

General Orders

NOVEMBER 2025



VAVS NEEDS

VAVS NEEDS

The VAVS Representatives have put out a 'needs' list to help replenish the current stock of items for the VA. In the back of these General Orders is a list of needed items and a link for an Amazon Wishlist. Please donate for the veterans and their families.

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

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

As we honor Veterans Day and gather in gratitude this Thanksgiving season, I want to extend my deepest thanks to each of you. Your service, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment to our nation—and to one another—are what make our VFW family so strong.

May this season bring you moments of peace, reflection, and joy surrounded by loved ones. You are the living legacy of courage and camaraderie, and I am profoundly grateful to stand beside you in our shared mission of service.

With heartfelt appreciation and warm wishes for a blessed Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars

-State Commander, Dr. Martin Christensen

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 Dale Greenfield. He can be contacted at 605-350-2319 or dale.greenfield@yahoo.com

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

The 2nd membership dues reminder notices for 2025 was mailed to unpaid members in October. Post Officers should conduct a membership campaign to follow up on these notices.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 25 & 26, 2026

The annual Legislative Conference is scheduled for the 25th & 26th of January, 2026. All VFW business and events will take place at AmericInn in Pierre, SD. On Sunday, the 25th, we will be having a "Soup"er Social at the American Legion Post #8 in Pierre. Bring your best soup to try and win a prize!

Registration and agendas are at the back of these General Orders

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:

Dr. Martin Christensen

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



General Orders – November, 2025

Doc Marty Christensen, Commander SD Dept VFW

1. Membership – goal is 101%. Dept of SD is currently at 92.10%. We need another 618 members so be sure to look at those members who have not paid and get them to pay for this year. Better yet, get them to move to lifetime memberships. Dale Greenfield has been doing a good job in this area. If you have any questions, please contact him.
2. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen – The deadline was Oct 31st for essays to be sent in. To be All State and All American Posts, you need at least 1 of each. Dale and Margaret Greenfield have the lead on this program.
3. October was a busy month for me. The Fall Conference was held at the Alliance Center in Sioux Falls. The training was good – people that attended gained a lot of information. The band on Saturday evening was outstanding. Post 2750 held a chili cook-off fundraiser in support of the Dept Convention and the Commander's projects. We honored 11 members and their families who passed away during the previous year. I attended the Big 10 conference. 4 of us rode in the van to Bettendorf, IA.
4. Big Ten Conference Election
 - a. Commander – Curt Hermanson, Minnesota elected
 - b. Sr Vice Candidates
 - i. Butch Spindler, Illinois, a business salesman spoke about National COA Vote, Corporate Sponsorship including POCs, Big Ten Conference tour, Toby Keith – Singer and Patriot
 - ii. David Staehin, Minnesota – parliamentarian
 - iii. David Staehin, Minnesota elected
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer
 - i. Barry Walter elected
 - d. Chaplain
 - i. Deb Halter elected
5. In November I will be at the pheasant hunt in Gettysburg on Nov 8. I will be in Rapid City for the Veteran's Day Parade on Nov 11. We will be traveling to the National Home Nov 16-18. On Nov 16, Post 2750 will do a pancake feed for our adopted unit – the 665 Maintenance Company who is preparing to deploy.
6. Midwinter District meeting
 - a. District 1 – 12/7/2025 Sioux Falls – Rick or Dan
 - b. District 4 – 1/4/2026 at 2pm in Watertown - Marty
 - c. District 6 – 2/1/2026 at 1pm via ZOOM - Dale
 - d. District 7 – 2/1/2026 at 2pm in Winner - Marty
 - e. District 10 – 1/11/2026 at 2pm in Rapid City – Kat
7. Legislative conference is scheduled for 25-26 Jan 2026. I hope to see as many members as possible. This is one area we can get involved in and really help our Veterans. You should make contact and plan to visit your home district elected officials on Monday morning.

V/R

Martin Christensen, Commander
SD Dept VFW

November General Orders
Senior Vice Commander

Fall is in full swing. The leaves are changing colors and falling. The temperatures are cooler and the nights are getting cold. Let's ensure we are reaching out to our fellow veterans that might need assistance preparing their houses for winter.

