

General Orders

MARCH 2023



MEMBERSHIP QUOTA

MARCH MEMBERSHIP

All State and District Officers are asked to assist Posts in membership. If your Post has not had a membership team working, now is the time to help organize and join in on the recruiting of members.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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Post Donations to the Special Olympics Fund are requested to help with the 2023 Special Olympics Program. Please be generous and donate to the Department Headquarters. Thank you to those Posts who have already donated.

STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 15-18, 2023

The 2023 Department Convention will be held June 15-18, 2023, in Mitchell, SD hosted by Post #2750.

To make reservations at the Kelly Inn, please say you are with the VFW State Convention, or they will NOT release a room to you.

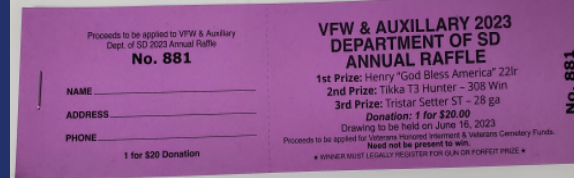


POST ELECTIONS

Attention is called to Section 217, page 72 & 73, Manual of Procedure, Nomination Election, Installation of Officers and Term of Office. Posts will conduct the Election of Officer in accordance with the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Post Officers shall be nominated by March and shall be elected in April. Nominations shall remain open until the Post is ready to vote.

Commander/President Raffle

The Commander Project for 2023 is a raffle for Veterans Honorary Interment or VHI. VHI founder Paul Redfield, a resident of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home, conceived this project in 1999. Veterans Honored Interment (VHI) is the result of his vision of providing an honorable and dignified burial vessels for fellow veterans and their spouses.



PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY

MEMORIAL DAY

The Peace Officer Memorial Day will be held on Monday May 15th, 2023. The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast until noon on this day.

Memorial Day is on Monday May 29th, 2023. Each Post shall properly observe commemorative dates as prescribed in the Ritual and Manual of Procedure. Please plan a suitable observance in your community. Place American Flags at the gravesites of departed Comrades of your Post and Veterans of your Community. Please report this event when finished on the State Dashboard.

Any Post, District, or member can submit information to the General Orders. Please send to the Department office NLT than the 25th of the month.

CONVENTION ADS

PROGRAM BOOKLETS

All Posts, Districts, Candidates for Department Office, and any others are reminded that the deadline for Ads in the 2023 Convention Booklet is due by May 30, 2023.

Ads need to be in camera ready or submitted in digital format to the Department office at anna@vfwdeptsd.com. The information will be attached at the back of the General Orders.

Or go to www.vfwsd.org > Resources > State Convention > 2023 Convention Ads

Buddy Poppy: Post Commanders, please appoint a 2023 buddy poppy Chairperson and forward the name to Department Headquarters. Reminder, all Buddy Poppy orders need to be made by April 30, 2023, to count in All State Post ratings.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District #1: April 23, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Beresford

District # 4: TBD

District # 6: April 16, 2023, at 1 pm in Huron

District # 7: April 2, 2023, at 2 pm in Mitchell

District # 10: April 16, 2023, at 10 am





Installation of Officers: Attention is called to Section 217, page 73, The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting.

Side note: On the 1st of June, if you have not submitted your Election Report, you will receive a letter from the Commander-In-Chief suspending your Post. At such time, the Department Commander will issue a follow-up letter and establish a committee to oversee Post business. All Post business must be overseen by the established Committee which includes any meetings, disposition of property, financial transactions, etc. PLEASE submit your Election Reports in a timely manner. March - Nominate, April - Elections, May - Installation, June - take office when Department Commander does.

National Citations: To qualify for the National Citations that are presented at the Department Convention, Posts must have reported projects in each of the following programs: Youth, Safety, Community Service and Citizenship Education (Americanism). This information needs to be reported on the State Dashboard for National by May 1, 2023.



