

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

**General Orders #3
“Providing Top Cover”**

September 1, 2018

1. **Fall Council of Administration** of the Department of South Dakota, the Commander and Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming, will be held at Chamberlain, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 5-7, 2018. The schedule, registration and motel information was enclosed in General Orders #2 and remains available on the Department web site. The registration form has changed with the ability to attend only the training sessions.
 - a. **All State Officers and Committee Chairmen are hereby asked to submit reports on their programs to Department Headquarters by September 25, 2018 to be included in the Book of Reports at Fall Council. October General Orders are also due September 25, 2018.**
 - b. **Post Commanders, please plan on attending, or sending one of your Post Officers to the leadership training class on Oct. 6, 2018.**
2. **Hospital Fund, Service and Rehab Fund and Memorial Park and Chapel Fund:** All Posts are urged to contribute: 35 cents per member to the Department Hospital Fund for supporting VA Medical Centers in the State. 20 cents per member to the Department Service and Rehabilitation Fund to support our State Service Officer at the VA Center in Sioux Falls. 10 cents per member to the Department Memorial Park and Chapel to support the cost of maintaining the park and chapel located in the Black Hills. All contributions are based on the Post membership as of June 30, 2018. Make checks payable to VFW Department of South Dakota and marked to the appropriate fund with the amount to be donated. In addition, the amounts are to be recorded on the Community Service Report. Mail checks to Department Headquarters, 3601 South Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.
3. **Department and National Membership Dues:** Department - \$8.00 per member, National - \$21.50 per member, **total:** \$29.50 per member. Any amount you charge a member above and beyond the \$29.50 is considered your Post dues.
4. **Fall District Meetings:** Dates of meetings and places have been set and are enclosed in this General Orders.
5. **All Post, District and Department Officers** who have not paid their VFW membership dues are expected to pay their dues immediately, thereby setting a good example for other members.
6. **Post Commanders:** Reminder – appoint your Post Chairperson for Community Service, Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Report their names to Department Headquarters and the respective State Chairperson.
7. **Post Commanders:** Every Post should send in a Community Service, Hospital/Safety and National Military Service Reports to receive the total number of points for the All-State Team contests. Remember the Community Service and Hospital/Safety Reports are sent in quarterly and the NMS Report is sent monthly.
8. **Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects to Department Judge Advocate, Barbara McKean, 504 S Wallace St., Parkston, SD 57366. mckean4@live.com
9. **Post Commanders:** Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairperson yet? Post Veterans Day Chairpersons should start planning their programs. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce or like organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day. Every Post should have some planned program in recognition of this day. A report form is on the website to view and report your Veterans Day functions or event.
10. **Post Publications:** All Posts are urged to publish a post publication of some type. A publications contest will be held again this year.

11. **Desecration of U. S. Flag:** Any member who has personal knowledge of any acts of desecration to the flag of the United States of America is asked to report the same to the State Commander or Department Headquarters.
12. **Patriot and POW/MIA Days: September 11** is designated Patriot Day and the United States Flag is to be at flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset to remember the victims of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year (**September 21, 2018**). Please take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.
13. **VOD, Patriots Pen and Teachers Award:** Remember all entries should be to the Post level by October 31st, 2018. Questions should be directed to Keith Blume, PO Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-4143 or Cell # 605-440-2331. E-Mail: krlume@goldenwest.net. Forms can be downloaded from the SDVFW website and copies were enclosed in GO #2. Other materials can be downloaded from the VFW website - www.sdvfw.org
14. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held on October 19-21, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. Registration & Hotel forms call State Headquarters.
15. **Sending In Material For General Orders:** All Department Officers, State Chairman and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit the material to Department Headquarters or the Department Adjutant by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. **Please send all material in a Word Document.**
16. If you would like to send a FAX, or E-Mail or call the QM/Adj, use the following: Fax number 1-605-332-0617. E-Mail is yfwsd@aol.com. Phone Number 605-332-7441, or Cell number 605-695-5006.
17. **All Commanders & Quartermasters: PLEASE update your mailing address, phone, email and Skype addresses information at Headquarters, this will be our main line of communication from the State Headquarters.**

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

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

Danny Frisby-Griffin
 Danny Frisby-Griffin, Commander
 Department of South Dakota
 Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Department of South Dakota
 2015 Fall District Meeting Dates**

District	Date	Time	Location	Representative
#1	Sept. 23 rd	1pm	Alcester	Colin Reisner (Ken Payne, Trainer)
#4	Sept. 23 rd	2pm	Watertown	Danny Frisby-Griffin
#6	Sept. 23 rd	1pm	Huron	Sean Johnson
#7	Sept. 9 th	2pm	Chamberlain	Cody Mangold
#10	Sept. 23 rd	1pm	Spearfish	Ken Moss

Please note & help: Email Headquarters if your post has a Facebook page. We would like the address so we can add your link to our SD VFW website & Facebook page, this will give even more opportunities for your page to be seen.

