

General Orders

AUGUST 2023



AUDIT REPORTS

QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Post Commanders, please ensure the Audits are turned in to the Department office. A Commander is not allowed to appoint an acting Trustee to fill in for a Trustee who is not present to sign an Audit.

QUARTERMASTER BONDS

BONDING

Quartermasters are required per Section 703, page 39 of the Bylaws to be bonded. The current bonds expire August 31, 2023. The rates are \$4.50 for \$3,000 to \$25,000, \$3.50 for \$26,000 to \$250,000, \$3.00 for \$251,000 to \$500,000, \$2.75 for \$501,000 to \$600,000 per thousand.

STATE FAIR

SD STATE FAIR

The Department VFW will have their own tent, table, and recruiting efforts at the State Fair in the same space as last year. If you would like to volunteer, contact Commander, Dave Baumiller at 605-593-3389



COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

The online website for the South Dakota Dashboard is up and running. All community service is to be reported online. Log in to www.vfwsd.org > Login > Members Only > Member ID# = Member number and Password = Last Name with first letter capitalized.

If you have any problems or need help, please contact Anna Arnold at the Department office 605-332-7441.

VOD / PP

Commanders, please make sure you have appointed a Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen for the 2023-2024 Command Year. We will be using the Scholar's App website for the students and chairpersons from the Post all the way to National. The Department Chairperson is Jerry Seiner. Jerry.seiner@hotmail.com or 605-481-1338.

www.vfwsd.org



FALL COUNCIL / HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

Fall Council is scheduled for October 6-8, 2023 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Oacoma, SD. The room rates are \$99 per night. Please make your reservation as soon as possible.

The registration form will be in the back of these General Orders. You can also find them online at www.vfwsd.org > News > Fall Council Registration 2023

www.vfwsd.org

Post Chaplains are reminded to forward deceased names to Post Quartermasters for proper reporting online to National.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Members are reminded that the Big Ten Conference will be held in Itaska, IL at the Westin Chicago Northwest October 20-22, 2023. You are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

If you would like to attend the Big Ten Conference, please look in the back of these General Orders

www.vfwsd.org

Baseball Fans! Check out the SD VFW Baseball Website or Department Facebook Event Page for upcoming Tournaments!

District Fall Meetings

- District 1 - September 24, 2023, at 2 pm in Brandon Post #4726
- District 4 - October 15, 2023, at 2 pm in Watertown Post #750
- District 6 - October 1, 2023, at 1 pm in Huron Post #1776
- District 7 - September 24, 2023, at Legion Building in Parkston #3298
- District 10 - September 10, 2023, at 11:00 am meeting and Dedication of Benches at 1 pm followed by District Picnic

ATTENTION: IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE NATIONAL BYLAWS THAT ARE BEING PRINTED RIGHT NOW, PLEASE CONTACT ANNA AT THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE 605-332-7441 OR ANNA@VFWDEPTSD.COM

******We will order no more than 1 copy per Post******

Membership Hot Tip: When looking at MemStats for your records, the "Prior Year" column is how many members your Post or District had on June 30, 2023. That is the amount of people you need to have on your Roster to have 100% on June 30, 2024.



OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold
Quartermaster/ Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

BY ORDER OF:

Dave Baumiller
Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars



GOs

I'm at the 124th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, and yes, it's very hot here, around 118 degrees. Thanks to all the South Dakota members who attended, we had perfect attendance scores for almost the entire conference. There's a lot of new stuff coming out.

Our new National Commander and Chief is Duane Sarmiento. Duane thinks out of the box and promises he is going to have a lot of new Challenges for us. I also think out of the box, and we will be doing things this year that we've never done before. The way we've always done things will not work anymore. Patriot Pen and VOD are two great examples. We will get all the District Commanders on board with the program, then work on the Post level. Then the Posts need to educate the local teachers so they can educate the kids on how to use the system.

We will be starting the zoom meetings I promised. Next month I want all District Commanders to visit as many posts as you can, I'd like to see as much participation as possible on these zoom calls. I'd like to know what is needed to have everyone feel successful. This is the part where the rubber meets the road, don't be afraid to ask questions, YOU are the boss. If I can't give you an immediate answer, I'll work until I find one.

I need everyone to submit a list of all recruiting events for South Dakota as soon as possible so we can put together a schedule and make sure every event is successful. Thank you for your support and trust,

South Dakota State Commander,

Dave Baumiller

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

I have spent this past month downloading important documentation regarding our state offices and preparing for the VFW National Convention. The convention will be completed by the time you receive these GOs. The VFW National HQ office is offering training for Post Commanders and QMs this year. I plan on attending both of those trainings in order to bring valuable information about how National will be conducting business this year upon my return. I am doing this in order to create a bridge of communication between National HQ and our posts across SD **through** our State ADJ/QM office. I believe that if we are all operating according to National HQ and our State ADJ/QM with the correct information and using clear communication channels, we will be successful in supporting CDR Baumiller's directives this coming year.

