

# General Orders

NOVEMBER 2023



## AUDIT REPORTS

### AUDIT REPORTS

Another quarter has closed. Posts are reminded that your Post Audit Reports are now due. If you are delinquent in any other quarters, please get them up to date. Send to the Department Headquarters.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### VFW QUARTERLY

### PROGRAMS REPORT

If you have not entered your Community Service on the State Dashboard, please do so. If you are having trouble, please contact QM/ADJ Anna at the Department office. 605-332-7441 or [anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com)

## VETERANS DAY

### NOVEMBER 11TH

Posts are urged to plan and implement a suitable program for Veterans Day. Remember, "No One Does More for Veterans!" Let's honor our brothers and sister by making sure they are celebrated.

After your event, update the Dashboard under Americanism > Veterans Day



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING, COMRADES

I want to wish you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving. Wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of hope this Thanksgiving holiday.

-State Commander, Dave Baumiller and Staff

# Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year

These are a few of our core programs we participate in nationally with the VFW. These programs are great for helping us shape America's future, while instilling a love for our Country and Veterans. We honor the teachers and students who go the extra mile to help make this country as great as it is. Submissions for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen have been closed and are ready for judging. The Department VOD, PP, and Teacher chair is Jerry Seiner. He can be contacted at 605-481-1338 or [jerry.seiner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry.seiner@hotmail.com).

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



## VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM

For the members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, November is Veterans in the Classroom month. Each member is encouraged to volunteer to be presenters in the classroom.

After your event, make sure to update the State Dashboard for your community service to get the credit!

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

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> membership dues reminder notices for 2023 was mailed to unpaid members in October. Post Officers should conduct a membership campaign to follow up on these notices.**

## LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 14 & 15, 2024

The annual Legislative Conference is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2024. All VFW business and events will take place at the Moose Lodge and Ramkota in Ft. Pierre, SD.

Registration and agendas coming soon.

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

**SEND ALL STUBS AND MONEY FOR THE COMMANDER'S RAFFLE TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OFFICE:**

**C/O Anna Arnold**

**1600 W Russell St, Ste 135**

**Sioux Falls, SD 57104**



**OFFICIAL:**



*Anna Arnold*

Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW

**BY ORDER OF:**

*Dave Baumiller*

Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW



## General Orders

Thank you to all of those who came to Fall Council. It was great to see each and every one of you. The training session was some of the best training we have ever had. Thank you to those who participated in giving the trainings, and those who attended. We are always improving and growing. Way to go South Dakota!!!

## Membership

We're doing really well with South Dakota now sitting 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation! Efforts at the State Fair this summer produced seven new life members. I think the Stock Show in Rapid City may become an annual effort, hope to see a real success like it was last year. This year we hit the ground running, which was a great thing, we need 12 more members to get to our required 88%. We have until the end of October so we're working hard on it. (We reached 88% this week but that shouldn't be the end of our efforts!)

We have three new programs—ROTC, Business Man of the Year and Veteran Man of the Year. The forms to sign up are attached to these general orders. Nominations are due by March 1, see below who to submit the forms to for each program. This is a Department-level thing so please get your people in one.

ROTC: Tom Hafner [tbmhafner@santel.net](mailto:tbmhafner@santel.net)

Business Man of the Year: Derek Besler [DDBezz@gmail.com](mailto:DDBezz@gmail.com)

Veteran Man of the Year: Cmdr Dave Baumiller [davebaumiller@gmail.com](mailto:davebaumiller@gmail.com)

First Quarter Dashboard compliance reached 96% --way to go everyone!!

## Big 10 meeting in Itasca IL

We elected new officers for the Big 10 organization. A motion was made to extend the term limits to two years, I made a counter motion to have things remain at one year term to continue an influx of new people, new ideas. My motion was carried by two thirds count.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, it is my honor to do so,

Dave Baumiller, Department Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

I attended Fall Council and am looking forward to seeing you all at the Legislative Conference in Pierre!

I had the privilege of attending the Big Ten Conference and learning more of what it means to be a VFW State Line Officer. I will be visiting Deadwood Post #5969 on November 11, 2023. I was invited to be the Speaker for their Veteran's Day Program. Thank You! I will also stop by the Rapid Post #1273 while I am in the hills to attend a portion of their Veteran's Day Program as well. I am hoping it doesn't snow.

I am serving as the Chairman of VOD/PP for our Pierre Post and this has been challenging to say the least. I hope all of you are able to use your Scholars App.

Please be sure to submit your Veteran's Day Reports to our state QM Anna Arnold and myself via email NLT December 1, 2023.

I would like to extend a special Thank You to Aberdeen Post #17. They held a special event for a National Guard Unit the 740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Unit based out of Aberdeen, SD. I have attached a photo of the key coordinators! PDC Sean Johnson, State Inspector Allan Ochsner and his Spouse Shelley Ochsner pictured below.

