

General Orders

MAY 2023



MEMBERSHIP

WAY TO GO SOUTH DAKOTA

Congratulations and thank you to all of you for working so hard this year in pushing the Department PAST 100%!!! Keep up the great work!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Please send your Post financial donations to the Department office. The goal was to send \$1,500.00 to the Special Olympics in South Dakota, currently sitting at \$1270.75 total. So close!!!

AUDIT REPORTS

NEEDED

Audit Reports are not only required by National and Department Bylaws, but also an IRS requirement. Please get your Audits turned into the Department office as soon as possible.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

According to Section 217, page 73 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 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."



Unpaid Bills & Expense Vouchers

Department Quartermaster reminds all members with unpaid bills and/or expense vouchers incurred during this administration are hereby requested to submit to the Department office NLT June 15, 2022 for end of fiscal year processing.

You can find the expense vouchers on the Department website at <https://vfwsd.org> >templates and forms > Department of SD VFW Expense Voucher Form



POST / DISTRICT ELECTION REPORTS

FOR COMMAND YEAR 2023-2024

National Headquarters sent an Election Report letter to all Post / District Commanders. You can send that letter in, but it is much more highly encouraged to utilize the online OMS system to send in your Election Reports. If you have problems or need help, contact Anna, QM/ADJ at the Department office, and she can help. 605-332-7441

Please have your Election Report turned in by June 1, 2023, or National will put your Post on the Suspension List immediately. Each position must be filled. Members cannot hold more than one elected position.

All-State Judging will take place on May 12, 2023. All reports need to be in the Department office by COB May 10, 2022. If you have questions, please call Anna at 605-332-7441 or email anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

DELEGATES & ALTERNATES FOR STATE CONVENTION

DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

According to National Bylaws Section 222, Page 78, Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of June 30th.

Delegates and alternates of each Post shall serve as delegates throughout the year provided they remain members in good standing in the respective Post within the District.

In the back of these General Orders, there will be a Delegate and Alternate form(s) for you to register your Post for the State Convention. If you have any questions, contact Anna at the Department office 605-332-7441 or anna@vfwdeptsd.com

National Convention Delegates: Reference National Bylaws Section 222, Page 17, each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of \$25 which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention Information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee.

PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY: The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast on Sunday May 15, 2023 until noon. All Posts are requested to comply with this order.

VFW Buddy Poppy

Distribution will be conducted under the authority of Section 711, Page 99 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and according to the rules of the National Buddy Poppy Committee. Posts are reminded to complete their arrangements for this year's Poppy distribution.

STATE CONVENTION IS SCHEDULED JUNE 15-18, 2023, IN MITCHELL, SD AT THE 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

Please see attached flyer for the State Convention or go to the Department website www.vfwsd.org > resources > State Convention for more information

All Posts that have not done so, please contribute \$.65 cents per member of your Post as of June 30, 2021, for the Service and Rehabilitation Fund, Memorial Park Fund, and Hospital Fund. These are in-state obligation programs the Department funds annually.

National Bylaws Section 213, Page 15, any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of QM properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council, District, Department and National Conventions.

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL ORDERS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

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

HATS IN THE RING 2023-2024

- Commander - David Baumiller
 - Senior Vice Commander - Glynis Collier
 - Junior Vice Commander - Dr. Martin Christensen
 - Quartermaster - Anna Arnold
 - Chaplain - Russel Dramstad
 - Judge Advocate - Robert Harrington
 - Surgeon - Rick VandenHoek
 - Inspector - Allan Ochsner
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Following are Proposed Amendments to the Department of South Dakota Bylaws submitted to the Department Resolutions & Bylaws Committee.

For reference and comparison, the current Department of South Dakota Bylaws are on the Department website (www.vfwsd.org) , under the Resources, Bylaws and Dept. of SD tabs.

