

General Orders

APRIL 2025



MEMBERSHIP

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Calling all State, District, and Post Officers to help increase membership this month. Time is running short to achieve 102%!

BUDDY POPPIES

PRICE CHANGE

As a reminder, the price of the Legacy Buddy Poppies is \$.30/poppy, and the Tin Tap Poppy is \$.15/poppy. Each Post must order at least 500 Poppies (of either kind) to qualify for the All-American and All-State programs.

AUDIT REPORTS

AUDIT REPORTS NEEDED

Please get your Audit Reports turned in immediately. These are used for All-State Judging and must be accounted for by the IRS.



POST ELECTIONS

Attention is called to Section 217 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office:

Post Officers shall be nominated, elected and installed as prescribed in Section 217 of the Manual of Procedure.

Election Report Reminder

We want you to remember that on the 1st of June if the Commander-In-Chief has not received your Post/District Election Report, your Post/District will be suspended. At that time, the Department Commander will issue a follow-up letter to establish a committee to oversee the Post business. All Post business will then be overseen by the established committee.



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 217, PAGE 72, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

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.

An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or case may be installed at any regular special meeting prior to the Department Convention. In not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

**Roster
Changes:
Please contact
the Department
Headquarters of
any changes to
their Posts.**

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JUNE 19-22, 2025 IN PIERRE, SD

Department Convention will be held June 19-22, 2025, at the Ramkota in Pierre, SD. Hotel rooms are open now. The group is under "VFW" to get the correct room rate.

All Posts, Districts, Candidates for Department Office, and any others who would like to submit a Convention Ad to the Booklet, please contact Commander, Glynis Collier.

www.vfwsd.org

HELP WANTED! The Commander / President Raffle for the 2024-2025 project needs you to help sell tickets! After sold, please send them to the Department Office in care of Anna Arnold. If you need more tickets, please call 605-332-7441 and we can send you more.

MEMORIAL DAY

The observance of Memorial Day is the obligation of every Post. According to Section 223 - Commemorative Dates: Each Post shall make arrangements for observances of Memorial Day, see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members and, if practicable, conduct Memorial Day Services in the cemeteries in its locality.

Peace Officer Day is to be observed on Monday May 15th, 2025.

District #1: April 27, 2025, at 1:00 pm – Yankton – SVC Christensen

District # 4: April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm – Watertown – CMDR Collier

District # 6: April 13, 2025, at 1 pm – Redfield – SVC Christensen

District # 7: April 6, 2024, at 2 pm – Scotland – SVC Christensen

District # 10: April 13, 2024, at 1 pm – Spearfish – CMDR Collier

Delegates at State Convention: Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held **NOT LESS THAN 30 DAYS** prior to the Department Convention. Posts are entitled to **ONE** Delegate and **ONE** Alternate for **EACH THIRTY (30)** members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the Election. Review your meeting Date to make sure it is **AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR** to June 8, 2024.



The Department has been approved for the use of our 'VFW Logo' on our South Dakota License Plates starting January 1, 2023. If you would like to purchase a logo, please contact Anna at the Department office. Email anna@vfwdeptsd.com or 605-332-7441. Each sticker is \$10.00.

This is what the sticker looks like:



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Sticker goes here



\$10.00 per sticker

Send check to Department office at:
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57045

Would make a great Stocking Stuffer for Christmas

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

HATS IN THE RING 2024-2025

- Commander – Dr. Martin Christensen
- Senior Vice Commander – Rick VandenHoek
- Junior Vice Commander – Dale Greenfield
- Quartermaster - Anna Arnold
- Chaplain - Russel Dramstad
- Judge Advocate – Kat Pyka
- Surgeon – If you are interested in running, please contact CMDR Collier
- Inspector - Allan Ochsner

OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Glynis Collier

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



Hello Heroes,

March 2025 has been a busy month. I was so honored to attend the National Legislative Conference Mar 2-6, 2025. I have to say I was more than impressed with our National Legislative Representative Rick Williamson and our former National Legislative Representative and Department Chaplain Russ Dramstadt. NLR Williamson was on top of his game and made this trip a learning experience for your commander! I attended the Kenneth Kuper VFW Post #3442 Commemorative 80th Anniversary Celebration March 28-29, 2025. It was an auspicious occasion and I was so pleased to see our District 10 CDR Griffie and our State Senior Vice President Sue Jones there as well! The Custer Post Team pulled out all the stops during this event! Their tribute to all past and present VFW CDRs and Auxiliary Presidents was humbling to say the least! The local Boy Scouts and Baseball team was there to clean our tables, make sure we were enjoying our meals and placed the over 150 fresh long stem roses on the tables as our former and current leader names were called during the ceremony.

I attended the VFW Post Meetings in Britton and Armour and plan on attending a few more of our smaller VFW Posts throughout the state during the next two and a half months. They may be our smaller posts, but they are mighty and are an integral part of their respective communities!

Will remind District Commanders please contact your individual posts and ask them to send in their CDR/President raffle ticket stubs and money to ADJ/QM Arnold as soon as possible. Thank you!

