



DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

GENERAL ORDERS #8

"LOOKING OUT FOR VETERANS"

February 2021

1. Have you paid Your 2020 Membership Dues Yet? THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may have expired December 31, 2020, under new subscription dues your dues are due in the month you paid them. For example - you paid your dues in February of 2020 then they will be due in February of 2021. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members as soon as possible. Let us wrap up our membership drives as soon as possible and get this great VFW State to **100%** in membership.

2. Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance: Remember, all unpaid members, lose their VFW sponsored Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (the amount depends on your membership status as Continuous Members are \$1,000 where Legacy Life members vary depending on whether they are Bronze, Silver or Gold) & AIL \$3,500 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy, unless you renew your membership. It is **important** for all Post Membership Teams to contact these members as soon as possible.

3. Legislative Conference and Council of Administration: As this General Order is being received by members, the Department of South Dakota Council of Administration is being held on January 30th and 31st, 2021. Hope you were there to make it successful.

4. Audit Reports: THIS IS IMPORTANT! Have you sent in you last Audit Report yet? Maybe you are delinquent on some of the previous audit reports. Catch them up to date, as they are important.

5. Loyalty Day: Post Commanders, please appoint a 2021 Loyalty Day Chairperson and forward his or her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. Post Commanders try to plan your Loyalty Day Programs early. REMEMBER: If COVID prevents you from having an event a negative report is needed.

6. Buddy Poppy: Post Commanders, please appoint a 2021 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward his or her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible and make plans for your 2021 distribution. Post Commanders, this is a reminder that all Poppy orders (remember 5 poppies

per member) should be in by April 30, 2021 to count in the **“All State Post Commanders”** ratings. Order blanks may be downloaded from the web site - **vfwsd.org**.

VFW SILVER, GOLD, AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES

We have several Posts with anniversaries upcoming and this is for you.

The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we **do not** pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. These are ordered through the Department Office and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

Good luck in distribution and congratulations to the anniversary Posts.

7. Community Service Record Books: Attention Post Commanders & Community Service Chairpersons: Because of the lack of participation in this program the Posts will receive extra credit for submitting a Community Service Book but there will not be any judging. All Community Service projects completed during the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 should be included when making your Post/Auxiliary record book. Record Books must be received by April 20th, 2021. **Send books in digital form to State Office, Via email to vfwsd@aol.com. This is a change so please note!!!!** Form for submitting the Record Books may be downloaded from the web site - vfwsd.org

8. The National Legislative and VOD Conference meeting will be March 1st to March 4th, 2020 in Washington D.C. The Department Commander and some of his staff will be attending these important functions. Any Post or member who would like to have a problem discussed with our Congressional Delegation should contact the State Commander or State Adjutant giving full details prior to that time.

9. IRS Form 990: All Posts that enjoy tax exemption status are advised that they must answer all questions on pages 1, 2, and 3 of the IRS Form 990. Submitting a copy of the Post Financial Statement in lieu of answering the individual questions is not acceptable. If the questions are not answered, the IRS will return Form 990 to the Post. Form 990 must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year. Because the IRS has turned the maintenance of the tracking of EIN numbers to the Department if you could forward a copy of your 990 to the Department Headquarters, 1009 West 12th Street, STE 1A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 or email to vfwsd@aol.com it would be a great help in preparing the form required by the IRS on a yearly basis.

10. Roster Changes: Post Commanders are requested to notify Department Headquarters of any roster changes to their Posts.

11. Special Olympics: Please send in your Posts donations for the 2020 South Dakota Special Olympics Program and be generous. Donations should be sent to the VFW Department Headquarters. A roster of all Posts that donated will be presented to the Special Olympics Program Personnel. All donations will be presented prior to the Special Olympics Games to be held in May.

12. Department Convention: The 2021 Department Convention will be held on June 17th to 20th 2021, in Yankton, hosted by Post 791. All correspondence concerning the Convention should be directed to the Department Commander or Post 791. As of this date plans are proceeding for an in-person convention but depending on the COVID 19 situation a decision will be made by the Department Commander on whether the convention will be Virtual by April 1st, 2021.

13. HELP!!!! The Commander/President 2020-2021 project, "**HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS**". Please help by purchasing raffle tickets with multiple prizes. We are well short of the goal so please get onboard. You can get tickets from the Commander or President. Also, there are Auxiliary fundraisers in progress that are supporting the same project. Check with any Auxiliary member or the Auxiliary web site: //sites.google.com/site/site/sdvfwaux .

15. Sending Material for General Orders: All Department Officers, State Chairpersons, and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit the material to Department Headquarters by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. We do reserve the right to edit or determine if material is appropriate and necessary in this document.

