

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

**General Orders #3  
“The Future Is Now”**

**September 1, 2017**

**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 6-8, 2017. The schedule, registration and motel information was enclosed in General Orders #2 and remains available on the Department web site.

**a. All State Officers and Committee Chairmen are hereby asked to submit reports on their programs to Department Headquarters by September 25, 2017 to be included in the Book of Reports at Fall Council.**

**b. Post Commanders; please plan on attending, or sending one of your Post Officers to the leadership training class on Oct. 7, 2017.**

**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, 2017. 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 Hospital Report. Mail checks to Department Headquarters, 3601 South Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

**3. Department and National Membership Dues:**

**a. Current Membership Dues:** Department - \$8.00 per member, National - \$21.50 per member, for a total of \$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 and Hospital Report to receive the total number of points for the All-State Team contests. Remember the Reports are sent in quarterly.

**8. Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects to Department Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold, 1101 Main Street, Tyndall, SD 5066. Phone: 605-770-1030, email: cody.mangold@hotmail.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 contest for the same 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 Day:** September 11 is designated Patriot Day and the United States Flag is to be at flown at half-staff until sunset to remember the victims of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania.

13. **VOD, Patriots Pen and Teachers Award:** Remember all entries should be to the Post level by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Questions should be directed to Keith Blume, PO Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-4143 or Cell # 605-440-2331. E-Mail: [krblume@goldenwest.net](mailto:krblume@goldenwest.net). Forms can be downloaded from the SDVFW website - [sdvfw.org](http://sdvfw.org), and copies were enclosed in GO #2. Other materials can be downloaded from the VFW website - [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org).

14. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held on October 13-15, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 [vfwsd@aol.com](mailto:vfwsd@aol.com). Phone Number 605-332-7441, or Cell number 605-695-5006.

17. **All Commanders & Quartermasters: PLEASE update your mailing address, phone & email 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

*Rick Williamson*  
Rick Williamson, Commander  
Department of South Dakota  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

District	Date	Time	Location	Representative
#1	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Elk Point	Sean Johnson
#4	Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Brookings	Danny Frisby-Griffin
#6	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Huron	Barbara McKean
#7	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Winner	Cody Mangold
#10	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Custer	Rick Williamson

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**Rick L Williamson  
Department Commander  
September General Orders**

Here we are, September already, the State Fair is just around the corner. District Commanders, organize your crews together and be prepared for your day to work the Veterans Building in Huron. Please make sure you have people to work the entire day. Jan and Patti will be there to lock up and control our table but you must

provide the workers. As always this is a great opportunity to be seen by the public so make sure we are portraying a good image. Use this as a chance to recruit a new member for our organization. Enjoy your day at the fair and don't forget to eat plenty of fair food. I hope to see you there.

School is now starting, if you haven't gotten the word out about the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs please do so. We have done very well in the past and I would expect we will do the same or better this year as well. I know that Keith Blume, our department chairman, is really looking forward to judging your entries to the department competition. As you all know these programs offer so much to the children of our state. More importantly I believe it shows us our future looks great with the quality of young people we have in this state.

I would not be doing my duties if I didn't talk about recruiting. Sean Johnson is fired up and working membership already, I think we have a great person running the program this year and I have little doubt that we will achieve our goals of 100%, plus. CIC Harman has a challenge put out in membership this year between his department commanders. I would hope you will help me out, as I am pitted against the Dept. of Maine Commander, if we are behind Maine in membership Darwin and I must wear a Maine Hockey t-shirt that they provide to all national functions, not a really nice t-shirt I may add. I would much rather see the Maine Dept. Commander and Q-master wearing our Jackrabbits and Coyotes attire that we provide for them. So please "Dig In" now and get a new or reinstate member for your post. All District and Post commander please submit your recruiting plans to Jr. Vice Sean ASAP to be eligible for the All-State competition.

First Quarter reports are due already get them in to the respective chairperson's. These people work hard to keep track of everything we do in this department, please don't make their job harder by having them call and write you numerous times to get the information that they need. If you have problems with how to complete the reports contact them, they will be more than happy to help you get it done. We all work very hard to make sure the Veterans of our communities are taken care of, so please report what you are doing so we can report your efforts to the National Officers. Thanks for all you do!!!!!!

