

General Orders

OCTOBER 2023



BIG TEN CONFERENCE

BIG TEN

The Big Ten Conference will take place in Itaska, IL October 20-22, 2023. If you would like to register, contact QM/ADJ Anna for more information.

FALL COUNCIL

HOMECOMING

The Department will be hosting the Fall Council / Homecoming October 6-8, 2023 at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center. If you would like to attend, please contact Anna at 605-332-7441 or anna@vfwdeptsd.com asap.

INSPECTIONS

POST & DISTRICTS

All Posts and Districts are asked to help the Inspections by making sure all Post books, records, and minutes are available at the time of Inspection. Please instruct the Post Trustees to comply with Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure "Trustees".



COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

Please report your Community Service through the Department Dashboard. This can be found online at www.vfwsd.org > Login > Members Only > Community Service Reporting. Your Members ID = VFW Member Number, and Password = Last Name with the first letter capitalized.

Americanism

All Posts should be sponsoring vigorous Americanism and Patriotic activities to make strong, direct, and Patriotic impact in our schools or the general public. Patriotic leadership in our communities is important.

Have you considered implementing a program to stop old and tattered US Flags from being flown by informing your community they can leave old Flags at your Post for proper disposal?

www.vfwsd.org



VETERANS DAY

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11

Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Have you started organizing your Veterans Day Program yet? Now is the time!

November 11, 2023 is Veterans Day. According to the Manual of Procedure, Sec. 223 - Commemorative Dates, every Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Veterans Day.

www.vfwsd.org

If you would like to send a submission for the General Orders, please send to Anna at anna@vfweptsd.com no later than the 25th of every month.

VOD / PP / TEACHERS AWARDS

PROGRAMS

At this time, all Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher's Awards program material should be in the possession of the Posts and schools.

Contact your local schools and make certain the contest is underway. All entries should be at the Post no later than October 31st. The Posts will make the necessary judging happen online via the Scholar's App no later than November 31st. Please watch the training videos and pass the information along to all Chairman and Judges for your VOD/PP program www.vfwsd.org

Contact Department VOD / PP / Teachers Award Chair Jerry Seiner at jerry.seiner@hotmail.com

Phase 1 training video for VOD/PP: https://scholarsapp-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/24YLGrOzYo_GgGVDIrielMvgneZmPn7ofviLpALoWfWYI-FG1iQG0P0FU0B2fP3en3DuMzKQJ9_cnAiVOiCB9R-Ca33g0V5ydT5_7DNqNMdZ6qwD-IKVuN81ZAB0A40s_UmndlnkEUpcCoB0ChzasA6ukE5wnBqbGOICdHOSgVU4AtNqxxSpnKJU

Phase 2 training video for VOD/PP: https://scholarsapp-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/2NFcgDzp66_2G9ftXfhKld9rYsX_d8V57-AglguzFBo98m-bdigEDRHTsw-H2q0SMQtzLk1YsRg2qG57tnRSnEf7z1xTvKbVbsZ1IAUix8R3dm8zXuPdqd1oa8HWsLkYNhawm_JbyF4r8HwN3tGhLplyZ5Ajt4Eqve8HG2p_LTe5VNH9aVBFjw0hfThgU5xqu9LvJ7tsgErnat3aWTL6XDz6ZkiP6RQb19ZW5N3ql6gQYyaUPtB2ZBTuJ5IZyAf-3SEDa1NNTt_6Tmk0Le2o54xK9OA7SWPHkPpBbLXXB9SmN9G54x59eEFD9TcQwpgguwtVMkkBvWyluhSevrfFDssEH1KcCa6_AaDvwmfMihnBF5VMPn6NoC4NS4NRh0UGGCNP0eKBOo4DPM_qZE2KXXjN_cUoauSIOK5hRyV25XR9te3bYj20yQ2wjkgTajvLJ_ZZpAU



Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT of the year are due to the Department Headquarters by January 1, 2024. Please contact the Chairmen, Glynis Collier at dakpatriot@gmail.com

When sending a voucher to the Department, all receipts need to be attached in order to be reimbursed for the full amount.



OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Dave Baumiller

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders

Post Revitalization

If you know of a post that needs help, please let me know so I can go help them personally if needed. It's everybody in the VFW's duty to help our fellow veterans, make sure that they do not get suspended or lose their charter. We do not need any more people on the at-large list.

A recruiting even in Huron SD paid off-we have 9 new members for District 6. Thanks to Glynis Collier, Tom Hafner, Richard Jacobson and Anna Arnold for helping me get my program off the ground. The Stock Show in Rapid City is next--get ready District 10!

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Fall Council October 6-8, 2023.

I had the privilege of attending the Pierre Post 2038 Community Service/Membership Drive on Aug 19, 2023. We had a Cornhole Tournament to raise money for PARS our Food Pantry.

On September 16th, I had the honor of attending the Miller VFW Post Bingo game and had a great time at his post fundraiser.

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!

//Original Signed//
Very Respectfully,
Glynis Collier
Sr. Vice CDR
DEPT of SD VFW
dakpatriot@gmail.com
Cell #803-466-7031

Thousands of veterans and current military service members may be entitled to receive compensation in the 3M earplug lawsuit. 3M agreed to pay \$6.01 billion to settle lawsuits filed by U.S. service members and veterans who suffered hearing injuries to include hearing loss and tinnitus as a result of using the company's earplugs. From 1999 to 2015, 3M manufactured, marketed and sold its Combat Arms Earplugs, Version 2 (CAEv2) with a design defect which hampered their effectiveness.

Approximately 240,000 veterans filed lawsuits against 3M, making the 3M Combat Arms Earplug Products Liability Litigation the largest mass tort multidistrict litigation in U.S. history. The settlement comes after 3M failed to move the lawsuits into bankruptcy court in hope of limiting its liability.

“This settlement is a tremendous outcome for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who put their lives on the line for our freedom,” said Duane Sarmiento, VFW national commander. “For those who came home with hearing damage due to 3M’s faulty earplugs, this is not only compensation, it’s a statement that their sacrifices won’t be ignored.”

In February, VFW filed an Amicus Curiae brief to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in support of claimants seeking relief from 3M for defective ear protection. 3M had tried to shift the blame to its subsidiary Aearo Technologies, who it said was responsible for the defective earplugs and who had filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, to avoid paying claimants. The bankruptcy appeal is being held in abeyance pending finalization of the settlement.

More information about the settlement is available at 3m-earplugsettlement.com.

Rob Harrington

State Judge Advocate

Surgeon General Orders

October 2023

Fall is now here with winter following shortly. We need to ensure that we are prepared for the upcoming cold.

I encourage all posts to reach out and help those veterans in need to ensure their house is ready for winter. I also encourage posts to take veterans to appointments to get vaccinations before winter. It is better to reach out and not be needed than not reaching out at all.

I have been attending the VA stakeholder meetings. They are trying hard to get more into community outreach. There are many programs out there that can be utilized. The adaptive sports program is a great way to have an opportunity to do events and activities you did not think you could do. They are also looking at going back to getting physical check for benefits for those who are not good with electronic banking.

I encourage all to continue to take advantage of what the VA has to offer. There are many great programs out there to assist our veterans.

I hope everyone has a safe and health fall.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Department of SD Surgeon

This membership year has started strong, and we want to keep that momentum going! To encourage long-term success, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has issued a special challenge to all our VFW Posts to increase our Life Membership during October!



Throughout the month of October, the Commander-in-Chief has challenged us to build a stable and strong membership foundation for the future, and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through Life Membership.

The Post in each membership division that has the most New, Reinstated, and Upgraded Life and Life Installment members during October will receive a \$500 cash award plus a CIC Medallion set!

This challenge will count any VFW member who either pays the full amount for a Life membership or who makes the initial \$45 payment and enters into the Automatic Payment Plan to make Installment payments for a Life membership during the month of October 2023.

Remember that when processing a member online for the Installment Plan, they **MUST** check their email and click the link to complete their entry into the Automatic Payment Plan! Without that, their upgrade cannot be processed!

