

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

**General Orders #4  
"The Future Is Now"**

**October 1, 2017**

1. **Big 10 Conference:** Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held at the Minneapolis/St. Paul MN on October 13 - 15, 2017. If you are going you should immediately take care of your registration and motel reservations, if you have not done so. Please contact State Headquarters for registration and hotel forms, if you need them.
2. **Membership Program, 2017 – 2018:** District Commanders, make sure that your Post Commanders have received a copy of the 2017-2018 Membership Program. There have been some rule changes, which are important to everyone. We hope your Post, has by now, launched a vigorous Membership Campaign to sign up new and reinstated members. Dues notices will be sent out 90 days, 60 days and 30 days prior to the expiration date on the member's card. Remember to collect dues for continuous member as soon as possible months and recruit new members, and reinstate those members that have dropped out. Also, if you are a continuous member and an officer of the post, and become unpaid, you will be removed and cannot be reinstated this year.
3. **Post Meetings:** All Post meetings are to be conducted in strict accordance with the current Ritual. Post Commanders please comply with page 18 and 19, in the Ritual, covering prayers for the National Home.
4. **Post Commanders:** Please assist the District Inspectors and District Commanders in their inspections of your Post, by making sure all of the Post books, records and minutes are available on the night or day of the inspection. Please instruct the Post Trustees to comply with Section 218, Page 73 of The Manual of Procedure "Duties of Trustees".
5. **Post Commanders:** Report all Community Service projects to Department Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold, 1101 Main Street, Tyndall, SD 57066. Phone: 605-770-1030, email: cody.mangold@hotmail.com.
6. **Commanders:** Have you appointed your Veterans Day Chairman yet? Start planning your programs ASAP. Contact local Chamber of Commerce or like organization to coordinate programs in observance of this important day. Every Post should have a planned program in recognition of this day. A report form may be obtained by going to [sdvfw.org](http://sdvfw.org), to report your Veterans Day functions. Report to Danny Frisby-Griffin 418 NE Fifth St, Madison, SD 57042.
7. **Americanism:** Every Post should sponsor vigorous Americanism and Patriotic activities to make strong, direct, patriotic impact in our Schools and upon the general public throughout the year. Patriotic leadership in our communities is important. A program to stop old and tattered US Flags from being flown is a suggestion. Let the community know they can leave old flags at your Post for proper disposal.
8. **Programs:** All of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Awards program material should be in the possession of the Posts and Schools. Contact your local schools and make certain the contest is underway. Student handouts can be ordered from the Emblem & Supply Merchandise Catalog, or down loaded from the Internet at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). If you have questions concerning VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Awards, please contact the Department Chairman: Keith Blume, PO Box 215 Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-7142 or cell phone 605-440-2331. E-mail is [krlume@goldenwes.net](mailto:krlume@goldenwes.net). Remember all entries should be to the Post level by Nov. 1, 2017.
9. **Prizes for VOD:** The 2017 – 2018 Voice of Democracy contest prizes have been set as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500, all scholarship trip to Washington, D. C., a June trip to the Freedom's Foundation and at least a \$1,000 or more scholarship from the National contest. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$300 Suzie Radigan Memorial scholarship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 cash, and 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Place will receive \$50 cash prize. Each District will send their District winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Trophies and plaques will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.
10. **Prizes for Patriot Pen:** The 2017 – 2018 Patriot Pen contest prizes have been set as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – the Glenn McFarland Memorial Plaque and \$250 cash; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Daryl and Loretta Halling Memorial Plaque and a \$100 cash 3<sup>rd</sup>

Place – \$50 cash and 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Places - \$25 cash. The top 3 winners in the State will be presented their awards at the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top three winners at the State level.

11. **Prizes for Teacher of Year:** The 2017 – 2018 Teachers Award contest prizes have been set as follows: Each teacher category, high school, middle school and elementary school will receive a check of \$100. Award presentation will be at the legislative conference. A certificate from National will be presented to the school and teacher at the school. A Department representative will present the award if possible.

