

# General Orders

JULY 2025



## PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

All personal communications to the State Commander can be sent to:

Commander Martin Christensen

Email :

[mchristensen@santel.net](mailto:mchristensen@santel.net)

Phone : 605-933-2220

## REQUESTS FOR ATTENDANCE

### STATE COMMANDER

All requests for State Commander or a State Officer should be coordinated through the State Adjutant's office.

605-332-7441 or

[anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com)

## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

All official Communications to the State Headquarters for the Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and all other line officers shall be sent to:

[anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com)



## ALL PREVIOUS STATE APPOINTMENTS ARE CANCELED

Having been elected and installed as Commander of the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby Command all previous State appointments are canceled.

**“Strength through Unity”**

# General Orders

Post and District Commanders: General Orders will be read at your meetings or printed and passed out. You can also find copies of the General Orders on the Department website: [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) > Resources > General Orders



## ELECTED OFFICERS

COMMAND YEAR 2025-2026

Elected Officers for the State of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the year 2025-2026, were elected at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention held in Pierre, SD June 21, 2025. All officers appointed are expected to carry out the duties of their respective offices to the best of their abilities. National and State Bylaws outline the duties of the offices.

Attached to these General Orders is a list of all the Elected Officers and Committee Chairpersons.

## The 2025 Membership kicks off July 1, 2025

All Posts and Districts are asked to start their kickoff immediately.

Good luck in the year ahead!

## DISTRICT AND POST COMMANDERS

COMMAND YEAR 2025-2026

All District and Post Commanders are asked to select a member of officer to be the Chairperson of VOD, Patriot's Pen, Teachers Awards, Buddy Poppy, Veterans & Military Support, Membership, Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT, and Scouting Citations. Please also appoint a member to be the Post Service Officer and forward the names of these Chairpersons to the State Headquarters office along with an email address and phone number.

*All State, District and Post Officers are as well as all VFW Members are asked to wear the official VFW cover to all meetings and functions held in the communities.*



NATIONAL AND STATE CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS prohibit the use of the Veterans of Foreign Wars name by private business and commercial businesses operating under the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Posts so operating are hereby directed to take corrective measures to eliminate such practice within 30 days.

Please check the [www.sdvfwbaseball.com](http://www.sdvfwbaseball.com) for updates on dates, times, and locations for the 2025 State VFW Baseball Tournaments.

The Fall Council of Administration will be held in Sioux Falls, SD at the Alliance Center from October 3-5, 2025.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention will be held in Mitchell, SD on June 10-14, 2026, with Mitchell Post #2750 as the Host Post.

### Your 2025-2026 State Line Officers



OFFICIAL:



*Anna Arnold*

QUARTERMASTER / ADJUTANT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

*Martin Christensen*

COMMANDER  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
VFW



## COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

POSITION	NAME
Commander	Dr. Martin Christensen
Sr. Vice Commander	Rick VandenHoek
Jr. Vice Commander	Dale Greenfield
Adjutant/Quartermaster	Anna Arnold
Chaplain	Russel Dramstad
Judge Advocate	Katherine Pyka
Surgeon	Dan Klimisch
Past State Commander	Glynis Collier
Chief of Staff	Tom Hafner
Inspector	Alan Ochsner
District 1 Commander	Don Kranz
District 4 Commander	Troy Foster
District 6 Commander	Chris Forster
District 7 Commander	Brent Jones
District 10 Commander	Dave Huber

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

National Council Member	Barbara McKean
National Legislative Committee Member	Rick Williamson

## APPOINTED

POSITION-CHAIRPERSONS	NAME
Aide-de-Camp	Lonnie Potts
Aide-de-Camp	Charles McKean
Aide-de-Camp	Ken Payne
Executive Assistant	Sydney Reimers
Buddy Poppy	Anna Arnold
Citizenship Education	Rick VendenHoek
Community Service	Lonnie Potts
Firefighter, EMT, Law Enforcement	Rick VandenHoek
Guard/Sergeant-at-Arms	Cindy Christensen
Historian	Anna Arnold
Homeless Veteran	DeLane Fickbohm
Hospital	Dan Klimisch
Life Membership	Dale Greenfield
Loyalty Day	Rick VandenHoek
Memorial Day	Dale Greenfield
National Cemetery (Primary)	Mike Mullen
National Cemetery (Secondary)	Kris Fenton
National Home For Children	Chris Engbrecht
National VOD & PP Committee Liaison	Dale Greenfield
Parliamentarian	Katherine Pyka
Public Relations Officer	Anna Arnold
Safety	Dan Klimisch
Scouting	Martin Christensen