As always, my duties as the Senior Vice Cdr are to be supportive of the State Commander and each member of our SD VFW Family. I intend to do my job within the 150% standard ranking. Hooah!

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!

Very Respectfully,

Glynis Collier
Sr. Vice CDR
DEPT of SD VFW
dakpatriot@gmail.com
Cell #803-466-7031

August General Orders from Jr. Vice Commander:

20 July 2023

Greetings!

Our main goal this year will be to support membership. Currently we have 6,058 members so we'll need another 1,356 members to achieve 102%+1. There are 933 members whose dues are expiring. Therefore, if we can get these annual dues paid, that leaves 423 members left to recruit. This seems like a large number, but remember, this is across the entire state. To accomplish the recruiting, we can work with the District Commanders and Posts that have recruiting events arranged in their area or town. Lonny Potts sent out a list of potential members who were expired or at-large that could be brought back into the Posts. Thanks, Lonny!

I'll be working on Life Membership, Scouting, and Youth Activities.

I'll be attending the National Convention in Arizona and will be looking for ideas to support our Department and membership.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.
Martin Christensen, Jr Vice Commander, Department SD

August 2023 Surgeon Report

The heat of summer is upon us. Make sure you are taking care of yourselves and each other. It does not take long to overdo it in this heat. Heat injuries can be severe and come quickly if you are not staying hydrated and taking a break.

I attended the VHA/VBA stakeholders meeting. One topic that was discussed was Adaptive Sports. There are many local and national programs available. They provide Veterans with opportunities for health and healing through adaptive sports. Here is the link for more information:
<https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/> .

Rick Vanden Hoek
Surgeon

Greetings Comrades,

As I write this out, we are finishing up the National Convention in Phoenix AZ. This is the first National Convention I have attended, and it did not disappoint. There have been numerous informative seminars and classes along with some great speakers. The responses and donations to the VFW programs have been amazing. Try to support some of the great business in your area that help support these programs. I am confident that our great organization will have another good year going forward.

The PACT Act deadline will hit August 9th. If you have not already filed a PACT Act claim and you have eligible conditions, you need to get your claim filed or do an Intent to File by August 9th to preserve an effective date of August 9th, 2022. If you file an Intent to File before the deadline, it will preserve the date for PACT Act covered conditions but not for non-PACT Act conditions. Those conditions would be effective as of the date of the ITF. If you miss the deadline, you can still file, you just lose the effective date of the PACT Act signing. Due to the increase of incoming claims, the VA has hired to fill a lot of new positions throughout the US. This will hopefully speed up the wait times on many of these claims.

If you have not yet registered on the Toxic Exposure web site, please make sure to do so. The directions from the VA are as follows: Log into your eBenefits account > Under the main menu, select Manage Health > You will go to a Manage Your Health Care Benefits screen > Scroll down the page until you reach the Health Studies section > Select Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Once you are logged in, it only takes a few minutes to complete the registry.

We are currently representing approximately 15,500 VFW members, helping them with claims, educational assistance, and numerous other benefits. Those members receive a combined total of approximately \$7.5 million dollars a month. If you have any questions about benefits, please contact me or any accredited Veteran's Service Officer.

Respectfully,
David Huntimer
Department Service Officer
Email: David.huntimer@state.sd.us
Office: 605-333-6869

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen

Most schools will be starting in August so now is the time to talk to your teachers and administrators about our VOD/PP contests.

We are experiencing big changes in the contest with the switch to the Scholar's App. You will need to register with Scholar's App to administer your post program. You should have received your poster with the QR Code for each contest. The QR Code will be used by the students to submit their recordings and essays. Once they are submitted, they will show up in your Scholar's App account so that is why it is important for you to get your post registered.

Scholar's App has promised that we would be receiving information by August 1. You should receive a training video as well as other information.

We need to work from the top down so District VOD/PP Chairmen need to get registered on the app and learn as much as you can about the process so you can help your posts. Anna and I are always available to answer questions or give help where needed so don't be afraid to call, text or email.

Jerry Seiner
Chairman, VOD/PP
605-481-1338
Jerry.seiner@hotmail.com

Christmas Wreath Project.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am Bob Willey from Gettysburg, SD. I am currently chairman of the board, of the South Dakota Trucking Association, serving a two-year term. I have been an active board member for twenty-five years.

