

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
General Orders #7 "Tomorrow Is Today" January 1, 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Department Commander and his staff extend New Year greetings to all comrades and sisters and their families.

1. **Annual Membership: THIS IS IMPORTANT!** Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may expire December 31, 2016 unless you paid your dues in January 2016 through June 2017 then your dues are due in the month you paid them. For example if you paid your dues in February of 2016 they will be due in February of 2017. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members as soon as possible. Any Post that has an Officer who has not paid his or her dues should collect those dues immediately before their expiration date. Any Officer removed by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post Office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed."

Remember any unpaid member who has let their membership expired, his or her Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance becomes void immediately. It is important for all Post Membership Teams to contact these members as soon as possible.

All Post Commanders should familiarize themselves with Section 220 of the National By-Laws on the election of new officers in the event of inactivity or vacancy in the 2016-2017 year.

2. **Use of Post Relief Funds and Membership:** The Department of South Dakota would like your help in taking care of membership dues of long time members who cannot afford to pay their current dues. Many older veterans, especially our WW II Veterans may no longer realize their dues need to be paid. Check your local nursing homes for eligible veterans who may have been a member in past years. You can use your Post Relief Fund to pay these dues. It will help in our all out effort to make the State of South Dakota 100% in membership for 2017.

3. **Mid Winter Meetings:** District 1 will meet on February 19th, 2017 at 1:00 PM in Beresford. District 10 will meet on January 8th, 2017 at 10:00 AM in Rapid City.

Legislative Conference and Council of Administration: The Department Council of Administration, Legislative Conference, Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet has been set for January 29th & 30th, 2017 at the AmericInn, in Ft. Pierre. See enclosed notice for registration, motels, schedule, etc.

5. **Loyalty Day:** Post Commanders, please appoint a 2017 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.

6. **Buddy Poppy:** Post Commanders, please appoint a 2017 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward his/her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible and make plans for your 2017 distribution. Post Commanders, this is a reminder that all Poppy orders should be in by April 15, 2017 to count in the "All State Post Commanders" ratings. Order blanks are on the VFW Website.

7. **IRS Form 990:** All Posts that enjoy tax exemption status are advised that they must answer all questions on 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. Report must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year.

9. **Checks Sent to Department Headquarters:** All checks sent to the Department Headquarters should be made out to "Department Of South Dakota VFW" and marked as to what purpose each check is for. Do not make checks payable to a special account.

10. **The National Voice of Democracy** Legislative Conference meeting will be February 26th – March 2nd 2017 in Washington D.C, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, VA. The VOD parade of winners will take place at 6:00 pm on February 27th, 2017.

11. **Sending In 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.

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

Darwin Tolzin

Dennis Sharp

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

Dennis Sharp, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of South Dakota
Commander Dennis Sharp**

Comrades:

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas, even though the weather was not cooperative.

We are now at the halfway point of the 2016-2017 year. Membership at this writing is at 89.65%. We still need to keep striving to obtain our goal. I know that each and every one of us knows at least one veteran who is eligible to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you to all that have been working hard to achieve our goal.

A reminder to all District Commanders, it is time to schedule or have scheduled a Mid-Winter District meeting. I know that there is some concern when you should have your mid-winter meeting because of the pending Re-districting, which is why I haven't scheduled Districts meetings. More information will be available during the Legislative Conference. District Commanders, if you have or have not scheduled a Mid-winter meeting please let me or QM/ADJ Darwin Tolzin know, so that we can schedule and have Department Representatives available to attend your meeting. I know Mid-winter meeting for District 1 is scheduled for February 19, 2017, at 1:00 PM in Beresford; and District 10 will be held on January 8, 2017, at 10:00 AM in Rapid City.

The District 10 meeting on January 8, 2017, will be followed by tours at VA hospital and other facilities as follows:

January 9 Fort Meade VA hospital tour, visit with leadership and Black Hills National Cemetery tour

January 10 Hot Springs Veterans Home tour and Hot Springs VA hospital tour

At the present time, a date to tour the Sioux Falls VA hospital and facilities has not been determined. QM/ADJ Darwin Tolzin is working on a date to visit that facility.

