

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
General Orders #7 “The Future Is Now” January 1, 2018**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

1. Annual Membership: THIS IS IMPORTANT! Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may expire December 31, 2017 unless you paid your dues in January 2017 through June 2018 then your dues are due in the month you paid them. For example, if you paid your dues in February of 2017 they will be due in February of 2018. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members as soon as possible. Any Post that has an Officer who has not paid his or her dues should collect those dues immediately before their expiration date. Any Officer removed by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post Office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed.”

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

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

2. Use of Post Relief Funds and Membership: The Department of South Dakota would like your help in taking care of membership dues of long time members who cannot afford to pay their current dues. Many older veterans, especially our WW II Veterans may no longer realize their dues need to be paid. Check your local nursing homes for eligible veterans who may have been a member in past years. You can use your Post Relief Fund to pay these dues. It will help in our all-out effort to make the State of South Dakota 100% in membership for 2018.

3. Mid-Winter Meetings: District 1 Sun., January 14th 2 PM in Sioux Falls
District 4 Sun., February 11th 2 PM in Watertown
District 6 Sun., January 21st 2 PM in Faulkton
District 7 Sun., February 11th 2 PM in Armour
District 10 Sun., January 14th 10 AM in Rapid City

Other dates to remember:

January 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.

January 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.

4. The Department Council of Administration, Legislative Conference, Voice of Democracy & Patriot’s Pen Banquet has been set for January 28th & 29th, 2018 at the AmericInn, in Ft. Pierre. See enclosed notice for registration, motels, schedule, etc.

5. Loyalty Day: Post Commanders, please appoint a 2018 Loyalty Day Chairperson and forward his or her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. Post Commanders; try to plan your Loyalty Day Programs early.

6. Buddy Poppy: Post Commanders, please appoint a 2018 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward his/her name to Department Headquarters as soon as possible and make plans for your 2018 distribution. Post Commanders, this is a reminder that all Poppy orders should be in by April 15, 2018 to count in the “All State Post Commanders” ratings. Order blanks are on the VFW Website.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Sr. Vice Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin General Orders 01/18

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone had an awesome and safe Christmas and New Year 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.

If your post has recommended Department or National By-Law changes please send them to me **ASAP** at the email below. The Resolutions and By-Law committee will meet during the Legislative Conference to prepare the changes for dissemination to the posts and determine the committee recommendations to go forward to the members at the Annual Convention this summer.

I'm sure everyone has turned in their Memorial and Veterans Day program reports that wanted to get the bonus points available if the Department has received them by December 31. In addition, have your Post Editors send us pictures and narratives of the events you hold so we can put them on Facebook. Please let us know if you have Post Facebook Pages so we can share your activities. Also, when submitting your images and articles also send copies to Dick Pickering for the Overseas Veteran.

OK...LAST CHANCE for submitting your Public Servant National Awards! I've only received a couple of submissions and we know there are deserving first responders out there. The evaluation committee will be reviewing them the first week of January. Please take a few moments to complete the [forms](#) located our website link below and send them to me ASAP since they were due by December 31, 2017. The Department must send our candidate for each of the categories to VFW National Headquarters by February 1.

As of **December 18, 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 **December 18, 2017**, I've received only 20 Veterans Day reports (Brandon, Elk Point, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Brookings, Madison, Milbank, Sisseton, Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Pierre, Armour, Burke, Lake Andes, Marty, Parkston, Wagner, Winner, Custer, and Deadwood). Remember to get both of these reports needed to be 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
State Jr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson**

Hello Comrades,

I want to say this year just continues to fly by we have accomplished some of our goals but there are many left to finish. Right now, is the time we should have gotten our second wind and are ready to go for the New Year.

D.D. Couch and I have been following the membership stats and have talked amongst ourselves and the District Commanders. We have not been pushing too much yet but this will **CHANGE AFTER JANUARY 1ST**.

I and D.D. will work with the District Commanders who will be calling and working with commanders to get membership to 100% or as close as possible. I know that most post memberships will be up, in and around January so let's start our membership push starting on the 2nd.

Here are some current stats:

<u>Post Percent</u>	<u>Districts</u>
6 posts > 100%	#1 83.9%
9 posts > 95%	#4 87.8%
16 posts > 90-95%	#6 93.6%
13 posts > 85-90%	#7 88.1%
7 posts > 80-85%	#10 90.4%
3 posts < 75	

I am Excited to work with all of you to once again bring our membership to 100% for the year in South Dakota
Thanks for your Hard work and send in your membership reports!

**General Orders January 2018
Judge Advocate Cody Mangold**

Comrades,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Great New Year. Thank you all for continuing to send in your reports. I recently had shoulder surgery so I am currently working on getting it all caught up. Please keep sending in your reports.

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

Barbara K. McKean
State Surgeon
January General Orders

Happy New Year! Now is the time to set those New Year Resolutions into high gear! What goals do we want to achieve in 2018? What goals have you set for your post, family, community, yourself? Do you ever make yourself a priority? Make a list of things you want to accomplish this year. Remember to get out there, and volunteer. And most importantly, get or keep moving. Walking is one of the best forms of exercise we can do.

Please, 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.

As a reminder, quarterly reports are due by: Nov 10; Feb 10 & May 10 (approximately 10 days after end of Quarter). **As of 12/22/17, I have received 26 hospital reports. We are at 46% 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!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Legislative Conference/Councils of Administration and Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet on Jan 28-29 in Fort Pierre.

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

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

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

January 28th and January 29th, 2018

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th, 2018

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)
10:00a.m. By-Law Committee Meeting

??:??a.m. Budget & Audit Committees (after by-law meeting)

??:??a.m. Other Committees as available and there will be time after the Council Meetings for other committee meetings.

REMEMBER!!! Committee Meetings are not only for members of the committees but anyone with interest can sit in. No voting rights but for information.

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, 2018

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.
