

General Orders

OCTOBER 2024



BIG TEN CONFERENCE

BIG TEN

The Big Ten Conference will take place in Indianapolis, IN October 18-20, 2024. If you would like to register, contact QM/ADJ Anna for more information.

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

OCTOBER 1-7

This is observed during the first week of October, raising awareness about mental health challenges faced by veterans and promoting access to mental health services and support.

INSPECTIONS

POST & DISTRICTS

All Posts and Districts are asked to help the Inspections by making sure all Post books, records, and minutes are available at the time of Inspection. Please instruct the Post Trustees to comply with Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure "Trustees".



COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

Please report your Community Service through the Department Dashboard. This can be found online at www.vfwsd.org > Login > Members Only > Community Service Reporting. Your Members ID = VFW Member Number, and Password = Last Name with the first letter capitalized.

Americanism

All Posts should be sponsoring vigorous Americanism and Patriotic activities to make strong, direct, and Patriotic impact in our schools or the general public. Patriotic leadership in our communities is important.

Have you considered implementing a program to stop old and tattered US Flags from being flown by informing your community they can leave old Flags at your Post for proper disposal?

www.vfwsd.org



VETERANS DAY

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11

Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Have you started organizing your Veterans Day Program yet? Now is the time!

November 11, 2024, is Veterans Day. According to the Manual of Procedure, Sec. 223 - Commemorative Dates, every Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Veterans Day.

www.vfwsd.org

If you would like to send a submission for the General Orders, please send to Anna at anna@vfweptsd.com no later than the 25th of every month.

VOD / PP / TEACHERS AWARDS

PROGRAMS

At this time, all Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher's Awards program material should be in the possession of the Posts and schools.

Contact your local schools and make certain the contest is underway. All entries should be at the Post no later than October 31st. The Posts will make the necessary judging happen online via the Scholar's App no later than November 31st. Please watch the training videos and pass the information along to all Chairman and Judges for your VOD/PP program www.vfwsd.org

Contact Department VOD / PP / Teachers Award Chair Dan Klimisch
danklimisch@gmail.com

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN TRAINING VIDEOS:

District Chairman Training Video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k4XwJqiQLYGBGFLDVhp7ZJGBzw9VJd_t/view

Post Chairman Training Video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bcW_zQG-Rtd-vZH56slj9DMtTUaEbAO7/view

VFW - How to Generate Flyers

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13AZC4wS8QL5kiZffyZMOz-zL-u5yqyIH/view>

VFW Applying for Scholarships Tutorial

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i9-erwWKhREVfz7PQqyKcIyHWL4rOcGI>

VFW Manually Uploading Applications

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bEgKMPIFf7sKWfCb9xCxzhcfLZ141H1e>



Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT of the year are due to the Department Headquarters by January 1, 2025. Please contact the Chairmen, SVC Martin Christensen at mchristensen@santel.net

When sending a voucher to the Department, all receipts need to be attached in order to be reimbursed for the full amount.



OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Glynis Collier

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



Hello Fellow Veterans of Foreign Wars,

I am publishing my Book of Reports in hopes of it reaching all of our members at the Post Level.

Our business year started off strong with many membership recruiting drives with the help and initiative of our valuable Leaders and State Officers.

❖ Chain of Command

- **This is the Chain of Command for the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars.**
 - The Post Commander is the beginning of the Chain of Command at the Post Level.
 - The District Commander is the beginning of the Chain of Command at the District Level.
 - The State Commander is the beginning of the Chain of Command at the Department Level.
 - All National and Department Communications will be sent to members through the State Adjutant.
 1. Respective Chairpersons will address the Program(s) to which they have been appointed by the Commander.
 2. Each Commander, State Line Officer, Adjutant, Quartermaster and the Council of Administration will conduct business per the established Job Description and Standard Operating Procedures depicted within the Nationally approved Manual of Procedure: Bylaws and Rituals and the Approved State Level Manual of Procedure: Bylaws and Rituals.
 3. **No** Member shall speak for the Commander at any level of the Chain of Command.
 4. In cases where the COA two thirds vote is required, the standards dictated by the Manual of Procedure: Bylaws and Rituals (MOP: B&R) will be followed.
 5. Robert's Rules of Order is the Administrative Guide to support and assist with the MOP: B&R content.

❖ We will begin with discussing **Our Purposes** as defined by our **Manual of Procedure**:

- **Sec. 230102 - Purposes.**
 - The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:
 1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
 2. to assist worthy comrades;

- **Purposes (Continued).**

3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. to foster true patriotism;
6. to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies

- ❖ Membership is currently at ____% and we are ____ in the VFW National Ranks as of COB September 27, 2024. We need to recruit ____ members to reach the 102% All-American standard.