BONDS: These were due by August 31st. I still have many posts that have not sent them in, this needs to be done **NOW** to be in compliance with National.

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Fall Council Registration

Please get this in soon, the deadline is **September 25th**, 2018
Forms are on line at <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-convention>

A Veterans Stand-down will be held in Sioux Falls at the J M Bliss Post 628 on Friday
September 21st starting at **9:00 AM**.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin General Orders 09/2018**

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone had a chance to note the training schedule for our annual School of Instruction Saturday October 6, 2018 at Cedar Shores. We're going to start the day by trying to get everyone on the same "sheet of music" as far as electronic devices go focusing on the software applications predominantly used by National and the Department such as Skype (video conferencing), Facebook/Messaging, Drop Box, OneNote, ID.me and Websites. So, please bring your electronic devices and be ready to experience some "frustration" as we develop the ability to reach out and touch someone.

Now, this is a test...to see if anyone reads past the first paragraph of my section.

Did you notice the change in the [Fall Council/School of Instruction registration form](#) from August to September? We've added the choice of only attending the Saturday Training session for \$25 (lunch and snacks) as well as a block to identify First Time School of Instruction Attendees. Why is this important...because it's one way for us to track who is attending for the first time so they are entered in the First Time Attendee Awards and Drawings! So, if you're a first time attendee please let Darwin or Crystal know so we can make sure you're in the running. In addition, please send us your feedback so we can improve our fall training sessions.

How are the membership round-ups going? Don't forget the Headquarters can send you a list of potential transfers from the SD At Large Membership List. You can also call those on your post list that have expired or about to expire.

In addition, did you know National has changed the subscription dues process slightly? They have gone to a "DMV" model that allows anyone who becomes a member or renews after July 1, 2018 to transition the expiration until the last day of their 12th month just like your SD driver's license. From now on, the annual membership card will reflect the month and year dues expire so we don't have to chase the member using an exact day.

The 2018 SD VFW Youth Baseball State Tournament season is history and we've already begun the notifications for 2019. Stay tuned to the Department Facebook page and our VFW Baseball webpage for updates: <https://www.sdvfwbaseball.com/home>

The district fall meetings/school of instruction dates and times are all set. District Commanders, don't be afraid to change up your meeting a bit by adding specific training for your posts such as electronic meeting amendments to by-laws as well as how to conduct such a meeting. Also, consider discussing membership and recruiting with hands on demonstration or using videos from National for training located at this link. Department Representatives, if you're unsure how to perform an inspection at the district meeting, either review

this post inspector training or get with Ken Payne for a quick chat on what needs to be done and looked at. Don't forget to take attendance and send a report to Headquarters.

Again, the Department is looking forward to being your host for the 2018 Department of SD VFW Fall Council and School of Instruction at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

State Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin

Email: Danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

Skype: wham-o83

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Sean Johnson
Senior Vice Commander
General Orders September

Hello Fellow Comrades;

We have had a busy new year so far. We are off to a great start we had a very productive National Convention this year, with some very interesting topics brought to the forefront. The topics, like post revitalization and renewal, parliamentary procedure, New Help for veteran suicide and prevention. They of course reviewed the different levels of the By-Laws Manual of Procedure Ritual, and then recommended changes or not. Those were voted in and the new manual shall be out soon. There was much Information available for everyone from the Vendors and I believe a good time was had by all. Rick Williamson received All American State Commander, Collin Reisner received all American District Commander, Sean Johnson and Diane Diekman received All American Post Commander.

This year at the Sturgis Bike Rally we had a fun and productive time. We covered the Rally from August 2 to August 12 on our recruitment drive. We had a very good chief of Staff Ken Moss who had everything organized for us and kept everything going like clockwork. We owe him a lot. The Line Officers and 2 service officers and a couple of volunteers from Deadwood and Brookings helped out. We had 2 National Recruiters there and Sean Johnson was able to escort our National Senior Vice Commander around Sturgis for 3 Days while he was there. It was successful and he had a good time. Our mission accomplished, 60 people signed up both life and continuous members; 15 for South Dakota. We sold \$4,550 Challenge Coins, \$5,500 Guardian Bells and \$900 in donations all towards our national veteran's programs. This Sturgis Program will go on for the next 2 years. So, get ready to volunteer as we will need help and a good presence.

