



## Book of Reports

### Department Officers, Committee Chairmen, and District Commanders Legislative Conference January 25, 2026

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## BOOK OF REPORTS, JANUARY 2026

Martin Christensen, VFW Dept of SD Commander

Since our last COA meeting, I have not slowed down in keeping the VFW on track.

Our membership goal is 101%. As of January 7, 2026 we have 6,590 members and still need 419 members to reach 101%. We are currently at 94.97%. This is not the time to let off the gas. We need to keep pushing with recruitment events and calling those unpaid annual members. Each post is responsible to do at least one recruiting event per quarter and make sure it gets recorded on the dashboard.

The Calendar of events for 2025-2026 for VFW Dept SD include:

1. SD Legislative Conference – 25-26 January 2026 in Pierre
2. Black Hills Stock Show – Jan 30, 2026 through Feb 7, 2026
3. VFW Washington Conference – 1-5 March 2026 in Washington DC
4. VFW SD Dept is responsible for Memorial Day ceremonies at the Black Hills National Cemetery on 26 May 2026
5. VFW 2026 State Convention is 11-14 June 2026 at the Highland Center in Mitchell
6. 126<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention – July 25-29, 2026 in Reno, Nevada

I have visited all 47 Posts in South Dakota. We will discuss my visits at the Legislative Conference. I will be sending the Sr Vice and Jr Vice to finish the Spring District meetings and allow them to discuss their plans for their command years prior to voting.

Since our Fall Conference, I have attended the following activities:

1. I attended the Big 10 Conference 14-16 October 2026 in Bettendorf, IA.
2. I attended the Annual Dept SD Pheasant Hunt in Gettysburg, SD on Nov 8.
3. Nov 11, I rode in the Veteran's Day Parade in Rapid City with Post 1273 and attended their Veteran's Day program as a guest.
4. On Nov 16, I helped with a pancake breakfast for the 665 Maintenance Company mobilization.
5. Nov 17 – 19, I visited our National Home with 4 other members of the SD VFW to look at sponsoring a home for SD. We coordinated our visit with Mike Wilson.

6. In November we recruited at County Fair Food Store, distributed poppies and sold VFW Dept SD Commander's raffle tickets.
7. Dec 13, we distributed Christmas gifts to Veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Mitchell.
8. In December, I arranged ZOOM meetings for the COA, Black Hills National Cemetery Memorial Day planning, and State Convention 2026 planning.
9. In January, Brent Jones and I attended District 4 Winter meeting in Watertown, SD.

My Commander Projects for 2025-2026 Command Year include:

1. Purchasing a vehicle for the Dept of SD. Vehicle has been taken to several events including the 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Columbus OH, Big 10 Conference in IA, visit to the National Home in MI, parades in Yankton, Rapid City and Corn Palace week in Mitchell.
2. Support Helping With Horsepower and Reclamation Ranch in Mitchell. This organization assists in the healing process with Veterans with PTSD, help in suicide prevention and also assist in physical and mental health rehabilitation. So far, along with the Sam Tronnes Memorial Foundation, we've raised over \$15,000 to help with their building project. We've also been advertising on the local KORN radio station. Crystal Young, director of Helping with Horsepower presented at the Fall Conference in Sioux Falls and at the Sam Tronnes Memorial Foundation/VFW banquet.
3. Look into sponsorship of a home at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.
4. Evaluate needs and help to improve all 47 Posts and all 5 Districts in SD as well as the Dept SD
5. Improve communication with our Posts, Districts, Department and Auxiliaries.
6. Established recruiting events every quarter.
7. Established monthly COA ZOOM meetings.
8. Coordinated with line officers to plan and set up Dept SD state conventions for the next 4 years.

I do not expect anyone to work harder than myself in this organization but I do expect all members to contribute what can be done to assist our Veteran population.

Martin Christensen, Commander Dept SD VFW

Legislative Meeting  
Jan 2026

It has been a busy year for the COA. We have been working on many different projects. We are continuing to work on more to improve the VFW.

I have been involved in many Post and Department level events this year. Our posts have been very good at getting involved within their communities. We still need to get better at reporting everything we do to get credit for it. Each post needs to find a POC for inputting their data into the dashboard. This would help when there are questions about an event and there would be someone to talk to.

One of the big items that we always focus on is membership. Every meeting this is discussed. We are recruiters every day and not just scheduled events. We all know veterans that are eligible to join and need to work on them. On top of that, Life memberships make recruiting easier. If we have more life members we don't have to put the effort into keeping our continuous members paid up. We can use that energy for recruiting new members. Legacy memberships are also something we need to look at pursuing. A legacy membership continues to pay the post even after a member passes. It is a great was to remember those who have passed on.

During this legislative session, we need to stay engaged on what is going on in the state. There are not many bills that affect veterans currently, but more get introduced. We also need to stay on top of what is going on at the national level. There are more bills out there that affect veterans. The big one that has been out there for many year is the Richard Star Act. There is only one member of the senate holding that bill up. Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker is the only senator who voted against it. We can flood his email to show support for this bill.