Remember to get your registration and hotel reservations in for the upcoming Legislative Conference in Ft. Pierre on January 29--30, 2017. Registration forms and hotel information are included in the General Orders or on the VFW website at sdvfw.org.

I am looking forward to seeing a good attendance at the Legislative Conference. The Conference will include a Council of Administration, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year award presentations and a Legislative Mixer with our State Legislators to discuss Veteran's issues in South Dakota.

If anyone has any questions concerning reports, membership or questions concerning the VFW, please feel free to contact me anytime.

“Tomorrow is Today”

Dennis Sharp

Department Commander

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Rick L Williamson
Sr Vice Commander
January General Orders

The holidays have come and gone, I sure hope that everyone enjoyed their time with family and friends. We have reached the half way point under Commander Dennis’s leadership, we have completed many of our programs however we still have some work to do. I am still receiving Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Loyalty Day reports. Public Servant entries have been coming all month from posts all over the state. I will be conducting the judging of these entries Jan 7, so please if you have not gotten it to me yet do so. As of Dec 28, I have received 5 Law Enforcement, 1 Fire Fighter, and 1 EMT entry, I sure was hoping for more entries to judge from. I am confident that I will receive a few more by Jan 1, as many chairman have contacted me about the deadline.

We are drawing very near to our Legislative Conference in Pierre Jan 29-30, please get your registrations in the mail, I am looking forward to seeing you there. There are going to be many important issues to discuss during this conference so I hope you will be in attendance. As always, our VOD and Patriot Pen winners will be honored during this conference and we all know how fun it is meet these young Americans.

In closing I would like to ask that everyone get out and recruit a new member to our VFW, the future of this organization depends on membership. As I have said before I will quit talking about membership when we, as a Department are at 100 percent, it is not easy but it is the necessary job that we all need to take seriously. Let’s go get one for the TEAM.

Yours in Comradeship,

Rick L. Williamson

Phone: 605-321-4935

Email: rick@johnsonfeedinc.com

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Willie Page Jr Vice Commander

As of December 30th, South Dakota has 945 unpaid members; South Dakota is closing in on the 100% goal. A lot of Posts need 10 or fewer member dues to reach 100% Gettysburg, Marty, Burke and Newell are at or over 100%. Make phone calls or personal reminders to nonpaid members and ask everyone if they belong or are eligible to be a member. Department of South Dakota has 23 of its Posts at 90% or better. We can get these percentages up for Commander Dennis!

Ask yourself why you joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars – others probably joined for the same reason. Make sure you talk about your personal reasons for joining and continuing as a member when approaching potential members. Don’t forget to contact female veterans, also – they are as entitled to belong as males are. The next

time you are in the grocery, hardware, discount store, doctor's office, etc. and you see someone in uniform, thank them for their service and ask if they may qualify for membership in VFW. Explain the many benefits of belonging to this great veterans' service organization and the biggest benefit is you CAN join. Make sure they realize that VFW continues to fight for veterans (and their families) via legislative issues.

District Commanders: check with your Posts to see if any need your assistance in reaching goal. This might be to help set up a Membership Drive or calling day. It is important to let your community know what VFW does for everyone (veterans, family members, etc.). Don't forget to include your Auxiliary in your events; they are important to our organization. Working together makes our entire organization stronger for our veterans! Say "Thank you" to the Auxiliary members for everything they do to assist use in our endeavors.

Following are the membership totals as of December 30th: District #1 – 90.75%; District #2 – 89.78%; District #4 – 86.05%; District #6 – 92.35%; District #7 – 86.97%; District #8 – 90.20%; and District #10 – 92.55%.

Also – I have only not received all Membership Plans; these truly help the Post meet its goals. Retention should be our #1 goal!