The SDTA has a project this year to raise funds to support Wreaths across America. SDTA has committed to the purchase of 5000 Christmas wreaths, to be placed at the Black Hills National cemetery and the South Dakota Veterans cemetery in December. Each wreath cost \$17.50. Any funds received in excess of the 5000-wreath cost will be forwarded to Wreaths across America to be used on final resting places in Arlington National cemetery.

I would like to provide the opportunity for individuals, and organizations to donate to this worthy project. If you or your VFW Post would like to help with our Christmas Wreath project, a check can be made out to the South Dakota Trucking Association and mailed to either of the following addresses.

Bob Willey
1001 E. Garfield Ave.
Gettysburg, SD 57442

South Dakota Trucking Association
3801 S. Kiwanis Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Thank You for your support.

SDTA chairman

Bob Willey

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing his first challenge to all our Posts to get a strong start to membership growth and to move us toward our goal of 102% for this membership year!

This membership year is already off to a strong start, and the Commander-in-Chief wants to keep that momentum going. To do that, he's set out the first of his membership challenges this year to encourage Posts to raise their membership numbers.

For this month's challenge, we're going to continue focusing on membership growth and see how many members a Post can bring in during the month of August. New members, renewing members, and reinstated members, as well as dues-paying transfers will all count towards this contest goal.

The Post in each membership division that shows the highest increase in their membership total will win a \$500 cash award and a framed citation for the Post!

This contest will specifically count Annual members; since Life Members will not show up in your Post's totals until September, they will not factor into this month's contest.

Membership is a continual process through the year, and it's always the right time to bring in new members, make sure your Annual members renew or convert to Life, and work those Unpaid/Expired lists to bring members back into the fold.

The goal for this year is 102%, and with hard work we know that it is within our reach. This is going to be the year that we show exceptional growth because this will be the year everyone will go out and

MEET THE CHALLENGE!

MEET THE CHALLENGE

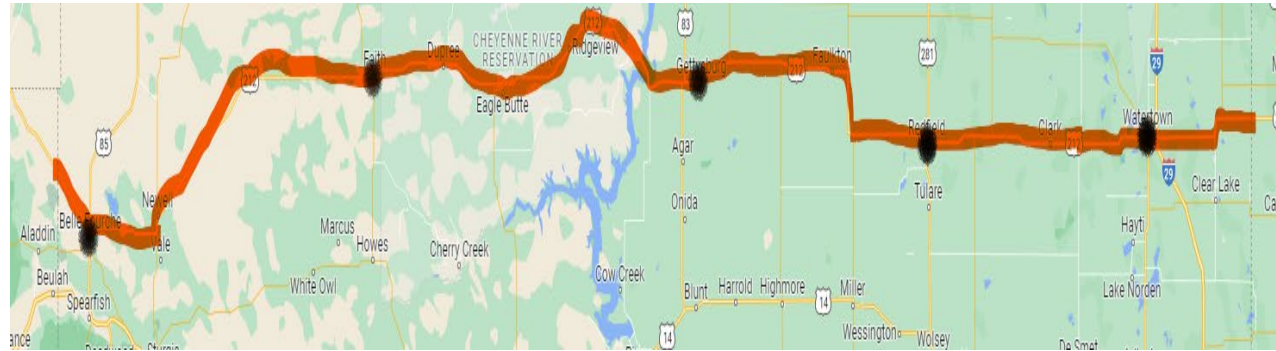


2023-2024

South Dakota Ride for Military Mental Health and Veteran Suicide Awareness

Sept 11-17-2023

- Please join me, fellow veterans, and military and veterans support organizations in open conversation focused on how we can provide better support for our communities Military Members, and Veterans.
- There are approximately 65,000 Service members and veterans in South Dakota. In 2022, South Dakota ranked 8th in the nation for death by suicide. There are ways we can build a community of care and support for our nation's heroes, who selflessly gave of themselves for the preservation of our freedoms.
- Please join in raising our voices across South Dakota.



Watertown	Sept-11	5PM	McKinley Park
Redfield	Sept-12	5PM	City/Packard Park
Gettysburg	Sept-13	5PM	City Park
Faith	Sept-15	12PM	City Park
Bell Fourche	Sept-16	5PM	Museum

Contact Isaac Full 817-701-6707, or ifull@pheasantsforever.org for more details.





FALL COUNCIL HOMECOMING REGISTRATION

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
1500 Shoreline Dr, Oacoma, SD 57365 605-234-6376

October 6-8, 2023

Advance Registration \$105

Registration after September 8, 2023 \$125

(Includes breaks, Saturday Lunch & Banquet)

\$35 for Banquet ticket only

Room Rates \$99/night

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

VFW OR AUX: _____ POST: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Make Payable to:
Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104