There are still many upcoming events that I will be a part of. I am also in the planning stages for next year. I am open to you reaching out to me of anything you would like being changed or improved. This is a team effort to advocate for our veterans. Get involved and get engaged. That is what gets us where we need to be.

Rick Vanden Hoek  
Sr Vice Commander

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Book of Reports JR Vice Commander

Legislative Conference

## Membership

### Scholarships / TOY

### Day of Service

We currently have 9 Posts signed up for Day of Service. 17 Aberdeen, 915 Elk Point, 1776 Huron, 2638 Madison, 3298 Parkston, 6554 Plankinton, 3342 Sisseton, 4690 Webster, and 791 Yankton.

### All American

We still have 19 Posts that could make All American.

### Post

We still have posts struggling out there. A lot have the membership numbers but have issues getting people at meetings. Along with recruiting numbers, we need to motivate our members to get involved.

### Officers

We also need to be finding members that are willing to step up and become officers. We need at all levels.

### Assistance

If you need help with recruiting, programs or with questions that you have. Make sure that you ask for help.

### Conferences and Meetings

Please encourage your members to events ie Fall Council, Legislative Conference, State Convention and District meetings.

Dale Greenfield

Junior Vice Commander

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**Welcome to the Legislative Conference, everyone.**

**I believe this is one of the most important things we do as the VFW. Bills that we push that get past help Veterans throughout the state in an impactful way. This action is also one of the biggest things that help in my recruiting effort. This shows how we as an organization affect change on a more local stage. I encourage everyone to stay for Monday for the mixer.**

**I am trying to gather information on what you would like to see at Department meetings. Currently we have only received 1 response. This is how you can affect change on how are meetings are done so please fill it out**

**<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchMuyl8RkupxzOHU8l6L1G2NRzJri4z4aL2STHL1vGrQgJGA/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=112889508054282938113>**



**I look forward to having a good time with all of you and catching up.**

**Kat**

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**Comrades,**

Maintaining our health has always been important, but it is especially critical right now. Illness is widespread across our communities, and health officials report this is one of the most severe flu seasons in recent years. Veterans—particularly those managing chronic conditions—need to remain alert and take proactive steps to protect themselves and those around them.

Basic preventive actions still matter and work. Wash your hands regularly, stay home when you are sick, and seek medical care early if symptoms worsen.

Nutrition is a key component of readiness and recovery. A balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains helps support a strong immune system. Vitamins and supplements are also of great benefit.

This is also a good time to schedule an annual physical or routine checkup. Regular visits allow providers to catch problems early, review medications, and ensure preventive screenings are current. Addressing issues now can prevent more serious health concerns later.

As veterans, we understand the importance of watching out for one another. I encourage you to check in on fellow veterans, promote healthy choices within your posts and families, and make your own health a priority. Staying healthy keeps us active, engaged, and able to continue serving our communities.

**Yours in comradeship,**

**Dan Klimisch**

State Surgeon

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Department Inspector, Allan Ochsner

January 22, 2026

Inspector Verified:

Bonded for the correct amount  
The signatures on audit reports  
Membership Plan  
Poppies  
Post Inspections

**District 1**

791 – Bond balance to low

915 – No poppies

6149 – No poppies

**District 4**

No District membership plan

2118 – No Post Inspection

2638 – No poppies ordered

3342 – Audit form did not balance

3351 – No poppies ordered

3486 – Audit form did not balance and no poppies ordered

3507 – No poppies ordered

**District 6**

2038 – Audit form did not balance

2755 – No poppies ordered

5548 – No poppies ordered

3214 – No poppies ordered

**District 7**

District bond is too low

1353 – No audit report

2750 – Audit report did not balance

3298 – Bond too low and audit form did not balance

6895 – Bond too low and no poppies ordered

**District 10**

1273 – Audit report did not balance

3442 – Audit report did not balance

5860 – Audit report did not balance

Submitted by:

