

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

General Orders #6

“The Future is Now”

December 1, 2017

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Department Commander and his staff extend Christmas and New Year greetings to all comrades and sisters and their families. On these special days let us be thankful for the privilege of living in the United States.

1. **The State Headquarters office** will be closed on December 25th and 26th in observance of Christmas. It will also be closed on January 1st and 2nd for New Years.
2. **Membership:** Membership efforts in December should be concentrated on contacting all 2017 members who have not paid for 2017. All unpaid members become delinquent on their anniversary date. The Direct dues payment program does not eliminate the need for membership teams and committees to collect the dues of those members who have not responded to the annual notices that are mailed out by National Headquarters.
3. **Veterans Day Reports:** This report is needed from all Posts. Form may be downloaded by going on line to sdvfw.org. Mail the report to Sr. Vice Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin, 418 NE Fifth Street, Madison, SD 57042. If your post has not sent in your report, please do so now.
4. **Education Teacher Award:** Winning entries at the Post level are to be submitted to the Department Chairman, prior to December 15. Each Post is encouraged to have a winner in each of the three categories, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Post winners should be forwarded to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730
5. **Voice of Democracy:** District judging should be completed by now. As soon as possible after District judging is completed, the winning entries and tapes are to be sent to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Each District will send their district winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top winners at the State level.
6. **Patriots Pen:** District judging should be completed by now. As soon as possible after District judging is completed send the winning entries to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Each District will send their district winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top winners at the State level.
8. **Legislative Conference:** Council of Administration, Legislative Conference and Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet has been set for January 28th & 29th, 2018 in Pierre. See enclosed notice for registration, etc.
9. **The National Voice of Democracy** and Legislative Conference meeting will be held on March 3rd – 8th, 2018 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 March 5th, 2018.
10. **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.

11. **2018 By-Laws Manual & Roberts Rules of Order:** The Department recommends that all Posts purchase a new 2018 By-Laws Manual from National, and Roberts Rules from Amazon.com.

12. **Fly Flags at Half Staff on December 7:** Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994 designates December 7, as National Pearl Harbor Day and all Posts should fly their flag at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.

13. **Wreaths Across America:** On December 16, 2017. Wreaths Across America programs will take place all at the same time. Services will be held at the following cemeteries in South Dakota, and all VFW and Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend one of these programs. What a project!

- Black Hills National Cemetery – Sturgis (10:00 am).
- Fort Meade, National Cemetery – Sturgis (10:00 am).
- Hot Springs National Cemetery - Hot Springs (10:00 am).
- Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery – Pringle (10:00 am).
- Hills of Rest Memorial Park Cemetery – Sioux Falls (11:00 am).
- Restlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery – Huron (11:00 am).
- Greenwood and Lutheran Cemeteries – Brookings (11:00 am)

14. **Mid-Winter Meetings:** This is what we have to date.
District 7 will meet at Post 6897, in Armour on February 11th, 2018.
District 10 will meet at Post 1273 in Rapid City on January 14, 2018.

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 by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. Pleased be sure you send article in a word document.

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

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

Rick Williamson
Rick Williamson, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars /56

**December 2017 General Orders
Commander Rick Williamson**

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. It’s hard to believe that it is already December, mostly because of the weather, but Christmas is just a few weeks away. From my family to yours, please have a joyous and safe Christmas, and a very Happy New Year. I always look forward to the time spent with family and friends during the holidays and this year is certainly no exception. Please be safe in your travels and if you can remember a veteran who may be in a nursing home in your community, or doesn’t have anyone to share the holidays with anymore. You will make their season a bit more festive, the feeling of helping a fellow veteran out cannot be measured in time or dollars. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years from your Commander, Thanks for all you do.

We have had a pretty tough November, it is with a very heavy heart that I have had the honor of representing the Department at the Memorial Services of two of our Past Dept. Commanders. James Haug

(PSC 1970-71) and Tom Sherman (PSC 1996-97) have answered their final call and will be dearly missed by our department. I have had the honor to present a bible to each of their families out of respect for their duty to their god, country, and the Department of South Dakota VFW.

We are getting very near to the Legislative Conference in Ft. Pierre, please get your registrations in early and make your reservations for lodging. I hope you are looking forward to the VOD and Patriot Pen Banquet as much as I am. Let's get those entries into Keith Blume ASAP so he can get them judged and we can get these fine young Americans invited to join us in Ft. Pierre.

