

# General Orders

MARCH 2024



## 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 2024 Special Olympics Program. Please be generous and donate to the Department Headquarters. Thank you to those Posts who have already donated.

## STATE CONVENTION

### JUNE 7-9, 2024

The 2024 Department Convention will be held June 7-9, 2024, in Spearfish, SD hosted by Post #5860.

**To make reservations at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, please say you are with the VFW State Convention.**



## 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 2024 is a raffle for SD Service Dogs, which our very own Sr Vice Commander, Glynis Collier, has generously donated one of her puppies to. This non-profit is centered on helping with training and finding Veterans to match with Service Dogs.



## PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY

### MEMORIAL DAY

The Peace Officer Memorial Day will be held on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast until noon on this day.

Memorial Day is on Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

*Registrations for State Convention coming soon! In the meantime, please reserve your rooms at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish, SD at 605-642-4683 305 N 27<sup>th</sup> St, Spearfish, SD 57783 June 7-9, 2024.*

**Buddy Poppy: Post Commanders, Reminder, all Buddy Poppy orders need to be made by April 30, 2024, to count in All State Post ratings.**

## **SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

District #1: April 28, 2024, at 1:00 pm - Canton

District # 4: April 7, 2024, at 2:00 pm - Watertown

District # 6: April 14, 2024, at 1 pm - Miller

District # 7: April 7, 2024, at 2 pm - Plankinton

District # 10: April 14, 2024, at 10 am - Custer



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2024.

**OFFICIAL:**



*Anna Arnold*

Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW

**BY ORDER OF:**

*Dave Baumiller*

Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
VFW



## General orders

So far this year we have 91 new members, putting us at 93.89%. We should be closer to 95%, 18th in the nation. To reach 102% we need 590 members. Some of the larger posts are not doing much in membership and recruiting. This is the list of the people who have recruited so far this year, and how many they have recruited.

Recruiter	Count	Post #	Dist.	Department
Randy G. Tollefson	16	3351	4	South Dakota
Daniel J. Klimisch	16	791	1	South Dakota
Katherine A. Pyka	14	1273	10	South Dakota
Martin J. Christensen	13	2750	7	South Dakota
Darold D. Couch	8	3442	10	South Dakota
David R. Baumiller, Sr.	7	5807	10	South Dakota
Milton L. Douglas	6	4674	7	South Dakota
Troy D. Foster	5	3342	4	South Dakota
Jerry M. Seiner	5	7319	7	South Dakota
Dave D. Huber	5	2969	10	South Dakota
Glynis J. Collier	4	2038	6	South Dakota
Ronald W. Harris	4	4726	1	South Dakota
Kurt W. Belawske	4	2730	10	South Dakota
Edwin L. Sedlezky	3	3442	10	South Dakota
Carl M. Roberts	3	7319	7	South Dakota
Kris S. Fenton	3	5969	10	South Dakota
James R. Mcquisten	3	628	1	South Dakota
Richard R. Schwanke, Jr.	2	628	1	South Dakota
Rollin W. Sieveke	2	5969	10	South Dakota
Dennis Pense	2	9950	7	South Dakota
Lonny J. Potts	2	8530	6	South Dakota
Michael N. Mullen	2	2730	10	South Dakota
Kenneth P. Payne	2	6554	7	South Dakota
John H. Datka	2	5969	10	South Dakota
Jackie D. Frisby-Griffin	2	2638	4	South Dakota
Rick C. Hamm	2	3442	10	South Dakota
Anna Arnold	2	791	1	South Dakota
Duane J. Kummer	1	2750	7	South Dakota
Dean V. Strand	1	2750	7	South Dakota
Joseph Jara	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Dwight R. Griffiee	1	2730	10	South Dakota
Dale L. Greenfield	1	1776	6	South Dakota
Donald A. Dahlin	1	2975	1	South Dakota
Richard C. Jacobsen	1	2038	6	South Dakota
Dennis R. Clemens	1	7319	7	South Dakota