Allan Ochsner

Inspector

Department of South Dakota VFW

# Good Standing as of January 20, 2026

DISTRICT	POST	ELECTION REPORT	QM BOND	POST INSPECTION	MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING PLAN	MEMBERSHIP START	AUDIT 1	AUDIT 2	DONATION TO PROGRAMS	DEPARTMENT DUES	BUDDY POPPIES
1	0	4/30/2025	Done	Done	8/21/2025	1594	1/12/2026	1/13/2026			
1	628	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/31/2025	813	10/2/2025		Done	Done	500
1	791	5/1/2025	Done		7/9/2025	311	9/30/2025		Done	Done	4000
1	915	5/1/2025	Done		9/18/2025	36	10/30/2025		None	None	0
1	2975	4/15/2025	Done		9/30/2025	55	9/11/2025		Done	Done	500
1	3061	5/13/2025	Done	Done	9/2/2025	73	10/28/2025		Done	Done	500
1	3164	4/4/2025	Done		9/25/2025	89	12/16/2025	1/9/2026	Done	Done	500
1	4726	5/1/2025	Done		7/1/2025	157	10/22/2025		Done	Done	500
1	6149	4/9/2025	Done		7/1/2025	36	10/21/2025	1/16/2026	Done	Done	0
4	0	4/6/2025	Done	Done	7/23/2025	1107	10/21/2025				
4	750	4/16/2025	Done	Done	9/9/2025	318			None	Done	1500
4	2118	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/28/2025	183	10/28/2025		Done	Done	500
4	2638	4/8/2025	Done	Done	7/4/2025	139	10/16/2025	1/16/2026	Done	Done	0
4	3342	4/14/2025	Done	Done	7/11/2025	145	10/28/2025		Done	Done	1000
4	3351	5/7/2025	Done	Done	7/4/2025	44	10/14/2025		Done	Done	0
4	3486	4/9/2025	Done	Done	7/30/2025	125	11/4/2025		Done	Done	0
4	3507	5/8/2025	Done	Done	7/25/2025	50	10/30/2025		Done	Done	0
4	4690	4/15/2025	Done	Done	7/23/2025	89	10/23/2025		None	None	500
4	6361	4/3/2025	Done	Done	7/30/2025	14	11/13/2025		Done	Done	0
6	0	4/13/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	1031	11/4/2025				
6	17	3/13/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	375	11/18/2025		Done	Done	2500
6	1776	4/16/2025	Done	Done	6/30/2025	160	10/30/2025		Done	Done	1000
6	2038	5/1/2025	Done	Done	6/22/2025	215	10/21/2025		Done	Done	3500
6	2755	4/9/2025	Done	Done	8/1/2025	75	11/4/2025		None	Done	0
6	3214	4/21/2025	Done	Done	8/6/2025	49	10/30/2025		None	None	0
6	5126	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/30/2025	45	10/21/2025	1/16/2026	Done	Done	500
6	5548	4/14/2025	Done	Done	7/10/2025	27	9/30/2025		Done	Done	0
6	6481	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/24/2025	23	10/9/2025		Done	Done	500
6	8530	4/15/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	62	10/30/2025		Done	Done	500
7	0	4/7/2025	Done	Done	7/15/2025	914	10/28/2025				
7	1353	4/12/2025	Done	Done	1/1/2025	11			None	None	500
7	2750	4/8/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	277	9/30/2025	1/6/2026	Done	Done	2000
7	2966	5/1/2025	Done	Done	10/21/2025	58	10/9/2025		Done	Done	500
7	3239	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	25	10/14/2025		Done	Done	500
7	3298	4/10/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	86	10/14/2025		Done	Done	500
7	4674	5/13/2025	Done	Done	7/21/2025	86	11/13/2025		Done	Done	500
7	6436	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	31	11/4/2025		Done	Done	500
7	6554	4/15/2025	Done	Done	7/15/2025	60	10/28/2025		Done	Done	500
7	6895	5/1/2025	Done	Done	8/7/2025	38	10/14/2025		None	Done	0
7	6897	4/6/2025	Done	Done	10/21/2025	33	10/28/2025		Done	Done	500
7	7319	4/16/2025	Done	Done	7/7/2025	132	9/22/2025	12/19/2025	Done	Done	500
7	9950	5/1/2025	Done	Done	8/11/2025	77	10/23/2025	1/16/2026	Done	Done	500
10	0	4/14/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	2002	12/2/2025				
10	1273	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	794	10/23/2025		Done	Done	2500
10	2730	4/1/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	170	10/14/2025		Done	Done	500
10	2969	4/17/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	40	10/16/2025		Done	Done	500
10	3312	3/13/2025	Done	Done	9/13/2025	81	10/23/2025		Done	Done	500
10	3442	5/1/2025	Done	Done	7/9/2025	445	10/30/2025		Done	Done	4000
10	5807	5/12/2025	Done	Done	7/1/2025	46	10/21/2025		Done	Done	500
10	5860	4/9/2025	Done	Done	7/15/2025	137	10/16/2025	1/16/2026	Done	Done	2000
10	5969	5/1/2025	Done	Done	9/10/2025	247	12/2/2025		Done	Done	1000
10	9120	5/1/2025	Done	Done	8/28/2025	25	10/14/2025		Done	Done	500

Chaplains Report  
January 2026

Since fall have mailed out several cards. Took part in the Commanders Zoom Meetings.

Russel Dramstad  
State Chaplain

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## Buddy Poppy

Book of Reports  
Legislative Conference  
January 26, 2026



Comrades,

As we move forward with our continued support of the Buddy Poppy Program this command year, I'm happy to share that the Department of South Dakota has placed an order for 37,500 Buddy Poppies through National Headquarters.

When submitting your requests, please be sure to use the most current Buddy Poppy Order Form to help prevent any processing delays. Additionally, include the member ID number of the person placing the order so your Post receives proper credit.

The current pricing remains the same:

- Legacy Poppies: \$0.30 each
- Tin Tab Poppies: \$0.15 each
- 

Should there be any updates to shipping costs or revisions to the order form later in the year, an updated version will be provided as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Buddy Poppy Program. Your dedication preserves this meaningful tradition and helps provide critical support to our veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Arnold  
Department of South Dakota VFW  
Quartermaster / Adjutant  
Buddy Poppy Chairman

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**Book of Reports**  
**Legislative Conference 2026**  
**Barbara McKean**  
**National Council Member**

1. If you're a National Legislative Committee member, you know how important it is to make our voice heard in the nation's capital, but it's just as imperative to have grassroots/State-level support for the initiatives that are being considered to directly impact the veterans right here in South Dakota.