My next events are the Fair, Big Ten and then Oacoma so stay tuned for future news.

Jr Vice Commander Cody Mangold
September General Orders 2018

Comrades,

I only received a handful of early bird membership plans. That's okay because I am getting membership plans it seems on a daily basis. I spent some time out at the Sturgis Rally doing some recruiting and found out an interesting fact I later looked up. If a fulltime service member was in during the attack on 9/11 then they qualify for entrance to the VFW. Now the tricky part is if the reserve/guard unit was activated for support to 9/11, OIF, OND.

So far this year we have a total of 33 recruited with 31 new and 2 reinstated. This is early in the game so this is okay, but all of us need to get this going and start doubling this each month. Most of these recruiters are at 1 only including myself. According to what I can understand Marty is the first to make 100% this year. Please keep working hard and I know everyone in the State is pushing for you.

Cody Mangold Jr. Vice Commander
1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066 605-770-1030 cody.mangold@hotmail.com

Barbara K. McKean
Judge Advocate
September General Orders

Why the VFW Is Worth Saving

There was a time when our country assumed no social responsibility for the men they sent to war. These men returned injured, broken, and sick, and virtually zero benefits existed for them — no Veterans Administration, no G.I. Bill, nothing. The service members of these wars were expected to simply return, and get on with their life even though they had suffered lost limbs, fatal diseases, lost eyesight, and debilitating “shell shock.”

By 1899, American veterans had enough, and the first local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were founded in order to lobby Congress for the benefits they deserved. These early chapters were erected in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Colorado. By 1936, the VFW had over 200,000 veterans in its ranks.

Since then, many important benefits that we modern veterans often take for granted were fought for and won, such as the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which sent thousands of World War II vets to college and essentially created the American middle class. We have the VFW to thank for compensation for veterans who inhaled fatal chemicals like Agent Orange in the jungles of Vietnam. When veterans of all wars are laid to rest and an American flag is draped over their coffin and a rifle squad respectfully renders a salute, we have the VFW to thank. When Gulf War veterans returned sick with cancer, the VFW lobbied for the compensation they needed. When my generation of veterans faced the astronomical increase in college costs, the VFW helped deliver the post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which has propelled countless Iraq and Afghanistan vets into some of the most elite universities in our nation. The VFW has done a lot, we owe them much. However, recently, many young veterans of the current wars have sharply criticized the VFW for not modernizing and for not encouraging more women to enter into leadership roles, and rightly so. Out of the 65 voting members of the VFW governing body, only one is a woman, according to Military.com.

The VFW deserves this criticism. In fact, some veterans have gone so far as to suggest that the VFW is no longer needed, that it is obsolete. It almost is, and if the VFW doesn't fundamentally change its ethos and command climate, it will die on the vine. But I hope it doesn't die. We need it because it still offers veterans tremendous benefits and is a beacon of progress in the history of veteran's affairs in the United States.

Specifically, there are four reasons why the VFW requires our help in its fight for survival:

1. Brick and mortar. One can never underestimate the power of an actual physical space, a real place to gather, to display and pay respect to our common symbols of service. Local VFW chapters might be a little run down, and many remain small, smoke-filled drinking halls, but the fact is that their brick-and-mortar presence is a permanent reminder to our communities, especially during peacetime, that wars were fought and the men and women who fought them live among us. These physical spaces are a bridge to the civilian world we must inhabit upon our departure from active duty. Imagine what these places could be with a little modernization?

2. Local chapters. Many of the new veteran's service organizations are nationally and virtually based; in other words, they lack local chapters. Every community in America is different: Some are rural, many are urban, most are something in-between. It is still common, as it was during World War II, for service members from the same small community to be sent together to the front; men and women from a small corner of Kansas likely fought in the same area in Iraq or Afghanistan. Local chapters are also able to better gauge the needs of their specific community; they can raise money for and support the causes their communities care about. Local is always better in my mind, and the VFW has a solid local presence, and genuine strength in its local autonomy.

3. An established chain of command. Frankly, I am tired of some modern veteran's groups who possess one very charismatic leader, and little more. Alternatively, the VFW has had, since its creation, a strict chain of command, which many young veterans can appreciate. Even though the VFW is shamefully lacking in female leadership at any level, it is democratic in its establishment. No single "rock star" makes the decisions.