Dec 7th will be a dedication for the Flagpole at the S.D. State Veterans Home, myself, Darwin, and Jerry Heggstad will be attending, as well as our Dept. Aux President and a few of their officers. The staff at the Veterans Home are going to make this a big event, we have been asked to perform the Flag Presentation Ceremony. Anyone one who would like to attend please get hold of Darwin or Crystal for details, we will let the home know a final count around Dec 4th. Hope to see you there.

Membership, please get out and get a new member for your post. We need your assistance to make 100% so let's DIG IN and get it done. Have you thought about a legacy membership as a Christmas present for a loved one, it is a great way to keep giving to your post, dept., and the mission of the VFW. You may want to consider a life membership if you haven't done so already. Please get out there and help me achieve 100 % for this great Department. Thanks

From me to you, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year..... God Bless each and everyone

Rick Williamson
Commander
214 N. Wicker, Canton S.D. 57013

"The Future is Now"
"Dig In"
rick@johnsonfeedinc.com

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota State Sr. Vice Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin General Orders 12/17

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone had an awesome and safe Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends. Please remember our veterans, active duty and National Guard personnel, at home and deployed, as well as their families in your thoughts and prayers during this time of year. This is the season of joyous times and dark winter blues so please keep a watchful eye on our comrades and their families.

I'm sure everyone's Veterans Day program were executed without a hitch. Now, don't forget to send me your reports and images you would like to share and I'll try to get them posted to the Department Face Book page or share your link. When submitting your images and articles also make sure you send copies to Dick Pickering for the Overseas Veteran. Make sure you send your report by December 31 so you can get the bonus points.

OK...we're getting close to the suspense date and I haven't received any submissions and I'm sure you're getting tired of me hounding you about submitting packages for our Public Servant National Awards (Law Enforcement, Firefighter and Emergency Services). We have to do better than last year! Please take a few moments to complete the [forms](#) located our website link below and send them to me by December 31, 2017. The Department must send our candidate for each of the categories to VFW National Headquarters by February

The new VFW Baseball website is up and operational. In addition, the 2018 VFW Baseball State Tournament Registration is open and ready. We've received bid packages for hosting the State Tournaments in July 2018 and our VFW Baseball Committee will be reviewing them in December. The 2018 Tournament Host Checklist and 2018 Proposed Rules are available on our website. We currently have one sponsor for the VFW Youth Baseball Grant Program, VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year and VFW Youth Baseball Veterans Donation Program. The minimum amount to be considered a Sponsor is \$3000 with the donation going to the

previous three programs. Our current plan is not to use any of the sponsor's donations for execution of the program. Here is the link to VFW Baseball: <http://www.sdvfwbaseball.com/>

As of November 21, 2017, I've received 25 Memorial Day reports (Brandon, Canton, Elk Point, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Brookings, Madison, Milbank, Sisseton, Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Pierre, Armour, Burke, Lake Andes, Marty, Mitchell, Parkston, Scotland, Wagner, Winner, Custer, Deadwood, Newell and Quinn).

As of November 21, 2017, I've received only 11 Veterans Day reports (Brandon, Vermillion, Madison, Gettysburg, Pierre, Armour, Lake Andes, Parkston, Wagner, Custer, and Deadwood). Remember to get both of these reports turned in prior to December 31 to get your bonus points during All State Judging.

Just a reminder, the updated forms and **revised membership books** are on the website (<http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>) and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened.

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

State SR Vice Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
418 NE 5th St, Madison SD 57042
Cell: 402-332-7423 Email: danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
Sean Johnson Department Junior Vice Commander 2017-2018
General Orders for December 2017

Hello fellow Comrades hope all is well, and you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I can't believe the weather that we are having this late in the season, but we will absolutely take it. I want you to be careful though because the season is upon us were the cold, wind, and snow can hit hard at any time.

Business Time:

1. Membership Still Missing a lot of Membership Reports
2. State is at 85.91%
3. Dist 1- 83.47% Dist 4- 84.26% Dist 6- 89.40
Dist 7- 85.13% Dist 10- 88.43%
4. From here on out we are going to hear a lot about membership pushes, drives, and whatever it takes from the single person, to a Post Membership Team, District Commander , to State Junior Vice Commander , to Membership Committee. We need to try and get the posts in the districts to 100% And right now the Push begins!

