

General Orders

NOVEMBER 2021



AUDIT REPORTS

AUDIT REPORTS DUE

Another quarter has closed. Posts are reminded that your Post Audit Reports are now due. If you are delinquent in any other quarters, please get them up to date. Mail or email to the Department Office.

The link to the report:

<https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/Forms/TrusteesReportofAuditForm--Blank.pdf>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

Department Community Service Chair, Sean Johnson, needs these reports. Please email or mail to the Department office.

The link to the report:

<https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/Reports%20and%20Forms/Community Service Report.pdf>

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 sisters by making sure they are celebrated.

The link to the report:

<https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/Reports%20and%20Forms/Veterans Day Report.pdf>



HAPPY THANKSGIVING, COMRADES

I want to wish you all a very happy blessed Thanksgiving! Wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of hope this Thanksgiving holiday! We gather on this day to be thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and for the blessings that will come. I'm grateful for your comradeship today and every day.

-State Commander, Barbara McKean

Patriot's Pen, VOD, Education Teacher Award

These are a few of our core programs we offer at the VFW. This is how we get our name out there and support our communities. Honoring teachers and students who go the extra mile helps make this country as amazing as it is. Let's get those nominations and papers turned in accordingly. Each post should have a winner announced and sent to the Chair, Keith Blume. He can be reached at krblume@goldenwest.net or PO Box 215 Custer, SD 57730

*Patriot's Pen: <https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/2021-2022%20Reports%20and%20Forms/2021-2022Patriot'sPenRegistration.pdf>

*VOD: https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/2021-2022%20Reports%20and%20Forms/VOD2021-2022_000006.pdf

*Education Teacher Award:
<https://vfwsd.org/uploads/Documents/Reports%20and%20Forms/2TeacherEntryForm2021updated.pdf>



MID WINTER DISTRICT MEETINGS

- Plan your meetings for your upcoming District Meetings
 - Department needs:
 - Time
 - Date
 - Place

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 if in person presentations are authorized. If in-person is unavailable, feel free to utilize the facetime methods, such as Zoom, Skype, Google Classrooms, etc.

*Make sure to report when you volunteer on your Community Service Report so your post can get that credit!

The second membership dues reminder notice for 2021 was mailed to unpaid members in October. Post Officers should conduct a membership campaign to follow up on these notices.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 30TH & 31ST, 2022

The annual Department Legislative Conference is scheduled to be held in Ft. Pierre, SD.

The tentative schedule is attached. Please make your arrangements and plan to attend.

- ***All members are welcomed to attend these conferences and meetings.***

Any and all people can sign up for Action Corps via texting. Friends, families, mail carriers, etc. text the word 'VFW' to 50457
Get the word out!!!



To qualify for All-American, your post should be actively posting and utilizing Facebook for 6 months.

This means, have Facebook and post pictures and statuses NO LATER THAN December 31, 2021!!!

OFFICIAL:

Anna Waltner

Anna Waltner, Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

BY ORDER OF:

Barbara McKean

Barbara McKean, State Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Barbara McKean, Commander
State Commander
November 2021 General Orders

Greeting Comrades,

I want to congratulate Anna Waltner on her employment and appointment and election as our new Department Adjutant and Quartermaster. Anna comes with an accounting background and enthusiasm to help all veterans. She is a member of Post 628 in Sioux Falls. She currently resides outside of Freeman with her fiancé and 3 boys. Welcome Anna! We are so glad you joined our team! To contact Anna, please email her at anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

On Oct 8-10, 2021, our Fall Council of Administration, School of Instruction and Homecoming Banquet (Department of South Dakota (SD) Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) & Auxiliary) was held at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD. Training was conducted on the Online Membership System (OMS) dashboard, social media, i.e., creating a Post Facebook account, OMS training to update new members, deceased members and how to look at membership statistics. District Commanders training was also conducted. One of the most important things taken from this event was the cross-feed of training and the comradery.

On Oct 15-17, 2021, South Dakota hosted the Big Ten Conference (VFW & Auxiliary) at Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City, SD. There were approximately 300 members in attendance from 10 different states in our conference. A special thank you for chairing this event goes out to Mike Mullen and Nancy Worth. They did an outstanding job and a thank-you just doesn't cover it.