Special Olympics	Anna Arnold
Student Veterans Representative	Connie Johnson
Sturgis Bike Rally	Martin Christensen
VAVS Rep. Ft Meade	Mike Mullen
VAVS Rep. Hot Springs	Rob Shay
VAVS Rep. Sioux Falls	Donald Dahlin
VVS Rep/State Hospital/ Hot Springs	Rob Shay
VVS Rep/State Hospital/Yankton	Don Dahlin
Veterans Day	Anna Arnold
Veterans & Military Support	Anna Arnold
Veterans Service Officer	Dave Huntimer
Veterans Service Officer (Assistant)	Dave Denson
VFW Riders	Bill Barlow
Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teachers	Dale Greenfield
Youth Activities	Dale Greenfield

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS****NAME****POSITION****BASEBALL COMMITTEE****COMMITTEES**

Jason Brown

**Chair**

Martin Christensen

Commander

Anna Arnold

Adjutant/Quartermaster

Barb McKean

Grant Committee

**AUDIT/TRUSTEE COMMITTEE**

Rick Williamson

Past State Commander

Barb McKean

Past State Commander

Sean Johnson

Past State Commander

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Russell Dramstad

**Chair**

Martin Christensen

Commander

Rick VandenHoek

Sr Vice Commander

Dale Greenfield

Jr Vice Commander

Anna Arnold

Adjutant/Quartermaster

Tom Hafner

Chief of Staff

**CREDENTIALS and TIME/PLACE COMMITTEE**

Don Dahlin

**Co-Chair - Credentials**

Anna Arnold

Adjutant/Quartermaster

William Cerny

Past State Commander

Bill Barlow

**Co-Chair - Time and Place**

Tom Hafner

Past State Commander

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Cindy Christensen  
 Anna Arnold  
 Tom Hafner  
 Rick VandenHoek  
 Sue Jones

**Chair**  
 Adjutant/Quartermaster  
 Chief of Staff  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 President

#### **HOSPITAL COMMITTEE**

Dan Klimisch  
 All VAVS Reps.  
 ALL VVS Reps.

**Chair (Surgeon)**  
 Members  
 Members

#### **NAME**

#### **POSITION**

#### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Rick Williamson  
 Anna Arnold  
 Martin Christensen  
 Dan Klimisch  
 Brent Jones  
 Katherine Pyka  
 David Huntimer

**Chair**  
 Adjutant/Quartermaster  
 Commander  
 Member  
 Member  
 Judge Advocate  
 Veterans Service Officer

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Dale Greenfield  
 Anna Arnold  
 Ken Payne  
 Lonnie Potts  
 Katherine Pyka  
 Dan Klimisch  
 Don Kranz  
 Troy Foster  
 Chris Forster  
 Brent Jones

**Chair - Jr Vice Commander**  
 Quartermaster/Adjutant  
 Aide-de-Camp  
 Aide-de-Camp  
 Judge Advocate  
 Surgeon  
 District 1 Commander/Captain  
 District 4 Commander/Captain  
 District 6 Commander/Captain  
 District 7 Commander/Captain  
 District 10 Commander/Captain

#### **MEMORIAL PARK & CHAPEL COMMITTEE**

Dwight Griffie  
 Anna Arnold  
 Dwight Griffie  
  
 Mike Mullen  
 Tom Hafner

**Chair**  
 Quartermaster/Adjutant  
 Groundskeeper  
 National Cemetery Council  
 Appointee  
 Chief of Staff

#### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Allen Ochsner  
 Anna Arnold  
 Ken Payne

**Chair (Inspector)**  
 Adjutant/Quartermaster  
 Aide-de-Camp

#### **RESOLUTIONS & BY LAWS**



Katherine Pyka	<b>Chair</b> (Judge Advocate)
Anna Arnold	Adjutant/Quartermaster
Tom Hafner	Past State Commander
Brent Jones	District 7 Commander
Dan Klimisch	Surgeon