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

Darwin G. Tolzin

Darwin G. Tolzin, Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Cody L Mangold

Cody L. Mangold, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars



**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VOD, PATRIOT'S PEN & TEACHERS**

2020-2021

<u>VOD</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>DIST</u>
1 st Michelle M Soukup	Wagner	Wagner	Dist. #7
2 nd Rachel I Larson	Larson Academy	Lemmon	Dist. #10
3 rd Dustin J Hermansen	Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen	Dist. #6
4 th Savanna G Osowski	Milbank	Milbank	Dist. #4
5 th Ryan J Presler	Brandon Valley	Sioux Falls	Dist. #1

Patriot's Pen

1 st Bennett B Gordon	Sturgis Williams Middle School	Whitewood	Dist. #10
2 nd Taylor J Freier	Menno Middle School	Menno	Dist. # 7
3 rd Mason L Ligon	Simmons Middle School	Aberdeen	Dist. #6
4 th Abigaelle Pilaz	North Middle School	Sioux Falls	Dist. #1
5 th Ellie I Osthus	Madison Middle School	Madison	Dist. #4

Teachers

K-5	Heather Cooper – Custer Elementary	Custer	Dist #10
6-8	James Bauder – Mitchell Middle School	Mitchell	Dist #7
9-12	Donna Deinert – Parkston School District 33-3	Parkston	Dist #7



News from the Staff Members and Committee Chair's

Cody Mangold, Commander

Greetings,

The New Year is upon us whether we want it to be or not. With the New Year comes a push for membership. Currently if the Posts were to retain their current membership and renew those who have expired, we would be well over 100%. I will give a few reasons to why membership is important. One reason is the comradery that we have with each other and the respect to others that have been through similar situations. When I first joined, I knew little of the VFW and what it did. I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting and immediately felt welcomed. When I was discharged, I had the loss of comradery, but thankfully the VFW was able to fill that void and give me another family. Involvement in the communities to include our many great programs, along with Honor Guard to pay tribute and respect to those we have lost and to their families. Numbers matter especially when having to go in front of politicians because the greater the numbers they hear the better chance they will listen. The VFW is constantly advocating for Veteran's and their families. I want to thank all of you that participated with the Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teachers of the year. Yes, the number of youth participating was down, but that was to be expected this year due to the Pandemic. By the time you read this the first ever virtual VOD, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year Ceremony would have been held. We also would have completed the Council of Administration. I will challenge and encourage you all to please take the time to look in your communities and nominate Teachers for the Teachers of the Year program as there are many deserving individuals out there doing great things. Let us get those Teachers recognized next year. The number nominated keeps falling, and that comes down to all of us taking care of our community. The same thing can be said about the Public Servant awards. Those people need to be recognized for what they do for all of us. I want to Thank you all for your continued support. At this time, we will be holding the State Convention in person June 17-20th in Yankton at the Ramkota Best Western, and more information will be forth coming. I want to hold off with the forms until April in case of the Convention needing to be virtual instead. I am hoping to have it in person, and to be available virtually for those unable to attend in Person. We have gotten through this, and we will continue. Remember we have been through worse, and we have weathered that and will consider doing the same.

"Looking out for Veterans"

Cody Mangold Commander



**Senior Vice Commander
Barbara McKean General Orders Feb 2021**

For the year 2020-21, I received 3 nomination packages for Firefighter, 4 for Law Enforcement Officer and 2 for EMT/EMS. I would like to thank all our posts and departments for their diligent work on getting those reports completed and to me on time. I have forwarded the winner in each category to National and will release the names when the awards are presented 😊

While COVID may have required us all to change the way in which we conduct business, it has not stopped us from completing required actions of the VFW. Please continue to work your programs, recruit, and maintain contact with fellow comrades.

Remember, every post in SD should submit reports for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Loyalty Day to me or Darwin's office. Just because your post may not have been able to hold a ceremony due to COVID-19, does not mean you are not reaching out and taking care of our veterans in South Dakota. I need you each to complete the reports and indicate whether you held a program/ceremony and if not, why. That also goes for your quarterly financial Audit Reports, Community Service and Hospital and Safety Reports. Commanders and Quartermasters please get those reports submitted for each of your posts.

Please reach out if I can assist you in any way.

v/r,

Barbara McKean
Dept Sr. Vice Commander
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER FEBRUARY GENERAL ORDERS

The Department has added another Post that achieved quota – Lake Andes. Post 3239 joins our previous Posts (Crooks, Dell Rapids, Faith, Marty, Sisseton, Tyndall & Wagner) who have reached or exceeded their assigned quota. Posts that achieve their quota will be listed in the General Orders each month as recognition for their dedication and support of the Membership Program.

As of this input the Department membership is running less than 1% behind last year's total. We need 802 members to meet quota and have 863 Unpaid/Expired members on our roster. We fell short of our quota last year, however, that shortfall should provide us with a challenge during the upcoming months. Leaders and members alike are asked to display the initiative necessary to recruit and retain veterans in your communities. Thank you.

District Commanders have received a roster of Unpaid/Relocated personnel within 25 miles of your Post home. Contact your District Commander if you have not received this roster. If you have, attempt to contact these former and unpaid comrades to Reinstate them.

A reminder to Post Commanders and Adjutants. Members who appear in RED do not have a deliverable mailing address. Due to this they may not be receiving their Direct Membership Renewal notices from National. Please review your Membership Roster under the Post Query tab and take the necessary action. If you need assistance let me know.

South Dakota currently has 64 members on our Legacy Life roster. Commanders at all levels please take the action necessary to keep this Program thriving. Promote Legacy Life during your local meetings.

The data from the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen has been input on the All-American Dashboard. Thank you to all who participated.

If you have Amendments to the Department or National Bylaws you wish considered during the State Convention submit them to Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support. If you need any assistance feel free to contact me.

Tom Hafner
Jr. Vice Commander
tbmhafner@santel.net // 605-661-2750