When we talk about the strength of our membership, our Life Members are a solid part of establishing that membership base. When they make a commitment to the VFW for Life, it helps our ranks grow and encourages everyone to join them and

MEET THE CHALLENGE!



**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES

How a VFW Post interacts with its community determines the relevancy of the VFW. Someone once said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” The VFW and its Auxiliary’s ability to impact veterans, youth, political issues, patriotism, civic pride, volunteerism and almost anything you can name, is directly dependent upon our Posts being recognized as caring and involved participants in their communities.

It is our goal that this guide will provide ideas to aid Posts as they develop and expand the kind of reputation that will benefit their community and themselves. The impact on the community is immeasurable. The benefit to the Post is new members, more effective fundraising, greater participation in events and tremendous goodwill. The Post is, for most Americans, the only thing they know about the VFW. It’s up to us to make sure our communities have a favorable opinion of our great organization and our veterans.

Definition of Community Service – The National Community Service Trust Act defines community service: “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.” Community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions.” Since 1899, community service has been a cornerstone of the VFW and reporting the millions of hours our members spend each year is important. It not only helps us ensure proper recognition for our members, but it helps showcase to the public our hard work and dedication.



Reporting – For the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service hours must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As it is the intent of VFW community service to impact a broad spectrum of the local community, the work must also be performed for an organization outside of the VFW and its Auxiliary, and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization. In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary should not be considered as community service. This kind of effort could be maintenance, upkeep, or beautification of the Post home, cooking or serving a meal for a Post fund raiser, or working on bingo night. Please keep in mind that efforts that are part of the normal requirements of a Post or Auxiliary would not be considered community service. Examples of this include , but are not limited to, flying the American flag or the POW flag, conducting flag retirement programs, placing flags on graves, hosting bingo, Post dinners, “Buddy”[®] Poppy drives, or anything that only benefits the Post. A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: They are not performed for the community at large; and they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW.

The community service year is July 1 - June 30 annually. Events should be reported 365 days a year and not weekly, monthly, or quarterly. This will be prevent forgetting the specific details of what events happened. All events should be reported online through VFW Department (state) online reporting websites or through the VFW Programs Dashboard Tool for those Departments who do not have an online solution. Lastly, do not forget that Posts can – and are highly encouraged – to report their Auxiliary community service events also. However, this is not mandatory because the Auxiliary has their own community service report which will only be submitted at the Post level.

Value of a Volunteer Hour – Volunteers in the United States hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of volunteer work they do, they contribute in invaluable ways. According to its Value of Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector, together with the Do-Good Institute, announced in April 2023, that the latest value of a volunteer hour is \$31.80, which is an increase from \$29.95 from last year.

Value of a Mile – You may already be familiar with the standard mileage rate for business. Every year the IRS issues standard mileage rates for business, medical and moving purposes, and charity. The rate for mileage in service or charitable organizations remains the same at \$0.14 per mile.

Total Impact – When figuring the total impact of your community service event, you must calculate the money spent on hosting and organizing the event, plus total hours all participating volunteers spent executing the event, plus the mileage for all volunteers who participated. This equals the total impact for the event, and when added up throughout the year can provide the Post’s annual community service total impact.

\$ + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact

Ways to Support Your Community – In many cases, the brainstorming process of planning community service can be the most difficult. We've compiled a list of both good and non-qualifying events in an effort to help you plan the perfect community event.

Examples of Good Community Service

- Assisting of veterans within the community
- Scholarships to youth
- Sponsoring of youth teams
- VA hospital work on behalf of the VFW
- Blood drives
- Legislative town halls
- Care packages for troops, homeless etc.
- Register to Vote campaigns
- Food Bank support
- Building of ramps for disabled veterans
- Hosting job fairs
- Visiting VA Homes & nursing facilities
- Community Clean Up activities
- Natural Disaster Relief support
- Clothing Drives
- Donations to civic organizations within the community that align with our values

Examples of Non-Qualified Community Service Events

- Flying the U.S. Flag
- Flying the POW Flag
- Post dinners
- Bingo
- Paid VFW Service Officer work
- Personal efforts of a member volunteering at a church or other nonprofit organizations
- Buddy Poppy Drives
- Membership Drives
- Anything that directly benefits the Post
- Reciting the pledge of allegiance at a Post meeting
- Charging, renting or loaning the Post hall to their Auxiliary or Cootie Pup-Tent

Please note: These lists are not all inclusive but rather a frame of reference of what is good to host and report versus what events should not be reported.