Also, be sure to hold membership drives in your home town Holiday Festivals!

I hope our Holiday Season brings you all many 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//  
 Glynis Collier  
 Sr. Vice CDR  
 DEPT of SD VFW  
[dakpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:dakpatriot@gmail.com)  
 Cell #803-466-7031





## Jr. Vice Commander - November General Orders

During the month of October, I attended the Department Fall Conference in Oacoma. I gave a presentation on membership. I also attended the Jr Vice training in Kansas City. Valuable information was obtained. We had a tour of the National Headquarters and met all the department chiefs. The following weekend, I attended the Big 10 Conference in Itasca, Illinois. We participated in the election of the new officers for 2023-24 and voted on by-law changes. My favorite speaker was Al Lipphardt the National Sr Vice Commander.

In membership, we continue to rank 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. We need 14 members to achieve 88%. If you are having a fundraiser or recruiting event, please let me know so that I can assist you with achieving your goals. Our end goal for membership is 102% for the year.

My Post (2750) along with the other service organizations in Mitchell are organizing a program to feature the Battle of the Little Bighorn. We will also be recognizing Veterans of the Year from the VFW Post 2750, American Legion Post 18, DAV Chapter 27 and 40&8. We will have a longer presentation of the battle of the Little Big Horn at the VFW at 2pm that day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

V/R Submitted,  
Martin Christensen, Jr Vice Commander  
Department South Dakota

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## Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Properly implement comprehensive toxic exposure legislation.
- Review and assess military toxic exposures and ensure health care and benefits are provided to all toxic-exposed veterans.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Reinstate pre-decisional review authority for claims representatives prior to final rating decisions.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.

- Crack down on predatory claims providers.
- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation.

## Health Care

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Expand geriatric extended care services, nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.
- Improve VA's prescribing and deprescribing practices.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Ensure Affordable Care Act parity and access for VA and TRICARE users.
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Remember with colder weather arrivings, lets keep an eye on all of our homeless veterans and the elderly.

Rob Harrington

Judge Advocate

## November 2023 General Orders

The weather has cooled down and leaves are falling off the trees. I hope we are all prepared for winter. If you need assistance getting your house ready, please reach out to your posts for assistance. Now is also the time to get winter emergency kits in your vehicles. You do not want to get caught on the road unprepared. Here are some things a person should keep in their vehicle with winter coming up:

1. Flashlight and extra batteries
2. Bag of Cat litter
3. Snow Shovel
4. Jumper Cables
5. Water
6. Blanket
7. Cell Phone Charger
8. Snacks (granola bars, dried fruit, beef Jerky)
9. Matches
10. Tool Kit and first aid kit
11. Extra clothes/blankets

I attended this October's VHA/VBA stakeholder's meeting VIA Teams. Pact Act claims are still being tracked and processed. Over 1.1 million claims have been filed nationally. Veterans may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development and job skills coaching through the VA. Other services may assist Veterans and Servicemembers start their own business. Members can visit the regional office to learn more or apply for VR&E benefits. Here is a link to learn more: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>.

The new COVID vaccines are available at the VA along with Flu shots. The RSV vaccine is coming but no specific timeline on when they will receive it. Veterans must speak with their Primary Care provider to discuss receiving the RSV vaccine.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Department Surgeon

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Greetings from the Department Chairman for VOD, PP and Teacher of the Year. As you read this, we are now past the date for submission of essays to the Scholars App. I know this was frustrating for many of you but we have all successfully completed the first hurdle of our mission.

Now we move on to the second step, judging. Post Chairmen, If you haven't watched the Judging Training Video, you need to do that as soon as possible. It will explain the process in detail. If you don't have the video, contact either myself or Anna and we will provide it. The same with any questions you may have, please contact either of us and we will get you an answer.

The deadline for post judging is November 15. Please have your winners selected and entered into the District contest by that date. I will need the District judging to be completed by December 1. It would be very helpful if the District Commanders would email me the name of their District Chairman so I can contact them and offer assistance.

I have to applaud the teachers in our schools for stepping up and working with us on this years contest. It was a big change for them too. Many of the teachers have been proactive and taken over the entire program. I would like to thank them and remind you that many of these teachers are deserving of a nomination for our Teacher of the Year Award.



I have received very few Teacher of the Year Award nominations. I realize we have been focused on the VOD/PP entries so now that we are nearing the completion of that program, please take time to nominate a deserving teacher from your schools. Anyone can nominate a teacher, it doesn't have to come from the school administration. I would like to have those entries by December 1. To attain All American status, a post must have at least one candidate for each of the three areas, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Award.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and hard work on this year's contest. Your willingness to learn was exceptional and for those who weren't technologically advanced, you found someone in your post or school who was. This shows me that although most of us do not like change, we accept it and persevere.