This posting will serve as notification to the VFW Posts of South Dakota in accordance with Article 18 (Amendments) of the Department of South Dakota Bylaws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

ARTICLE 6 – PER CAPITA TAX

ARTICLE 6 – Change Heading to Read as follows:

ARTICLE 6

ANNUAL PER CAPITA TAX AND ANNUAL DEPARTMENT DUES

ARTICLE 6, SECTION 1 – ADD at the beginning of the first sentence:

SECTION 1: Annual Per Capita Tax:**ARTICLE 6 – ADD Section 2 as follows:**

SECTION 2: Annual Department Dues: In accordance with Section 506 (Department Dues) of the National Bylaws the Department at its Annual Convention will assess Department Dues of not less than fifty cents per annum on each member in good standing in each and every Post within its jurisdiction. Annual Department Dues may be designated for and in the amount the Annual Convention deems appropriate for Programs to include the Hospital Fund, the Service and Rehabilitation Fund, the Memorial Park and Chapel Fund and/or any other Project or Program decided at the Annual Convention. Annual Department Dues will be based on Post membership as of June 30 of the previous Membership year and payable to Department Headquarters not later than October 1 of each year.

ARTICLE 9 – COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION**ARTICLE 9, SECTION 2 – DELETE as follows:**

District #1 – Delete Post #3728, Freeman and Post #5770, Crooks.

ARTICLE 10 – STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES**ARTICLE 10, SECTION 9 – REVISE to read:**

The State Commander shall appoint a Veterans Council that consists of the current State Adjutant as a continuing appointment and two (2) At-Large members, preferably one (1) from the East side and one (1) from the West side of the State. The purpose of this Committee is to sit on the South Dakota Veterans Council as a member representing the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and to join with other veterans' organizations to provide services that benefit South Dakota Veterans and their families.

ARTICLE 16 – MISCELLANEOUS**ARTICLE 16, SECTION 5 – REVISE to read:**

SECTION 5: In accordance with Section 703 (Bonds) of the National Bylaws each Officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the Liquid Assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The Department has interpreted Liquid Assets as Cash on hand, or an asset easily converted to Cash, such as Savings Accounts, Electronic Funds Transfer, Cryptocurrency, Treasury Bills, Treasury Bonds, Certificates of Deposit, Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Money Market Funds and Exchange Traded Funds. Each and every District and Post within the jurisdiction of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars shall Bond with the Indemnity Company designated by said Department.

SECTION 6: Renumber current Section 5 to Section 6

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

MAY GENERAL ORDERS

Comrades this is my final General Orders input. For the Department and I 2022-2023 has been very interesting, a year of rewards and challenges. We can all look back and reflect on tasks that could have been accomplished differently and with greater success. I want to take this time to thank all of you for your patience with me, and especially the Council of Administration, the Past Department Commanders who I leaned on heavily for guidance and counsel, and those of you who I was in contact with weekly, if not daily, both on the VFW and Auxiliary side. As a Department we moved positively forward in the age of technology, not because of anything I did, but because you were willing to take a leap of faith. Post and District leadership moved our Department in the direction of success. Membership is always at the forefront and you folks absolutely crushed it. I hope this year will go down in history as a positive one. It has been an honor to serve as your Commander. Thank you everyone.

All-State Commander and Quartermaster judging is scheduled for May 12th. Each District and Post is reminded to review the basic requirements for consideration on Page 11 (Posts) and Page 16 (Districts) of the 2022-2023 Department of South Dakota Program & Membership Guide. If you have not submitted Reports regarding Programs you have participated in enter them on the State and National Dashboard as appropriate immediately.

Post and District elections should be completed at this time. Installation of Officers must be completed prior to the convening of the Department Convention but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. **Election Reports should be submitted to National Headquarters not later than June 1st to avoid Suspension.** Just a reminder that two Posts had their Charter revoked this year due to their failure to submit an Election Report.

Insure you review the Proposed Department Bylaw Amendments that are included in these General Orders as they will be voted on during the Department Convention.