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Judge Advocate General Orders January 2017
Danny Frisby-Griffin**

Can you believe we're starting a new year? I'm not sure where the time has flown, but we really need to start developing our department, district and post community service plans for 2017. Now is a good time to ensure you're ready for Loyalty Day, Memorial Day and the 4th. It is never too early to have your guest speakers lined up, contact the VFW Baseball Teams you support and schedule bike safety days. If you need help, please let me know.

I've received 23 Community Service reports for the second quarter (**37%, as of 12/22/2016**), the first half of the department's reporting period. The Department of SD has distributed 2348 Flags, performed 221 Honor Guards, 129 Color Guards and provided 27 funeral lunches. In the category of community service, the Department has donated \$103,073.19; 11,225.25 hours and driven 30,758 (\$4,306) miles. Thank you for all you do!

2nd Quarter Reports (37%)

- District 1: Alcester, Elk Point, Vermillion
- District 2: Brookings, Madison, Sioux Falls
- District 4: Britton, Milbank, Sisseton, Watertown
- District 6: Aberdeen, Gettysburg
- District 7: Armour, Lake Andes, Marty, Mitchell,
Parkston, Scotland, Wagner, Wessington Springs
- District 8: Burke
- District 10: Deadwood, Sturgis

If you're reading the General Order's on line you should be able to just click on the following links (or copy and paste to browser) to get the information that you need.

We've added placeholder pages for **all** the posts. Please see the first link below for an example. If you send me an email with what you would like posted on your post page with 3 pictures, we'll get it done for you. We first announced this initiative in the last general orders. I haven't received information from any of you. I highly recommend updating the pages or at least swapping the pictures out once a quarter when you're preparing you required reports.

Individual Post Pages (example link for Ronald Westby VFW Post 2638 Madison):

<http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-madison-post>

Community Activities Record Book:

http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/2017_COMMUNITY_ACTIVITIES_RECORD_BOOK.pdf The community service report (version 5) is available online!

Over Seas Veteran: <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-overseas-newsletter>

The 3rd Quarter reporting ends January 31 and are due February 10th. Please continue to submit previous Quarterly Reports as well as collecting your 3rd Quarter data. Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

State Judge Advocate, Danny “Wham-O” Frisby-Griffin

Cell: 402-332-7423 Email: danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Surgeon Sean Johnson General Orders January 2017**

It is so amazing to me how fast this year has gone. We made steady progress throughout the year in getting the Hospital and Safety Reports in but there definitely seemed to be a lack of interest in turning the required 1st and 2nd quarters. That means there are posts not being recognized for the work they have been doing. For 2016-2017 reporting periods 1st qtr 32 out of 62 (53%) 2nd qtr 23 out of 62 (38%).

With the information provided our Department has turned out some tremendous numbers for the first half of the year. We still need to work on the first half of the year but we should strive to get better numbers on the second half to get better credit for posts, and the Department We are meeting our Goal of Tomorrow is Today.

1st Half Hospital Report

Number of Volunteers	Patients Visited	Total Hours	Total Miles	Blood Units Total	Cards	Flowers	Other Donations	Total Expenses
1215	3229	\$148,612.19	\$4,995.40	\$14,840.37	\$2,076.50	\$1,899.00	\$10,968.00	\$230,706.22

