

# POST 15 NEWS



January 2022

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*John Bachmeier*

**WOW!! This has been a wild year! What a Ride!** We started January all masked up, no one vaccinated, extremely high COVID numbers, and everyone locked away. We ended the year with things going on every day at the Legion, as well as at the Alliance. We sent 43 boys to Boys State and the Auxiliary sponsored 43 girls to Girls State. We had Legion Baseball and tournaments. Our Legion membership meetings, monthly socials, and monthly pancake breakfasts have become well attended. Our Singing Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, Auxiliary, and Honor Guard have been extremely busy. Although our Four Chaplains ceremony had to be canceled in February, our Legion Birthday Party in March was well-attended. We participated in various community ceremonies, such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Independence Day, Tribute to Fallen Soldiers, and several parades. We hosted a well-attended poultry party in November. The new computer system launched by National for membership gave us quite a challenge and delayed membership cards, but it has vastly improved. Our membership voted to use a recent significant donation to establish a relief fund. Working with other veterans' organizations, we can now help veterans who find themselves in dire straits. We donated \$7,500 to Midwest Honor Flight and were pleased to donate \$500 to the Legion Foundation as the Commander's ride came through this summer. Our members have been very generous with their time, helping with pancakes and all the other things needing to be done around the Post, including our programs and remodeling the Post. I am looking forward to a prosperous 2022, as we start with the oratorical contest Jan 2, Four Chaplains ceremony Feb 6, birthday party March 13, and Post Everlasting ceremony April 24. We will vote on dues at the February general membership meeting, accept nominations at the March meeting, elect new officers at the April meeting, and install those officers at the May meeting. The membership voted to run our pancake breakfast year-round instead of knocking off in the summer. Boys State applications open January 1. These are just the highlights of a busy year ahead. Let's buckle our seatbelts and hang on for the ride.

## ADJUTANT *Bill Peters*

Christmas is over for another year. However you celebrated, I hope you felt the love of the season. And that your New Year will be filled with love and care, too.

So many decisions are made at the monthly meetings. Please attempt to attend on the first Tuesday of each month. Your vote matters. If you can't be here in person, you can request a Zoom link by emailing the office at [legion-office.al@gmail.com](mailto:legion-office.al@gmail.com). In February we will be voting on whether or not to raise the dues for the post. At this time, only \$1.50 stays at the Post.

Our fundraising projects are extremely important. Please help with those each time you can. Having the Post remembered with yearend gifts, wills/estates and finding larger donors for our projects is necessary, too. We have started an emergency fund to be used for just that. When a crisis arises and our veterans, active military and families need assistance, we are able to help them quickly.

Many mailings are NOT from your Post. They are from National. There is an option to opt out of receiving unwanted solicitations and other mailings. Requests to be removed from National and Department solicitations, renewal notice mailings, the Magazine and the Department Publications can be forwarded to [mssforms@legion.org](mailto:mssforms@legion.org).

We want to get Bocce Ball started: Jan 10 at 10 am. Open to anyone, Legion or not, men and women. Will you be there?

**RETAIN—RECRUIT—EDUCATE**

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

The **2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** has been passed by the U.S. Congress and sent to President Joe Biden. The \$768.2 billion defense bill includes a 2.7% pay raise for both military servicemembers and the civilian Defense Department workforce, and it authorizes \$75.3 million for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. It lays out plans for the new Global War on Terror Memorial and proposes three potential sites on the National Mall. The amendment to change the way the military deals with sexual assault allegations was stripped from the final bill, but it contains provisions for the military to take some authority for prosecuting sexual assault cases out of the hands of commanders and instead use independent prosecutors. The final bill scrapped a provision to have women register for the draft. The legislation also prevents service members from being dishonorably discharged for refusing the coronavirus vaccine. Troops will be able to refer themselves for a mental health evaluation and commanders will be required to make it happen. Military leaders will be required to make sure the service members receive a mental health assessment "as soon as practicable." The legislation, originally introduced in 2020 as the Brandon Act, is designed to ensure that service members have easier access to health care without concern for retaliation from their higher-ups or worries about their careers. -- *Associated Press*

The 2022 NDAA requires the Defense Department to continue its **Troops to Teachers program** for another three years. The 28-year-old program is designed to provide up to \$10,000 of financial support and coordination with state officials on placement in schools in need of teachers. About 23,000 individuals have taken part in the program that costs about \$15 million per year. Pentagon leaders believed the money could be spent more effectively and efficiently elsewhere. But Congress disagreed. Plans to cancel the program had drawn objections from veterans' groups who called the Troops to Teachers program an important resource for service members looking at education jobs after their service. --*Military Times*