Again, Posts are reminded to submit their Delegates and Delegate Fees for both the Department and National Conventions. The Department Convention is scheduled for June 15-18 in Mitchell. Registration and Delegate information is included in these General Orders. Please consider attending as your input is important to the continued success of our Department.

“AT THIS POINT IN TIME MEMBERSHIP MUST CONTINUE TO BE OUR PRIMARY FOCUS. AS A DEPARTMENT WE HAVE THIRTY-TWO (32) POSTS WHO HAVE MET OR EXCEEDED THEIR QUOTA AND FIFTEEN (15) POSTS WHO NEED FIVE (5) OR LESS MEMBERS TO MEET THEIR QUOTA. THE DEPARTMENT HAS EXCEEDED 100% OF OUR QUOTA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCEPTIONAL RECRUITING AND RETENTION EFFORT.

Following is a listing of our Quota Buster Posts and Posts who have achieved their Quota. We have Twenty-five (25) Quota Buster Posts (Lemmon-126.08%, Turton-115.00%, Flandreau-111.53%, Newell-111.11%, Brandon-108.75%, Mitchell-108.44%, Marty-108.33%, Parkston-105.95%, Alcester-104.76%, Burke-103.79% Chamberlain-103.57%, Huron-103.22%, Quinn-103.03%, Deadwood-102.78%, Belle Fourche-102.70%, Custer-102.15%, Rapid City-101.83%, Plankinton-101.78%, Gettysburg-101.72%, Yankton-101.29%, Vermillion-101.29% Wagner-100.79%, Milbank-100.74%, Sisseton-100.71% & Brookings-100.48%) and Seven (7) Posts who have reached their Quota (Beresford, Eureka, Faith, Goodwin, Lake Andes, Pierre & Wessington Springs).

Once again thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Commander.

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

Commander

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

General Orders

Membership

At this time, we are at 100.2%. Although this is a great number for the State of South Dakota, we need to reach 102%. We're so close let's keep moving forward.

Now that it's election time, let's get our election reports in on time. Or better yet, *before* the deadline, (June 1).

Just back from Kansas City, learned a lot of great things. There are three (3) new programs: ROTC of the Year, Business Person of the Year and Veteran of the Year.

Remember, we're stronger in numbers
Dave Baumiller, Sr Vice

Greetings Fellow Veterans and Heroes!

April has been a very successful month regarding membership! In fact you all proved as a TEAM proved how excellent our SD VFW Department is within the VFW Nation. We have surpassed 100% in membership. As of April 30, 2023, we have a filibuster ranking of 100.43%!! We are over by 31 members within the entire state.

I would like to personally thank each and every VFW who earned at least one member this year. I couldn't be prouder and more honored as a fellow member within our organization! THANK YOU for all of your hard work!!!!

As always, I am here for you if you need anything or have any questions concerning membership. I am here to serve you. Thank You for Everything You Do for Veterans and their Family Members each day! Let's Do This SD VFW! One Team One Fight!

Very Respectfully,
Glynis Collier
Jr. Vice CDR
DEPT of SD VFW
dakpatriot@gmail.com
Cell #803-466-7031

Greetings Comrades,

It looks like nicer weather is finally approaching. Claims continue to be extremely busy and PACT Act claims are continuing to come in. The VA has added numerous new positions because of the high number of claims. There are a couple things to remember with this though. First it will take some time to get them all trained, and the second problem is many of the folks that were hired came from other similar positions such as Department, County, and State Veteran Service Officers. It will take time to hire and train the new people back filling those positions. They added 48 new BVA Judges to bring the total number up to 131. This has really helped with the backlog of appeals waiting to go before the board.

There have been many questions about the deadline of the of the CLJA Tort claim which is in 2024. That is the deadline to file a civil claim, but you can still file a VA Compensation Claim after that. There has been a lot of back and forth on can you get the Tort Claim and Disability. The VA has said verbally that you can receive both but the actual wording in the law says they can recoup any money that you receive. I can say the one certain thing is, if you go with the Tort claim, be cautious of which

lawyer you go with. The VFW is recommending Bergmann and Moore. Bergmann and Moore are charging 33.3% of the total award. Other firms are charging you costs, which are unknown and then 50% of the remaining amount. If you have questions on the process, reach out to Service Officer before you sign a contract with any lawyer.

