

General Orders

DECEMBER 2024



PEARL HARBOR DAY FLY FLAGS AT HALF STAFF

December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Day. All Posts should fly their flag at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.



VETERANS DAY REPORTS VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day Reports are due. To send in your reports, please utilize the State Dashboard for reporting. If you need help, please contact Anna at the Department office 605-332-7441.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The Department Legislative Conference, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Award winners is set for January 12 & 13, 2025 at the AmericInn in Pierre. The registration form is attached at the end of the General Orders.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

From the Department Officers

🔺 Merry Christmas 🔺

To all our Comrades, family, and friends:

We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season filled with love and happiness. A heartfelt **thank you** to each and every Veteran who has proudly served our country. Your sacrifices and dedication inspire us all.

Thank you for all that you do to make this organization as great as you are. Your contributions are truly invaluable.

Stay safe and enjoy the happiest of holidays!

Membership

Membership efforts in December should be concentrated on contacting ALL 2024 members who are not current on their membership dues. Take this opportunity to lend a caring ear to our Veterans during this Christmas season. Check on our brothers and sisters in arms. This can be a very tough time!

Your Adjutant should be able to view this information in OMS. If you need any assistance, please contact Anna at the Department office at 605-332-7441 or anna@vfwdeptsd.com for more information.

www.vfwsd.org



DEPARTMENT OFFICE CLOSED

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Department office recognizes the same Holiday schedules as the National VFW offices.

The Department office will be closed Monday, December 23, 2024, through Monday, January 1, 2025. Employees will return on Thursday January 2, 2025.

www.vfwsd.org

If you would like to include something in the General Orders, please have your submission to the Department office no later than the 25th of each month. Send submission via Microsoft word document to anna@vfwdeptsd.com.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

DECEMBER 17

Please help us remember, honor, and teach on December 14, 2024, at 11:00 am by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

Wreaths Across America will be at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to remember and honor our Veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each Veteran aloud.

www.vfwsd.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR RAFFLE STUBS AND MONEY FROM THE COMMANDER RAFFLE!

APPROACHING DEADLINES:

- Voice of Democracy to Department - December 15, 2024 danklimisch@gmail.com
- Patriot's Pen to Department - December 15, 2024 danklimisch@gmail.com
- Teacher Award to Department - December 15, 2024 danklimisch@gmail.com
- Law Enforcement / Firefighter Nomination - To SVC Martin Christensen by January 1, 2025 mchristensen@santel.net

Mid-Winter District Meetings

- District 1 - January 26, 2025, at 1 pm in Sioux Falls
- District 4 - TBD
- District 6 - TBD
- District 7 - TBD
- District 10 - TBD

The license plate stickers are still for sale! If you would like to purchase a logo, please contact Anna at the Department office. Email anna@vfwdeptsd.com or 605-332-7441. Each sticker is \$10.00.

This is what the sticker looks like:



Sticker goes here



\$10.00 per sticker

Send check to Department office at:
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57045

****Would make a great Stocking Stuffer for Christmas**
Also available for motorcycles**

Proposed Amendments to the Department Bylaws should be submitted to Department Headquarters not later than 31 December 2024 as a suggestion to allow the Resolutions & Bylaws Committee ample time to review prior to the Legislative Conference. These Proposals can be discussed at the Legislative Conference and voted on during the State Convention. Any Amendment Proposal should be in the proper format to include Article, Section and the reason and rationale for the proposal.



OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Glynis Collier

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



Hello Heroes,

November has been a month full of ceremonies honoring our Veterans and their Family Members. I attended the Veteran's Day Parade and Meal in Rapid City! This was an amazing event and everyone was so pumped during the parade. I was lucky enough to ride in a 1966 Red Corvette Convertible! Thank you Surgeon Pyka and VFW Post 1273 for your hospitality!

I attended the Legislative Round Table Discussions on November 22, & 23, 2024 in Rapid City and Pierre.

The joint project with our Auxiliary has been extended to December 15, 2024. The VAVS in Sioux Falls is asking for Tracphone cards for our homeless Vets and we published a wish list for them as well. The Fort Meade and Hot Springs VAVs is asking for Subway and Walmart Cards for the holiday season. Please remember to purchase the Federal Walmart Cards that do not allow the purchase of Alcohol, Tobacco or Firearm products. Please email the Auxiliary SF VAVs Rep Kim Vennard at this email address to ensure your donation (s) reaches her in order for it to be given to the SF Hospital: kjv57103@gmail.com. Please email the West River VAVs Rep Sue Jones at this email address to ensure your donation (s) reaches her in order for them to be distributed: sjones2727@yahoo.com.

Way to go on Membership! We are now seventh in the Nation! JVC Vandenhoeck will update you regarding our Membership incentives.

The VOD and PP application deadline to the State Office is December 15th, please be sure to have your winners emailed to Anna and CC me. Please do not Blind Copy me. I am keeping a database of my own to ensure everyone gets credit for their submissions and to also ensure no one submits items late.

Don't forget your Teacher of the Year Submissions! We should continue to show our appreciation to those who care for and teach our children each day.

Next on the list is Firefighter/EMT/Law Enforcement nominees to be submitted to your posts. SVC Christensen is your POC.

Legislative Conference is January 12-13, 2025 in Fort Pierre at the AmericInn. We need as many members as possible to attend including the Legislative Mixer on Monday evening. We have many new legislators and must make a good impression. There truly is strength in numbers.

As always, I am honored and humbled to be working with you ALL as your Commander this year. I am always available to talk to if you need a supportive and understanding ear.

“One Team, One Fight!”