4. Sheer lobbying power. Let's face it, barbecues, camaraderie, and gyms are nice. But when things really go bad, when the policymakers on Capitol Hill think it's a good idea to close commissaries, or not fund the VA properly, or refuse to hire veterans, we need to lobby Congress and we need professional lobbyists to do it for us. As much as I respect and honor the work that has been done by the many modern veteran's organizations created by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the influence of the VFW to lobby on Capitol Hill is still powerful. Members of the VFW include former presidents, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George H. W. Bush, and Al Gore. It has a National Legislative Service in Washington to maintain a strong D.C. presence, advocate for veterans' needs, and provide testimony to Congress. It remains one of the largest veteran's service organizations in the country.

When service members returned from World War II, they returned to a nation that went to war with them, much of the U.S.'s population served in some shape or form. These veterans did not feel the same isolation that our Iraq and Afghanistan vets have felt. We returned to a nation that did not experience the war the way we did. This isolation has caused many of us to form our own veterans service organizations out of a sheer need to survive. Some run races together, some work out together, some band together to elect veterans to office, some farm together, some fight for gender equality, and some come to the rescue during natural disasters. We need these new organizations. However, the VFW is also still needed by young veterans; we cannot simply discard the decades of thankless work, time, and manpower that older vets have put into making the VFW a powerful force, simply because it has not kept pace as fast as it should. In fact, the VFW's established and traditional chain of command mechanism is the very thing that will ensure young Iraq and Afghanistan veterans someday lead local chapters, as well as the entire VFW.

The VFW knows it is in trouble. John W. Stroud, the commander-in-chief of the VFW, recently published a direct order to modernize to all his chapters. In it he states:

The fact remains that the stereotypical, dingy, dark and smoke filled VFW Post and canteen do exist, but they have no benefit to our organization, provide no aid to our mission nor to the veterans we strive to help and serve. Accordingly, I am charging my current Department VFW Commanders to be advocates of change and to challenge the officers of the subordinate units within their command to be more than officers — challenge them to be leaders cognizant of the current challenges today's veterans face.

We can't give up on the VFW; we must accept the torch as it is passed to us. And if the VFW does not voluntarily pass it, we must seize it.

This right and burden is now ours, and we have much to learn from the World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf War vets who inhabit these chapters; and they have much to learn from us.

Visit your local VFW, and if the members think you don't belong there, continue to sit at that dark bar until they do. Infiltrate the ranks and run for leadership positions; write about your local chapter, volunteer there; offer your ideas. Don't allow them to tell you your youth is a disadvantage; instead, politely advise them that your youth is exactly what's going to save them (<https://taskandpurpose.com/vfw-worth-saving/> *ByShellyBurgoyne-Goode*, November 18, 2014).

v/r,
Barb

Barbara McKean
Judge Advocate
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771;
Email: Barbara.mckean@uj.s.state.sd.us
or mckean4@live.com

**Surgeon Report
September 2018**

Comrades,

The first hospital and safety reports were due in August. Below is the breakdown by district that have been received:

- District 1: Brandon, Elk Point, Vermillion, Yankton
- District 4: Brookings, Madison, Watertown
- District 6: Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Huron, Pierre
- District 7: Mitchell, Wagner
- District 10: Deadwood, Newell, Rapid City

These reports are still being accepted. Please get them to me ASAP. My new address is 411 Pine Street, Yankton, SD 57078. My email is crize84@gmail.com.

Colin G. Reisner
"Our Country, Not Ourselves"

**State Chaplain
Mike Boxa
Burke Post 9950**

Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

August is over and no longer fast approaching. I finished up some Post reports to end the July quarter. I marched in the Burke Dawg Days parade. I then supported the VFW Post hosting DAWG DAYS dance and weekend reunions. Quite a busy Post month.

I did travel west and see the Chief of Staff and take part in the National Recruiting Booth at the Sturgis Rally. I stayed with Ken and Sandi Moss and they were quite the hosts. I did watch the South Dakota VFW Dept. Recruiting Team in full action. While I was there, I saw the total reach 50 new Aux/Members. I observed how

brilliant our State Commander and State Sr. Vice are. I saw our State Jr. Vice (Cody) being a team player and Past State Commander Gary Knudson warm greeting, saying, just park right here Mikey. Oh plenty of free parking at the VFW camp ground. With such amazing help, I was more in the way than anything, seeing our VFW veterans. I did walk the streets and meet and greet a tremendous amount of people and veterans. My only claim to remotely helping out was talking to two wives who said their husbands just got out of the Air Force from Ellsworth AFB. In having them stop at the booth, all of sudden, the husbands stopped and the recruiting table signed up a pair just like that. I thought Sr. Vice Sean did one of the recruitments on that. While in attendance, I met the National Sr. Vice, "DOC" who was a first timer to South Dakota and partook the rally. He conveyed the essence to make the recruiting event bigger next year. Between the Moss', I think it was Brookings, and some Rapid City, and our VA Service Officer, the Dept. will need a boost in the Very Few Workers category to hold down what next year's National Commander has in the planning.

