

POST 15 NEWS



February 2022

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

John Bachmeier

Well, It's still cold outside. Most of our activities this month will be inside. However, we need to give a shout out to the Honor Guard who has to brave this cold and provide final military honors at the cemeteries for our deceased veterans. Even in the cold they are still there. We continue to have successful Legion Socials ("stag") the third Tuesday of the month and General Membership meetings the first Tuesday of the month. By the way, our last meeting lasted 45 minutes. At the Feb 1 meeting will be the vote for dues. Our pancake breakfast is the first Sunday of the month, 8:30 to 12. These will continue year-round as reported last month. The **Annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service** will be after the pancake breakfast February 6 at 2pm. The ceremony will be held in our Post meeting room.

The next event we will be involved with is the gun show at the events center February 12-13 where we will be recruiting and selling raffle tickets as well as posting the Colors. We have a large booth there and will be requiring a large number of volunteers to hold doors on Friday the 11 as vendors set up and Sunday as they tear down. The midwinter conference is at Oacoma Feb 18-20. Post 15 is hosting the county meeting on February 22 at 8 pm. Join us for a free dinner before the meeting. At our March 1 membership meeting, we will be taking nominations for Officers and Executive committee members. Elections will be held at the April meeting. We are sponsoring a dance at the Alliance on March 5. More to come later.

ADJUTANT *Bill Peters*

See the green box in this newsletter for information on positions that are open for nominations at the March meeting. The Adjutant will be appointed by the new commander. If you are interested in this position, let me know. You'll have a great assistant to help you .

Much of the volunteering is done by those on the Executive Committee, Honor Guard, and Go Getters. Things our volunteers do include contacting veterans who have signed up online and invite them to join our post. Volunteers also work on retention of members, take care of the floors and empty garbage, creating & folding the newsletter every month, odds and ends maintenance at the Post, the pancake crew and the crew that heads to events to sell raffle tickets & recruit - there is usually one event every month. A huge thank you to the new funeral committee the Unit 15 Auxiliary has formed to serve funeral lunches for veterans' families. We are looking for some of you to step up and help fill other positions that need a chairperson and members. That includes the adoption of 1742, our annual birthday party, golf outing, dance, annual Post Everlasting, tiny house project, joining the Americanism team and someone to set up and tear down for events at the Post. So the fact is, our Post is active, helping veterans and their families - we have many doing a lot. We simply have more positions to fill. Can you help with "just one thing"? Call the office today at 605.336.3470 and let us know. REMINDERS:

*You can become a PUFL (Paid Up For LIFE) member with 12 monthly payments over the year. That makes this option doable for more people. See the chart in this newsletter. The \$100 discount does NOT apply to this plan. Contact the office for the form.

*Opt out of mailings from National by requesting that at mssforms@legion.org.

*Thrivent - do you have investments with them? If so, contact the office for information on "free" money for the Post. This is different from your Choice Dollars.

Thank you for your attendance for monthly meetings and our monthly social/meal. Your voice matters!

***Dance March 5—Band "Last Call" @ the Alliance**

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

President Biden signed the **2022 National Defense Authorization Act** into law, authorizing \$768.2 billion in military spending, including a 2.7% pay raise for service members. The bill changes the way the military justice system handles sexual assault crimes, blocks an effort to add women to the draft, and bars dishonorable discharges for service members who refuse the COVID-19 vaccine. --Associated Press

Five states passed laws in 2021 to make **military retirement tax free**. More than 100,000 retirees in Arizona, Utah, Indiana, Nebraska, and North Carolina will benefit. There are 26 states that do not tax military retirement, while nine others offer partial exemptions. Six states and the District of Columbia fully tax military retirement. Nine states do not have income tax. --Military.com

President Biden signed a bill that authorizes a **Medal of Honor memorial** to be built in the District of Columbia, with the specific site not yet determined. Nearly 4,000 Americans have received the Medal of Honor since the Civil War, and 66 recipients are currently alive. --Military.com

The House voted 265-163 to approve the Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act to require the VA to **automatically enroll veterans who meet existing eligibility criteria for VA health benefits**. Veterans must currently apply for benefits. The vote fell largely along party lines, although 44 Republicans supported the bill. It must still be voted on by the Senate. --Military.com

PAID UP FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP—PUFL

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79
	\$1535	\$1399	\$1229	\$1025	\$815	\$599
80-89	90+					
	\$429	\$329				

SPECIAL FROM NATIONAL—PAY ONLINE WITH A **ONE-TIME PAYMENT** AND **SAVE \$100.00**.

The total amount can be divided into 12 equal monthly payments. Call the office for the form.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAID UP FOR LIFE PROGRAM, CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 1-800-433-3318 OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL).

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

I'm writing this with a handicap this month. I had rotator cuff surgery last week, have one arm in a sling, so am typing with one hand. It's much slower progress than normal for me.

At a recent funeral, one of the VFW members got into trouble with the cold temperature. I wasn't sure that he was not having a stroke or heart attack. Al Arndt and I took him to the ER. Thankfully he is doing OK. This brings up two important thoughts.

