

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**General Orders #9
"Tomorrow is Today"**

March 1, 2017

- 1. Commander Dennis headed for Washington D. C.:** During the period February 25th thru March 3rd 2017 the Department Commander Sharp will be in Washington D.C. attending the Legislative Conference/ Voice of Democracy Awards Presentation.
- 2. March is "Membership Quota Month".** All State and District Officer are asked to assist Post in membership. If your Post hasn't had a membership team working, now is the time to help organize and join in on the recruiting of members.
- 3. Audit Reports: THIS IS IMPORTANT.** Has your Post sent in its last audit report due January 31, 2017 yet? May be some of the previous audit reports are delinquent too, catch them up to date, as they are very important to have in on time. The end of March your last audit report will be due for the VFW year.
- 4. Special Olympics:** Post donations to the Special Olympics Fund are requested to help the 2017 Special Olympics Program. Posts are asked to be generous and to send their donations to VFW Department Headquarters. Our goal this year is \$2,500.00. Thank you to those Posts that have already sent in their donations for a total of \$705 year-to-date.
- 5. Post Elections:** Attention is called to Section 217, page 71, Manual of Procedure, Nomination Election, Installation, of Officers and Term of Office. Posts will conduct the Election of Officers in accordance with the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Post Officers shall be nominated in March or April and shall be elected in April. Nominations shall remain open until the Post is ready to vote.
- 6. Installation of Officers:** Attention is called to Section 217, Page 71 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 of 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. An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department Convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.
- 7. District Commanders:** Attention is called to Section 417, Page 80 of National By-Laws. The elected District Officers shall be nominated and elected annually at the District Convention of Spring Meeting. Nomination, election and installation shall be in a manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure. The District Commander will be installed again at the Department

Convention in June 2017 as a member of the Department Council of Administration. Because of the consolidation of Districts if you are interested in putting your name in the hat there are a couple things to be aware of and just call the State Office to find the correct procedure. (605-332-7441).

8. Buddy Poppies: All Posts are reminded to order their Buddy Poppies and poppy supplies and to complete arrangements for their year's poppy distribution. Order forms may be downloaded from the Department Web site : sdvfw.org.

9. Department Convention: The 2017 Department Convention will be held on June 22 — 24, 2017 in Pierre hosted by Post 2038. For more convention information, registration, motel information, convention schedule, etc., go to the Home Page at the Department Web site — sdvfw.org.

10. Convention Ads: All Posts, Districts, Candidates for Department Office and any others are reminded that the deadline for Ads is May 20th, 2017.

11. National Citations: To qualify for the National Citations that are presented at the Department Convention, Posts must have reported projects in each of the following programs: Youth, Safety, Community Service and Citizenship Education (Americanism) and reports need to be into the State Chairman Danny Frisby-Griffin, cell 402-332-7423, danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com. The deadline date to get the information to National is April 1, 2017.

12. Memorial Day: The observance of Memorial Day is the obligation of every Post. According to Section 223 — Commemorative Dates. Each Post shall properly observe commemorative dates, as prescribed in the Ritual and Manual of Procedure. Please plan a suitable observance in your Community. Place American Flags at grave-sites of departed comrades of your Post and Veterans of your Community. Remember to report the details of these events in your Community Service Report. Memorial Day reports form may be downloaded from the Department Web Site — sdvfw.org.

13. Loyalty Day: Observed May 1st each year to remind us of our loyalty to the United States of American and can be celebrated in many ways. Loyalty Day reports may be downloaded from the Department Web Site.

14. Peace Officer Memorial Day: The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast until noon on May 15, 2017.

15. Spring District Meetings: Please check with your District Commanders for exact time and dates.

State Commander Dennis Sharp General Orders March 2017

I want to give a big "Thank you" to the Posts that have achieved 100% or better in membership and to those Posts that have reached 95%! There are many Posts that need less than 10 members to gain 100%. We can do this as a team.

Please keep track of your **upcoming District Meetings** as we are getting close to implementation of the consolidation.

The beautiful weather that we were experiencing has changed and there isn't anything we can do about it. However, we still have the ability to control the direction our VFW organization will be moving. So let's take a look at our organization and go to work to continue to make it something that we as veterans can be proud of for today and down the road.

One of the most important things that must be done each year is the election of officers in our VFW organization for the upcoming year. We all know very well that out of the 10,000+ members in the Department of South Dakota there are qualified men and women to fill the offices throughout the Department. So please show a sense of pride in the VFW and apply to fill these offices.