Attention:

**Members attending the Big 10
Conference in Itasca, Illinois:**

- **It is customary for the Big 10 President to provide a luncheon for National President and Officers, Conference Officers and Department Presidents etc. on the Friday of the Fall Conference Meeting.**
- **All attending South Dakota VFW Auxiliary members and VFW members are welcome to come to my room around 1:30pm on October 20, 2023.**
- **To be notified of my room number, Wanda Mix is starting a group text or call her at 605-690-0170.**
- **Anyone who can donate a pan of bars to serve as dessert during the Luncheon, please notify Sandy Meisenheimer at 605-690-7638.**
- **FYI – on the Big 10 Conference Facebook page is the agenda, transportation options to and from airport and information from Event Auxiliary Chairman Cheryl.**
- **If you have any questions, call me at 605-690-0283.**

Thank you – Big 10 President Vickie Rosse



SERGEANT COLTON LEVI DERR
FOUNDATION

WE CAN • WE WILL • NEVER QUIT

2023 GALLANTLY FORWARD GALA

SATURDAY, 21 OCTOBER @ 5 PM • THE MONUMENT (LACROIX HALL) RAPID CITY, SD

Dear Patron:

We cordially invite you to our 10th annual 'Gallantly Forward Gala' on Saturday, 21 October 2023, at The Monument in Rapid City. Please join us as we unite to raise awareness about our warriors' profound challenges: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

The gala event will feature a social hour, dinner, program, silent/live auctions, and engaging music by the Starfellows (2 Brothers -1 Piano). We have the privilege of hosting former U.S. Army Sergeant Corey Culy, who will courageously share his journey of war, the difficulties encountered upon returning home, and his relentless battle with PTSD. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with event ceremonies kicking off at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. If you can't attend, we ask that you consider sponsoring a veteran in your absence or donate an item for the silent/live auctions.

Sergeant Colton Levi Derr battled the hidden enemy of PTSD and fell to suicide on April 28, 2012. During his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, Colton completed over 500 combat missions. His military leadership nicknamed him 'Delta Derr' because they had never seen a tougher soldier. Sentiments shared by his soldiers recognized him as a leader, mentor, and brother to all. Though he battled PTSD during his final deployment, Colton kept the struggle to himself and appeared dauntless to his brothers.

It's intolerable that 20+ veterans fall to suicide every day. Founded in 2012, SCLDF is steadfast in our three-fold mission: Veteran Advocacy, Assistance, and Public Awareness of the battles our heroes face when they come home. Remember, the battle does not end when the war ends. Please join the fight and support our warriors.

Very respectfully,

Haley Austin Derr
President



PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US TO DONATE AUCTION ITEMS, PURCHASE TICKETS,
OR DISCUSS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE • BUY FOR VETERANS IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND!

Call 605.545.2505 *Web* SERGEANTDERRFOUNDATION.ORG
Email GALLANTLYFORWARD@SERGEANTDERRFOUNDATION.ORG

518 6TH ST • STE 2 RAPID CITY, SD • 57701

501(C) 3 NON-PROFIT / TAX ID: 46-1256122



GALLANTLY FORWARD

2023 GALA



SATURDAY
21 OCTOBER
THE MONUMENT

LACROIX HALL

DOORS • 5PM
TICKETS \$35

BUY FOR VETERANS IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND!

SOCIAL ★ MUSIC ★ DINNER ★ PROGRAM ★ SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
#PTSD #LISTEN #BATTLEBUDDY

GET YOUR TICKET TO
SUPPORT OUR HEROES



CALL OR GO ONLINE 605.545.2505
SERGEANTDERRFOUNDATION.ORG

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