## GO-GETTERS CLUB

*Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander*

We have had a rather mild November and December, but Mother Nature has a way of making up for lost time to keep the weather averages for winter temperatures and snowfall. With this in mind, we need to call our fellow veterans, especially our senior members, to make sure their homes are ready for winter and have a plan for snow removal. Some may need help getting to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other essential services. Some may even need help with utility bills as costs are expected to increase significantly. As we make these Buddy Checks, we also need to be sensitive to those who may be depressed and may need more than just someone to talk to. If necessary, help them contact churches, social services, Veterans Administration and/or other resources for assistance. Most of us have or will need assistance from others at some point in our lives, so help others while we can. Also, ask them to maintain their membership in Post 15 if they have not renewed already. Being a local member makes it much easier for us to contact them for Buddy Checks. Contact our Legion office for telephone call lists for fellow Post members. Thank you to those who have been making these calls.

## SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

Our Dakota Precision Shooting team sent eight girls to Ohio for some USAS Winter Airgun competition. It was three days with all standing 60 shot competition. Josie Eichmann got a silver medal in the under 15 division. Nicolette Hoffman and Jasmine Hays formed a three person team with a girl from North Dakota and got the bronze medal in that competition.

The Dakota Sharpshooters will open BB gun practice in January. There is an opportunity for more junior shooters with a class on Jan 8 at the Post, where safety is taught first and then an opportunity to actually shoot to see if there is some interest on the part of the youth. Please register by calling Scott at 605.359.6779 so they can plan the event well. Our Shooting clubs are 501c3 nonprofits and can always use financial support and offer you some tax relief if you are so inclined. Be sure to visit with Scott about that as well. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a joyful Holiday season.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office is open 11-3 pm M-F	A = event at Alliance					1 New Year's Day
2 Legion Pan-cake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—A	3 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	4 Go-Getters 6 pm Legion Post Meeting 7 pm	5 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	6	7	8 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
9	10 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	11 Legion Aux. meeting 7 pm	12 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm Legion Riders 7 pm	13 Sons of the Legion 7 pm	14	15 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
16	17 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	18 Legionnaire Social 5:30 pm—A Dinner 6:30 pm	19 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	20	21	22 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
23	24 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	25 VFW/Legion Auxiliary Social 5 pm—A Dinner 6 pm—A	26 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	27	28	29 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
30	31 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm					

## Annual Dues Increase

The executive committee voted unanimously, as did the membership at the December meeting, to raise annual dues from \$35 to \$40 to bring us in line with surrounding posts and cover the cost of postage for mailing membership cards and newsletters. Currently, \$33.50 goes to State and National; we retain \$1.50 to cover our postage and administrative costs. We were trying to determine the last time dues were raised, and no one knew. We're sure it was over 10 years ago, and many think it was over 20 years ago. If anyone knows, we would appreciate hearing from you. Our bylaws require publishing the intent to raise dues—in the newsletter or by mail or e-mail—at least ten days before the final vote.

*This is the notice that a final vote on raising annual dues to \$40 will be taken during the General membership meeting February 1.*

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

Webpage:  
[www.siouxfallslegion.org](http://www.siouxfallslegion.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15](https://www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15)

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

## CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On Nov 3 the Singing Legionnaires were honored to sing at the funeral of chorus member Richard Kalle-meyn. Dick was an Air Force veteran and a member of Post 15 where he sang baritone and served as Treasurer with the chorus for many years. On Nov 5 the chorus worked together with Post 15 members in hosting the annual poultry party, which was held at the Alliance. The chorus performed at the annual Veterans Day program at the Alliance on Nov 11 as well as sang the National Anthem at the Sioux Falls Stampede game on Nov 20. The chorus also performed Dec 6 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community as well as on Dec 13 at Dow Rummel Village. No chorus performances are currently scheduled during January 2022. The chorus held its annual Christmas party Dec 12, at which Jim Pederson was honored as Singing Legionnaire of the Year. The chorus posted American flags at Sioux Falls area businesses on Nov 11 Veterans Day. The chorus is thankful for being able to post flags on all eight holidays in 2021, without weather interruption, and looks forward to another successful year of posting flags in 2022, using about 650 flags which the chorus recently reconditioned. If anyone knows of a business in Sioux Falls that would like to sponsor American flags 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 any questions regarding chorus activities, please contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at [66cyclor2019@gmail.com](mailto:66cyclor2019@gmail.com).

## VAVS (CDCE) *Larry Panning*

The only news here is that the Director, Jamie, is leaving, as her husband has a job transfer. Holly is interim director, and it is presumed there will soon be an announcement to fill this vacancy. It is very busy currently, so give Holly a little extra time before she helps you. The support from the community and surrounding area has been tremendous for 2021. Thanks to all who helped.

## HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

### *Bill Peters*

Happy New Year to each of you! Thank you to all who participated in the last events - five events in three days. We had four people fall because of ice. We really don't want anyone hurt...if you need to bow out of a funeral, it is okay. Some have put cleats on the bottom of their boots. Great idea but we can't wear them inside the post so be sure to remove them before entering. We have several members who are in need of our prayers - Joe, Al, Gary, Cal, and Corrine. We have an advantage with the Honor Guard because we all know each other so well. The Post has 1400 members - if someone else needs our prayer or assistance, please let us know.

## POST EVERLASTING

### May they Rest in Peace

Richard A. "Dick" Lahn, 88, South Dakota Air Guard, 3/29/2020; Thomas Pappas, 91, U.S. Marine Corps, 11/30/2020; Orlen Bernhard Hansen, 88, U.S. Air Force, 4/2/2021; Gerald "Jerry" William Baade, 89, U.S. Navy, 5/14/2021; Donald Wylie, 91, U.S. Navy, 10/14/2021; Leo Felcher, 81, U.S. Navy, 11/13/2021; Steven Batzel, 76, U.S. Navy, 11/14/21; Donald "Chris" Christenson, 93, USMC, 11/21/2021; Robert Brekke, 91, U.S. Army, 12/7/2021

Auxiliary: Gayle Mulkey

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



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.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER *Donna Puthoff*

2021 has been a challenging year, even with the many blessings we are thankful for. We have been reaching out to veterans who have lost someone, those who are ill, in nursing homes, the lonely, and those over ninety. We make phone calls, send out cards, and make as many visits as we can. As Chaplain, I want to thank Kay Myers and Sue Peters who have helped me so much with cards and calls, to keep in touch with all veterans.

If for some reason we are missing you, please call the Legion office and be added to our list. American Legion Post 15 is here to help and serve our members—the veterans. Wishing all a Blessed New Year.

## JANUARY MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Tuesday, January 18

Social hour: 5:30 / Dinner: 6:30

At the Alliance

Meal by Tony's Catering: **Shepherds Pie**  
\$9.00

**Robert Martinez** was not present in December when his name was called. The January drawing will be for **\$250**. **Doug Shinabarger** won the \$20 hat drawing.

## GET YOUR 2022 RAFFLE TICKETS!!

**\$20 each**

**\$1,000 prize each month**

**Only 320 tickets remaining**

**Drawings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month**

**Buy before January 18 to have all 12 chances**

## UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

### *Sue Panning, President*

Happy New Year 2022. May you have Good Health and a Prosperous New Year! Our first Junior Auxiliary meeting was held Dec 14. They made pine cone bird feeders, to be given to area nursing homes so bird watchers can enjoy seeing the birds, probably squirrels too! Our Unit addressed almost 400 Christmas cards to local Veterans in area nursing homes, and we made Poppy Christmas ornaments. We voted to donate \$500 to the Gold Star Family Monument.

On Jan 2, we will again offer tasty baked goods at the Post 15 Pancake Breakfast and Bake sale. Our Red White and Blue raffle tickets will be available, with the drawing to be May 1.

We are asking for donations for our Girls State program. If you would like to sponsor a junior girl to attend Girls State, the fee is \$ 175. If you are a business owner or your business has a matching funds donation program, and you would be interested in helping this very worthwhile cause, please contact Stephanie Schruers 605-553-5245 or Ann McGoffin 210-722-1151. Did you know Thrivent has a program called "Thrivent Choice" for its members? You can sign up to donate your "Choice Dollars" to nonprofit organizations. Check with your agent. (You could donate to the American Legion or Auxiliary to help us with our projects.)

Our Social/Bingo night is Jan 25; the meal hasn't been decided yet. Please let Barb Hayes know the names in your party and how many are planning to attend: barbarajhayes@hotmail.com, 605-376-7972. Call or text her by Friday, Jan 21. If you come without letting us know, you are still welcome, but you might have to order off the menu.

## \$100 DRAWINGS FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All Post 15 members who renewed by November 11 (and all PUFL members) were eligible for five \$100 cash drawings. The winners were:

Philip Alvey, Colin Olson, Thad Heberling, Melania Barnes, Steven Kilgour

In 2022, the deadline for this drawing will be moved to September 15, in an effort to cut down on printing costs and postage. National begins mailing renewal notices July 1 and sends them EVERY month. So you will have had two or three notices by September 15. Mark your calendars now to pay your annual dues on July 1 of each year.

**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—Diane Diekman, Legion Riders—Larry Hofkenke,  
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**, Newsletter Editor—Diane Diekman

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