This is just a reminder that the National Headquarters sent out or will soon send to all Post Quartermasters a package that contained Post Election Report and National Convention Registration Forms. These forms must be filled out and sent to National Headquarters by their required deadlines. There are instructions included in the mailed package to assist in filling out the forms.

National Headquarters also have all these documents available online at vfw.org. Locate VFW Document Repository, there all the forms can be filled out and e-mailed directly to National Headquarters.

When I say these forms must be filled out, Section 211 of the National Bylaws stipulates authority to the Commander-in-Chief, to suspend and eventually revoke a Post Charter for failure to submit a properly completed Post Election Report to the National Headquarters by June 1. So please take time to read and pay attention to this package.

The VFW Baseball program is being started for the summer of 2017. The program is going through some modification but should start registration very soon. This is one program that the VFW does that has more people in our state affected and involved in than anything we do. So, at the local level keep the program in mind whenever the opportunity to become involved with the youth arises.

State President, Karen, and I will be going to Washington, DC February 26 — March 3 for the National Legislative Conference. One of the most important announcements will be the Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen National Winners.

"Tomorrow is Today"

Dennis Sharp
Department Commander
P.O. Box 1133
Ft. Pierre, SD 57532-1133
605-223-2523 Home

Rick L Williamson
Sr Vice Commander
March General Orders

We had a great turnout in Pierre for our Legislative Conference. It was great to see everyone again, we accomplished the business of our Department and moved onto the legislative issues for the veterans of this state. There was not much for bills introduced at that time but we discussed what was presented and let our representatives know where we stand on these issues. During our Conference, we recognized the District winners of the Voice of Democracy contest. Our Department winner was announced and he presented his essay. I wish him well at the national competition and hope he enjoys his trip to Washington D.C. We also recognized our Patriot Pen winner and I also wish her well during the National competition.

I am still receiving reports for Veterans Day, Loyalty Day, and Memorial Day, please keep them coming. As we roll into March I would like to remind every Post/District Commander and Quartermasters to look at the commanders recruiting book for the requirements for All-State Judging, know is the time to see where you are standing, see what you need to accomplish yet, and get it turned in. We will complete judging around the 15th of May, the exact date is TBD. Don't let something small keep your post from this award.

Darwin and Crystal are working hard doing some much needed improvements to the Department office. If you are in Sioux Falls stop by and say hello, Darwin will more than likely buy you a cup of coffee, but please be careful as he may attempt to put you to work. Just kidding, I think you will be pleasantly surprised and would also give you a chance to meet our Adjutant/Quartermaster. He is there to help you in any way he can.

Have a great month, work on your chance for the All-State Cmdr/Q/M Award, and as always go get a new member for your post this month.

Yours in Comradeship,
Rick L. Williamson
Phone: 605-321-4935
email: rick@johnsonfeedinc.com

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2017 March General Orders, Jr. Vice Commander Willie Page

Dear Comrades,

Congratulations to our 10 posts in South Dakota who exhibited a sincere desire to move their post forward this year by attaining their goals of 100% or better in membership. There are 7 posts that need a few, 5 are members/renew out to reach 100% and 20 posts are mostly met about 7 or 8 members meet good. The district totals of 78.99% and for the state totals out to be 93% organized. Let's get together and make your posts succeed. I have to make my post reach 100% before the State Convention. In all let's make the State of South Dakota 100%! I announce myself Willie Page Sr. as the State of South Dakota Sr. Vice Commander in this upcoming election with all your help please and thank you!

Willie Page
State Jr. Vice Commander
Home Phone: (605)745-3740
Cell: (605)891-8973

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota State Judge Advocate General Orders March 2017

Reminder, Post 2638 is working with the Lake County and DSU VSOs to host a Veterans Fair April 13 from 3 PM to 5 PM with a town hall meeting starting at 5 PM. The fair and town hall meeting will be held at the Prairie Playhouse on North Washington Ave. We've got the Director of the Sioux Falls VA Hospital and his claims supervisor scheduled to join us. As the program develops, we'll make sure to get the information out so anyone interested can join us. We would also love for you to swing in and check out our newly remodeled lounge.