- ❖ There has been an addition to our All-American Dashboard as of this week. ADJ Arnold forwarded this email to you this past week on the day it was forwarded to me.
 - The National Day of Service has been added to the All-American Program and Dashboard.
 - You must follow the link in the email sent to you all to add your Posts and Districts Day of Service Projects.
 - I would like to address a State DOS initiative at our COA business meeting tomorrow.
 - If you have any questions concerning this new addition, please send me an email and “cc” ADJ Arnold.
- ❖ The State Schedule of Report Submissions, Important Dates and All-State Plan for our Department has been finalized and is now available.
 - Please be sure to read through it and submit All reports through the State Adjutant and Chairpersons with a “cc” to me by the suspense dates.
 - The State Judging and Awards Meeting is scheduled May8, 2025 at 11:00 am at the State Office. A Zoom link will also be available for those Award Chairpersons who cannot be physically present. All Chairpersons are expected to attend this meeting regardless of their geographical location.
 - All suspense dates will be met in order to receive credit for an event. **NO** reports or **standards of completion** will be modified or accepted after **May 7, 2025 COB** which is 4:00 pm.
- ❖ The ultimate **Goal** of our Department is to accomplish the mission of our established purposes through the **“TEAM” Concept**:
 - Teamwork
 - Effective Communication
 - Adaptability
 - Mentorship

Finally, I am so honored and humbled to have been selected by our organization as the Commander of the State of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars for Command Year 2024-2025. Serving with each and every Hero and their family members within our esteemed organization is one of the major and most fulfilling milestones within my Life’s Journey. I am a Servant Leader. This means “I Serve You, You Do Not Serve Me.” We are in this together side by side with our VFW Auxiliary!

“One Team, One Fight!”

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

JVC Vandenhoeck and CDR Collier are offering a Commander's Membership Challenge this month.

The Department is awarding \$100.00 to the member who recruits and or reinstates and transfers to life the most Life Members in the State of SD it does not have to be

just your Post by the Big 10 Conference scheduled to begin on October 18, 2024. This individual must gain at least 5 of these Life members to win the \$100.00. This Challenge ends on the Morning of October 19, 2024, when the SD Recruiter and National Recruiter Reports are published!

SD was pushed to the number 10 position by Montana this morning. Our goal is to make it to the number 8th position by October 18, 2024, COB!

Let's Do This Team SD!

CDR Collier

"One Team, One Fight!"

Let's Do This SD!

October General Orders
Martin Christensen, Sr Vice Commander
Department South Dakota

September was another busy month for me. We completed Raffles and recruiting at County Fair Food Store in Mitchell. I worked on several community projects including starting a new corporation called South Dakota Shooting Sports Foundation. We hosted a banquet for them on 14 Sept 2024 at the Corn Palace with over 400 people in attendance. We helped arrange a Veteran's Stand Down at the Davison County 4H grounds on Sept 14. We have also been working to complete a fundraiser to support ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and complete some remodeling in our Post. This fundraiser was a trapshoot at the Mitchell Gun Club along with several months of raffles/recruitment and planning. We had over 125 shooters and raised around \$15,000. Veterans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general public – mobilization and deployment has no effect on this fact. I also helped recruit members for the DAV, American Legion and VFW and their Auxiliaries during our multiple fundraisers and raffles. In addition to all of this, I survived COVID, had surgery and went fishing in Canada during September.

Our plans for October include the Chili Cook-Off on 12 October. I will be attending the District 6 Fall Conference in on Oct 6 in Huron. District 6 inspection will completed at that time. We are helping coordinate the District 7 Fall meeting on October 13 in Tyndall SD at 5pm. We are raising pheasants to be dispersed on opening pheasant hunting day on 19 Oct for our local veterans and service officers. I plan to help the City of Mitchell coordinate a flu POD on Oct 15 at the Corn Palace. I will be attending the Big 10 Conference in Indianapolis 18-20 October.

Respectfully submitted.
Martin Christensen, Sr Vice Commander
Department of South Dakota

October General Orders

Jr. Vice Commander

Fall is in the air. The mornings are cool, and the days are warm. Darkness comes sooner indicating that summer is almost over.

I want to thank the Districts/Posts that have already submitted their recruitment plans. Those who have already submitted plans get a bonus when it comes to All-State voting. I am still accepting membership plans. It is important that we have a plan to recruit new members.

The goal of the Department is to get to 102% again this year. That is also the number needed to be eligible for both All-State and All-National. We are currently 10th in the nation for membership at 89.6% (current as of 19 Sep). We need 866 members to get to 102%. That looks like a big number, but it is not as bad as it looks. Any continuous member that expires between now and the end of the FY is part of that 866.

If your Post would like some help with recruiting, please reach out to your District recruiting chair or myself. I am willing to assist and brainstorm with ideas on what will help recruit new members. This is a team effort to reach our goals, but more importantly to get more members to assist other veterans.

When it comes to recruiting, the VFW needs to be visible in our communities. We all probably know several people who are eligible to be members but never commit. We need to ensure they know the benefits of being a member and the impact they can make for other veterans. The VFW posts need to be involved in both community and school events. This helps that visibility. An untapped source of members is the communities with no post. There are potential members out there that nobody is talking to. Let's get out to those areas and recruit.

I will be going to Jr. Vice Commander training in October. I am hoping to come back with new ideas on recruiting and membership. I am also looking forward to networking with other Jr. Vice Commanders as we progress up the chairs.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Veterans,

In September, the SDDVA held its annual benefits school for County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers (CVSO/TVSO) on various VA topics. These sessions aimed to provide comprehensive training on benefits, eligibility, and advocacy, ultimately enhancing the support offered to veterans. The event fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among attendees and was capstone with a proficiency test. I also attended VFW NVS 2024 Accredited Service Officer Skill Level Training Conference in Annapolis, Maryland.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to check in with friends and loved ones, especially veterans. Many face challenges like PTSD, military sexual trauma, and financial strain. Reminding them they're not alone, and that help is available is crucial. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers free, confidential support 24/7. Veterans can reach trained responders by dialing 988 and pressing 1.

To locate the CVSO/TVSO nearest you, please visit:

<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>

Dareus (DJ) Montreal
Assistant Department Service Officer

Dj.montreal@state.sd.us
605.400.9005