Our National Commander Carol Whitore wanted me to share our top priorities for the upcoming year:

2. The Richard Star Act: The Major Richard Star Act is something the VFW has been staunchly supporting and calling for Reform to military retirement pay and disability compensation policy is long overdue. Many of our nation's combat-disabled veterans are prohibited by Congress from receiving their full earned Department of Defense retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation. Over 50,000 retirees with combat-related disabilities must forfeit every dollar of retirement pay for every dollar they receive in disability compensation. No veteran should have to choose between two fundamentally different benefits that they earned for two entirely different reasons. This offset must be eliminated. Our combat veterans have already sacrificed enough.

3. Community-Based Care: Our health care system is failing our veterans. While community care is a necessary component of the VA health care system, administrative barriers prevent veterans from receiving the timely, high-quality services they've earned. These challenges are particularly harmful for veterans in rural areas and women veterans who rely on community providers for specialized care. We must modernize the Foreign Medical Program to provide consistent, reliable care for our veterans living overseas. The VFW strongly supports these changes to ensure all veterans can access the care they need, regardless of where they live. To better take care of our veterans, we're focusing on the passage of H.R.740 / S.275, Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025, to ensure veterans receive clear information and timely health care by improving the efficiency, oversight, and coordination of VA's community care program, and passing H.R.467, Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025, to expand access to health care for veterans living abroad by modernizing reimbursement systems and strengthening global care options.

4. Alternative Treatments for PTSD: Many veterans are seeking mental health treatment for service-connected disabilities, and the VFW believes it's time for the VA to expand its approach to care. Currently, veterans are often directed toward a narrow range of

medications and therapies, but for many, these treatments offer only temporary relief and can have unwanted side effects. The VFW is urging the VA to provide written informed consent to all veterans before they begin long-term psychiatric medication, ensuring they fully understand the risks and benefits. It's time for the VA to leverage its unique capacity to research and provide alternative treatments, such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, ketamine infusion, and medical cannabis, leading the nation in advancing innovative PTSD care.

5. TAP Program: In early 2024, VA launched its improved curriculum of VA benefits and services covered during Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes. TAP 6.0 includes having an accredited representative physically present to assist service members with filing their BDD claims. Data shows this initiative has been effective in increasing the number of transitioning service members receiving their benefits upon discharge. It also has the potential to positively affect factors that can contribute to the downward spiral toward suicide, thereby saving lives. The VFW would like to see this practice codified into law and made permanent. Since this is a current VA program, we anticipate this legislative fix would be cost neutral.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can assist you with.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Barbara McKean

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#### Report of Homeless Veteran Chairman

Sort of crazy winter for the homeless, warm one day and cold the next. I hope some of you have done something in your town to help those in need.

As far as our state program goes I think we need to take a look at how much we want to spend and time put into it. I took this program over a few years back and the only place I go is Sioux Falls for standdown. I know west river has a stand down that does more than east river from what I hear.

Our past commander called me once about helping a stranded vet get a hotel room but I told her

I didn't know if there was money for it.

I would encourage the council to look at it and see if we should increase the budget or stay the course.

Thanks to Brent Jones for helping my veteran grandson get to Mitchell after a mishap on I90.  
Much appreciated.

DeLane Fickbohm

Homeless Veteran Chairman

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Book of Reports PP / VOD / TOY

Legislative Conference

25 January 2026

Teacher of the Year

There was 15 TOY applications received at the Department.

TOY were due to Post on 31 October and Department on 15 November.

Judging was completed on 2 December and results sent to Adjutant.

Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy

There were 1080 applications submitted at the Posts.

There are still some confusion on the process and deadlines.

There needs to be better communication between the post and the auxiliary.

This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> year using scholars app.

Training for post and districts is always available; they just need to ask.

If anyone has comments about scholarships, please send to me via email.

The 5 district Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy winners will be at Legislative Luncheon Banquet and the Department winners will be announced.

Dale Greenfield

State Patriot Pen / Voice of Democracy Chair

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# MemStats as of January 21, 2026

