

General Orders

JANUARY 2024



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Conference is in Pierre on January 21 & 22, 2024

LOYALTY DAY

LOYALTY DAY

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2024 Loyalty Day Chairperson and forward the name of that individual to the Department office.

BUDDY POPPY

CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2024 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward the name of that individual to the Department office. All orders should be in by April 15th, 2024 in order to make All-American.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the VFW may have expired on December 31, 2023. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the continuous members as soon as possible. "Any Officer removed for by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post Office in the same administrative year."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing you a Happy New Year, bursting with fulfilling and exciting opportunities. And remember, if opportunity doesn't knock, build a new door!



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

AGENDA

Attached to the back of the General Orders is the tentative agenda for the Legislative Conference and registration. If you have any questions, please contact the Department office. 605-332-7441 or email Anna at anna@vfwdeptsd.com

IRS FORM 990:

All posts with a tax exemption status are advised that they must answer all questions on the IRS FORM 990. Submitting a copy of the Post Financial Statement in lieu of answering the questions will not be accepted. The IRS will return your form and you will be considered not in compliance. Report must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year.

SENDING IN MATERIAL FOR THE GENERAL ORDERS

ANYONE CAN PUBLISH INPUT

All Department Officers, State Chairpersons, and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit material to Department Headquarters by no later than the 25th of each month preceding the publication of the General Orders.

The Department wants YOU to submit items to the General Orders!

Mid-Winter District Meetings and the Department Representative

District 1 - January 28, 2024, 1:00 pm, Sioux Falls, Post #628 - JVC Doc Christensen

District 4 - January 7, 2024, 2:00 pm, Watertown Post#750 - SVC Glynis Collier

District 6 - Zoom meeting January 14, 2023, 2:00 pm, - CMDR Dave Baumiller

District 7 - February 18, 2024, 2:00 pm, Armour #6897 - QM/ADJ Anna Arnold

District 10 - January 28, 2024, 1:00 pm, Rapid City #173 - CMDR Dave Baumiller

Brandon VFW Post 4726 will host a **FREE** Benefits information event on March 16, 2024, from 1-4pm. The Post is located at 321 S Main Ave, Brandon, SD. This event is for **ALL** Veterans and spouses. The event is casual, and the Lounge will be open. Speakers will include Veterans Service Officer Dave Huntimer. Dave will explain and provide answers to the Veterans Claim Process, eligibility, and the applications process, to include the Veterans Evaluation Services. Also speaking will be Veterans Benefits Administration Representative. They will present information concerning the rating and evaluation process used by the Veterans Administration to assign your rating. The event will conclude with Tamara Slocum. Tamara will provide options to Tri Care for Life benefits at age 65 and above in relation to Humana and Medicare.

OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Dave Baumiller

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



I hope everybody's had a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Looking back on 2023, so far with community service first quarter we were at 98%. Second quarter so far we are at 94%. Those of you not recording your community service might want to think about getting it done this helps the State of South Dakota VFW.

Membership

So far 2023 South Dakota is 13th in the nation, we have 70 new members. We are currently rated at 91.38%. I'd like to see us in the top 10, but we have a long way to go to get 102%. We have six Posts that have reached 102%: Post 3351, Post 8530, Post 2750, Post 7319, Post 2969 and Post 3442. We have four Posts at 100%: Post 5126, Post 1353, Post 6436 and Post 5751.

I will be at the Stock Show the end of January and part of February for a membership drive—this is District 10's time to shine. We will also be selling raffle tickets to benefit the homeless veterans organizations in South Dakota as well as the South Dakota Service Dogs. If you have tickets, please get out there and get them sold!

Thank you for your support,

Dave Baumiller, State Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

December has been a joyous month!

I had the privilege of attending the Day County Coyote Hunt in Grenville, SD December 7-11, 2023. I ate Aunt Sandy's yummy treats, washed many dishes, collected raffle tickets, helped with set up and tear down of the event and I WON a Ruger Rifle!!!! There's nothing like adding to your defense arsenal during the holiday season!