**NAME****POSITION****SERVICE & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE**

DJ Montreal	<b>Chair</b>
Rick VandenHoek	Senior Vice Commander
Dan Klimisch	Surgeon
Anna Arnold	<b>Chair</b>
Russell Dramstad	Chaplain
Mike Mullen	Past State Commander

**VETERANS COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

Anna Arnold	<b>Chair</b>
Dan Klimisch	Surgeon
Martin Christensen	Commander
Katherine Pyka	Judge Advocate

**General Orders July 2025**

Martin Christensen, VFW SD Dept Commander

Thanks to all who attended the State Convention in Pierre, SD. Congratulations on our membership accomplishments this year - we achieved 102% for the Dept SD. This was great teamwork throughout all the posts in South Dakota to make this happen. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio August 9-13, 2025.

This year our membership goal is 101%. I've asked each post and district to plan one recruiting event per quarter and follow it up with an AAR. Anna has added a column for this in the state dashboard. Dale Greenfield, Jr Vice is in charge of membership this year. All Posts and District membership plans need to be submitted in July.

Calendar of events for 2025-2026 for VFW Dept SD:

1. Fall Council 3-5 October 2025 at the Alliance Center in Sioux Falls
2. Legislative Conference 25-26 January 2026 in Pierre
3. VFW SD Dept is responsible for Memorial Day ceremonies at the Black Hills National Cemetery 26 May 2026
4. VFW 2026 State Convention 11-14 June at the Highland Center in Mitchell

I am currently in the process of visiting all 47 Posts in South Dakota. My staff and I will be visiting the District meetings throughout the year to communicate, train and collaborate. Your District Commanders will also be visiting your Posts later this year. We need to work very hard on preserving every Post in South Dakota.

My projects for this year include:

1. Support Helping With Horsepower and Reclamation Ranch in Mitchell. This organization assists in the healing process with Veterans with PTSD, they help in suicide prevention and also assist in physical and mental health healing.

2. Purchase a vehicle for the Department of SD. This was voted on and approved at the COA meeting during the State Convention. I will be putting together a committee to make this happen.
3. I would like to sponsor a home for the Dept SD at the VFW National Home. I'll be bringing together a committee to do more research on this.
4. Evaluate needs and help to improve all 47 Posts and all 5 Districts in SD as well as Dept SD.
5. Improve communication with our Posts, Districts, Department and Auxiliaries.

I handed out my membership plan at the State Convention, a copy of the Green Sheet with all of the contact information for the COA and Department committee assignments for 2025-26. I also handed out contact information for Post Commanders and Quartermasters 2025-26. All 47 Posts have submitted an election report.

August 1-7, 2025 we will be manning a recruiting booth at the Sturgis Rally. We will be in the Armory in Sturgis. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. I have created a sign-up sheet to volunteer. Copy the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAAAF2CAAFEC07-57414497-sturgis>

and paste into your browser. This will bring up the sign-up sheet. Select a date and time you would like to volunteer. At the bottom of the page, click on the "Save and Continue" You will be asked your name, email, and phone number. (Others will only see your name and any comments you write.) After you fill in your information, click on "Sign-Up Now" at the bottom of the page.

I am planning to do a ZOOM meeting with the COA the last Thursday of every month at 5:30pm CST.

I'm looking forward to this year working with all of you and the Auxiliary to make a great year for all of us.

Very Respectfully,  
Martin Christensen, Commander  
VFW Dept SD

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General Orders July 2025

Sr. Vice Commander

First, I would like to thank all of you who attended the State Convention and continue to support me as I go through the chairs. It was a good event and everyone should take the opportunity to attend. There is lots to learn about what the Department does and great friendships are built. I am looking forward to working with the new COA. We have a great team.

As our new command year starts, I want to ensure that we continue with the momentum we finished with last year. We did finish with over 102% membership. That was the Department and National goal. Every year that passes, we need to come up with new ways to keep our membership energized to continue to grow our Department.

At the Department, District and Post levels, we are not taking advantage of all the things we could be. To grow, we need to start partnerships with our community businesses. To grow, we need to utilize available resources in our communities. Let the community support our efforts as we support them.



Utilizing them will help get our name out in the community and will assist with recruiting. This will also help support our veterans by being able to support more activities for them. At every level, we are not taking advantage of this. There are also lots of opportunity to get our name out there that we are missing. I know it takes time and volunteers to get this done, but the payoff is huge.