Respectfully,
 David Huntimer
 Department Service Officer
 Email: David.huntimer@state.sd.us
 Cell: 605-400-9005



SD Legislative Committee Member General Order - May 2023

During the month of April the Legislative priorities were discussed District meetings. All members were encouraged to sign-up to Corps and when the need arises, contact our legislative members emails at the links provided.

Anna Arnold emailed the letter that was sent to Speaker of the Kevin McCarthy, from the VFW National Executive Director, Gallucci out to all Posts in South Dakota to disseminate to their This proposed report introduces going back to the Fiscal Year spending budget will significantly impact Veterans who have started receiving benefits from the PACT Act. We ask that you please, take the time to contact Dusty Johnson today and let him know how South Dakota Veterans and their families feel about this proposition.



during Action by sending

House, Ryan members. 2022 federal applied and

v/r,
 Barbara McKean
 National Legislative Representative - South Dakota



Department of South Dakota VFW & Auxiliary

Convention Registration
June 15-18, 2023

*****Please use one form for each individual registration*****

Registration will be \$125 per member prior to May 15, 2022, and \$150 after
Individual banquet tickets will be sold to non-members for \$40.

Name Badges will be required for Buffets, Hospitality Nights, and Banquet. Events will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds at 3200 West Havens Ave., Mitchell, South Dakota
Hospitality Night will be held at the Mitchell Post #2750 at 215 N Main St.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership: Post #: _____ Auxiliary #: _____ Post Location: _____

Gluten free option:

Make checks payable to:

**Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Or use QR code



****No refunds given after June 14, 2023****

	Price	Total Paid
Convention Registration	\$125	_____
Non-Member Banquet	\$40	_____
Non-Member Name		_____

Grand Total to be sent to Department \$ _____



Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

CONVENTION HOSPITALITY NIGHT



Friday June 16, 2022
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Food and Cash Bar

VFW Post #2750
315 N Main St
Mitchell, SD 57301



Convention Badges Required

Cost \$100.00 per Candidate

Send Payment to:
Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St. Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Candidate Name: _____

For the Office of: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____

For further information, contact Anna Arnold at 605-332-7441 or anna@vfwdeptsd.com



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Department of South Dakota

1600 W Russell St, Ste 135

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

605-332-7441

Email: anna@vfwdeptsd.com

To: Post Commanders and Quartermasters

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a Post Credential Registration Sheet to register your Post's **Delegates** and to register your Post's **Alternates** to the 93rd Annual Convention of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars to be held June 15-18, 2023, at Mitchell, South Dakota. According to **National Bylaws Section 222 (a)** *the Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. The Delegates and Alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.*

Also enclosed is a Delegate fee form. According to **Department Bylaws Article 5: Conventions, Section 6** a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) is required by the Department for each Delegate. Voting strength of each Post is the member who are in good standing at the time of the election. Each Post shall remit fees for any members from their Post who are qualified to receive a vote according to National Bylaws Section 504 Governing Body; Composition and Section 521 Voting. This would be Post members who are serving as a member of the current Department Council of Administration, current National Council of Administration, serving as a Post Commander within the Department and any Past State Commander. Any Post member possessing more than one qualification for voting at the Department Convention shall have no more than one vote.

The Delegate Credential Sheet and Delegate Fee Form **must** be filled out and sent to State Headquarters by June 1, 2023. For example, if your Post is allowed 10 Delegates and only two attend the Convention, the two who do attend the State Convention shall be entitled to vote the full Delegate strength to which the Post is entitled.

Please remember to have your Post Delegate Registration Sheet and your Delegate Fee Form and payment sent to the State Office by June 1, 2023.