I was blessed to spend the Christmas Holiday with my family in Faulkton, SD. It was a great two and a half days of laughter, joy and love.

January will be a busy month for me. I will attend the District 4 Winter Meeting on January 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm in Watertown, SD. I will attend the Legislative Conference on January 21-22, 2024 in Pierre, SD. I will attend the Rapid City Stock Show Membership Drive on January 25-27, 2024 and the District 1 Winter Meeting on January 28, 2024 in Sioux Falls, SD at 1:00 pm.

***Reminder!** I am the EMT/Firefighter/Police Officer State Chairman and will be accepting nominations until January 1, 2024 at 11:59 hours central time via email. They **will not** be accepted after that date and time via email. My email address is below in the signature block. If you do not have computer capability, you can mail them to me at: 105 S Euclid Ave, STE. A-1, Pierre, SD 57501. They must be stamped and posted NLT January 2, 2024. The post office is closed on January 1, 2024 in observance of New Years Day.

The applications can be found on the SD VFW state website. Please be sure to email our State QM Anna Arnold the applications at the same time you email them to me.

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

I hope our New Year brings you all many blessings and amazing Membership acquisitions!

I am here for you if you need anything or have any questions concerning your needs. 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

JANUARY 2024 GENERAL ORDERS

MARTIN CHRISTENSEN

I'M HOPING YOU ALL HAD A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024. MEMBERSHIP FOR THE DEPT IS 6626/7268 - 91.16 %. WE NEED 790 MEMBERS TO REACH 102%. DISTRICT 1 IS AT 1598/1813-88.14 % . DISTRICT 4 IS AT 1094/1164 - 93.98%. DISTRICT 6 IS AT 886/1058 - 83.74 %. DISTRICT 7 IS AT 900/920 - 97.82%. DISTRICT 10 IS AT 1845/1982- 93%.---KEEP RECRUITING !

I WILL BE DOING RAFFELS FOR DISTRICT 7, COMMANDER DAVE AND PRESIDENT PAM. I WILL ALSO INCLUDE RECRUITING IN MY EFFORTS AT COUNTY FAIR IN MITCHELL, SD.

CINDY AND I HAVE MADE VISITS TO POST 626 IN SIOUX FALLS AND 1273 IN RAPID CITY. WE WERE WELL RECEIVED AND LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING THEM BOTH TO TAKE MORE INVOLVEMNT WITH THE LEADERSHIP ROLES AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING ON 21-22 JAN 2024 IN PIERRE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DOC MARTIN CHRISTENSEN

JR VICE, DEPT OF SD

WASHINGTON – On Dec. 15, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) joins a grateful nation in remembering the end of the Iraq War, taking time to honor the service and sacrifice of the veterans of the conflict, and paying tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against terror.

On Dec. 15, 12 years ago, then-General Lloyd J. Austin III cased the colors of the U.S. Forces - Iraq, officially marking the end of Operation New Dawn. The ceremony was a significant milestone for America's military operations in the Middle East, which, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, wrapped up eight years, eight months and 26 days of persistent conflict in the country of Iraq. The combined toll of casualties from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn far exceeded that of the much longer and more widespread Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 1.5 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines deployed to Iraq between March 20, 2003, and Dec. 18, 2011. More than 32,000 U.S. service members were wounded in action in Iraq and its surrounding area, and 4,486 made the ultimate sacrifice, a total almost double the number of lives lost worldwide in the Global War on Terrorism. On Dec. 18, 2011, the last convoy of American troops left Iraq and more than 21 years after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait, it seemed as though our nation could finally shift our focus away from Iraq. However, it only took three years before we were sending the U.S. military back to the country to combat the terror group ISIS through the still-ongoing Operation Inherent Resolve.

Please join the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary in honoring the veterans of the Iraq War and remembering those still deployed to the region.