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VFW Comrades,

Thank you to all who have been making community service entries on the state dashboard! It looks so much better with all the green blocks. Quarter 1, Jul-Sept, we have had **96%** Post Participation, and I am still working with 2 more posts, because 100% is the goal. We all do a fantastic job in our communities and it shows. Just making the entry seems to be the hard part.

Again, my main focus is helping anyone with the community service entries, and please be aware we need entries in this the second quarter also. There have been many questions as to what is and what is not community service. Look at it this way, normal post business does not apply, but helping others does need to be entered. All donations are community service. Please remember its one entry for one event or action.

Thank you,

Aide-de-Camp

Lonny

An excerpt from the community service chairpersons guide, available on the National website.

Definition of Community Service Community Service as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act "encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community."

Elsewhere, community service is further defined as "a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. subscribes to the above but adds that, for the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and must be performed for an organization outside the VFW and its

Auxiliaries and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization. As it is the intent of VFW community service to impact a broad spectrum of the local community.

In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary's benefit should not be considered as community service. An example of this kind of effort would be maintenance, upkeep or beautification of the Post home, cooking or serving a meal for a Post fund raiser or working on bingo night. Additionally, efforts that are part of the normal requirements of a Post or Auxiliary would not be considered community service. Examples of this would be flying the American Flag, POW Flag, conducting Flag retirement programs, placing flags on graves, building memorials, bingo, Post dinners, Buddy Poppy drives, or anything that only benefits the Post.

## REGARDING THE YELLOW CARDS OR EMAILS FROM PCI EVERYONE IS GETTING, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

### Frequently Asked Questions by Members

**1. I received an email/postcard/phone call from a company asking for my personal information and a story about Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. Tell me more about the project.**

We have partnered with PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) to produce an Oral History Publication for Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. PCI is a family owned business based in Dallas, TX that has published directories for educational institutions, fraternities, sororities, and military organizations across the nation for over 100 years. This project allows us to hear about your personal experiences from your time at Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and how the organization helped to shape your life since then. And, while we have you on the phone, we want to make sure your contact information is up to date.

**2. Does Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars benefit from this at all?**

Yes, in a few different ways:

- Updated Information – allows us to effectively communicate with and engage members
- Legacy – sharing and collecting stories preserves the history of our organization
- Revenue (if applicable) – generates non-dues revenue for member programs
- Pride – wearing apparel shows support and love for our organization

**3. How do I know my information will only be used for Oral History Project purposes?**

PCI is committed to protecting your information. The names, addresses and information provided to PCI for the publication of the Oral History Project will be held confidential by PCI, except to the extent that they are utilized in, or in the preparation of, the Oral History Project and except as required by court order or law.

**4. I would like to verify or update my information and share a story. How may I do this?**

- If you have received a postcard or an email with a telephone number, you may call the number to speak with a dedicated representative for the Oral History Project. The representative will verify the information we have on

file for you, make any updates where needed, and then ask you to share your story about your time at Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. Your story will be recorded and the sound clip provided to Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars at the conclusion of the project.

- If you have received an email with an embedded link, you may go to the online site to review your information and submit a story.
- If you did not receive a postcard or email, you may call the dedicated Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars update line at **1-866-558-6495**.
- If you are living internationally or are unable to call the update line, please email [customerservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:customerservice@publishingconcepts.com). PCI will send you a personalized link for you to share your written story and photo.

#### **5. How can I participate if I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing?**

If you would like to participate and are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, please email [customerservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:customerservice@publishingconcepts.com). PCI will send you a personalized link for you to share your written story and photo.

#### **6. Can I choose what information prints in the publication?**

The only information that is included in the publication is your name, highest rank, and branch of service, along with your story and photo. No contact information is printed. When you call to update your contact information, it will only be used to update your member record for the organization. You may revoke consent for your story and/or photo to appear any time before **March 29, 2024**, by contacting PCI's customer service helpdesk at 1-800-982-1590 / [customerservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:customerservice@publishingconcepts.com).

#### **7. I updated my information but need some more time to think about what experience to share.**

You can call back at any time before **March 29, 2024**, to share your story.

#### **8. I shared a story and the representative said I could send a photo. How do I do this?**

You will receive an email with a link to upload one photo (black and white or color) plus a caption.

If you have also purchased a book but do not have an email address on file, you will be sent a photo mailer to send a physical photo in to be printed (note: the photo will be returned if you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

#### **9. Can anyone purchase a book?**

The Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars Oral History Publication is available for sale only to Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars members.

#### **10. When will I receive my book?**

The total duration of the Oral History Project is about 12 months. Since we began the project in **late September of 2023**, the books will be distributed in **October of 2024**.

#### **11. I ordered a book / package over the phone and would like to cancel my order. How do I do this?**

Contact PCI's customer service helpdesk at 1-800-982-1590 and they will take care of this for you.