October was a busy month. The Fall Conference was a success. There was some great training provided. Please plan on attending upcoming conferences to keep up to date on changes. I attended the District 4 meeting in Watertown. It was good to meet with comrades from other areas of the state. Many topics were discussed and questions were answered. Finally, I attended the Big Ten Conference in Iowa. That was a great experience and great meetings. It was nice for our SVC commander class get some time with SVCIC Cory Geisler.

I am working on my command year programs. I am open to what people would like to see in there. What I am also looking for is individuals interested in both elected and appointed positions. The two positions I would like to hear about are the Quartermaster/Adjutant and Surgeon. Both are elected positions and have an impact in the direction of the VFW. I also would like to hear who is interested in the District commander positions. To be successful, I need to get a good team surrounding me. I need to start earlier than later to work this.

I am looking forward to this upcoming month. I will be going with our delegation to the National Home. I think this will be a great experience and see if we can potentially sponsor a house. I am also going to the Veteran's Council meeting and the Legislative Round Table. I am looking forward to get some time with our legislators to push our agenda for the next year.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to see who is interested in running for the open positions. I will also be contacting people for the appointed positions. Again, reach out to me if you have an interest in any position. Thank you for your continued support.

Rick Vanden Hoek
Senior Vice Commander
Wepsman69@gmail.com
605-321-6263

November 2025 General Orders

October was a busy month. Started out with Fall Council located at the Alliance in Sioux Falls. There was very good training presented. The next event was Junior Vice Training in Kansas City, Missouri. It was great going the National VFW Office and meeting all the staff. The interaction with most of the 50 State, Europe Area and Pacific Area JVCs was a wonderful experience. There was a lot of good discussions and sharing of ideas and concerns. Then I attended the Big 10 conference in Bettendorf, Iowa. For those that don't know. The Big 10 is like going to a District meeting but on the National level. The Big 10 consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,

Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. It is always good to see how the business of the organization is conducted.

Veterans Day is fast approaching. Let us make sure that we attend or participate in a Veterans' Day activity. Community service and community involvement are very important. Let people know who we are.

Patriot Pen and Voice are Democracy are due on 31 October 2025. The entries need to be loaded on scholars' application, judged and forwarded through scholars' application. Teacher of the Year also has a 31 October 2025 suspense to the Post. TOY is forwarded by mail to my address or email to dale.greenfield@yahoo.com. Let's get the TOY forwarded in by 15 November 2025.

Suspense dates for PP / VOD:

31 October	Applications must be completed / submitted on Scholars Application
21 November	Post judging completed and promoted to district
5 December	District judging completed and promoted to department
15 December	Department judging completed and promoted to national

Membership at the State level as of 26 October 2025 is 92.08%. We currently need 619 members to make 101%. Most of this will be covered if we retain our continuously members. Great job and keep up the good work.

Dale Greenfield

State Junior Vice Commander

Comrades,

The end of the year is upon us. I enjoyed seeing everyone that came to the Fall Conference and went to my first Big Ten Conference this past month. I learned a lot from the Big Ten Conference and look forward to going to it again.

I have created a survey to try and see how we can make Department events better and have more members go to them. Please share this with as many members as possible. This is the only way we can get better.

<https://forms.gle/asFBH44xJfjVL34Y9>

Talking to some comrades during the Fall Council I discovered not everyone is aware of some of the grants available to us from National. I promised I would list them out for everyone.

<https://vfwfoundation.org/grants/>

These are located on the VFW Foundation website.

VFW #StillServing Grant: up to \$1500 the Post and its Auxiliary and District and their Auxiliary can receive this as long as they are separate events. My post has done this for four years now.

Post Assistance Grant: it is up to \$2500 and is only for the Post and it is once every three years. We received it for a new griddle we bought for our pancake breakfast.

Uniting for Veterans Grant: this one match dollar for dollar or pound for dollar donated to food insecurity organizations. A lot of us already do this, we just need to do some paperwork, and we get money back.

I hope these resources help all of you continue to do great things in South Dakota for our Veterans and military.

Kat Pyka

State Judge Advocate

Comrades,

As we move into colder temperatures across South Dakota, I want to remind everyone to stay vigilant about winter-related safety. Please watch for icy sidewalks and roadways, avoid slips and falls, and make sure you have warm clothing, boots, gloves, and an emergency kit in your vehicle. A little preparation can prevent serious injuries during the winter months.