Andrew M. Howe	1	3061	1	South Dakota
Dale W. Larson	1	5969	10	South Dakota
Jeremy A. Pyka	1	1273	10	South Dakota
Edwin A. Peters	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Rick L. Williamson	1	3164	1	South Dakota
Eric R. Lewis	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Derek D. Besler	1	5860	10	South Dakota
Gordon L. Heggen	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Chris N. Forster	1	2038	6	South Dakota
Troy W. Zimmerman	1	4726	1	South Dakota
Barbara K. McKean	1	3298	7	South Dakota
Tara L. Bush	1	6554	7	South Dakota
Robert W. Shay	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Lyle W. Sunderland	1	2750	7	South Dakota
Eric U. Guenther	1	628	1	South Dakota
Arthur S. Escalante	1	2750	7	South Dakota
Peggy A. Parish	1	3442	10	South Dakota
Jesse A. Kindelspire	1	628	1	South Dakota
Kevin J. Bohn	1	4690	4	South Dakota
Cynthia Christensen	1	2750	7	South Dakota
Rick Alan Vandenhoek	1	4726	1	South Dakota
Dan P. Kroll	1	4690	4	South Dakota
Andrew J. Paulsen	1	3061	1	South Dakota
Shane S. Sivertsen	1	3214	6	South Dakota

### Community Service

This is the first time I know of South Dakota ever to be 100%. All posts have been submitted in community service so far this year (1st and 2nd quarters). Also, the first time I know where Department dues are at 100%. Obligations are at 98%, all but one post has met their obligations. Congratulations everyone!

Business person of the year and the VFW member of the year have been chosen for this year. There was very little input on those two subjects.

I'm headed to Washington DC for legislation next week, meetings planned with state senators and representative.

Don't forget the raffle tickets to help the homeless veterans and Service Dogs. Tickets are only \$20 each for a prize worth more than \$3500! The homeless veterans and service dogs of South Dakota really could use this financial assistance.

It's an honor to represent you all,  
Dave Baumiller, South Dakota Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans!

February has been a somber month.

We unfortunately lost one of our amazing team members, husband and father, Lucus Reimers. Please keep his family in your hearts and prayers. I had the honor of attending his evening viewing February 15, 2024 and his celebration of life at the Alliance Center on February 16, 2024. He will be missed by so many. Please keep his memory in your hearts.

On February 24-25 I and four other Charles E. Thorne VFW Post #2038 members conducted a Membership Drive at the Farm, Home and Sports Show in Pierre, SD. We gained two new life members and 5 prospects. We also sold \$420.00 total of CDR Dave's and President Pam's Project raffle tickets.

For those of you who did not see the winners of EMT/Firefighter/Law Enforcement selection in last month's GOs, they are as follows:

EMT (Posthumously): Bradley Hohbach-Plankinton

Firefighter: Tarz Mullinix-Beresford

Law Enforcement: Preston Crissy-Yankton

I will be in Sioux Falls March 1-3 at the Quail and Pheasant Event at the Denny Sanford Center for a Membership Drive. If any posts would like me to attend one of their Membership Drives and assist them in gaining member and sharing ideas, please contact me at least two weeks prior.

It's time to start planning your Loyalty Day and Day of Service projects occurring on May 1&15, 2024. Below is a link for Day of Service ideas supported by the VFW.

<https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service-resources/>

As always, I am honored to be among all of you fellow Veterans and your Family Members fighting the good fight. Please contact me if you need anything at all.

//Original Signed//  
Very Respectfully,  
Glynis Collier  
Sr. Vice CDR  
DEPT of SD VFW  
[dakpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:dakpatriot@gmail.com) Cell #803-466-7031  
"One Team, One Fight"

## General Orders March 2024: Dept. SD Jr Vice Commander

The Department of SD as of Feb 24, 2024 has 6011 Life members, 88 new members, 32 reinstated members and 628 continuous paid members. As of Feb 24, 2024 we are at 93.71%. We still have 168 unpaid members and 322 expiring members in the Department. Our goal is to reach 102%. So we need 602 more paid members to reach our goal.