<u>Safety Report 1st Half</u>	Money	Hours	Miles
	\$ 5192.84	448	1327

Year To Date Safety Totals Item#

	<u>1st Qtr</u>	<u>2nd Qtr</u>
1. Hunters Safety	5	4

South Dakota as of Wednesday, January 04, 2017

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention
South Dakota	791	1	322	1	0	53	376	406	92.61%	2		YANKTON	SD	0	87	66.67%
South Dakota	915	1	39	1	0	14	54	61	88.52%	9		ELK POINT	SD	0	19	78.95%
South Dakota	2821	1	38	0	0	10	48	58	82.75%	9		PARKER	SD	0	13	76.92%
South Dakota	2975	1	63	1	0	14	78	87	89.65%	8		BERESFORD	SD	0	25	64.00%
South Dakota	3061	1	55	2	2	10	69	76	90.78%	8		VERMILLION	SD	0	21	52.38%
South Dakota	3164	1	109	1	0	31	141	149	94.63%	5		CANTON	SD	0	39	82.05%
South Dakota	3728	1	37	0	0	4	41	44	93.18%	10		FREEMAN	SD	0	5	80.00%
South Dakota	6149	1	47	1	0	15	63	72	87.50%	8		ALCESTER	SD	1	24	70.83%
South Dakota	7690	1	12	0	0	5	17	20	85.00%	10		NORTH SIOUX C	SD	0	8	75.00%
District Totals		1	722	7	2	156	887	973	91.16%					1		%
South Dakota	628	2	993	12	4	194	1203	1285	93.61%	1		SIOUX FALLS	SD	3	280	74.29%
South Dakota	2118	2	198	3	0	51	252	290	86.89%	3		BROOKINGS	SD	1	90	60.00%
South Dakota	2638	2	125	2	1	21	149	172	86.62%	5		MADISON	SD	2	45	51.11%
South Dakota	3351	2	37	0	0	3	40	43	93.02%	10		FLANDREAU	SD	0	5	60.00%
South Dakota	4726	2	93	0	1	22	116	121	95.86%	6		BRANDON	SD	1	28	82.14%
South Dakota	5770	2	22	0	0	5	27	31	87.09%	10		CROOKS	SD	0	7	71.43%
South Dakota	6822	2	5	0	0	3	8	10	80.00%	10		HOWARD	SD	0	5	60.00%
South Dakota	10632	2	12	0	0	2	14	15	93.33%	10		DELL RAPIDS	SD	0	2	100.00%
District Totals		2	1485	17	6	301	1809	1967	91.96%					7		%
South Dakota	750	4	350	2	3	88	443	523	84.70%	2		WATERTOWN	SD	0	164	60.37%
South Dakota	3342	4	111	2	0	31	144	169	85.20%	5		SISSETON	SD	1	53	64.15%
South Dakota	3486	4	141	1	1	22	165	171	96.49%	5		MILBANK	SD	1	31	77.42%
South Dakota	3507	4	58	1	0	19	78	97	80.41%	7		BRITTON	SD	0	33	60.61%
South Dakota	4690	4	84	1	0	28	113	127	88.97%	6		WEBSTER	SD	0	43	67.44%
South Dakota	5022	4	7	0	0	4	11	13	84.61%	10		SUMMIT	SD	0	6	66.67%
South Dakota	6361	4	20	0	0	5	25	26	96.15%	10		GOODWIN	SD	0	6	83.33%
District Totals		4	771	7	4	197	979	1126	86.94%					2		%
South Dakota	17	6	252	1	19	49	321	333	96.39%	3		ABERDEEN	SD	0	64	78.13%
South Dakota	1776	6	164	0	0	38	202	226	89.38%	4		HURON	SD	0	54	83.33%
South Dakota	2741	6	17	0	0	5	22	26	84.61%	10		MOBRIDGE	SD	0	7	71.43%
South Dakota	2755	6	93	0	0	18	111	124	89.51%	6		REDFIELD	SD	0	24	83.33%
South Dakota	3179	6	54	0	0	8	62	67	92.53%	9		FAULKTON	SD	0	13	61.54%
South Dakota	3214	6	67	0	0	9	76	89	85.39%	7		MILLER	SD	0	13	61.54%