I have just returned from Cincinnati Ohio where I had the privilege to represent our Department at the CIC Homecoming. Ohio did a fantastic job and everyone had a great time. Ohio did the Big 10 proud and had a wonderful Homecoming for the Chief. This leads me into Oct 6-8 in Oacoma for Carrie and my Homecoming. I hope you have submitted your registrations and made reservation for our Fall Council and Homecoming events. We are going to have some productive training scheduled for Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> for everyone in attendance that we hope will help you have a productive and successful year. On Saturday evening we will have our banquet with a meal and entertainment. Our theme is "Here comes the Bride". Carrie is planning to renew her wedding vows with her husband Rick. I hope you will enjoy yourself and if anyone would like to also renew their vows let Carrie know. I hope to see you there and join us for a FUN evening. God Bless and take care, See you in Oacoma comrades.

Phone: 605-321-4935  
Email: [rick@johnsonfeedinc.com](mailto:rick@johnsonfeedinc.com)

Yours in Comradeship,  
Rick L. Williamson  
"The Future is Now"

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**Danny Frisby-Griffin**  
**Department Sr Vice Commander**  
**2017 September General Orders**

Greeting Comrades,

We're all back from the National Convention in New Orleans (July 22-26) where we had an opportunity to participate in national committees and training. Sean and I will be in Kansas City September 7-11 for training. I'm looking forward to the trip and the wealth of knowledge available.

What a crazy two months of baseball activity. We really appreciate all the local help SD VFW Baseball received from the Color and Honor Guards that made our Opening Ceremonies and sessions so special. We need to continue increasing our presence at our tournaments, both regional and state, to demonstrate how important VFW Baseball is to the leadership and sportsmanship development of today's youth. We have a bunch of exciting changes going on the next couple of months and hope to unveil the new website sometime in November just in time for the preparation for the 2018 season as well as a couple of other programs we're working on. We've already posted the annual meeting (now going to be at Post 2638 in Madison) and the 2018 tournament dates for both regions and state.

I've received only 6 Memorial Day reports. Remember to get them turned in early to get your bonus points next May. Hope you've got your Veterans Day programs set because it's right around the corner.

As always, I look forward to working with each and every one of you "Providing Top Cover to those who served." 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.

Department SR Vice Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin  
418 NE 5<sup>th</sup> St, Madison SD 57042  
Cell: 402-332-7423 Email: [danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com](mailto:danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com)

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**Sean Johnson**  
**Department Jr Vice Commander**  
**September General Orders**

Hello Comrades

Wow! Another month has gone by so fast, and so much to do! I have been receiving several membership reports, and that is good but Commanders please either fill one out or have your Membership Chairman fill one out for me thank you. I hope all is well for the posts and we are settling in for our busiest time of the year. I know that we talk about all these plans and membership this and that, but it boils down to a single member making contact with one veteran and getting them interested, signed up, and then involved. I do believe that every single member we have has a responsibility to go out and take on the role of membership. I cannot accomplish this task alone, so I am asking each and every one of you to reach down deep and help find our newest members out there. I am sorry at this time that I don't have any solid numbers for you but National hasn't updated their system as of yet when they do you will know the numbers.

I also would like to wish you luck on picking your Chairman and getting to work on all the other programs that we have going this fall. I believe we will only be as successful as the effort we put into it but good luck and have fun while doing it because that is what it's all about.

Sean Johnson  
South Dakota VFW  
State Junior Vice Commander

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**Cody Mangold**  
**Department Judge Advocate**  
**September General Orders**

Comrades,

As of the 22nd Only 18 Posts have turned in their community Service reports. Please turn these in because out of the 18 posts and my horrible math it comes out to 29.9% of Posts. These forms are easy to fill out and take about 10 minutes. I have received some reports in which the money, miles, and hours are recorded, but not added up in the bottom for me. This causes me to take more time to fill this out and give bigger chances of mistakes. Also, some posts and auxiliaries are turning in their reports separately. I appreciate the reports however they should all be coming all on one form from the post as again helps with less chance of mistakes. I completely understand with it being summer that it is difficult to get these reports in, but they are necessary for the Department. Remember all of you are doing community service in some form and ask for you to please take credit for it.

Posts that have turn in, but in no specific order, and may miss some:  
Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Elk Point, Marty, Pierre, Brookings, Madison, Vermillion, Parkston, Brandon, Deadwood, Armour, Wagner, and Burke.