With the continued government shutdown, many veterans and military families in our communities are feeling the strain. I encourage our Posts and members to look for ways to help. One example is the Yankton VFW Post, which is currently hosting a food drive to support local veterans and their families. Every donation—no matter how small—makes a difference.

Thank you for everything you do for our fellow veterans. Stay safe, stay warm, and keep looking out for one another.

Yours in Comradeship,

Dan Klimisch

Post 791

State Surgeon, VFW Department of South Dakota

Greeting Fellow Veterans,

We are seeing some challenging times that we haven't experienced in quite a while with the government currently in a shutdown. This situation has raised many questions about what it means for us as veterans — and for our families who rely on government-provided benefits and services.

First, some reassurance: **retired pay, disability compensation, pension, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments will continue to be paid on time.** Additionally, **VA healthcare, primary care, the VA Benefits Hotline, the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support** will all remain operational.

However, there are some areas that are impacted. **Regional offices are closed to the public**, though they continue processing claims — expect **delays and longer processing times** than usual. The VA will also **pause** several programs and services during the shutdown, including:

- Transition assistance and career counseling programs
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries
- Grounds maintenance and placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries

On a positive note, the recently released **2024 GDX (Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures) Report** shows that **South Dakota veterans and their families received over \$481 million** in compensation and pension benefits — a powerful reminder of how much these services mean to our communities.

As we move into **November**, let's take a moment to celebrate and honor two important dates:

- **November 10th** – The birthday of the **United States Marine Corps**, founded in Tun Tavern, Pennsylvania, in 1775.
- **November 11th – Veterans Day** – A time for all of us to come together in gratitude and reflection for every veteran who has served this great nation in times of war and peace.

Let's continue to support one another, stay informed, and stand proud of the service and sacrifice that define our veteran community.

Semper Fi and thank you all for what you do.

Respectfully

Dave Denson

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General Orders, November 2025

Fall has slipped into our area and the birds are flying straight. Hunting season is always a great time to get out there and support gun safety with our youth.

The membership goal for District 7 is to hit 100% by the new year. We are still knocking on that door and it is still attainable. Please continue to use the AAR's column on the Dashboard for recruitment events.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen is in full swing and we will have District level winners determined soon. Thank you for your hard work at the Post levels to get judges organized and the submissions sent up.

Thank you to every Post that made it to the District 7 meeting in Chamberlain. We accomplished our business at hand and had a great meal with the Auxiliary, a special thanks to Post 6436 for hosting. Please continue to report every community service event to the Dashboard.

I look forward to seeing our Veteran's Day events that are coordinated for and are ready to execute. Remember, because of you all, "every day is Veteran's Day". Quote from one of our great Past Commanders in Chief.

Thank you all for your time and efforts.

For the Veterans

Brent Jones

Commander

District 7, Dept. SD VFW



LOCAL FOOD BANK DONATION



LU#8018



By purchasing this bag, you're helping refill our local food banks and feeding families in need.



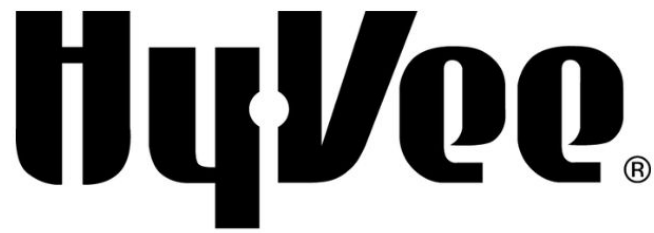
LOCAL FOOD BANK DONATION



LU#8020



By purchasing this bag, you're helping refill our local food banks and feeding families in need.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT MEALS

**Monday-Friday | November 3-7, 2025
4 PM - 7 PM**

\$3 EACH

Monday: Baked Potato with Pulled Pork

Tuesday: Spaghetti, Salad & Garlic Bread

Wednesday: Chicken & Noodles

Thursday: Chili & Cinnamon Roll

Friday: Sesame/Orange Chicken Rice Bowl

KIDS EAT FREE!