

POST 15 NEWS



August 2022

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Issue Number 2022—08 Editor Diane Diekman

COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

It seems like just yesterday I wrote my previous column. I need to take a minute to thank my Leadership, Executive Committee, staff, and all who have volunteered to help wherever. Your Post is thriving, and we continue to be active in August. Please read and respond to the Constant Contact email sent out July 21 to those living locally.

Joan Ishol is chairing the rummage sale on July 27–30. Joan, along with Post 15 members, Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 members, and many friends have put in countless hours preparing for this. Please tell them thank you when you see them. Also please promote this event. Thank you to Brian from the Alliance for letting us use the AAA building.

At the last Social, Tuesday July 19, I encouraged RSVP for the Socials. I want everyone to understand it is not mandatory and you are welcome. My only concern is that if 85, and 95 show up, we may be short of food. So far, with your participation in the raffle and 50/50, we have been able to cover our costs. Profit from the raffle is gone though.

Membership: By the time you receive this newsletter, renewals for 2023 will be close to 400. Thank you for renewing in July. The next renewal notice will be sent out in early August. Getting your dues paid by the end of July will save the cost of printing a September notice. Our goal is 100% by November 11. We're finishing 2022 very close to 1,500 members – almost 80 over goal. Our goal for 2023 is not yet in stone but will be about 1,450. Thank you to our #1 recruiter, Sue, and to Dale Hass for all they do covering the 500 pool of veterans. We need a few more Go Getters – to recruit and to contact existing members to ensure they are doing ok.

We have received several calls about the renewal notices, because they say, "member since 2022." This is a printing mistake; your new card has the correct year. These are printed at National, and I apologize for the confusion. If you are a Paid Up for Life Member, you will not receive your new card for a while as National has issues with the paper stock they are printed on.

"Be the One": Be the One to renew if you haven't. Be the One to sign up a new member or one who hasn't been a member for a while. Be the One to volunteer to help with one project. Be the One to make a Buddy Check call to someone you haven't heard from in a while.

In closing, again I say thank you all for what you do for Post 15. The next membership meeting is August 2, 2022, 1900 hours. **Let's fill the meeting room. We can do it.** Enjoy the rest of the summer, it's going fast.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

Happy summer, everyone! I hope this finds you all well. Our normal monthly meetings will resume on August 12 at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. August is a very full month for us. August 5th through August 13th we will have a table at the Sioux Empire Fair. The fair runs from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. each day. We need volunteers to work the table each day. Please let me know if you are able to help.

August 7th will be the Legion Post 15 pancake breakfast and Unit 15 bake sale. Baked goods and volunteers needed. On August 16th we have our first annual ALA Golf Tournament at 9 a.m. Please reach out to Kasey, Karen, or Deb with questions. There is also a back-to-school event for the 1742 families on August 16, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. We will need volunteers to help entertain the kids. Following that, the Legion will be hosting a hog roast/corn boil. On August 23rd we will have the combined ALA/ VFW Social and Bingo. Contact Barb Hayes to sign up for the meal. The National ALA convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 26 - Sept 1. Please join us for as many of these wonderful events as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at 605-310-9993 or [Kellie-heazlett@hotmail.com](mailto:kellieheazlett@hotmail.com).

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

The Sioux Empire Fair is coming up August 5-13. We will need members for talking to the public about the Legion activities, recruiting and raffle ticket sales. I would like to have 6-8 members each day so that each member only serves 2-3 hours per day. Sue will have a signup sheet.

I attended the Legion State Convention in Watertown. One consistent message was "Serve our Nation, Build our Nation." We wore the uniform and served our Nation, and now we are building our Nation through Legion Boys State, Baseball, Youth Trooper, shooting sports, veterans assistance, civic events and other Legion programs. The American Legion is Veterans Serving America. We took an oath of service when we entered the military, but we never rescinded that oath at the end of our military service.

Another consistent message was "Be the One." When someone needs to step up for the good of the Legion and fellow veterans, each of us needs to "Be the One," especially when it involves suicide prevention by getting help when it is desperately needed.