Sean Johnson
South Dakota Junior Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

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Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold
December 2017 General Orders

Comrades,

Its seems winter is a little behind, and so are some of the community service reports. I know things are slowing down, but I would still like to see them come in. I do not have them listed out yet as I am still compiling all of the numbers and the posts from the districts. If you e-mailed it to me and did not get a response please call me at 605-770-1030 and leave a message as some of the reports happened to go to my spam folder. I did check my

spam folder, but I may have missed some. One little house keeping thing if you e-mail it to me please put in the subject line community service report or something to that affect. Thank you for your hard work and keep it up

Cody Mangold
Judge Advocate
cody.mangold@hotmail.com 605-770-1030
1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD, 57066

Barbara K. McKean
State Surgeon
December General Orders

Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year. Time to reflect on all we are grateful for. Time to spend with those we love, those we call family, friends, and comrades. I want to wish you all the merriest of holidays from my family to yours!

Be prepared for the cold and flu season! Now through March 31, 2018, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and many health care plans. Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.

You can access to the Overseas Veteran <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/201707OSV.pdf>. All reports are available on the state website at <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>.

As a reminder, quarterly reports are due by: Nov 10; Feb 10 & May 10 (approximately 10 days after end of Quarter). As of 11/20/17, I have received 19 hospital reports. We are at 34% so far this 2nd quarter. Let's get those reports in. District Commanders, give me a call. Let's work together to bring up our state quarterly percentage rates!

Barbara McKean
State Surgeon
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com

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Additional Dates to Remember in December

December 15th there is a Buffalo Feed at Ft. Meade Hospital, but because of the holiday no tour is planned. Anyone planning on attending please let the state office know.

December 16th Visit and Buffalo Feed with the Director of State Home & Dom. At Hot Springs VA. Anyone planning on attending please let the state office know.

**SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AND AUXILIARY**

**LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE/COUNCILS OF ADMINISTRATION
AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS BANQUET**

January 28th and January 29th, 2017

All events will be held at the AmericInn Teton Conference Center Fort Pierre

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th, 2017

Registration Starts at 11:00 a.m. Foyer of the Teton Conference Center

The V.F.W. and Auxiliary will have **Committee meetings** starting at 10:00 a.m. (Teton Conference Center)

1:00 p.m. **COUNCIL MEETINGS VFW and AUXILIARY** in the Teton Conference Center (Walden & Scotty Room)

6:00 p.m. **Soup and Sandwich bar** served in Teton Conference Center (Leighen Room)

MONDAY, January 29th, 2017

JOINT SESSION 8:30 (Walden Room)

VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers visit the State Capital

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN AND TEACHERS BANQUET

11:30 p.m. (Leighen/Scotty Room)

LEGISLATIVE MIXER

6:00 to 7:30 PM LEGISLATIVE MIXER (Leighen/Scotty Rooms)

Please be there, your State Legislators will be attending.

Advance REGISTRATION \$65.00

After January 26, 2017 Registration for Conference will be \$75

(Includes Sunday Evening Meal, Monday Banquet & Legislative Mixer)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Department of South Dakota VFW (Separate meals \$25.00 each)

MAIL TO: Department of South Dakota Office
3601 S. Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Attn: Crystal

NAME:

ADDRESS:

VFW/AUX #:

CITY:

TOTAL SUBMITTED:

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN MOTEL RESERVATIONS. Ask for VFW rates.

Days Inn: 520 W. Sioux Ave. call 605-224-0411, Room Charges \$69.99 after Jan. 6th charges will go up.

Governors Inn: 700 W. Sioux Ave. call 605 224 4200, Room Charges \$85.00 after Jan. 8th charges will go up.

Baymont Inn: 713 W. Sioux Ave. call 605-224-4140, Room Charges \$63 sgl/\$72dbl after Jan. 6th charges will go up.

AmericInn: 312 Island Drive, Fort Pierre, Call 605-223-2358, Room Charges \$89.99 after Jan. 1st charges will go up.

Rooms are limited at the AmericInn: You should make reservations as soon as possible and especially before January 1st, 2017. Room rates will go up after that date for all rooms.

Fill out Registration Form for each individual attending the Conference.