Post	Dst	Annual New	Annual Cont	Annual Reinst	Life New	Life Cont	Life Reinst	Life Upgrade	Current	Prior	%	Div	City
628	1	3	36	1	5	756	1	12	802	813	98.64%	2	SIOUX FALLS
791	1	0	20	6	1	277	5	6	309	311	99.35%	4	YANKTON
915	1	2	4	0	0	24	0	0	30	36	83.33%	11	ELK POINT
2975	1	0	4	0	0	51	0	0	55	55	100.00%	10	BERESFORD
3061	1	0	10	0	0	58	0	0	68	73	93.15%	9	VERMILLION
3164	1	0	4	0	0	82	0	2	86	89	96.62%	8	CANTON
4726	1	0	11	1	2	146	0	2	160	157	101.91%	6	BRANDON
6149	1	1	7	0	0	27	0	0	35	36	97.22%	11	ALCESTER
0	1	6	96	8	8	1421	6	22	1545	1570	98.40%	4	
750	4	0	27	3	3	276	0	4	309	318	97.16%	4	WATERTOWN
2118	4	1	17	2	2	157	0	2	179	183	97.81%	6	BROOKINGS
2638	4	0	5	0	3	123	0	4	131	139	94.24%	7	MADISON
3342	4	0	6	0	0	132	1	2	139	145	95.86%	6	SISSETON
3351	4	1	11	0	0	33	0	2	45	44	102.27%	11	FLANDREAU
3486	4	1	9	0	0	114	0	2	124	125	99.20%	7	MILBANK
3507	4	0	7	0	0	43	0	1	50	50	100.00%	11	BRITTON
4690	4	0	9	0	0	76	0	1	85	89	95.50%	8	WEBSTER
6361	4	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	14	14	100.00%	11	GOODWIN
0	4	3	92	5	8	967	1	18	1076	1107	97.19%	5	
17	6	4	98	0	0	163	0	1	265	375	70.66%	3	ABERDEEN
1776	6	1	6	0	4	151	0	7	162	160	101.25%	6	HURON
2038	6	1	2	0	4	197	2	7	206	215	95.81%	5	PIERRE
2755	6	0	10	0	0	60	0	0	70	75	93.33%	9	REDFIELD
3214	6	0	6	0	0	38	0	1	44	49	89.79%	11	MILLER
5126	6	0	6	0	0	38	0	0	44	45	97.77%	11	EUREKA
5548	6	0	6	0	0	16	0	0	22	27	81.48%	11	WESSINGTON SPRINGS
6481	6	0	2	0	0	18	0	2	20	23	86.95%	11	TURTON
8530	6	0	4	0	3	60	0	3	67	62	108.06%	10	GETTYSBURG
0	6	6	140	0	11	741	2	21	900	1031	87.29%	5	
1353	7	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	11	100.00%	11	MARTY
2750	7	0	9	2	10	263	1	12	285	277	102.88%	4	MITCHELL
2966	7	1	1	0	0	53	0	0	55	58	94.82%	10	SCOTLAND
3239	7	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	26	25	104.00%	11	LAKE ANDES
3298	7	0	0	0	1	86	0	1	87	86	101.16%	9	PARKSTON
4674	7	0	1	0	0	81	0	0	82	86	95.34%	9	WINNER
6436	7	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	29	31	93.54%	11	CHAMBERLAIN
6554	7	0	4	0	0	58	0	1	62	60	103.33%	10	PLANKINTON
6895	7	0	2	0	0	36	0	0	38	38	100.00%	11	TYNDALL
6897	7	0	3	0	1	28	0	1	32	33	96.96%	11	ARMOUR
7319	7	0	1	0	4	130	0	5	135	132	102.27%	7	WAGNER
9950	7	0	2	0	0	73	0	1	75	77	97.40%	9	BURKE
0	7	1	23	2	16	874	1	21	917	914	100.32%	5	
1273	10	7	35	0	8	697	1	12	748	794	94.20%	2	RAPID CITY
2730	10	0	18	0	1	136	0	2	155	170	91.17%	6	STURGIS
2969	10	1	3	0	0	37	0	5	41	40	102.50%	11	LEMMON
3312	10	0	3	0	0	77	0	0	80	81	98.76%	9	BELLE FOURCHE
3442	10	3	5	0	4	437	0	4	449	445	100.89%	3	CUSTER
5807	10	0	0	1	0	57	0	0	58	46	126.08%	11	NEWELL
5860	10	0	4	0	11	134	0	17	149	137	108.75%	7	SPEARFISH
5969	10	0	6	0	6	224	1	6	237	247	95.95%	4	DEADWOOD
9120	10	0	1	0	0	24	0	0	25	25	100.00%	11	QUINN
0	10	11	75	1	30	1823	2	46	1942	1985	97.83%	4	
15043	99	7	20	3	3	229	0	8	262	332	78.91%	4	SIOUX FALLS 14
0	99	7	20	3	3	229	0	8	262	332	78.91%	6	
0	255	34	446	19	76	6055	12	136	6642	6939	95.71%		

## **Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars**

### **Youth Baseball**

SD VFW Baseball Chairman

1600 W Russell St Suite 135

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

[www.sdvfwbbaseball.com](http://www.sdvfwbbaseball.com)

December 1, 2025

### **Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Baseball Announces 2025-2026 Personnel Changes Effective Immediately**

**Sioux Falls (December 1, 2025)** – Department of SD VFW Baseball will be making operations personnel changes this coming year that will be effective immediately.