No-cost accidental death insurance is available to Legion members, but only if the paperwork is submitted. All of us should take advantage of the no-cost insurance. Higher coverage is available for monthly payments. Decide if the increased insurance coverage is right for you, based on your individual situation. You must maintain Legion membership for coverage. If your membership lapses, the insurance coverage stops. If you then re-instate membership (pay dues), you must re-submit the insurance paperwork for coverage. This is NOT automatic coverage.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Six Democrats and four Republicans said the process for the **VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission** was broken and they would not support the slate nominated to serve on the commission, created in the 2018 Mission Act to identify which VA facilities should be closed. The senators' announcement "signifies the end of the AIR Commission." The VA had recommended closing 30 medical centers and 21% of its 800 outpatient clinics. It suggested building new hospitals and boosting reliance on private sector providers. The senators pledged to continue fighting for more VA resources and said the commission is no longer necessary. --

Government Executive

New South Dakota law affecting property taxes for deceased veteran's families: 10-4-41 "\$150,000 of the full and true value of the total amount of a dwelling, or portion thereof, classified as owner-occupied, is exempt from property taxation if owned and occupied by: (1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who was rated as permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability; or (2) The surviving spouse of a veteran, who receives dependency and indemnity compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of the veteran's service-connected death." Counties have different application deadlines, and they are already taking applications for the 2023 tax year.

The Senate is taking up major military toxic exposure legislation after House lawmakers passed corrections to the **Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (or PACT Act)** to solve technical problems with the measure. The legislation will cost almost \$280 billion over the next 10 years and provide new medical and disability benefits for as many as 20 percent of today's veterans. It is being called the most comprehensive effort ever to address toxic exposure issues in the military. --*Military Times*

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of American Legion (SAL) exists to honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans. Squadron 15 has plenty of volunteer opportunities over the next few months for you to get involved and show your support. See the Legion calendar for details.

Interested in becoming a member? Go to <https://www.legion.org/sons/about> to learn more. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and generally last no more than one hour. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 11.

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	2 Legion Post 15 Meeting 7 pm	3 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	4	5	6 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
7 Legion Pan- cake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon— A	8 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	9 Legion Aux. meeting 7 pm	10 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm Legion Riders 7 pm	11 Sons of the Legion 7 pm	12	13 Coffee/Donuts 8:30 am Ceremony at Battleship Me- morial 10 am
14	15 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	16 ALA Golf tour- nament 9 am Hog Roast 4:30 pm— A Dinner 5:30-- A	17 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	18	19	20 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
21	22 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	23 VFW/Legion Auxiliary*** Social 5 pm- A Dinner 6 pm- A	24 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	25	26	27 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
28	29 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	30	31 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	***Open to the public; reserva- tions required for dinner	Office is open 11-3 pm M-F	A = event at Alliance

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				

The total amount can be divided into 12 equal monthly payments.

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).

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Gary Brooks, 78, Army, 3/7/2022; Michael Buus, 79, Navy, 7/6/2022

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



CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On July 4 Independence Day, the Singing Legionnaires posted flags at area businesses and also celebrated the day with a breakfast picnic at Sertoma Park. On July 6 the chorus sang the National Anthem for American Legion baseball at Harmodon Field in Sioux Falls. The chorus also performed during services at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on July 10 and at Grace Lutheran Church on July 24, both in Sioux Falls. The chorus will be performing August 14 at Brandon Lutheran Church in Brandon. The chorus continues with special activities in observance of its 75th anniversary during 2022. If anyone knows of a business in Sioux Falls that would like to sponsor American flags to be flown on holidays special to veterans, please have them call Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405. If any male singer is interested in singing with our men's chorus or if anyone has questions regarding chorus activities, feel free to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

The Honor Guard continues to be very busy. We meet for our monthly breakfast the 2nd Monday at the Fryn' Pan on 10th and Cleveland. Arrive anytime before 0800, when orders are taken.

We have two new members, Jason Sussner and Kenneth Bruns. Leo Nelson is moving to Spearfish the end of July. I thank Leo for all he has done for the Post in the short time he has been with us. He will be greatly missed. He said he will still help when he is back in Sioux Falls.

Bob Johnson fell a month ago and broke his foot in two places. He is in the nursing home in Canton and has 5½ more weeks of no weight on the foot. He is hoping to move to a Sioux Falls nursing home when a room is available. Bob would appreciate phone calls as he gets bored. Don Roberts called to say he was to get out of the VA hospital July 21.



Half of the group that attended the Twins-Brewers game in Minneapolis on July 13. Our thanks to Larry Panning! Photo by Sue Peters.