One, keep an eye out for our fellow veterans and be prepared to help them as best you can. Be aware of the situation around you at our events and while driving. As we become more chronically gifted (nice way to say we are getting older), we are also more likely to need some type of assistance. Help others now, and hopefully someone will be close by when you need help. This is the basis for our Buddy Checks and why this is important for all of us.

Two, there may be some events, such as Honor Guard funerals, that we need to make sure we are dressed for the cold weather. Some of us probably should not participate in cold weather or in hot weather, especially if you have underlying medical conditions. With this in mind, we can always use more members for the Honor Guard.

With the winter season here in full force and a recent resurgence in Covid cases, please check in with or call fellow veterans to make they are OK, especially our older veterans who may be in homes by themselves. Brighten someone's day with a phone call. Stay safe and stay warm.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

Greetings to all. An especially hardy group of Legion Riders participated in the Sioux Falls Parade of Lights. Our next meeting is February 9 at 7 pm. Anyone who rides a motorcycle and is a member of the Legion is invited to be a guest and join. Keep the shiny side up.



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office is open 11-3 pm M-F	A = event at Alliance	1 Go-Getters 6 pm Legion Post Meeting 7 pm	2 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	3	4	5 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
6 Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—A 4 Chaplains 2pm	7 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	8 Legion Aux. meeting 7 pm	9 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm Legion Riders 7 pm	10 Sons of the Legion 7 pm	11	12 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
13	14 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	15 Legionnaires only: Social 5:30 pm—A Dinner 6:30 pm	16 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	17	18	19 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
20	21 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	22 VFW/Legion Auxiliary*** Social 5 pm-A Dinner 6 pm-A Bingo 6:30-A	23 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	24	25	26 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
27	28 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	***Entire event open to public; reservations required for dinner				

PATCH PROGRAM

An excellent Patch program for Junior Auxiliary and SAL junior members has three age groups: Red (Kindergarten to 3rd grade), Gold (4th- 8th grades), and Blue (9th -12th grades). The Patches are: Americanism, Caregivers, Community Service, Education, Goodwill, History, Leadership, Membership, National Security, Physical Fitness, Poppy, Technology, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Each child chooses and completes three tasks to earn a Patch. They work at their own speed.

If you have a son, daughter, granddaughter or grandson, please consider asking them to join. Their membership counts in our total numbers. Annual membership for Junior SAL is \$5 and for Junior Auxiliary, it's \$10. Contact Amy Bolduc (bluetopaz75@aol.com, 904-613-5212) or Susan Panning (spaux317@gmail.com, 605-553-7524) for more information.

The Legion is Online! Find us on the web and on Facebook!

Webpage:
www.sioxfallslegion.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sioxfallsamericanlegionpost15

PLEASE "like" comment & share the posts—invite your friends and family to do the same.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires are thankful they were able to hold 22 performances during 2021 in spite of the on-going pandemic. The chorus did not have any performances during January. Upcoming chorus performances include February 6 for the **Annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service** at Post 15. The Singing Legionnaires chorus was organized in 1947 and is looking forward to observing its 75th anniversary during 2022. The chorus also anticipates another successful year of posting about 650 flags as part of its "Avenue of Flags" program. From mid-November through mid-December, flag chairman Todd Schmidt, along with several chorus members, reconditioned all of its American flags by removing the flags from the poles, re-staining and re-varnishing the poles, repairing flags as needed, and re-mounting the flags to the poles. About 160 hours were required to complete this project. If anyone knows of a business in Sioux Falls that would like to sponsor an American flag to be flown on special holidays, have them call Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405. If anyone is interested in singing with the chorus or has questions regarding chorus activities, feel free to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at 66cycler2019@gmail.com.

*Uniform caps available in the office
\$60 (hat & pheasant)*

*Wear your cap to membership meetings
and events to let others know of your
service and membership.*

CENTER OF DEVELOPMENT/ CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (FORMER VAVS)

Larry Panning

Our quarterly meeting was held via Zoom. Chris Fisher, my deputy, got an idea how the program operates. Donation items include: Bottled water, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, house slippers, small bottles hand sanitizer, white diabetic socks. Due to limited storage space, please call before you buy, to ensure the need is still there. Other misc. items needed so call Holly 605-333-6806 with questions. THANK YOU!

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Sharon Taplett-Lundgren and Teri St Pierre have joined the Honor Guard. They will be observing while waiting for complete uniforms. Welcome!

Be sure to thank Senator Larry Zikmund for taking a bill forward this year to increase the dollar amount for stipends for funerals. We will see if it passes. If you have Facebook, take a look at the "battlefield cross" the Honor Guard performs. We have been blessed with donations from families; they are so thankful for you being there to lay their loved one to rest "with honors." Remember if you are not feeling well, it is okay to call in sick. Please keep our members that are ill or are dealing with issues in your prayers.