OFFICIAL:

Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Tom Hafner

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY STATE WINNERS

First Place: Jennifer Barnet, District 7, Post 7319, Wagner

Second Place: Arianna Weston, District 4, Post 3351, Flandreau

Third Place: Emily J. Knodel, District 1, Post 791, Yankton

Fourth Place: Danielle N. Valentine, District 10, Post 5860, Spearfish

Fifth Place: Grace C. Sargent, District 6, Post 2038, Pierre

PATRIOT'S PEN STATE WINNERS

First Place: Derek L. Johnson, District 6, Post 6481, Turton

Second Place: Killian T. Kummer, District 7, Post 3298, Parkston

Third Place: Vera M. Loecker, District 1, Post 791, Yankton

Fourth Place: Brooklyn G. Wilson, District 4, Post 2638, Madison

Fifth Place: Leanna Shumpert, District 10, Post 9120, Custer

TEACHER OF THE YEAR STATE WINNERS

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Patrick Belling, District 7, Post 7319, Wagner

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Grace Steinley, District 10, Post 2730, Sturgis

High School Teacher of the Year: Lenni Billberg, District 1, Post 3160, Vermillion

Congratulations to all the winners!!!

To listen to each of the Department winners, click on the link below:

https://heroes.vfw.org/page/121013/action/1?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=2023VODEmail1&utm_content=2023+VOD+Winners+Email+1&ea.url.id=6280234&forwarded=true

Any Comrade interested in placing their name in nomination for any of these Offices should contact Department Headquarters.

HATS IN THE RING 2023-2024

- Commander - David Baumiller
- Senior Vice Commander - Glynis Collier
- Junior Vice Commander - Dr. Martin Christensen
- Quartermaster - Anna Arnold
- Chaplain - Russel Dramstad
- Judge Advocate - Robert Harrington
- Surgeon - Rick VandenHoek
- Inspector - Allan Ochsner

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE POSTS WHO CRUSHED COMMANDER TOM'S FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!

<u>POST</u>	<u>% AS OF JANUARY 31</u>	<u>% AS OF MARCH 1</u>	<u>FULL % GAIN</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
628	94.01%	95.06%	1%	\$10
791	95.45%	98.05%	2%	\$20
3061	90.90%	93.50%	2%	\$20
3164	94.33%	96.22%	1%	\$10
4726	106.56%	108.75%	2%	\$20
750	94.46%	96.20%	1%	\$10
2638	90.06%	91.39%	1%	\$10
3507	93.10%	94.82%	1%	\$10
4690	93.40%	95.60%	2%	\$20
17	75.46%	84.26%	8%	\$50
5126	95.83%	97.91%	2%	\$20
5548	87.50%	93.75%	6%	\$50
2966	90.62%	92.18%	1%	\$10
3239	80.64%	90.32%	9%	\$50
6554	98.21%	100.00%	1%	\$10
1273	98.03%	100.65%	2%	\$20
2969	113.04%	121.73%	8%	\$50
5960	84.55%	86.02%	1%	\$10
5969	97.21%	98.80%	1%	\$10

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
MARCH GENERAL ORDERS

ANOTHER REMINDER - ATTENTION FEMALE VETERANS. A Stand Up for Women Veterans Retreat sponsored by Community Action for Veterans (CAV) is scheduled for ***MARCH 11TH*** in Sioux Falls. Contact PDC Barbara McKean for additional information. Districts and Posts are asked to reach out to their female Veterans.

Our District (TBD), Department (June 15-18, Mitchell) and National (July 22-27, Phoenix, AZ) Conventions are fast approaching. Your attendance at your District and Department Conventions at a minimum are vital to the survival of the VFW. Consider accepting a Leadership position in your Post, District or at the Department level. Commanders insure you register your Delegates in-accordance-with National and Department Bylaws.