South Dakota	5094	6	12	0	0	5	17	18	94.44%	10		SELBY	SD	0	6	83.33%
South Dakota	5126	6	66	0	0	8	74	80	92.50%	8		EUREKA	SD	0	13	61.54%
South Dakota	6481	6	20	0	0	6	26	31	83.87%	10		TURTON	SD	0	11	54.55%
South Dakota	8530	6	58	0	0	9	67	65	103.07%	9		GETTYSBURG	SD	1	8	100.00%
District Totals		6	803	1	19	155	978	1059	92.35%					1		%
South Dakota	1353	7	15	0	0	0	15	15	100.00%	10		MARTY	SD	0	0	100.00%
South Dakota	2750	7	118	1	1	52	172	199	86.43%	4		MITCHELL	SD	1	81	62.96%
South Dakota	2966	7	62	1	0	11	74	84	88.09%	8		SCOTLAND	SD	1	22	63.64%
South Dakota	3239	7	35	1	0	7	43	47	91.48%	10		LAKE ANDES	SD	0	10	70.00%
South Dakota	3298	7	57	2	0	8	67	72	93.05%	8		PARKSTON	SD	1	21	85.71%
South Dakota	5548	7	28	0	0	19	47	56	83.92%	9		WESSINGTON SP	SD	0	28	67.86%
South Dakota	6554	7	67	0	0	10	77	88	87.50%	7		PLANKINTON	SD	0	18	55.56%
South Dakota	6895	7	50	1	0	9	60	68	88.23%	8		TYNDALL	SD	0	19	57.89%
South Dakota	6897	7	29	0	0	18	47	48	97.91%	10		ARMOUR	SD	0	19	94.74%
South Dakota	7319	7	101	2	1	18	122	152	80.26%	5		WAGNER	SD	1	50	40.00%
District Totals		7	562	8	2	152	724	829	87.33%					4		%
South Dakota	2038	8	244	2	0	19	265	298	88.92%	3		PIERRE	SD	1	41	46.34%
South Dakota	3653	8	15	0	0	0	15	16	93.75%	10		KENNEBEC	SD	0	0	100.00%
South Dakota	4674	8	129	0	0	10	139	161	86.33%	5		WINNER	SD	1	20	60.00%
South Dakota	6436	8	30	0	0	2	32	36	88.88%	10		CHAMBERLAIN	SD	0	3	66.67%
South Dakota	9950	8	94	0	0	18	112	112	100.00%	6		BURKE	SD	4	20	100.00%
District Totals		8	512	2	0	49	563	623	90.36%					6		%
South Dakota	1273	10	897	4	2	80	983	1059	92.82%	1		RAPID CITY	SD	6	143	55.24%
South Dakota	1640	10	109	0	0	11	120	133	90.22%	6		HOT SPRINGS	SD	0	18	61.11%
South Dakota	2730	10	146	0	0	35	181	198	91.41%	4		STURGIS	SD	0	52	76.92%
South Dakota	2969	10	15	0	0	8	23	26	88.46%	10		LEMMON	SD	0	13	76.92%
South Dakota	3312	10	94	1	0	4	99	108	91.66%	7		BELLE FOURCHE	SD	0	13	46.15%
South Dakota	3442	10	314	2	3	35	354	366	96.72%	2		CUSTER	SD	8	72	62.50%
South Dakota	5751	10	22	0	0	3	25	26	96.15%	10		FAITH	SD	0	5	80.00%
South Dakota	5807	10	53	1	0	2	56	56	100.00%	9		NEWELL	SD	0	3	66.67%

South Dakota	5860	10	112	0	0	22	134	152	88.15%	5		SPEARFISH	SD	0	33	66.67%
South Dakota	5969	10	207	2	2	25	236	260	90.76%	3		DEADWOOD	SD	0	40	65.00%
South Dakota	9120	10	38	0	0	4	42	46	91.30%	10		QUINN	SD	0	7	85.71%
District Totals		10	2007	10	7	229	2253	2430	92.71%					14		%
South Dakota	15043	99	106	4	5	27	142	208	68.26%	4		SIOUX FALLS	SD	3		%
District Totals		99	106	4	5	27	142	208	68.26%					3		%
State Totals			6968	56	45	1266	8335	9215	90.45%					38		%