12. **VAVS:** We need greater participation by every Post in the Department through taking an active part in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Service) program. Remember the VFW Creed “No One Does More For Veterans “.

13. **District Meetings:** All Posts should plan to be present at their District Meeting. The schedule for the Fall District meetings is shown this page of the General Orders.

14. **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.

15. If you would like to send a FAX or e-mail or call the QM/ADJ, use the following: Fax number is: 1-605-332-0617. E-Mail is: [vfwsd@aol.com](mailto:vfwsd@aol.com). Phone numbers are: 605-332-7441 or Cell phone 605-695.5006.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**2017 Fall District Meetings**

<b>District</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Representative</b>
#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	Barbra McKean
#7	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Winner	Cody Mangold
#10	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Custer	Rick Williamson

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 2017 General Orders  
Commander Rick Williamson**

Time is flying by, there is a sudden crispness in the morning air. We are just about ready to start that great South Dakota tradition of hunting pheasants and waterfowl. What a great time of the year. As you hit the fields and enjoy the time with family and friends please be careful, nobody wants to read about some preventable accident in the Cares and Concerns. We also have something else going on in October, and that is our Fall Council and Homecoming for President Carrie and myself. I hope that you are planning on attending and enjoying the weekend. We have some good training planned that I hope you will enjoy also. We have Rick McKenna coming from Nat’l to do some recruiter training that should be interesting and informative. Darwin will be doing Quartermaster training on Saturday morning and I with the help of Cmdr. Hafner will conduct

training for District/Post Cmdrs. as well. I will also present a PowerPoint on the proposed East River Cemetery with a lot of information that has been compiled. Without getting to many hopes up, this time it looks as if we have a very good chance to make this happen for our veterans, however we have a few hurdles to get over first.

We are very near to wrapping up the issue of Post Suspensions, I am glad to say that 8 posts have completed their Election reports and are now off the list, 1 post has sent a Letter of Intent to surrender their charter which is not what we want to hear but they just don't have the people to remain viable any longer. I thank every Post that helped us get the needed information so that we could assist them, now I look forward to helping them throughout the year so that this doesn't happen again. We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and I am sure it is not a train because I have been listening for the whistle. Thanks to Darwin, Sean, and Cody for their efforts on the Special Committee that I had to appoint for this issue.

The State Fair went off very well as far as I have heard, each District had plenty of help for their day. Sue and Patti were very grateful and are looking forward to next year already. I was there for 3 days and really enjoyed meeting some new people got to drive the golf cart around and didn't even run over anyone. Thank you to everyone who took the time to help, it makes it so much easier when you have plenty of hands on deck.

I will have raffle tickets at the Fall Council as well as the gun. Please help if you can, we have a long way to go to pay for that flagpole in Hot Springs but I know we will get there. I think I can safely say that we are a quarter of the way there. We will also have a couple of very nice Afghans to raffle off that will be drawn at the Banquet. See you in Oacoma Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, bring your comrades with you, I hope to have a sold-out show. I wonder if Garth Brooks will show up???

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

“The Future is Now”  
“Dig In”  
[rick@johnsonfeedinc.com](mailto:rick@johnsonfeedinc.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **State Sr. Vice Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin General Orders 10/17**

Greeting Comrades,

First, I apologize that I won't be able to make it to Fall Council and Fall Training. I've got numerous commitments that weekend and can't get away. I've submitted my book of reports as well as the 2018 VFW Baseball Budget. If you have any questions on what I submitted, please contact me. Thank you for your patience.

I'm sure that you've got your Veterans Day program planning underway. Don't forget to get your schedule and agenda out via any media that you can. If you send me images of your programs prior to your event, I'll get them posted to the Department Face Book page. Let us help you get information out, especially if the topic is of interest across the entire Department/State. Also send me your report as soon as you can but definitely by December 31 if you want the bonus points.