As a Department we completed a highly successful Council of Administration/Legislative Conference in Ft. Pierre. Issues discussed included Legislative matters and Proposed Amendments to the Department Bylaws. The Department is to be congratulated for the quality of Students participating in our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Programs. Awards were presented to the VOD and Patriots Pen winners from each District during the noon banquet. The State Voice of Democracy winner will be traveling to Washington DC the first week in March and to Valley Forge in early summer to be recognized for her achievements and accept her awards. All three Teachers representing our State were truly worthy and gave excellent "From the Heart" acceptance speeches. Thank you to Chairman Jerry Seiner and his Committee for their outstanding service and dedication. The Conference concluded with a Legislative mixer, which was attended by more than twenty-five Legislators and their staff. Several of the attendees were newly elected and very enthused concerning Veterans issues. The VFW and Auxiliary were well represented.

As a Department we are at 97%+ in membership and need 207 members to reach our Quota. Retaining our Unpaid and Expired members is a top priority. The Department has 506 Unpaid and Expired members on our roster. Do not let them fall through the cracks.

I will continue to publish Posts who have met their Quota or are Quota Busters as they deserve recognition for their achievements. As of these General Orders we have sixteen Quota Buster Posts (Lemmon-121.73%, Brandon-108.75%, Marty-108.33%, Flandreau-107.69%, Parkston-105.95%, Chamberlain-103.57%, Quinn-103.03%, Belle Fourche-102.70%, Mitchell-102.66%, Newell-102.22%, Huron-101.93%, Custer-101.91%, Gettysburg-101.72%, Burke-101.26%, Wagner-100.79%, & Rapid City-100.52%) and three

Posts who have reached their Quota (Beresford, Faith & Plankinton). Thank you for your outstanding efforts.

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 // 605-661-2750

General Orders

Our membership drive at the Stock Show in Rapid City was a great success and Glynnis's booth at an Ag event in Pierre was also a great success. I want to thank Glynnis Collier, Dwight Griffee, Bill Barlow, Derek Besler, Ole, Bucky Means, Kris Fenton, Cat, Will Hoffman (State VSO) and everyone else who made the event a fun recruiting success.

Our Department does not do enough recruiting due to a lack of funding, the Department's budget needs to reflect the importance of recruiting.

The Department, Districts and Posts need to step out of the "Box" and do more creative recruiting in order to keep moving the VFW forward. Next year may be exceptionally difficult as the amnesty provisions will likely go away.

Remember, we're stronger in numbers

As always, it's a pleasure to service as your Senior Vice Commander,

Dave Baumiller

South Dakota VFW Riders

Dwight Griffiee (West) is challenging Rick Vandenhoeck (East) to a pancake breakfast fund raiser, everybody wins (though one side will get bragging rights!)

VFW Riders Chairman,

Dave Baumiller

Greetings Fellow Veterans and Heroes!

February has been a very successful month! We continue to flourish in membership and are maintaining our progression in the VFW nation. I had the opportunity to attend the Membership Drive at the Rapid City Stock Show for 3 days and learned a great deal from my time spent speaking to fellow Veterans.

I also attended the a District 6 Membership and Buddy Poppy Drive at the Ramkota in Pierre February 25-26, 2023 and Post 2038 gained 1 life member, 1 annual member and two solid prospect members.

March, April and May are coming soon and are full of Membership Gain Opportunities. I urge you all to take every advantage at increasing our position in Membership in the VFW Nation!

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!

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

Pierre Post 2038 Hosted a District 6 Membership and Buddy Poppy Drive Feb 25-26, 2023! We gained 1 Life Member and 1 Annual Member and raised \$305.00 in Free will donations for our Relief Fund! Every little bit counts! I want to thank PHR John Fette pictured on the left, Dan Garland 1st pic on the right, Ralph Fisher and Bill Weishedal (not pictured) for being there to help out!

"One Team One Fight".