**SD VFW Baseball Chairman:** Danny Frisby-Griffin

VFW Connection

All Star Showcase and Game/Special Events

Chief Financial Officer

### **High School Tournament Divisions (V/JV/7-9 Grade) Committee:**

Co-Chairs Jesse Bien (Director; Baseball Ops) and Nolan Whiting (Assistant; Baseball Ops)

Member: Sanctioned League Commissioners or designated representative (MinnDak)

Volunteers: TBD

### **Youth Tournament Divisions (8U/10U/12U) Committee:**

Chair: David Grantham (Assistant, Baseball Ops/Technology Officer)

Member: Shane Merrill (Assistant; Baseball Ops)

Member: Sanctioned League Commissioners or designated representative (MinnDak)

Volunteers: Wesley Grantham, others TBD

**Scholarship, Grant and Donation Committee:** Chair: Barb McKean Member: Charles McKean Volunteers: TBD

**SD VFW Baseball Chief Umpire:** Jason Whiting

Volunteers can be members of the age division they are NOT coaching. Committee Chairs own their committees and submit recommended members to Executive Committee for final review prior to the SD VFW Baseball Chairman's consideration. The Division Committees also execute their respective age group tournaments.

**Executive Committee:** SD VFW Baseball Chairman, Committee Chairs, Chief Umpire and volunteers selected by the SD VFW Baseball Chairman to participate. Division Committees will work with Executive Committee to ensure decisions are consistent with SD VFW Baseball rules and code of conduct.

**Baseball Advisory Committee:** State Commander (or designated representative) and Quartermaster, SD VFW Baseball Adjutant (if appointed by SD Baseball Chairman), SD VFW Baseball Chairman, SD VFW Director of Baseball Operations, SD VFW Assistants Director of Baseball Operations, Committee Chairs, Immediate Past Chairman (if applicable), Chief Umpire, and at-large member of the Council of Administration (or SD VFW Baseball Chairman's selectee) to participate in grant funding determination.

SD VFW Baseball Chairman

1600 W Russell St, Suite 135

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

[www.sdvfwbasketball.com](http://www.sdvfwbasketball.com)

**Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Announces 2026 South Dakota VFW Youth Baseball State Tournaments Host Locations**

**Sioux Falls (December 21, 2025)** – Department of SD VFW Baseball Chairman, Danny Frisby-Griffin, released the host sites for the 2026 SD VFW State Tournament Season. During the 6 weeks of the season, approximately 10 July to 12 August, teams and players will participate in at least 15 state tournaments across the 6 age levels as well as the first Tournament of Champions and the 6th Annual Varsity Showcase and All-Star Game.

The Department of SD VFW Baseball revealed the following host locations for the 67th anniversary year:

**7/10-12/2026**

**8U: 7/12-14/2024: West Central Baseball Association (WCBA) Humbolt/Hartford**

**7/17-19/2026**

**12U: Ekton Youth Sports Association, Salem Baseball Association and Beresford Baseball & Softball Association**

**Varsity (9th-12th Grades): Britton Baseball & Softball and Belle Fourche Youth Baseball Association**

**7/24-26/2026**

**10U: Beresford Youth Sports Association and WCBA**

**7-9th Grades: Sisseton Youth Baseball Association, Gregory Baseball Association, Webster VFW/Diamond Club and Sioux Falls Chargers Baseball**

**7/31-8/02/2026**

**Junior Varsity (JV): Clear Lake/Deuel Area Baseball Association and Tri-Valley Ball Association**

**8/8/2026**

**7-9th Grades: Tournament of Champions: TBD**

**8/9/2026**

**Varsity Showcase & All-Star Game: TBD**

**8/23/2026 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting 10 AM, location TBD**

“We’re celebrating our 67th year of VFW Baseball this season and we’re continuously innovating our program to ensure the players, families and coaches have a positive experience. The 2026 SD VFW Baseball Rules have been posted to the website as well as the reorganization of VFW Baseball Administration Structure.

The Department of SD VFW and VFW Baseball would like to congratulate all host locations and are looking forward to another great summer of SD Baseball!

Registration should be open shortly and the link will be in a banner across the top of our home page. Also, please note the registration dates and fees posted on the home page.

The 2027-2030 tournament proposed dates are posted on the website. **(tentative):**

**2027 Tournament Dates 7/9-11/2027 8U**

**7/16-18/2027 12U and Varsity (9th-12th Grades)**

7/23-25/2027 **10U and 7-9th Grades**

7/30-8/01/2027 **Junior Varsity (JV)**

8/7/2027 **Tournament of Champions Day (if required)**

8/8/2027 **Varsity Showcase & All-Star Game**

8/22/2027 **SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting 10 AM, location TBD**

**2028 Tournament Dates 7/7-9/2028 8U**

7/14-16/2028 **12U and Varsity (9th-12th Grades)**

7/21-23/2028 **10U and 7-9th Grades**

7/28-30/2028 **Junior Varsity (JV)**

8/5/2028 **Tournament of Champions Day (if required)**

8/6/2028 **Varsity Showcase & All-Star Game**

8/20/2028 **SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting 10 AM, location TBD 2029 Tournament Dates**

7/6-8/2029 **8U**

7/13-15/2029 **12U and Varsity (9th-12th Grades)**

7/20-22/2029 **10U and 7-9th Grades**

7/27-29/2029 **Junior Varsity (JV)**

8/4/2029 **Tournament of Champions Day (if required)**

8/5/2029 **Varsity Showcase & All-Star Game**

8/19/2029 **SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting 10 AM, location TBD 2030 Tournament Dates**

7/12-14/2030 **8U**

7/19-21/2030 **12U and Varsity (9th-12th Grades)**

7/26-28/2030 **10U and 7-9th Grades**

8/2-4/2030 **Junior Varsity (JV)**

8/10/2030 **Tournament of Champions Day (if required)**

8/11/2030 **Varsity Showcase & All-Star Game**

8/25/2030 **SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting 10 AM, location TBD**

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I just volunteered at the last District meeting to take charge of the Memorial park in Sturgis. Still waiting for contact numbers for BLM .