Total Moneys:  
Money: 28,410.49  
Hours: 4,526  
Miles: 22,254

Yours in Comradeship,  
Cody Mangold  
Department Judge Advocate

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**Barbara K. McKean**  
**State Surgeon**  
**September General Orders**

Greetings Comrades! It is hard to believe that summer has flown by so quickly and school has started for most. Our VFW posts should be in full swing with our programs by now with Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, EMS, Police, Firefighters of the Year, Americanism and School Projects. We also need to look forward to Veterans Day and as always continue to focus on **Membership!**

At this time, I have received **15** out of the possible **56** Hospital and Safety reports for the first quarter. I have sent these numbers forward as of the 22th of August to Cody Mangold to go to National. This puts us at **23%** for the first quarter. I want to encourage all Post Surgeons and Commanders to complete these reports so your posts get the credit you deserve. Let's bring our numbers up! I challenge each Post and District Commander out there to contact their post Surgeons to assist with these quarterly reports.

I hope to see many of you in Chamberlain on Oct 6-8 for the Fall Council, we will have some great sessions and training planned. Also, it will be a good time to see our new Commander in action and catch up with old and new friends. This is going to be a fresh and exciting year for the VFW in the State of South Dakota, so plan on

attending as many events as possible. Let me know if I can be of any assistance. My phone is (605)630-0771; email; [mckean4@live.com](mailto:mckean4@live.com).

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**DISTRICT COMMANDERS CORNER**

The Program of presenting a Life Membership Baseball Style Cap to any member who paid their entire Life Membership proposed by the District Commander's Conference and endorsed by the Council of Administration proved extremely successful as the Department had 174 New Life Members from 1 July 2016 thru 30 June 2017. Caps have been distributed to each of the individuals holding the District Commander position last year and they will be getting them to the Post Commanders or the deserving individual in the near future. The previous District Commanders would like to extend a huge Thank You on behalf of the Department for your participation in this Program.

The New Council of Administration has authorized the extension of the Program of the presenting a Life Membership Baseball Cap to any member who pays their Entire Life Membership during the period 1 July 2017 thru 30 June 2018. This Program comes at no additional cost to the Department. District Commanders have the Caps in hand and they will be presented as memberships are paid and verified. These Life Member Baseball Caps are also available to any Life Member who wishes to purchase one. The cost is \$15 each.

Again, this is an effort to increase Life Membership and Promote our Organization. Support at all Levels is necessary for this effort to succeed. Points of contact concerning this Program are the individuals listed below. State VFW District 1 Commander Colin Reisner, District 4 Commander Lyle Berg, District 6 Commander Glynis Collier, District 7 Commander Tom Hafner, District 10 Commander Tim Brookes

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Membership Challenge from National!

Good afternoon comrades, and welcome to a special THURSDAY Membership Focus! Our last Membership Focus email talked about the 2017-2018 All-American program, and I want to thank all the members who emailed and called in with questions and comments. It looks like many of our Posts are getting well on their way to meeting the membership goals!

To that end, we have a special Membership Challenge coming up. The eleventh of September is a solemn day in our nation's history, one that is now recognized as Patriot Day. In addition to the commemorative tributes we perform at Posts across the country, the National Headquarters is also issuing a three-day membership challenge.

The weekend before Patriot Day, starting on Saturday, September 9th and running through close-of-business on Monday, September 11th, all members and Posts who recruit a new and/or reinstated member will be entered into a raffle. Two winners will be drawn - one VFW member and one Post - to receive a \$250 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

To be eligible, applications must be received and processed during the challenge period. The quickest way to do this is through the Online Membership System or by using the Mobile Recruiter App. We encourage all our VFW members and Posts to take part in this Membership Challenge and to do your part to help increase VFW membership.

As always, the National Headquarters is here to provide support, training, materials, and anything else you need to reach these goals. We're just an email or a

phone call away.

In addition, under the Membership Recruiting and Retention page - <http://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> - you can find training videos, webinars, as well as downloadable forms, brochures, and posters. If you need it, we will most likely have it available on the website for you or you can order it from the Membership Department.

Matt Nute  
VFW Membership Department  
Ph: 1-888-JOIN-VFW (888-564-6839)