SD Legislative Committee Member General Order - March 2023

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Click Below for link to legislative bills:

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bills/68>

The VFW National Legislative Priorities are (summary below):





VFW Talking Points 2023 SDLegislative
- March 2023.pdf



Update.doc

1. Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies
The VFW urges Congress to: Pass the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act, known as the GUARD VA Benefits Act. This legislation would reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits.
2. Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide
The VFW urges Congress to: Direct VA to incorporate full veteran benefit usage in its annual suicide prevention report to show the relationship between VA benefits and veterans who die by suicide. The report must contain detailed usage of benefits the same way VA reports on veteran interactions with VHA. Direct VA to move the Office of Suicide Prevention from VHA to the enterprise level at VA. This will allow for study and utilization of all resources from both VHA and VBA to combat veteran suicide. Direct VA to provide utilization reports on community grants for suicide prevention.
3. Retirement and Military Personnel
The VFW urges Congress to: Pass the Major Richard Star Act either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 to enable Chapter 61 retirees who sustained combat-related injuries to receive their vested DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset.

Our annual VFW Legislative Conference was in Pierre, SD on Feb 5-6, 2023. We celebrated our Departments Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners and took them on a tour of the Capital Building and Governor's Mansion. We followed that with a luncheon and awards presentation. We ended this Conference with a Legislative Mixer with our South Dakota Politicians. We had 26 Legislative members show up to our mixer. I discussed all pending bills that had anything to do with veterans or the military. I also briefed Legislative Bills at the District 1 & 7 meetings during February.

I have appointments set up to meet with our Senators and Representative from South Dakota while at the National Legislative Conference in D.C. Mar 6-9th. There will be 4 VFW members attending from South Dakota.

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

Greetings Comrades,

Another month of winter down and hopefully spring will soon be around the corner.

This month I would like to take a moment to discuss what to do once you get your claim decision back from the VA. The first thing to do is sit down with your Service Officer and go through all the forms thoroughly. If a rating was granted, look at the CFR and make sure you received the appropriate rating percentage. This is also a good thing to look at periodically to see if your condition has worsened to the point that you are eligible for an increase to the next percentage level. If you have a condition that was denied, you need to read through the narrative and see what the reason for denial was. Make sure all the evidence that you submitted was considered and that nothing was missed. You may see that there is evidence that you either missed or didn't think was important that you now need to submit to get a favorable decision. Next, make sure the decision made, matches the guidelines in the rules. After you go through the decision and you decide that you do not agree with it, you have several options in appealing it. Appeals need to be submitted within one year of the Notice of Denial to preserve the original ITF/Filing date. Anything after that year would be a supplemental claim with new or relevant evidence and would not preserve the original ITF/Filing date. You have a choice of 3 different lanes in the Appeal Process.

1. Higher Level Review: This is using the same evidence already in the file but having someone at a higher level review the case and make sure that the Rating Officer made the correct decision. This lane has the quickest turnaround time for the decision.
2. Supplemental Claim: You will use this if you have new and relevant evidence to support your claim that was not with the initial filing. This lane is much quicker than an Appeal to the Board but takes slightly longer than a Higher-Level Review.
3. Appeal to the Board: When you appeal to the board, you must select one of the three options.
 - a. Direct Review: The Board will review the evidence in the file and render a decision. This option has about a 365 day turn around.
 - b. Submit Additional Evidence: You have 90 days from filing the Notice of Disagreement to submit additional evidence to the Board for consideration. This evidence must be new and relevant to the case. The turnaround in this option is 1 to 2 years.
 - c. Hearing and New Evidence in front of a BVA Law Judge: In this option, you and your Appeals Service Officer will be scheduled to submit your case along with any new evidence in front of a BVA Law Judge. Most of these cases are now done virtually over the internet. It can be done from your own home, or you may go to your Service Officers office. In this lane, you will not submit any evidence until after your hearing and you will have 90 days to submit. The timeline in this lane can take 3 years or more.