Hope everyone will have a wonderful 2024.

Rob Harrington

Dept Judge Advocate

January Surgeon General Orders

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone had the opportunity to spend some time with friends and family during this Holiday season.

The VA Stakeholder's meeting this month talked about adaptive accessories for vehicles. The VA does provide the means to adapt your vehicle to your needs. There needs to be an exam to verify that you need adaptive means. There are many different options available and not necessarily only

for wheelchairs. Another change to this, it is not a once in a lifetime benefit anymore. Please contact the VA if you feel that you might qualify for this or benefit from this see if you are eligible.

Winter has now shown that it is here. Some parts of the state have seen more bad weather than others. There are few things you should think about now that we have seen some snow. First, make sure that your vents are clear of snow. Blocked vents can cause carbon monoxide build up inside your house. Second, if your gutters fill up with ice, make sure it does not dam up on your roof. This was a big issue last year that can cause roof damage and leaks. Third, watch out for ice on driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots. Slips and falls are not good for any of us.

I know I talk about this all the time, but reach out for help if you cannot do it you cannot do it yourself. Every post has members that are willing to help. If they cannot help, they will probably know someone who can assist.

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy 2024.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Department Surgeon

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

Thanks to all of the post and district chairman for the effort you put into this years VOD/PP/Teacher of the Year contests. Even though we were thrown into the Scholars App program and had many obstacles to overcome, we succeeded. With the knowledge gained this year, we will be ready for 2024.

All districts had entries in the VOD and PP contests. 25 posts participated in either one or both of the contests.

Placings for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests will be announced at the Department Legislative Conference on January 21-22, 2024 at the AmericInn in Pierre.

Voice of Democracy winners by District:

District 1, Beresford, Post #2975 – Ella Merriman
District 4, Milbank, Post #3486 – Connor Wick
District 6, Eureka, Post #5126 – Evelyn Ernst
District 7, Scotland, Post #2966 – Patience Stalwart
District 10, Custer, Post #3442 – Lexi Brandt

Patriot's Pen Winners by District:

District 1, Vermillion, Post #3061 – Ellie Holdhusen
District 4, Madison, Post #2638 – Brenna Wagner
District 6, Aberdeen, Post #17 – Jett Reagan
District 7, Winner, Post #4674 – Benjamin Vandembark
District 10, Belle Fourche, Post #3312 – Dante White

The 2022/2023 Teacher of the Year contest had 18 entries from 16 posts. This years winners were:

Grade Level K-5 winner was Tim Heil, Post 2969, Lemon, SD
Grade Level 6-8 winner was Alexis Quail, Post 5860, Spearfish, SD
Grade Level 9-12 winner was Susan Farrell-Poncelet, Post 2750, Mitchell, SD

Happy new year, VFW! This month, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing a challenge to our Posts to bring in new members - but wait, there's more! Because this challenge isn't just for the Posts, Departments can benefit as well!



It's a new year, and we want to see New members joining the VFW! So for the month of January, the Post in each membership division that brings in the most New members (Annual and/or Life) will receive a \$500 award deposited into the Post account!

In addition, for every Post that leads their division, their Department will also receive a \$500 award. We want to see our Department leadership motivating everyone and helping our Posts recruit!

This challenge will count New members who join the Post between January 1 and January 31. As a reminder, a New member is a veteran who has never been a member of the VFW before - we all know eligible veterans who haven't yet made the decision to become a member of the VFW, now is the time to bring them on board and make them a part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars!

There is no better time than now to help grow our ranks and help us meet the Commander-in-Chief's goal of 102% membership by the end of the year!

Communication is key to building a strong VFW, both with leadership providing encouragement and motivation and with each and every one of us going out, recruiting new veterans into the VFW, and showing that we can

MEET THE CHALLENGE!

This contest will count all New members processed into the Post between January 1 and January 31, 2024. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.