If you remember back to last year's award luncheon in January, the number of packages submitted for our Public Servant National Awards (Law Enforcement, Firefighter and Emergency Services) was extremely scarce. I know from monitoring all the activity in the various social media we have Public Servants in all our communities that should be recognized. Please take a few moments to complete the [forms](#) located on 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 1.

The Resolutions and By-Laws Committee already has two proposed amendments to review but won't really start the project until the 2018 VFW National Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Rituals arrives. We expect to start the review process in October. Please have your recommended amendments/changes to the National and Department By-Laws as well as the Department Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) submitted (IAW By-Laws) to the Resolutions and By-Laws Committee Chairman (see email below) by October 31, 2017.

As of September 16, 2017, I've received only 12 Memorial Day reports (Brandon, Canton, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Madison, Milbank, Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Armour, Burke, Custer and Deadwood). Remember to get them turned in prior to December 31 to get your bonus points next May.

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 5<sup>th</sup> St, Madison SD 57042  
Cell: 402-332-7423 Email: [danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com](mailto:danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota  
State Jr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson**

Wow! The Year is in full swing and I can feel the Energy I want to take a minute to review the State Convention awards, Aberdeen received the Outstanding Safety Award, Best of the Best Unit Adoption Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Quota Buster Award, and Post 100+ 1 Award. All State Commander, All State Quarter Master Award, Baker Simpson Award, William-Radigan Award, Team Captain Eagles.

This led to the National Convention where I won the All-American Post Commander Award. My Post won the Fred C. Hall Award for Project 22 Mental Health Project. We also received the Community Activity Award of Excellence.

I am just back from Jr. Vice Training in Kansas City. I am really excited about getting after membership, as I hope all of you are to. Each of us has a responsibility to recruit, it all starts with each and every one of us recruit them bring them in take care of them and keep them going.

<u>Membership Reports in =</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>Districts in =60%</u>
Vermillion	Lake Andes	#4
Parkston	Madison	#7
Winner	Dell Rapids	#6
Chamberlain	Aberdeen	
Armour	Marty	
Wagner	Mitchell	
Burke	Scotland	

I would like you to get your reports in as soon as possible so I know you are working on your membership. I will be calling on your District commanders to be talking to your commanders so that we know where we are and where we need help we want to get 100% but it will take all of us To accomplish this goal, we are lucky since we were at 100% last year will be we easy to get there again. So be excited like me and help me recruit and retain members.

Thank you  
Sean Johnson  
Jr. Vice Cmdr. State of South Dakota

.....

**Judge Advocate Cody Mangold**  
**General Orders October 2017**

Comrades,  
Please continue to keep sending in your community service reports as I am receiving them all the time. I cannot stress enough how important it is to take credit for all of the hard work you do on a regular basis. Any questions always feel free to contact me.

Cody Mangold  
Judge Advocate  
1101 Main St. Tyndall, DR  
605-770-1030  
[cody.mangold@hotmail.com](mailto:cody.mangold@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Well, school is in full swing and fall is upon us. How are your units doing with the submissions of our programs; Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, EMS, Police, Firefighters of the Year, Americanism and School Projects? We also get to look forward to Veterans Day, which my post, 3298 will celebrate with our community on Friday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. What do your units do to celebrate Veteran's Day? Last and certainly not least, we need to continue to focus our attention on **Membership!**

At this time, I have received **18** out of the possible **56** Hospital and Safety reports for the first quarter. This puts us at **31%** 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! Why are there so many posts out there not submitting reports? Reach out to me and let me know. Let me know how I can help. I challenge each Post and District Commander out there to contact their post Surgeons to assist with these quarterly reports. The new forms to submit your quarterly reports are available on the state website at <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms/>

As a reminder; **quarterly reports are due by the 15th day of each month: Jul 31, Oct 31, Jan 31 and Apr 30th.** Please mark your calendars now and get me your reports by the deadline.

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. I will also represent the state at the District 6 Meeting in Huron on Oct 15, 2017 at 2pm. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

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