I've recently accepted the position as VFW Baseball Chairman. Thank you Rick, for shepherding the baseball program all these years. We appreciate everything that you've done. Posts, please reach out to your community baseball programs and get them reenergized for the youth program. Our goal is to have teams signed up early in March and then have the tournament schedule and brackets out as soon as possible to allow the teams to more efficiently manage their game schedules. Also, we'll be coming around and asking for help to ensure we have member representation at all the region and state tournaments. It's important that we show the players, coaches and families that we care about this program and want them to be successful.

I've received 19 Community Service reports for the third quarter (**31%, as of 02/22/2017**). The Department of SD has distributed 2567 Flags, performed 291 Honor Guards, 166 Color Guards and provided 35 funeral lunches. In the category of community service, the Department has donated \$174,484.52; 17,177 hours and driven 50,164 (\$7,023) miles. Thank you for all you do! 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.

2nd Quarter Reports (44%)

District 1: Alcester, Canton, Elk Point, Vermillion, Yankton
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: Custer, Deadwood, Sturgis

3rd Quarter Reports (31%)

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The Council of Administration gave us permission to establish a private Department of SD Face Book Page. I'm hoping to have it up and running by the end of the month. So, be on the lookout for it. I've also started working on the 2017-2018 Forms so they will be ready right after the summer convention. If you have any recommendations to improve the forms, please let me know. Thanks.

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

The 3rd Quarter reporting ended January 31 and were due February 10th. Please continue to submit previous Quarterly Reports as well as sending 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.frisbv-griffin@outlook.com](mailto:danny.frisbv-griffin@outlook.com)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Surgeon Sean Johnson 2016-2017

As the State Surgeon I will present here my book of reports from the 3rd Quarter of the year. I have received 22 hospital and safety reports for the 3rd quarter but we are still in need for the first half also. Please keep the reports coming in late or not. I don't need to remind you, who you are you should know thanks. I can't believe the year is flying by but much has been accomplished. **I thank all** for your help and guidance and look forward to working with everyone on the last half of the year. Remember as this last half of the year goes on we will have end of the year reports and all other events coming to an end so let's not forget to do the paperwork! As always don't hesitate to call or email me Sean Johnson 605-228-1636 seanjohnson@cni.abe.midco.net

2nd Half of Year

3rd Quarter Hospital Report (37%) As of 2/24/2017

Volunteers	Patients Visited	Total Hours	Total Miles	Blood Units	Cards	Flowers	Other Donations	Total Expenses
455	783	\$ 2,258	\$ 18,895	\$118	\$ 354	\$ 53	\$ 13	\$ 52,885.77
		60,233.05	2,653.30	8,258.22	611.00	403.50	6,184.69	
OVERALL								
2178	4854	\$273,814.28	\$9,335.30	\$24,636.4	\$2,749.50	\$2,422.50	\$16,677.69	\$471,259.9
		13,424	60,089	352	845	119	36	

3rd Quarter Service Report

Money	Hours	Miles	Year End Totals
\$ 8,708.25	440	1,203	\$ 39,020.66
\$ 14,031.09	1,069	2,341	

ITEM #	3rd Quarter
1= Hunter Safety	2
2 = Pedestrian Safety	0
3 = Vehicle Safety	0
4 = Drug Awareness	1
5 = Home/Fire Safety	0
6 = Senior Safety	2
7 = Recreation Safety (bike)	0
8 = Highway Safety	0
9 = Other Projects (see next tab for details)	5
0= Nothing Done in this Category	12
	(33%)