I would like to hear from you on how we can energize our Posts so that we can accomplish our goals. Many Post have higher aspirations than people to assist in getting things done. I would encourage posts to work with their inactive members to get them to assist one time a year. Volunteering once a year will take the pressure of the few that assist with everything. It will also open opportunities to do more for our veterans.

Talk to your COA if you are having issues. We do not want to see Posts struggle. I am planning on getting to more Posts this year so I can see how things are going. I also want them to know that I am there to help. Please contact me if you want me to come to a meeting or event. I will do my best to get there.

In closing, I am excited about this year. I think our Department can do great things. This starts at the Post level. Reach out for help. Think outside the box. Let's continue to grow and strengthen the VFW.

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Rick Vanden Hoek

Sr. Vice

General Orders July 2025

JR Vice Commander

I would like to thank everyone for your continuous support. It is my honor to serve in this great organization and to serve as your JR Vice Commander. Congratulations to the Department of South Dakota for making 102% membership in the 2024-2025 command year. One of my priorities and duties is to support the Commander's guidance with a goal of 101% membership for all post, districts and department. Membership plans are due by 1 August 2025. The form is available on our website and were in the post commander books that were given out at convention. When you send your membership plan to the State Adjutant ([anna@vfwdeptsd.com](mailto:anna@vfwdeptsd.com)), it would be great if you would CC me at [dale.greenfield@yahoo.com](mailto:dale.greenfield@yahoo.com).

One of my other duties is that I am the chairman for the Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year awards. My wife is my co-chair, her email is [margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com](mailto:margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com). The flyers for this year have been emailed out to the District Commanders hopefully all the post have received them. A couple of each post flyers were printed and given out to the District Commanders at convention. Scholars App, the

program that we use for Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy is already accepting applications. Let us get the information out to our schools and communities, don't wait until last minute.

Important dates for PP/VOD:

31 October All essays imputed and submitted on Scholars App at Post level

21 November Post Judging done and promoted to district

5 December District judging done and promoted to state

15 December State Judging done and names forwarded.

Teacher of the Year Nominations 31 October 2025

Applications can be mailed or emailed. Email is preferred.

Any questions or concerns please email me or call me.

Dale Greenfield

State JR Vice Commander

Cell: 605-350-2319

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Congratulations and job well done for the 2024-2025 year! Together our great efforts are shown from the mowing of a neighbor's yard to handing out a poppy and explaining the meaning to a child. All of these things accumulate to a strong VFW presence in South Dakota. We have even managed to pull together at the last minute and find the last needed memberships to push the Department over the 102% mark.

As we all look forward to the 2025-2026 year we must remember our number two purpose is to assist worthy comrades. I have always believed this to be one of the most important missions we have as a VFW. I also believe we do this more often than not but do not give ourselves enough credit for it. I am a true believer in our Community Service reports showing what we do the best. Did you know anytime a member does anything for an individual or organization to assist them but does not receive and compensation or directly benefit the VFW that should be annotated on the Community Service tracker. We do so much as an Organization that we do not give ourselves credit for. This year reach out to you members and explain that every time they volunteer to coach a sport, give blood, and help a neighbor to report it back to the Post so we can get credit for everything we do.

This year I will be posting on the Department Facebook and need your help at the Post level. Please send me your events, photos, and descriptions and I would love to have these on our Department page. They can be emailed to me at [adj@vfw1273.org](mailto:adj@vfw1273.org) or sent by messenger to our Facebook Department of South Dakota VFW.

Thank you again for a great year and entrusting me to be a Department Officer again this year. I look forward to learning more this year and serving all of you.

Kat Pyka  
Department Judge Advocate

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Comrades,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for electing me to serve as the State Surgeon for the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is a tremendous honor, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I am humbled by your confidence and proud to stand alongside such dedicated veterans who continue to serve our country and communities in meaningful ways.

As I step into this role, my top priorities will be listening and learning. I understand that the strength of our organization lies in the experience, wisdom, and passion of our members. I am committed to hearing your concerns, understanding your needs, and doing everything I can to support the health and well-being of our fellow veterans across the state. Every voice matters, and I will work hard to ensure yours is heard.

Together, we will continue advancing the mission of the VFW—to foster camaraderie, advocate for veterans' rights, and provide unwavering support to those who served. I am excited for what lies ahead and deeply honored to serve with you.