Very Respectfully,
//Original Signed//
Glynis Collier
State Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

General Orders – December 2024
Sr. Vice Commander – Martin Christensen

During the month of November, VFW Post 2750 assisted the other local service organizations to organize and host an outstanding Veteran’s Day program. We served lunch to over 325 veterans and their families. We recognized and gave awards for Veteran of the Year from each organization. Tom Oberembt was selected as VFW Post 2750 Veteran of the Year. Quilts of Valor were awarded. Art Escalante from VFW Post 2750, Our speaker, Steve Morgan from Mitchell High School, gave a short presentation during the luncheon on the Civil War. Later, in the afternoon, he gave an extended talk regarding the Civil War veterans from South Dakota.

On November 6-7, VFW Post 2750 along with the Sam Tronnes Memorial Foundation conducted a pheasant hunt with Toshiba, US Bank and local veterans. Funds raised will go to provide new flag poles for our cemetery.

12-21 November we distributed poppies, sold raffle tickets for an M-1 Garand and recruited new members at County Fair. We were able to recruit 2 life memberships for the VFW, 2 annual members for the American Legion and 3 members for the DAV. South Dakota ranks 7th in the nation for membership – presently at 93.71% as of 27 Nov 2024.

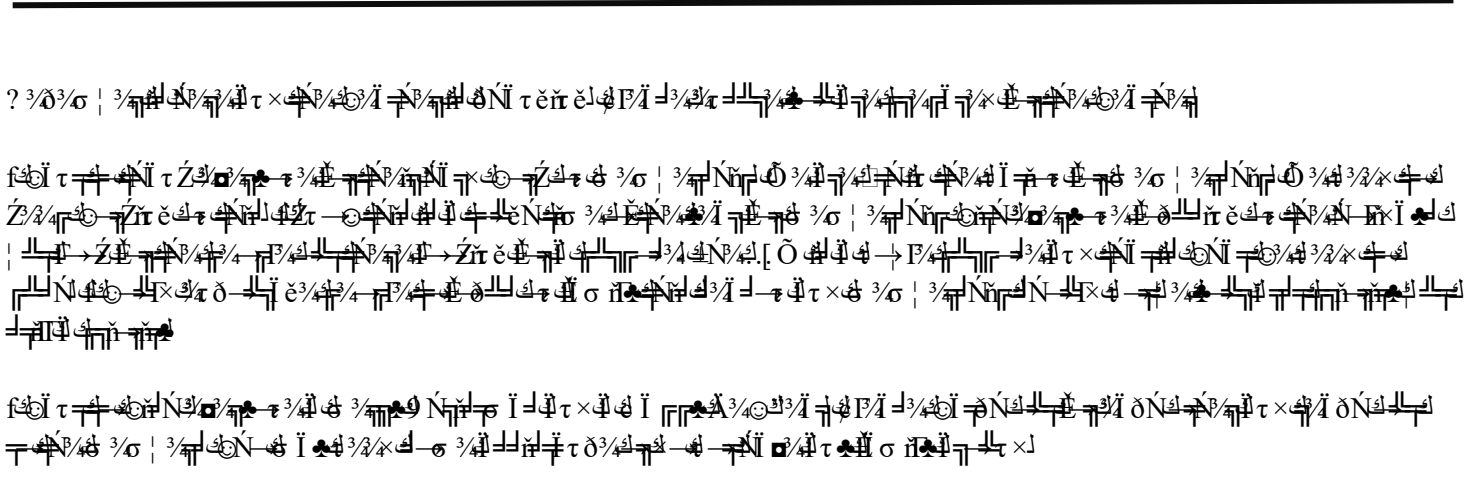
Applications for Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT are due by 31 December 2024. Please email your selections to me at mchristensen@santel.net and cc to Anna. These submissions are required for your post to become All-State Posts.

I’m working with Anna to keep data updated on the dashboard so that the Posts and Districts can track their results and ensure you are given credit for all the work you do.

I’m looking forward to the Legislative Conference 12-13 January in Pierre. Please contact your local legislators regarding meeting with them in Pierre.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. I wish you also a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

V/R Submitted
Martin Christensen, Sr Vice Commander
VFW Department South Dakota



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VFW & AUX LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

January 12 & 13, 2025

AmericInn

312 Island Dr.
Pierre, SD, 57532

605-223-2358

REGISTRATION

Advance Registration: \$125

Registration after January 3, 2025: \$150
(Includes Luncheon meal on Monday and Mixer)
Guest Lunch on Monday: \$40

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____

VFW or AUX: _____ Post: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Guest Name: _____

Make checks payable to:
Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

******You must reserve your own room******

Headquarters at AmericInn
312 Island Dr. Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 (605)223-2358
Limited rooms available
Room Rate \$129.99/night plus tax

VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

January 12 & 13, 2025

AmericInn

312 Island Dr.
Pierre, SD, 57532

605-223-2358

January 12, 2025

All Business Meetings will be at the Moose Lodge on Sunday. The VOD/PP/Teacher Banquet & Legislative Mixer will be at the AmericInn on Monday.

Sunday,
January 12
10:00 am – 4:30 pm
Moose Lodge

Business Meetings

10:00 am
Registration Open

10:00 am
Committee Meetings • Audit, Budget, Legislative, & Bylaws – Lunch on your own.

1:00 pm
Council of Administration Meeting • Business Attire

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Social Hour & Supper at Moose Lodge • Cash Bar

Monday,
January 13
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
AmericInn

VOD/PP/Teacher Banquet

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers of the Year Luncheon Banquet.

Winners will meet at AmericInn for a tour of the Capital Building, and a meet-and-greet with Legislators.

312 Island Dr.
Pierre, SD 57532

Legislative Mixer

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
AmericInn

Legislative Mixer with Politicians • hors d'oeuvres included in registration. Members & Legislators will receive 2 drink tickets each.

Legislative Updates

For the most updated legislative bills for to: <https://sdlegislature.gov/>