

# General Orders

SEPTEMBER 2023



## FALL COUNCIL

### HOMECOMING

Fall Council is October 6 - 8, 2023 in Oacoma, SD at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center. Please plan to attend or send a representative of your Post for special training, to include Post Veteran Service Officers.

## POW / MIA DAY

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The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September each year. September 15<sup>th</sup>, please take the time to remember those who were POWs and those MIA, as well as their families.

## PATRIOT DAY

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September 11<sup>th</sup> is National Patriot Day, and the US Flag is to be flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset to remember the victims of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania.



## BIG TEN CONFERENCE

The Big Ten Conference will be held in Itaska, IL October 20-22, 2023. If you would like to attend, registration forms can be found at [Events - VFW Dept of Illinois \(vfwil.org\)](https://www.vfwil.org)

## VOD / PP / Teachers Award

All entries for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Awards should be submitted to the Post level no later than October 31, 2023. All questions should be directed to Chairmen, Jerry Seiner, [jerry.seiner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry.seiner@hotmail.com) or 605-481-1338. VOD/PP must use the Scholar's App for entries.

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)



## DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL DUES

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

The total sent to the Department is \$8.00 and National is \$21.50. This means, any amount charged at the Post level above \$29.50, is considered the Post Dues.

All Post, District, and Department Officers who have not paid their VFW membership dues for the Command Year are expected to pay their dues immediately, thereby setting a good example for other members.

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)

If you wish to publish something in the **General Orders**, please have it to Anna by the **25<sup>th</sup>** of every month. Please send in a **Microsoft Word** document format to [anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com).

## ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

### DEPARTMENT DASHBOARD

For those reporting online with the Department Dashboard system and are having a hard time, please call Anna at the Department office 605-332-7441 or email [anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com).

The Department is still no longer accepting the old Community Service and Hospital & Safety Reports. Everything is on the Department website and should be utilized. All paper forms turned in at the State office will not be used for All-State or All-American entries.

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)

*Together, we can do great things!*

**District Fall Meetings - District Commanders, please schedule visits for Post Inspections at this time.**

Dist 1, 9/24, Post #4726 Brandon - Anna Arnold

Dist 4, 10/15, Post #750 Watertown - Dave Baumiller

Dist 6, 10/1, Post #1776 Huron - Glynis Collier and Dave Baumiller

Dist 7, 9/24, Post #3298 Parkston - Doc Christensen and Dave Baumiller

Dist 10, 9/10, Post #2730 Sturgis at Memorial Park -Anna Arnold and Dave Baumiller

All Posts are encouraged to publish a Post publication of some type to be entered into the contest at the end of the Command Year. There are 2 different categories that are judged, Category 1, Publications of 5 or more during the Command Year and Category 2, 4 or less Publications during the Command Year. The POC for this is Allan Ochsner, State Inspector.

**DESECRATION OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG** - Any member who has knowledge of any acts of desecration to the flag of the United States of America is asked to report the same to the State Commander or Department Headquarters.

**\*\*\*\*Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Try contacting your local Chamber of Commerce or another Organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day!\*\*\*\***



**OFFICIAL:**

**BY ORDER OF:**



*Anna Arnold*

Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW

*Dave Baumiller*

Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW



I wish every Post was run as well as Custer Post seems to be run. This last weekend I broke down between Hill City and Custer. Past Commander Bill Barlow rescued me, spent numerous hours and miles getting me into Custer, back to my bike and back to Custer in one piece, where we had a great dinner at the Post. He wanted to know if he could put that on his community service report—I told him absolutely “yes”!!

The Rally’s over with the camping at Memorial Park run perfectly at the hand of DD Couch and everyone who volunteered their time out there.

There are a bunch of membership drives going on throughout the state. I’m headed to Huron for 5 days at the State fair—we’ll have a booth there with a membership program going on, stop by if you’re at the fair.

District 10 will have a district meeting at Memorial Park October 10<sup>th</sup>. This will also be a dedication for the new benches in the memory of Pat O’Neill, Keith Bloom and Jake Dell. If you can attend please do so.

I just spent an hour and a half with Loni Potts training 5807’s Quartermaster to use the Dashboard. What a great job he did, starting with someone who knew little about computers and when he was done with her, she actually knows how to do it on her own. That’s what it takes, it’s going to take a lot of patience and good training from a lot of good people.

All line officers need to pay attention to notices of special COA Zoom meetings. Please take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to attend.

I will be in Huron for 5 days on a membership drive, stop by the booth and see us

Thank you for your support and trust,

South Dakota State Commander,

Dave Baumiller

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

I have spent this past month gearing up for our ensuing year and our Fall Homecoming Oct. 6-8, 2023.

I had the privilege of attending the Chislic Festival in Freeman SD. on July 29, 2023 and signed up two annual members. I also had a great chat with Representative Dusty Johnson when he stopped by the VFW Booth to say hello and thank us **ALL** for what **We** have done for our country!

On August 21<sup>st</sup> I had the honor of attending the Miller Post #3214 monthly meeting and I am happy to report they are working hard to revamp their post and are excited to begin a Bingo game on select Saturday nights in the coming year. Their first Bingo game will be held Sept. 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm. They will play 20 games and cards are \$5.00 each and are good for all 20 games.

September is ripe with Membership opportunities with the State Fair being held Aug 31-Sep 4, 2023. District 6 has a booth at the fair and I will be there recruiting members Aug 31& Sep 1, 2023. Please come and join us if you are able.

Also, be sure to hold membership drives in your hometown Fall Festivals!

I hope our fall season brings you all blessings!

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](mailto:dakpatriot@gmail.com)

Cell #803-466-7031

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## VOD/PP/Teacher Award

Welcome to the new VOD/PP Scholarship App! If you haven't watched your training video yet, you need to do that as soon as possible. It explains the program procedures and really helps understand how the Scholars App works so you are knowledgeable when you talk to your schools.

Each District Commander should have contacted all of their posts and forwarded the training video to the post chairman. After watching the video, posts should be contacting their schools. District Commanders, please keep in touch with your post chairman and encourage them to participate in this year's contest. VOD and PP are a requirement for All-State and All-American status.

The next training video will be out soon and will have instructions for judging. Judging will begin after October 31, which is the deadline for entering essays, so you have plenty of time to contact your schools and get them involved in our contest.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Department Chairman, Jerry Seiner or Department Adjutant, Anna Arnold. We are here to assist you and help make your program successful.

With school starting, you should be thinking about your Teacher of the Year nomination. Anyone can submit an application. It does NOT have to be school administrators only who nominate someone. Every single member knows someone in the teaching profession. Teachers have had it rough the last few years. It is time our state acknowledges the hard work of what these educators do every day, every month, year after year to educate our youth.

Every Post should have at least one entry. This is a requirement for the All-American and All-State Programs. Entries need to be submitted by December 1, 2023 to Department Chairman, Jerry Seiner.

Jerry Seiner  
VOD/PP Dept Chairman  
[jerry.seiner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry.seiner@hotmail.com)  
605-481-1338