South Dakota as of Saturday, March 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	324	1	0	72	397	406	97.78%	2		YANKTON	SD	1	87	89.66%
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	17	81	87	93.10%	8		BERESFORD	SD	0	25	76.00%
South Dakota	3061	1	55	2	2	16	75	76	98.68%	8		VERMILLION	SD	0	21	80.95%
South Dakota	3164	1	109	2	0	34	145	149	97.31%	5		CANTON	SD	0	39	89.74%
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	19	67	72	93.05%	8		ALCESTER	SD	1	24	87.50%
South Dakota	7690	1	12	0	0	6	18	20	90.00%	10		NORTH SIOUX CITY	SD	0	8	87.50%
District Totals		1	724	8	2	192	926	973	95.16%					2		%
South Dakota	628	2	1001	20	5	212	1238	1285	96.34%	1		SIOUX FALLS	SD	6	280	81.07%
South Dakota	2118	2	199	3	0	56	258	290	88.96%	3		BROOKINGS	SD	1	90	65.56%
South Dakota	2638	2	125	4	1	27	157	172	91.27%	5		MADISON	SD	2	45	64.44%
South Dakota	3351	2	37	0	0	3	40	43	93.02%	10		FLANDREAU	SD	0	5	60.00%
South Dakota	4726	2	93	1	1	25	120	121	99.17%	6		BRANDON	SD	1	28	92.86%
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	1494	28	7	333	1862	1967	94.66%					10		%
South Dakota	750	4	350	2	3	109	464	523	88.71%	2		WATERTOWN	SD	0	164	72.56%
South Dakota	3342	4	111	2	0	42	155	169	91.71%	5		SISSETON	SD	1	53	79.25%
South Dakota	3486	4	141	2	1	24	168	171	98.24%	5		MILBANK	SD	1	31	83.87%
South Dakota	3507	4	58	1	0	27	86	97	88.65%	7		BRITTON	SD	0	33	84.85%
South Dakota	4690	4	84	1	0	34	119	127	93.70%	6		WEBSTER	SD	0	43	81.40%
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	6	26	26	100.00%	10		GOODWIN	SD	0	6	100.00%
District Totals		4	771	8	4	246	1029	1126	91.38%					2		%
South Dakota	17	6	252	1	33	69	355	333	106.60%	3		ABERDEEN	SD	0	64	93.75%
South Dakota	1776	6	164	0	0	42	206	226	91.15%	4		HURON	SD	0	54	90.74%
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	19	112	124	90.32%	6		REDFIELD	SD	0	24	87.50%
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	10	77	89	86.51%	7		MILLER	SD	0	13	69.23%
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	11	31	31	100.00%	10		TURTON	SD	0	11	100.00%
South Dakota	8530	6	58	0	0	9	67	65	103.07%	9		GETTYSBURG	SD	1	8	100.00%
District Totals		6	803	1	33	186	1023	1059	96.60%					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	7	1	64	190	199	95.47%	4		MITCHELL	SD	1	81	75.31%
South Dakota	2966	7	63	1	0	14	78	84	92.85%	8		SCOTLAND	SD	2	22	72.73%
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	9	0	11	77	72	106.94%	8		PARKSTON	SD	1	21	100.00%
South Dakota	5548	7	28	0	0	22	50	56	89.28%	9		WESSINGTON SPGS	SD	0	28	78.57%
South Dakota	6554	7	67	0	0	11	78	88	88.63%	7		PLANKINTON	SD	0	18	61.11%
South Dakota	6895	7	50	1	0	10	61	68	89.70%	8		TYNDALL	SD	0	19	63.16%
South Dakota	6897	7	29	0	0	19	48	48	100.00%	10		ARMOUR	SD	0	19	100.00%
South Dakota	7319	7	101	2	1	26	130	152	85.52%	5		WAGNER	SD	1	50	60.00%
District Totals		7	563	21	2	184	770	829	92.88%					5		%
South Dakota	2038	8	244	2	3	28	277	298	92.95%	3		PIERRE	SD	1	41	65.85%
South Dakota	4674	8	129	0	0	12	141	161	87.57%	5		WINNER	SD	1	20	70.00%
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	497	2	3	60	562	607	92.58%					6		%
South Dakota	1273	10	897	4	2	92	995	1059	93.95%	1		RAPID CITY	SD	6	143	64.34%
South Dakota	2730	10	146	1	0	36	183	198	92.42%	4		STURGIS	SD	0	52	80.77%
South Dakota	2969	10	15	0	0	9	24	26	92.30%	10		LEMMON	SD	0	13	84.62%
South Dakota	3312	10	95	1	0	4	100	108	92.59%	7		BELLE FOURCHE	SD	0	13	46.15%
South Dakota	3442	10	317	3	3	47	370	366	101.09%	2		CUSTER	SD	9	72	77.78%
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	3	57	56	101.78%	9		NEWELL	SD	0	3	100.00%
South Dakota	5860	10	112	0	0	23	135	152	88.81%	5		SPEARFISH	SD	0	33	69.70%
South Dakota	5969	10	207	2	2	33	244	260	93.84%	3		DEADWOOD	SD	0	40	77.50%

South Dakota	9120	10	38	0	0	4	42	46	91.30%	10		QUINN	SD	0	7	100.00%
District Totals		10	1902	12	7	254	2175	2297	94.68%					15		%
South Dakota	15043	99	231	8	6	41	286	357	80.11%	2		SIOUX FALLS	SD	3		%
District Totals		99	231	8	6	41	286	357	80.11%					3		%
State Totals			6985	88	64	1496	8633	9215	93.68%					44		%