We plan recruiting at Pheasants Forever 1-3 March Sioux Falls, SD, and County Fair in Mitchell in 11-17 March We plan to sell raffles for District 7 and the Dept. SD Commander's fundraiser at County Fair. Anyone one who wants to help is welcome.

I attended the District 7 Winter meeting in Armour, SD on March 18. We had over 32 members present and all but Chamberlain and Burke Posts attend. We reviewed our Membership for the Posts as well the District. District 7 is at 99 % and needs only 22 members to reach 102%. I trained and reviewed the Dash board for the Dept. And National site. Tom Hafner trained and reviewed the All State and All American Requirements. Nominations were made for 2024 officers. They will meet again on 7 April 24 in Plankinton SD.

I attended the Visitation for Luke Reimers with Anna. We were received well! We expressed our deepest sympathy from all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Christensen, Dept. SD Jr Vice Commander

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## March 2024 General Orders

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the mild month of February, but winter is not over. We still need to be prepared for cold and snow. We have had some blizzards in March and April. It looks like March might come in like a lamb so be prepared for it to go out like a lion.

I attended this February's VHA/VBA stakeholder's meeting VIA Teams. Home health care was the main topic of discussion. If qualified, there is home health care available to disabled veterans. There are 2 tiers of health care available.

1. Non-skilled health care
  - a. They will teach routine skills.
  - b. Filling Pill reminders.
  - c. These are skills that can be accomplished without specialized training.
2. Skilled health care
  - a. These are more specialized skills that can be done at home.
  - b. This to assist in the transfer from the hospital or short-term health care back to the home.



- c. This can include at home and community care.
- d. Some examples would be wound dressing, catheters, IVs, physical therapy, etc.
- e. Some of these skills can be taught to Caretakers while others are accomplished by the VA coming into the home to assist.

Mother nature is again as unpredictable as ever. If you need anything, please reach out to your local post for assistance. We are all here to watch out for each other and our families.

Rick Vanden Hoek  
Department Surgeon

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Greetings Fellow Members,

The weather is getting nicer and hopefully spring is close around the corner. Now is a good time to reach out to our members that may be less mobile and see if there are any outside projects that we can help with. This will give you time to line up help and plan for any needed projects.

With some of the legislation that is currently in the works at the state capitol, I have been getting a lot of questions of who is available for these. Each step up in a VA percentage rating, there are additional benefits that are available. The current proposals are based on being 100% Permanent and Total or commonly referred to as 100% P&T. That is different than being 100%. A Permanent and Total rating means that there are no future exams. If a condition can change, then it will not be Permanent and Total, and a future exam will be scheduled. A way to look it is, if the condition can improve or change, it is static. An example is cancer. It could go into remission, so will not be P&T unless the medical diagnosis lists it as terminal. To get the benefits such as, CHAMPVA, 38 USC Chapter 35, SD property tax exemption, SD special license plates, and SD park entrance fee waiver, you need to be 100% P&T. Being 100% does not qualify you for those benefits.

As stated earlier, each step up on the percentage scale adds additional benefits so see your VSO or contact me for the list. There are some of the steps that we call the big steps that add notable benefits.

30% - You can add your dependents.

40%- Automobile grant/special adaptive equipment  
-SD hunting and fishing Card-\$10 for 4years

50% - VA health care Priority Group 1  
-If military retired/available for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payment

70% - Nursing Home at VA expense

100% -Dental treatment at VA  
-DOD commissary privileges  
-Specially Adapted Housing  
-DOD ID cards for dependents

100% P&T - Discussed above.

If you have any questions, contact your local Veteran Service Officer or get a hold of me. I like to remind everyone, whether or not you have a VA rated disability, you are eligible for mental health care from the VA.

David Huntimer  
Department Service Officer  
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