Yours in Comradeship,

Anna Arnold
Department of South Dakota VFW
Adjutant / Quartermaster
605-332-7441 (office)
anna@vfwdeptsd.com

Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars Delegate Fee Form

This form is to be completed by a Post officer and must be in the hands of the Department Quartermaster no later than 15 days before the convening of the State Convention (June 1, 2023)

POST #: _____ CITY POST IS LOCATED: _____

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: _____ AS OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION

The voting strength of your Post will be according to the **National Bylaws Section: 222 Delegates, District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions**, the Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and Alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure. The Delegate Registration Fee shall be forwarded by every Post regardless of the number of Delegates present at the Annual Department Convention and must be in the hands of the Department Quartermaster not later than fifteen (15) days before the convening of the Department Convention (June 15-18, 2023). Posts failing to forward the full Delegate Registration Fee shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

Department Bylaws Article 5: Conventions, Sections 6, a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) is required by the Department for each voting Delegate. Voting strength of each Post that has registered Delegates at the Convention shall be based on the Post Membership in good standing at the time of the Election. Each Post should also remit any members from their Post who is serving as a member of the current Council of Administration and for any Past State Commander from their Post.

Post Commander _____ at \$1.00 \$ _____

Membership Total _____ Divided by 30 = _____

Number of Post Delegates _____ at \$1.00 \$ _____

Current Members of Council of Administration who are members of the Post. (Registration and Fee Form)

Name _____ Office Title _____

Name _____ Office Title _____

Name _____ Office Title _____

Total State Officers _____ at \$1.00 \$ _____

Past State Commanders who are members of your Post. (Registration and Fee Form)

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Total Past State Commanders _____ at \$1.00 \$ _____

Total Amount Remitted _____ \$ _____

*****If you have a member who is a Past State Commander AND a member of the Current Council of Administration, please list the member ONLY once for ONE Delegate fee payment******

**Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

DELEGATES

The Comrades listed below are the Delegates for Post # _____ located at _____, South Dakota for the 93rd Annual Convention of the State of South Dakota. Make sure you have listed a Post member who may qualify as a voting member of Convention as a member of the Council of Administration or as a Past State Commander. This will allow them to pass their vote to the Post if they choose to do so.

List of members who will be registered as Delegates at the Convention:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ | 30. _____ |

**Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

ALTERNATES

List of members who will be registered as Alternates at the Convention:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ | 30. _____ |

Send to the Department at 1600 W Russell St, Ste 135, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 OR email anna@vfwdeptsd.com

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW members for the Month of May 2023 focusing on renewing and upgrading our members!

This month, the Commander-in-Chief's challenge is focusing on our Annual members. We want to see our Posts working on two aspects of retention: renewing our Annual members and upgrading them to Life members. And while retention is necessary, we haven't forgotten about the importance of recruiting as well, so we will be issuing an additional individual recruiter challenge this month!



(Male or Female figure available)

To focus on retention, we will be acknowledging the top Post in each membership division that shows the most Renewals and Life Member Upgrades during the month of May. If a member pays their 2023 dues, whether Annual or Life, this will be credited towards this month's challenge and the top Post in each division will receive a unique statue to display at your Post commemorating this important membership goal!

In addition, the top recruiter in each division during the month of May will receive a special Recruiter Plaque to recognize their part in helping grow and strengthen our membership. We want to see you all going out to bring new members into the VFW!



We have had a historic membership year so far, and we want to continue to keep that momentum going. Through recruiting new members and retaining the members we have, we will continue to show our strength as an organization, to help our fellow veterans and their families, and to prove to the world that

EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!

This Post contest will count the number of Annual members in a Post who pay membership dues, either Annual or Life, from May 1st through May 31st, 2023. Dues payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments made through the mail will be processed when received. The Recruiter Plaque award will count all new and reinstated members recruited between May 1st and May 31st, 2023. Awards will take approximately six weeks to mail. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.