I will remind DCDRs that the State Dashboard is in need of updates. District Commanders please contact your individual Post Commanders and Quartermasters and direct them to update their respective portions of the State Dashboard ASAP, meaning now and thank you so much! Please ensure all currently past due, due and upcoming audits are emailed or mailed to ADJ/QM Arnold ASAP! Thank you!

As always, I am honored and humbled to be working with you ALL as your Commander this year. I am always available to talk to if you need a supportive and understanding ear.

“One Team, One Fight!”

Very Respectfully,
//Original Signed//
Glynis Collier
State Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
dakpatriot@gmail.com
803-466-7031

General Orders April 2025 - SVC Martin Christensen

Every Post and District should continue to work on membership. As of March 24, 2025, District 1 is at 96.54%. They need 92 members to reach 102%. District 4 is at 98.93%. They need 34 members to reach 102%. District 6 is at 103.85% - congratulations! District 7 is at 100.76%. They need 11 members to reach 102%. District 10 is at 94.33%. They need 62 members to reach 102%. The Department SD is at 99.08%. They need 204 to reach 102%. We have until June 30, 2025 to make 102%. Let me know if I can help your Posts and Districts with recruiting in any events you have

planned. Mitchell will be working at County Fair May. We picked up 1 lifetime membership for Post 2750 Auxiliary and 1 Lifetime membership for Post 2750 which puts us at 109.6%. We need to continue to work to support our commander and our membership chairman to make this a successful year.

Elections are due to be held this month (April) for all Posts and Districts. Be sure to submit your election report ASAP. Election reports should go to the Dept SD and also National VFW. I plan to visit Districts 1, 6 and 7 Spring meetings. Delegates for the State Convention and National Convention should be sent in.

Loyalty Day is coming up in May. You should submit your committee chairman and your plans to Dept SD. Also in May, each Post should submit a plan to National VFW for a Day of Service to occur around May 3. Also, you should have your Mayor complete a proclamation for your Post.

I will be attending the Sr Vice training in Kansas City April 10-13, 2025. I'm also continuing to plan for my command year. I have selected my coins, pins and shirts and am planning for the Dept Convention in June 2026. I'm also looking to plan our Fall Conference and Legislative Conference for 2026. I look for your support for the upcoming Command Year.

I made plans to attend Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery in Sturgis so we can plan the services hosted by the VFW at the National Cemetery in 2026.

I will be working with Glynis on her committee to plan her State Convention and our transition for next year.

I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention June 19-22, 2025.

V/R

Martin Christensen, Dept SD Sr Vice Commander

April General Orders Junior Vice Commander

In typical South Dakota fashion, Spring is trying to sneak its way in but Winter does not want to let go. I do not know about you, but I am ready for some warmer weather.

Membership is looking good, but we still have a little way to go before the end of the year. We currently need 197 members to get to 102%. We do have many continuous members that will cover most of that, but we need to keep pressing. We have 3 months left to get our numbers up.

A day of service is also required to qualify for All-American this year. The post commanders should be getting an email to register for this. This is a great opportunity for posts to be active in their communities. This is great for recognition in the community and helps build membership. This is also a good way to assist veterans with yard work when they cannot do it themselves. We are in the business of taking care of each other.

It has been a pleasure serving you again this year in this position. I am going to ask for your continued support as I am going to put my name in the ring for Sr. Vice Commander next year. This organization is near to my heart and I think as a team, we can make a big impact.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings fellow Veteran's

I think spring is upon us, but I guess it is hard to tell from day to day. Should I get the lawn spreader out or keep the snowblower ready. We are starting to get into the busy part of the year. Make sure you are getting your calendars up to date and keeping track of the district meetings, state meeting, and upcoming national convention. It is also the time of year to get Post clean ups done and put together events to draw people in. If you are hosting an event and would like a Service Officer present, make sure you reach out to myself, or DJ and we can help get that set up.

There is a lot of talk currently going around the web that the VA will change the ratings for Sleep Apnea starting this April. Some sites even have the ratings percentages broke down. Please keep in mind that this is being discussed in proposals and has not yet been approved. The criteria for Sleep Apnea have been discussed for the last few years so I am sure that there will be a change at some point but what that final change is and when it will take place is still to be seen. Historically, when the VA makes a change to a rating, if you already have the rating, it will remain at what you are rated unless you make any claim related to that condition or you already have a future exam scheduled for that condition. As in the condition is not permanent and total. If changes are made and become final, the VA will put out a notice. Make sure you are getting information from reputable sites and if you ever have a question, reach out to your local VSO or call our office.

Respectfully,

David Huntimer

David Huntimer
South Dakota VFW
Department Service Officer
David.huntimer@va.gov
Office: 605-333-6869
Cell: 605-360-1524

Dareus (DJ) Montreal
South Dakota VFW
Assistant Department Service Officer
Dj.montreal@state.sd.us
Phone: 605.400.9005