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Kerry Hanks, 62, 1/18/2020; Frank Adams, 83, U.S Air Force, 11/24/2021; James Webb, 91, U.S. Army, 12/26/2021; Dwight Hahn, 91, U.S. Navy, 1/4/2022; Kenneth Thompson, 93, SDNG, 1/12/2022

If you know of a Legion member who has died, call 605-336-3470.



SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB gun program kicked off January 9 with a large group of new shooters. Both the Sporter Air rifle and Precision Air rifle teams will shoot in American Legion Competition. Top finishers of round 1 will be invited to Round 2 and those winners shoot in Colorado Springs for the finals.

Humboldt Sharpshooter Soup Feed fundraiser Feb.12 4-7 pm at St. George Parish Hall in Hartford. It's a 501 (C)3 non-profit.

ANNUAL 4 CHAPLAINS INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, February 6 @ 2pm
1700 West Russell (north door)

On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport, the *Dorchester*, in the North Atlantic. Only 230 of 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship's crew, and civilian passengers survived.

Please come to pay honor to these four heroes who gave their lives for others.



George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode

Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Members Only

Tuesday, February 15—At the Alliance
Social hour: 5:30 / Dinner: 6:30
Meal by Tony's Catering—**Lasagna**—\$9.00
Reservations requested—call the office

Gregg Lebert was not present when his name was called for \$250 at the January membership social. This month's drawing will be for **\$275**. **Mark Honerman** won the \$20 hat drawing. The January winner (and the first of 12) of Post 15's 2022 raffle was **Earl Van Scooter** of Sioux Falls.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Sue Panning, President

I am excited to announce we now have **161 members**. **WELCOME!** When you are able, please come to our meetings or Social/Bingo so we can get to know you. We hope you will find an area in the Auxiliary mission that you enjoy being included in. Our meeting is at the Post at 7 pm on Feb 8. Social/Dinner/Bingo will be Feb. 22 and is open to the public. Reservations are required; call Barb Hayes (605-376-7972). Social is at 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm, for \$7. The February meal will be chicken fried steak. Bingo begins at 6:30 and doesn't require a reservation.

If you have questions about what Unit 15 does, please give me a call or ask the person who signed you up.

We need volunteers to help at the Benson Flea Market on Feb. 5-6. Call me if you could work a shift.

Post 15 February breakfast on Feb 6 at the Alliance includes our Bake Sale with many scrumptious items offered. If you are bringing a bake sale item, please have it there by 8:30. Our Red, White and Blue Raffle tickets will be available at both locations, so check out the prizes: 2 red, white and blue Swarovski crystal bracelets, 2 day passes to Wild Water West, 2 thirty-minute massages. One ticket for \$5 or three for \$10. Contact me if you would like tickets to sell. The drawing will be held May 1. **Annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service** will be at 2:00 pm at the Post.

Midwinter Conference will be Feb 19-20 at Arrowwood Cedar Shores Conference Center in Oacoma SD. Anyone may attend, but you have to order meals ahead of time.

For other events, check the American Legion Facebook page: American Legion Sioux Falls SD Post 15.

Happy Valentines Day! Many thanks for your continuing support!

ELECTION INFORMATION

Nominations will be accepted at our March & April meetings. Voting will be at the April meeting.

Officer positions are Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Finance, Chaplain, and Sgt at Arms. Thank you to Commander John Bachmeier, 1st Vice Dale Hill, 2nd Vice Terry Wolf, Finance Jim McQuisten, Chaplain Donna Puthoff, and Sgt at Arms Duane Krumbach.

The Executive Board has openings for three 2-year terms. Thank you to Dave Rowe, Joan Ishol, & Ken Headrick for their time on the board.

Let the Adjutant know if you wish to run for one of these positions. If any officers or executive board members would like to run again, you are welcome to do so.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

COMMANDER

JOHN BACHMEIER

1ST VICE COMMANDER

DALE HILL

2ND VICE COMMANDER

TERRY WOLF

ADJUTANT

BILL PETERS

CHAPLAIN

DONNA PUTHOFF

FINANCE OFFICER

JIM MCQUISTEN

ATHLETIC OFFICER

TERRY WOLF

SGT-AT-ARMS

DUANE KRUMBACH

HISTORIAN

vacant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

SUE PANNING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BOB JOHNSON—CHAIR, JESS KINDELSPIRE, JOAN ISHOL, KEN HEADRICK, DEAN MANN,
LARRY ZIKMUND, WILL BOLDUC, DAVE ROWE

LEGION OFFICE: 336-3470 / 1700 W. Russell St., Suite 510 (north door)

Americanism—Bruce Swan, Building & Grounds—Leo Nelson/Mike McGoffin/Pete Waldner,
Chorus—Bruce Naasz, Go Getters—Dale Hill, Legislative & News Editor—Diane Diekman,
Legion Riders—Lamar Nance, SAL—Clarence Mellang, VAVS/VA—Larry Panning,
Vets Council—John Bachmeier, Raffle Sales—**vacant**, Memorial Day Flags—Ron Lien,
Post Everlasting / Flag Retirement—**vacant**, Birthday Party—**vacant**,

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION
SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15
1700 West Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**