We did receive the new mower. We now have all the material for the roof repairs. These repairs will be done closer to spring when the weather cooperates. A few people have volunteered to help with removal of the old shingles and two other non-VFW members have volunteered to do the replacement. Repairs and touch up around the park are always ongoing.

We discussed having people at the Park during the Rally. This must be manned 24/7 during that time. I explained to everyone I cannot do it as I take care of a different campground at Rally time. If any post from East River would like to come and attend the park that would be great, some just do a 24-hour shift so not so much of a burden. WE may need to purchase a new flag. The one we have is in good shape but with winds you never know. A few posts said they may be able to donate one. So will see. A new doggy poo stand with bags has been put up, and that along with bags was donated. Discussed also was getting some banners so people will understand that the VFW takes care of the park and not the VA. This may help to get more in donations

Dwight Griffiee  
Post 2730

Greetings comrades of the VFW,

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This past year has been extremely busy. Between government shutdowns, staffing changes within the VA, increased wait times on claims, and the ongoing ups and downs of government bureaucracy, there have been challenges at every turn. Despite these obstacles, claims continue to move forward, with only minimal added processing time. Veterans are encouraged to continue filing claims and to remain patient with the process. During the year, we completed **1,170.5 hours of combined training** and provided **1,358.5 hours of training** to County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers across the state of South Dakota. This included two mini-training conferences, one statewide annual recertification

training, and individual training sessions for newly appointed Veterans Service Officers throughout the state.

We attended **152 events statewide**, including Coffee with Veterans, golf tournaments, parades, Yellow Ribbon events, pre-mobilization briefings, membership events, and many others. Through these outreach efforts, we made direct contact with **6,759 veterans and family members**. In support of training and outreach, our staff traveled **113,174 miles** across the state.

Currently, we hold Power of Attorney through the VFW for **16,146 veterans and their family members**. This year alone, we assisted in filing **51,880 documents** with the VA in support of disability, education, burial, and spousal claims. As a result of this work, VFW veterans in South Dakota recovered **\$3,931,720.00 in one-time retroactive payments**, and veterans and their families now receive approximately **\$115,000,000.00 in monthly ongoing benefits**.

Our primary mission is to assist veterans and their families with VA claims. However, our support does not stop there. If we cannot directly assist with an issue, we will work to connect veterans and their families with the appropriate person or agency. **No veteran or family member should ever have to fight alone.**

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our veterans.

David Huntimer  
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david.huntimer@va.gov  
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Department of South Dakota VFW  
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As of January 14<sup>th</sup> 2026, our community service dashboard entries are at:

Q1, July, Aug. Sept. = 98% compliance, or 46 of 47 posts have made entries.  
Q2, Oct. Nov. & Dec = 96% compliance, or 45 of 47 posts have made entries.  
We are now a couple weeks into Q3 and we already have 18 of 47 posts with Community Service entries.

I read and approve entries pretty much on a daily basis and in my opinion our South Dakota VFW Posts are doing a great job.

It is a good practice to input community service as it happens, compared to the old by-gone era when we did 3 months of entries after the quarter had ended.

Keep up the great work comrades!



The pink bars show us this command years work in progress, compared to the past three command years. We can reach that 100% mark, Go Team!

Dept. Qm Anna is always ready to help if you run into a problem with making an entry, and I am only a phone call away if you have a question.

CS chairman  
Lonny 605-769-0385

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District 1  
Book of Reports  
Dept. of South Dakota Legislative Conference 24-25 January 2026

1. District 1 has completed the first half of the 2025-2026 year on track to meet All-American and All-State requirements. We are set to meet all Department goals and obligations in the areas of:
  - a. Membership
  - b. Training
  - c. General Orders
2. We will continue to follow Commander Christensen's guidance.
3. Membership Statistics from District 1 as of 15 December 2025 was %.
4. Reports:
  - a. All Posts have submitted Election Reports for 2025-2026.
  - b. All Posts have bonded their Quartermaster.
  - c. 8/8 Posts have conducted Post Inspections with minor deficiencies.
5. District Dues for 6/8 Posts have been paid.
6. Post visits by District Commander have been conducted 70%.
7. The next District 1 meeting is 26 April 2026 in Alcester.

Don Kranz

District 1 Commander

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Book of reports.

Upcoming events include membership drives. Getting ready for sponsoring Corn Hole events and tournaments We had Food giveaway on November 20th and December 17th. 50 Boxes on the November event and 70 boxes on the December event.. Had membership drive on both events. We have potential increase in membership from both events. Plans are being made for the May events for community clean up in several areas. Making plans for several upcoming projects. .