Thank you again for your trust and your service.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Dan Klimisch  
State Surgeon  
Department of South Dakota VFW

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General Orders, July 2025

District 7 is looking forward to a great year. We are preparing for an aggressive start to the 2025-26 recruitment year with multiple events scheduled in July and August. We will have members at the County Fair Food Store in Mitchell the first week of July. We will have members at the rodeos in Chamberlain the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and in Winner the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. We will then be off and running for August, which is full of Department and District level recruitment events.

I will be making my rounds to each of the Posts in District 7 starting with attending the River City Friday Nights festival in Chamberlain June 27<sup>th</sup> and the Plankinton Alumni week festivities June 28<sup>th</sup>.

I ask the Posts to please not forget to submit the final requirements of last year, such as your 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Audits and any Community Service events. Membership Plans, Chairperson Appointments, Department Dues, Department Donations, Ordering Buddy Poppies, and Bonding should be part of your Post's meeting agendas in order to complete them prior to their suspense dates.

I hope you all enjoy a fun and safe Independence Day.

V/R

Brent Jones

Commander

District 7, Dept. SD VFW



# D.A.D.'S Auto Repair 2025



**51 Trophies  
28 Categories**

**Automotive  
Swap meet Free setup**

## -SHOW & SHINE- AND BURNOUT CONTEST

**To Pre- Register Go To: [www.dadsrepairsd.com](http://www.dadsrepairsd.com)**

**Dad's Repair 206 N 16th St.  
Beresford, SD 57004**

**(605)763-5015  
(605)214-1316**

**See you  
July 26, 2025**

### **FREE REGISTRATION**

**Registration 9:30 - 12:30  
Show & Shine 12:30 - 3:30  
Burnout Contest - 6:00**

**SSGRAPHICS**  
605 300 8853

**Schroedermeier  
TRUCKING**

**Sturdevant's  
Auto Value**

**605  
COMMODITIES  
TRANSPORTATION LLC**

**K&M  
TIRE**

**SURFIN  
SAFARI**

**Live Entertainment  
& Food Vendors**

**SIoux**

**FIRST  
DAKOTA**

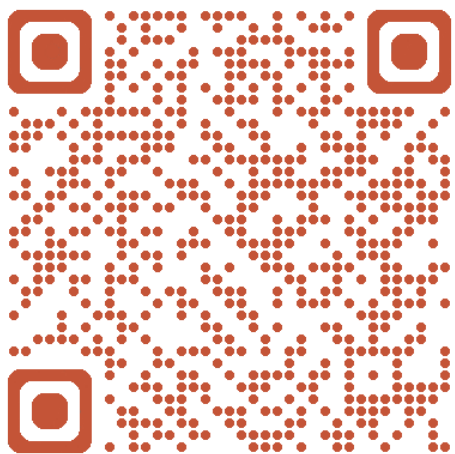
**HILLBILLY HAULER  
C & A TRUCKING  
605-957-5307**

**Beta**

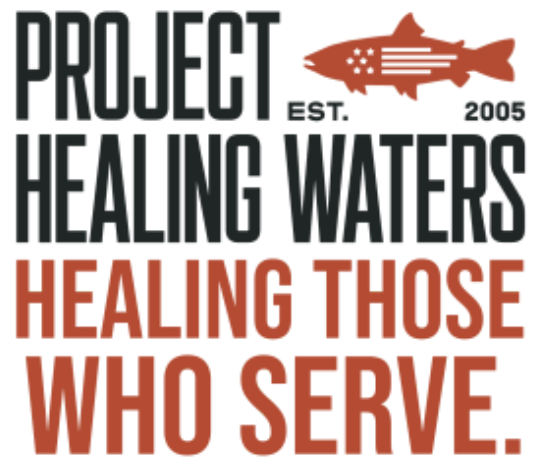
**BEER  
Junkie**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. began in 2005 serving wounded military service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, PHW has expanded nationwide, establishing its highly successful program in Department of Defense hospitals, Warrior Transition Units, and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and clinics.

**Project Healing Waters guides Veterans in-need to recovery through fly fishing, mentoring, and friendship**



Scan the QR code to learn more about Project Healing Waters.



Join us to learn more about Project Healing Waters, see demonstrations, and learn how to get involved.

**July 10, 2025**

**10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or  
3:00 pm.**

**Watertown VA Clinic  
4 19<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast  
Watertown, SD**