Reminder, a requirement for All-American this year is having a Post Facebook page established by Jan 2022 (active for 6-month requirement for All-American). This also serves a great tool for getting information out to the Community and can be used as a tool to recruit membership and get veterans involved.

New this year is **every Post Adjutant MUST** make their own updates in the OMS dashboard with the number of new sign-ups for the Action Corps (this can be anyone, brother, mother, sister, friends etc. All they need to do is TEXT VFW to 50457). They must also update the OMS dashboard with their VOD and Patriots Pen numbers.

Tom Hafner and Anna Waltner attended the SD Veterans Council Meeting at the Military Alliance Building in Sioux Falls on Oct 20, 2021. This council consists of all military organization representatives from the SD to include guests from the Veteran Affairs Office as well as representatives from our SD Legislators offices.

On Oct 23, 2021, I was honored to be the guest speaker at Post 4727 in Brandon, SD for their First Annual Military Ball. What a great event, and I feel lucky and blessed to have been able to participate. I highly recommend everyone attend one of these events in the future. The sense of pride and comradeship at this event was amazing and I feel it left everyone with a renewed sense of pride and commitment to the VFW.

The Department of South Dakota VFW office is still featuring our members on the Department of South Dakota website who have proudly worn the uniform of our country and continue that legacy of service in their communities today. Please visit www.vfwsd.org to access this document (Weekly Social Media (Facebook under **Department of South Dakota VFW**) Highlight).

If there is anything I can do to assist, please give me a call. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming events:

Nov 10-14, 2021 - Decorated Veterans Pheasant Hunt - Gettysburg, SD

Nov 11, 2021 - Veterans Day

Barbara K. McKean

Barbara McKean

Barbara.mckean@ujs.state.sd.us

605-630-0771

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER NOVEMBER GENERAL ORDERS

October was a busy month; with Fall Council/Homecoming, Big 10, Veterans Council and a District meeting. Great training at Fall Council and a good deal of information published. If you were unable to attend, get with your District Commander for the details.

Your Post Veterans Day activities should be in the final stages. Be sure to include your community, school, and other service organizations in your program. Please submit your Veterans Day Report and/or a copy of your program as soon as your activities are complete. The reporting form is on the Department website. This is a huge day in the lives of our Veterans; please give them the honor they deserve.

Just a reminder your Public Servant Awards (Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement & Firefighters) entries are due in the next 60 days. As an organization we should be recognizing these dedicated individuals. Form is on the Department website.

As of the date of these General Orders the following Posts have submitted a Memorial Day Report. The Department stands at just over 62% with District 7 attaining 100% of their Posts submitting their Reports. District Commanders please contact your Posts and urge them get their Memorial Day submitted. Negative Reports are required. Thank you for your efforts.

District 1: Alcester, Brandon, Canton, Elk Point, Vermillion & Yankton

District 4: Brookings, Madison, Sisseton & Webster

District 6: Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Huron, Pierre & Turton

District 7: Armour, Burke, Chamberlain, Lake Andes, Marty, Mitchell, Parkston, Plankinton, Scotland, Tyndall, Wagner & Winner

District 10: Custer, Deadwood, Newell, Spearfish, Sturgis & Quinn

If I can be of any assistance contact me at the email or phone number (leave a message if no answer) listed below.

Tom Hafner

Sr. Vice Commander

tbmhafner@santel.net // 605-661-2750

**DAVE BAUMILLER, JVC
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
NOVEMBER 2021, GENERAL ORDERS**

We are at almost 85% in membership. That is about the national average. WE can do better. I will be contacting all district commanders and quartermasters this week.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your input, it is greatly appreciated. And thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Jr. Vice Commander

Dave Baumiller

Jr. Vice Commander

davebaumiller@gmail.com // 605-593-3389

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Surgeon Glynis Collier General Orders #5**

Hello Comrades,

October has been a very busy and fun month. The Big 10 Conference was a huge success, and it was comforting to have so many Veterans together in one place for three days. Mike Mullen and Nancy Worth, thank you for all your hard work. You are truly appreciated! The District #7 Meeting on October 24th was a great event. This District is one that works very hard to “get it right”. Thank you for your hospitality.