September has a District 7 Meeting for us in Chamberlain. Good experience as Oacoma is a few week's later for Fall State Conference, the first week of October. The Post will help commemorate Patriot's Day in Burke on September 11. The program will be in conjunction with the High School activities.

There are many ill veterans and Aux members about the state. Also, many just needing new strength. From the Word of God, James 5:16 'Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' Let's all uplift one another in prayer.

Be there for one another!!

**Warmest Regards,
Mike Boxa**

SD VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & AUXILIARY

FALL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Friday Oct 5th, Saturday Oct. 6th and Sunday Oct. 7th, 2018 at Oacoma, South Dakota

All events will be held at **Cedar Shores Resort**, Oacoma

I-90 Exit 260, 1500 Shoreline Drive, Oacoma, SD 57365 (605-734-6376)

Committee Meetings will be held on Friday, October 5th starting at 3:00pm

MEMBERSHIP 3:00p.m., **BUDGET** 3:45p.m., **VFW Riders Group** 4:00p.m.

HOSTED BY Department of SD VFW and Auxiliary

Friday, Oct 5	3-5 PM	VFW Committee Meetings (see above) Cedar Shores
Friday, Oct 5	5-? PM	"Providing Top Cover" Hospitality Social Cedar Shores
Saturday, Oct 6	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Registration
Saturday, Oct 6	8:00 AM	ANNUAL VFW TRAINING
Saturday, Oct 6	8:00 AM	Certified Trainer Recruiter Seminar
Saturday, Oct 6	8:00 – 8:15 AM	Opening Remarks
Saturday, Oct 6	8:15 – 9:00 AM	Personal Electronic Device (PED) Training
Saturday, Oct 6	9:00 – 9:35 AM	Quartermaster/Audit/Inspection Training
Saturday, Oct 6	9:35 – 9:45 AM	Break
Saturday, Oct 6	9:50 – 10:30 AM	Membership Training
Saturday, Oct 6	10:30 AM	Districts Presidents Meeting
Saturday, Oct 6	10:30 – 10:50 AM	Scholarship Training
Saturday, Oct 6	10:50 – 11:20 AM	Community Service Training
Saturday, Oct 6	11:20 – 12:00 PM	National Military Service Training
Saturday, Oct 6	11:30 AM	Dept. Aux. Line Officers Meeting & Luncheon
Saturday, Oct 6	12:00 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED
Saturday, Oct 6	12:00 – 1:30 PM	Dist. Cmdr/Past State Cmdr. Luncheon
Saturday, Oct 6	1:00 PM	Auxiliary Workshop & School of Instruction
Saturday, Oct 6	1:30 – 2:30 PM	Suicide Prevention & Change Direction Training
Saturday, Oct 6	2:30 – 3:15 PM	First Timer Training (VFW does what?)
Saturday, Oct 6	3:15 – 3:45 PM	Cooties Training
Saturday, Oct 6	5:30 PM	Social Hour (Cash Bar)
Saturday, Oct 6	6:30 PM	BANQUET (Attire for Banquet will be casual)
Sunday, Oct 6	8:30 – 9:00 AM	Department of SD VFW Chapel (Cedar Shores)
Sunday, Oct 6	9:10 – 11:00 AM	VFW Council on Administration
Sunday, Oct 6	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting

*******Registration*******

ADVANCE **\$70.00** (Includes breaks, Saturday lunch and Banquet)
\$25.00 Per meal for anyone attending that is not registered and guests

Deadline for Registration: September 25, 2018—Late Registration: **\$80.00**

All events will be held at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma I-90 Exit 260, 1500 Shoreline Drive, Oacoma, SD 57365 (605-734-6376)—Rate **\$89.95**

Name

Address

VFW/AUX#

City

Total Amount Submitted

Payable to: Department of SD VFW

**Mail to: Department of SD VFW
3601 S Minnesota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57105**

EARLY REGISTRATION IS APPRECIATED

Please fill out a separate registration form for each individual
SD VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & AUXILIARY