Troy Foster Post, District 4 Commander

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District 6

Book of Reports

The first 2 quarters have sailed past, with a lot of work being done in District 6. With a strong push in the second half, I am sure we can meet our goals.

All District 6 posts have completed their 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter audit.

All District 6 posts have made community service entries for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters. 5 of the 9 posts in the district have already made entries for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

All inspections have been completed in the district.

2 posts in the district have exceeded 101% membership.

Our fall District meeting was held in Redfield on September 28<sup>th</sup>. There were members present representing 5 of the 9 posts in the district. Day of service was discussed and Lonny Potts and Dale Greenfield held training on the dashboard, community service entries and after-action reports. Department Commander Doc Martin was in attendance, and he gave updates on National as well as the Department. Our next meeting will be by Zoom on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chris Forster  
District 6 Commander

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District 7

Book of Reports

Dept. of South Dakota VFW Legislative Council 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

1. District 7 has completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 2025-2026 year on track to meet All-American and All-State requirements. We are postured to meet all Department goals and obligations in the areas of:

- a. Membership

- b. Training
- c. Communication

2. We have and will continue to follow Commander Christensen's guidance.

3. Membership Statistics from District 7 as of 7 January 2026 was 914/914 or 100%. The Posts were broken down at:

- a. Post 1353 – Marty – 11/11 or 100%
- b. Post 2750 – Mitchell – 285/277 or 102.88%
- c. Post 2966 – Scotland – 54/58 or 93.1%
- d. Post 3239 – Lake Andes – 26/25 or 104%
- e. Post 3298 – Parkston – 87/86 or 101.16%
- f. Post 4674 – Winner – 82/86 or 95.34%
- g. Post 6436 – Chamberlain – 29/31 or 93.54%
- h. Post 6554 – Plankinton – 62/60 or 103.33%
- i. Post 6895 – Tyndall – 38/38 or 100%
- j. Post 6897 – Armour – 31/33 or 93.93%
- k. Post 7319 – Wagner – 135/132 or 102.27%
- l. Post 9950 – Burke – 74/77 or 96.1%

4. Reports:

- a. All Posts have submitted Election Reports for 2025-2026.
- b. All Posts have bonded their Quartermaster.
- c. All Posts have reported 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Community Service activities and are still completing 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reporting.
- d. All Posts have conducted Post Inspections with only minor deficiencies found for all except the Marty Post. All have individual plans to rectify current deficiencies.
- e. District 7 conducted Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy judging and submitted winning applicants to State level.

- f. District 7 fundraised over \$7,000 to pay Post's financial obligations and support membership recruitment operations.
  5. All Post visits by District 7 Commander have been conducted.
  6. The next District 7 meeting is 1 February 2026 in Winner.
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### **DISTRICT 10 Mid-Winter Report by Commander Dave Huber**

Since the District 10 Fall Meeting communication between myself and the Posts has been very active. Many emails and phone conversations have taken place. I have sent out a monthly District 10 newsletter to inform Posts of the happenings, successes, and upcoming deadlines. Additionally, tracking dashboard accomplishments and encouraging various Posts to complete required elements has been a major focus. Providing assistance to individuals that are in the early stages of learning how to use the dashboard has required not only many contact hours between us; but, also research on my part to know how to better help each one with his/her particular needs. Furthermore, all post inspections were completed and areas of concern are still being cooperatively worked on.

All Posts have entered Americanism reports on dashboard. Every District 10 Post had members that participated in Veterans Day events. Personally, I attended the Rapid City parade and Post #1273 noon meal, plus, the Sturgis Veterans Day events hosted at their local schools. I was very impressed with community support and the patriotism exhibited by everyone in attendance.

At the time of this report- we are at 97.68% membership and are striving to reach 102%. All 9 posts have conducted a recruiting event. Spearfish Post #5860 was selected for the second Commander's Challenge for Membership Recruitment award in their division. Congratulations to Commander Derek Besler and members for your dedication and hard-work in the area of recruitment. The Post was awarded two VFW 8' table drapes from the VFW store.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen had seven of the nine District 10 Posts that participated with entries. The information and continued support from the Scholarship Program Chairs Dale and Margaret Greenfield was greatly appreciated and positively impacted Post involvement. Whereas this year only 2 of the 9 Posts had entries for the Teacher of the Year. Most indicating lack of someone eligible to be nominated.

In regards to the VFW Memorial Park and Chapel -near Sturgis- a pet waste station was donated and installed. SD Department purchased a 2025 Hustler riding front-end mower for the park. Repair materials for the bathroom building and chapel roofs has arrived and installation depends on the volunteer contractor's availability. Continued improvements and maintenance are being addressed. We are seeking a Host/Hostess for the park campgrounds during the 2026 Sturgis Rally.

Updating the District 10 Bylaws has been ongoing since August with Posts reviewing and providing input throughout the updating process. As of the District 10 January meeting the Bylaws are ready to proceed to the next step. Additionally, the first Standard Operating Procedures are in the final steps of development and will be voted upon at our District convention in April. Many hours have gone into these two documents and I appreciate everyone that has assisted in any way!