), *Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act*, known as the *AUTO for Veterans Act*; [H.R. 1836](#), *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021*; [H.R. 6411](#), *Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great Veterans Act of 2022*, known as the *STRONG Veterans Act of 2022*; and [S. 2513](#), *Brian Neuman Department of Veterans Affairs Clothing Allowance Improvement Act of 2021*.

The VFW urges the Senate to finish the job on veteran's legislation this year. Our veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for these benefits.

**Background:** The Senate must pass this critically needed legislation before the end of the 117th Congress. The House has done its part, and now the Senate must finish the job.

[H.R. 1361](#), *Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act*, also known as the *AUTO for Veterans Act*, would ease the financial burden of the most severely disabled veterans.

[H.R. 1836](#), *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021*, is a long overdue resolution to the countless members of the Guard and Reserve who serve on active duty orders for periods of time shorter than the ninety-day requirement to receive GI Bill eligibility.

[H.R. 6411](#), *Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great Veterans Act of 2022*, or the *STRONG Veterans Act of 2022*, would authorize pilot programs, expanded mental health care, studies and research, outreach to veterans regarding mental health resources, and update training provided by VA for their workforce and Veterans Crisis Line staff.

[S. 2513](#), *Brian Neuman Department of Veterans Affairs Clothing Allowance Improvement Act of 2021*, would allow for the commonsense renewal of this allowance, easing the administrative burden on both VA and veterans in need.

The VFW urges the Senate to finish the job on veteran's legislation this year. Our veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for these benefits.

**Take Action:** Contact your senators **today** and tell them to pass H.R. 1361 / H.R. 1836 / H.R. 6411 / S. 2513.

Go to: <https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly> just complete your information below and a letter will automatically be sent to our SD Senators.

### Compose Your Message

- End of 2022 Action Alert

**Subject**

**Message Body**

I urgently write as your constituent to ask you to support the passage of H.R. 1361 / H.R. 1836 / H.R. 6411 / S. 2513.

**Enter Your Info**

**Your Information**

    
  
 Send me text alerts  

**Home Information**

  
  
  
 Send me email alerts  
 Remember me

**Send Message**

v/r,  
Barbara McKean  
National Legislative Representative – South Dakota



Greetings Comrades,

I hope you all had a good holiday and were able to spend time with family.

I would like to start out with thanking Cody for all he has done for the VFW and Veterans in the state. I would also like to thank him for supporting me for the position of Department Service Officer and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Let me give you a little background on myself. I started my military career on active duty with the Marine Corps. After which, I transitioned into the Marine Corps Reserve in Omaha while attending college. I then had a break in service and returned later by joining the Army Reserve. With my retirement in May, it will be a combined service of 29 years. Currently I work for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs as a Field Veterans Service Officer. My area covers the southeast portion of the state. I look forward to serving as the Department Service Officer and hope to meet as many of you as I can. Each month I will be putting out things that we are seeing in claims along with pointers to assist in the process. If there are any questions outside of that, I can always be reached at my e-mail or phone.

PACT Act claims are now being processed. Some of the questions we are getting are, how long will it take and what will the back date be? Let Veterans know that even though the VA has hired additional staff, they have already received over 175,000 claims. Please remember, if you have a terminally ill Veteran, note that on the claim as they will be pushed to the front of the line. Claims that are submitted within the first year and approved will be back dated to the date that the PACT Act was signed.

Respectfully,

David Huntimer  
Department Service Officer  
Email: [David.huntimer@state.sd.us](mailto:David.huntimer@state.sd.us)  
Cell: 605-400-9005

**Medical Equipment Inventory - Davison County Veterans Service Office  
5 December 2022**

1 wheelchair ramp  
 1 wheelchair lift  
 9 seat cushions  
 1 specialized wheelchair  
 5 motorized wheelchairs  
 3 wheelchairs - regular size seat  
 1 wheelchair - regular size seat with cane holder  
 4 wheelchair - large seat  
 1 hinged knee brace  
 2 sets calf anti-embolism pumps  
 3 walkers with seats  
 1 stand up walker with seat  
 10 fold-up walkers  
 1 non-folding walker  
 1 pair Canadian crutches  
 3 pairs aluminum crutches  
 2 shower chairs  
 1 shower chair with bench  
 2 commodes  
 2 trays with cup holders  
 1 toilet riser  
 1 toilet riser with handles  
 2 metal baskets for mobile devices  
 6 cases promotional bags

3 bar stools                      1 over-sized chair with ottoman  
 1 bookcase                      1 red leather recliner

# DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Location: Moose Lodge  
910 N Deadwood St, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532  
Date: February 5 & 6, 2023  
Time: February 5 at 10:00 pm

## Agenda Items

<b>Sunday, February 5</b>	10: 00 am Registration Open	Moose Lodge
<b>10:00 pm – 4:30 pm</b>	10:00 am Committee Meetings Start (Audit, Budget, Legislative, and Bylaws) (Lunch on your own)  1:00 pm Council of Administration (Business attire)	
<b>5:30 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	Soup and Sandwich Social Hour- Free will Donation goes to support the Commander / President Special Project (Jeans and VFW Polo attire)	Moose Lodge
<b>Monday, February 6</b>	If needed, COA Meeting continued. If not, on your own until noon.	Moose Lodge
<b>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	Department Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners meet at Moose Lodge for tour of the Capital Building and Governor Noem. (Business Attire)	
<b>12:00 pm – 2:00 pm</b>	Department Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year luncheon and awards presentation (Included in Registration)	Moose Lodge
<b>5:30 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	Legislative Mixer with Politicians (light hors d'oeuvres) (Included in Registration)	Moose Lodge

## Additional information

Legislation priorities