Please ensure that your 2nd Quarter Hospital and Safety Reports are sent to the state office no later than **January 10, 2022**. I’m looking forward to seeing you at the Legislative Conference in Pierre in the new year.

If you need copies of any of this year’s reports, please email me at dakpatriot@gmail.com and I will send them to you.

Thank you for your Service and everything you do each day for Veterans and their Family Members. Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully,
Glynis Collier
State Surgeon
Dept. of SD, VFW

VFW comrades, "could you please?" Now let me explain.

VFW Post 8530 recently lost a very humble, wonderful comrade who would come to anyone's aid. His name was Steve Sheldon. A life member and Nam vet. Our now retired Dept. of SD Qm Darwin suggested that our post do the military last rites in the back of the VFW manual for Steve. I had heard of the ritual but never actually have seen it preformed. Normally here in small town SD the Legion members present the family a flag, do the 21-gun salute, and play taps. Steve was cremated and his widow chose to have his celebration of Life on the local court house lawn. It was just a perfect setup. I showed our young Post commander the ritual in the manual, and as I was way too close to Steve, said "could you please" see if you could get 5 of our members to do the last rites for Steve. They did, and it absolutely turned out great. There were about 350 in attendance. Everyone was talking about how well the VFW "boys" took care of their own.

Now you want to hear the icing on the cake? At the lunch, after the service on the court house lawn, I had a member of the mourning family come up to me and ask if there was a way, I could sign him up with our Post here in Gettysburg. He lives in Iowa. He was a 36 yr. career veteran, and served in Iraq. He said he never has had any interest in the VFW, but after seeing the ceremony for his relative, he is now going life member, hoping that some day when he passes on, we will give him and his family the same ritual treatment. I am telling you it brought a tear to my eye, and then I quickly recovered and ran home to grab the membership form. As soon as the snail mail gets me a copy of his DD214 we will have a replacement for my dear friend Steve. Rather amazes me the twist's of life and death, and how a simple well designed and deserved 10 minute ritual can make a huge difference.

Perhaps there are many posts out there that do the ritual for departed comrades, I do not know. I have heard it's always done at the passing of one of our past Dept. Commander's funeral services.

Comrades, could you please, try to give departed VFW comrades the respect they deserve by doing the VFW last rites ritual found on or near page 103 in the manual. Just might show a few more people who we really are.

Life member VFW Post 8530 Gettysburg

Lonny



**South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary
Legislative Conference/Councils of Administration (COA) and
Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet**

January 30 - 31, 2022

❖ All Joint events will be held at the Moose Lodge Fort Pierre

Sunday, January 30th, 2022

❖ Registration is from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Moose Lodge Ft Pierre

10:00 a.m. AUXILIARY - District Presidents Meeting @ Holiday Inn Express

10:00 a.m. VFW - By-Law Committee Meeting (at Moose Lodge)

10:20 a.m. VFW - Budget & Audit Committees (at Moose Lodge)

11:40 a.m. VFW - Legislative & other Committees (will continue after COA) (at Moose Lodge)

❖ REMEMBER - Committee Meetings are not only for members of the committees. No voting rights. Lots of valuable information for everyone.

12:00 p.m. ALL - Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. VFW - COA Meetings (at Moose Lodge)

1:00 p.m. AUXILIARY - COA Meetings (at Holiday Inn Express Ft Pierre)

3:00 p.m. VFW - Chairman Reports and Training (at Moose Lodge)

6:00 p.m. ALL - Menu items (Featuring steak & shrimp) served at Moose Lodge using MOOSE BUCKS

Monday, January 31st, 2022

8:30 a.m. ALL - Joint Legislative Session (Moose Lodge, Ft Pierre)

❖ VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers visit the State Capital (State Commander and Auxiliary President)

11:30 a.m. ALL - VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Banquet (Moose Lodge) (Meal Provided)

Legislative Mixer

6:00 - 8:30 p.m. ALL - Legislative Mixer (Moose Lodge)

❖ Please plan to attend! Your State Legislators will be in attendance.