If you ever have any questions about your ratings, reach out to an Accredited Service Officer and go through your decision so that you can make the best decision on the option that will be best for you. Respectfully,

David Huntimer
Department Service Officer
Email: David.huntimer@state.sd.us
Cell: 605-400-9005



The South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary are pleased to announce that the annual VFW & Auxiliary Department Convention will be held in Mitchell, SD June 15-18, 2023. **Our current State Commander hails from Parkston! Please consider donating to this great event!**

Proud to have served overseas in combat area, South Dakota VFW Veterans and their families are excited about offering your business an opportunity to help sponsor this event. The 2023 meeting is anticipated to bring an estimated 150+ visitors to the Mitchell area.

We are looking for area businesses who support Veterans by offering the opportunity to sponsor this event in Mitchell, SD.

- Sponsorship of Friday, June 16, 2023:
 - Hospitality Night at Mitchell VFW Post #2750:
 - \$500.00 and includes a full-page color advertisement in the convention booklet along with a vendor booth at the Convention site (4-H Fairgrounds)
- Sponsorship of Convention lunches:
 - Thursday, Friday or Saturday June 15-18, 2023, lunches:
 - \$300.00 and includes a 1/2 page color advertisement in the convention booklet.
- Sponsorship of meeting breaks:
 - Thursday, Friday or Saturday June 15-18, 2023, meeting breaks:
 - \$200.00 and includes a ¼ page color advertisement in the convention booklet.

❖ **Convention Program Book size is 8 ½" X 11" - Book ad rates are as follows:**

<u>PAGE SIZE</u>	<u>B&W RATE</u>	<u>COLOR RATE</u>
Full Page	\$150.00 B&W	\$200.00
½ Page (8" X 5 1/8")	\$ 75.00 B&W	\$125.00
1/4 Page (3 ¾" X 5 1/8")	\$ 50.00 B&W	\$ 80.00
Business Card	\$ 35.00 B&W	\$ 45.00

****Ads should be formatted as JPEG or into a Microsoft word document to meet printer's request. The ads should be sent electronically via email. Program book questions & ads, contact Anna Arnold, Quartermaster and Adjutant. Email ads to anna@vfwdeptsd.com***

Deadline for ads for Conference Program Book is May 30, 2023, at 4:00 pm CST.

We are also offering the opportunity for businesses to supply promotional material by June 7th, 2023, to be placed in the conference welcome bags for attendees. Please contact Anna at anna@vfwdeptsd.com for more information.

Want to rent a booth at the 4-H Grounds (3200 W Havens Ave. Mitchell, SD) during this convention?

Cost is only \$100.00

Booth is an 8' rectangle table

*****Booth space is first come, first serve. Limited space available*****

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Marty Christensen - 605-933-2220; mchristensen@santel.net

Anna Arnold - 605-332-7441; anna@vfwdeptsd.com

Mail all payment to:

Department of South Dakota VFW

1600 W Russell St, Ste 135

Sioux Falls, SD 57104



OR

Go to the link or QR Code to send payment.

<https://www.trailblz.info/southdakotamilitaryheritagealliance/eventcomplete.aspx?eventid=8>



COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the Month of March 2023 with a Renew & Reinstate idea!

This month, we want to focus on members we continue to lose out the back door. We need to be focused on lapsed members.



What do we mean by focus on lapsed members?

Simple, reach out to those members who joined last year and years before who have let their memberships lapse. Do a buddy check; let them know what we do and why their membership is important. We recommend posts to hit the unpaid and relocated lists, make phone calls and door to door visits if necessary.

The Post in each membership division that renews and reinstates the most members during the month of March will receive a \$500 award deposited into their Post accounts. But that's not all! The Posts who finish in 2nd – 10th place in each division will be put into a drawing for an additional \$500. That's eleven more Posts who can also win some needed cash! Same thing applies if you were to reinstate or renew a comrade for a life membership, it will be counted.

A simple phone call or buddy check will show those that let their membership lapse that the VFW cares. Thank them for their service; let's do our part to show them that

EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!

This contest will count the number of members who are renewed or reinstated between March 1 and March 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.