CDCE (Center of Development and Civic Engagement) (formerly Volunteer Services) *Larry Panning*

Holly Mathieu has resigned from her Chief position to return to another area at the VA where she holds a Masters Degree. She has been replaced by Crista Pick, who has worked at the VA for some time. Next month, I will provide more complete details of all these CDCE happenings. There is a new needs list, which will be available online. crista.pick@va.com is the new email address. Office: 605-333-6806/605-333-6851.

1st Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament

Elmwood Golf Course, Sioux Falls

August 16, 2022

Registration 8-9 a.m. (coffee & rolls)

Shotgun start 9 a.m.

Proceeds benefit Tiny Homes for Veterans project

Contact: Karen Dunham 605-366-3291

\$100 DRAWINGS FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Post 15 members who renew by September 15 (and all PUFL members) will be eligible for five \$100 cash drawings.

RENEW ONLINE

All American Legion members can pay their dues online at <https://www.legion.org/>. Use a credit card, and print your membership card. For more information, call the office at 605-336-3470, email legion-office.al@gmail.com, or stop in at 1700 W Russell Street from 11 am-3 pm Monday-Friday.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

We had a great 4th of July Parade in Sioux Falls.

August is going to be a busy month for the ALR.

Please check our website for events: <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/>. It has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Upcoming Ride: August 20 - Yankton Riverboat Days. Anyone who rides a motorcycle and is a member of the Legion, Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest or join. Our meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Post home. Quote of the Month: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." – Groucho Marx. Keep the rubber side down!



SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

The BB Gun team went to a Daisy-sponsored tournament at Rogers, Arkansas. They placed second nationally. **Zoe Dissing was named National Champion** and shot the highest four shooting position score ever, setting a **new national record**. This was her last year of eligibility to shoot in this competition. She also shoots on our Sporter Air Rifle Team. Hopefully she can carry some of these results forward for that team. The Precision Air rifle team shot recently at CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) at Camp Perry, Ohio, where they finished sixth nationally. As one can see, there is tremendous dedication on the part of these shooting sports families.



Commander Bill Peters presenting farewell plaque to Leo Nelson, July 14, 2022. Photo by Sue Peters.



Sioux Falls AMERICAN LEGION POST 15 Membership Drive — all are welcome

August 16 @ social 4:30 p.m. /dinner about 5:30

SD Military Heritage Alliance event floor

Beverages available for purchase from the Alliance

Members, invite your family and friends. Invite a potential member for the Legion family, too. Members of the Legion, Sons of Legion, Auxiliary, Legion Riders & Chorus will be there to share what each area of the Legion family is about. FREE WILL donation will go toward veterans emergency fund, Legion baseball programs, Boys State, youth trooper, oratorical, and assisting military families of those deployed, to name a few.

Thank you to new member Wesley Austin, owner of OUR FAMILY FARMS, for donating the hog and the sweet corn. Our members and the citizens of Sioux Falls are very generous to veterans. Check out the sweet corn for sale at Runnings on East 10th Street and at Tractor Supply on North Cliff Avenue.

At the July membership social, **Roger Lamp** was not present when his name was called for \$400. **Bruce Swan** won the \$20 hat drawing, and **Peggy Hancock** of Harrisburg won the monthly gun raffle.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

LEGION OFFICE: 605-336-3470 / 1700 W. Russell St., Suite 510 (north door)

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

COMMANDER

BILL PETERS

1ST VICE COMMANDER

DALE HILL

2ND VICE COMMANDER

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ADJUTANT

BARRY ANDRES

CHAPLAIN

DONNA PUTHOFF

FINANCE OFFICER

JIM MCQUISTEN

HISTORIAN

SHARON TAPLETT-LUNDGREN

SGT-AT-ARMS

DUANE KRUMBACH

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

KELLIE HEAZLETT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOHN BACHMEIER—CHAIR, 1 year term—JESS KINDELSPIRE, DEAN MANN, LARRY ZIKMUND, WILL BOLDUC
2 year term—MIKE MCGOFFIN , WAYNE SPRECHER, JOAN ISHOL

Americanism: Bruce Swan — Building & Grounds: **Vacant (HELP NEEDED)** — Chorus: Bruce Naasz

Go Getters: Dale Hill — Legislative: 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** — Athletic Officer: Terry Wolf

Newsletter Editor: Diane Diekman

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