

POST 15 NEWS



May 2022

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

John Bachmeier

Please welcome our new commander, Bill Peters. Bill will assume command at the general membership meeting, May 3 at 7 pm. All other officers remain the same. It has been a busy two years that I have served you and I believe we accomplished a lot. We met our membership goal both years, continuing to grow. We weaved our way through the pandemic while moving to our new space and have continued and broadened our programs serving veterans, families, youth and our community. We have kept the Legion's four pillars in the forefront--Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Our tremendous corps of volunteers from post 15 has served in many ways and worked hard on trying to reach all our members and check on them through buddy checks. We still have not reached all and the effort continues. Our post is on strong financial footing with long-term plans in place to keep it that way. I am tremendously proud of what our members have accomplished and have faith you will continue to serve as you have in the past. I look forward to continuing visiting with all of you at our socials, meetings, pancake breakfasts, baseball games, recruiting events, and community events.

Upcoming events this month include pancake breakfast on the 1st, general membership meeting Tuesday May 3rd, monthly social Tuesday May 17, Armed Forces Day program at the Alliance Saturday May 21 10 am, putting out over 3500 flags at Woodlawn cemetery Saturday morning May 28, and Memorial Day service at the State Veterans Cemetery, music starting at 10 am on May 30. Buses will load at the Alliance starting at 8:30 to take everyone out to the cemetery. Bring lawn chairs. We will also load Boys State buses that morning and see them off. We will pick up flags at Woodlawn cemetery Tuesday morning May 31. Then summer, the busiest time of the year for us. Pancake breakfasts continue through the summer, socials, and lots of baseball and other gatherings. See you there.

ADJUTANT *Bill Peters*

This being my last news article the question is where I start. Not knowing for sure what was all involved, we moved forward and here we are today. Post 15 exceeded its membership goal last year and this year. This would not have happened without all of you paying your dues to support the American Legion and its mission. That being said, this Post would not be what it is today without thousands of volunteer hours by so many that have stepped up to help not only me but the Leadership that has led this Post the last years. I take this opportunity to say thank to a very important person in my life and that is Sue. I think you all know how much she has given to Post 15 and Auxiliary Unit 15 and the rest of the Legion Family the last years. Many of you including myself have gotten emails late at night and early in the morning. Thank you, Sue, from the bottom of my heart. I can't go without thanking John for leading us the last two years and even prior to that in a Vice Commander position. Thank you for all you have done for me and with me and for the Legion. Hang your blazer up and enjoy the next social in street clothes. As I leave the Adjutant position and take on the Commander role for this Post, I'm very humbled by the support I have received these last years and can not express in words how I feel. I just ask for your continued support as we move forward. God Bless you all and God Bless America

RETAIN—RECRUIT—EDUCATE

Pancake Breakfast

First Sunday of every month—all summer too!
Thank you, **Smithfield Foods**, for donating the sausage

www.siuksfallslegion.org

[www.facebook.com/
siuksfallsamericanlegionpost15](https://www.facebook.com/siuksfallsamericanlegionpost15)

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Diekman

A congressionally mandated commission spent a year traveling to military installations and sifting through thousands of recommendations as part of an effort to rename anything the Defense Department has named in honor of the Confederacy. The commission is looking at 757 items and has recommended **nine Army posts for renaming:** Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia; and Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia. The final recommendations are due to Congress by Oct. 1. —*Military Times*

The American Legion is warning veterans about a North Carolina company it says preys on service members. **Veterans Guardian** says it can help veterans increase their disability benefits; it charges five times the amount of the monthly benefit increase. The American Legion, VFW, and local government veterans service officers provide similar services for free, and they are accredited by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to work on behalf of veterans. Veterans Guardian is not accredited and therefore has not agreed to abide by certain federal regulations designed to protect veterans. Because of that, the company's employees cannot submit benefits claims on behalf of veterans. Despite that, the company has submitted claims on behalf of veterans by requesting their personal login information. —WBTV, Charlotte NC

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

On Monday April 18, we reached our 100% membership goal for calendar year 2022. Thank you to all who helped make this happen. A good portion of our dues goes to National HQ for Congressional lobbying efforts to keep VA medical facilities open and providing essential health care. It seems every year, VA facilities are looked at for reduced services/closure, while very few new facilities are planned. Making sure veterans are cared for is one of the Pillars of the American Legion. Locally, this starts with each of us making Buddy Check calls, getting current members to renew, and recruiting new members – we lose about 60-70 of our older members each year. We ask for volunteers for various activities, recognizing that some members can provide volunteer time, and others can make donations, eat at our pancake breakfasts, attend our monthly socials, and buy raffle tickets. Many members are only able to help by paying dues because of time limitations, health restrictions, family financial constraints, or other considerations. Think about providing a small portion of your estate as a donation to the Legion to help support what we believe in. Also consider becoming part of the Go-Getters group to help make Buddy Check calls. Thank you for supporting our American Legion.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Members Only

Tuesday, May 17—At the Alliance

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

Meal by Tony's Catering— *Pork loin* —\$9.00

Reservations requested—call the office

The computer dice rolled #498 of 1363 members at the April membership social. **Jack Helin** was not present when his name was called for \$325. This month's drawing will be for **\$350**. **Barry Andres** won the \$20 hat drawing. The monthly winner of Post 15's 2022 gun raffle was **Pete Waldner** of Sioux Falls.

New Post 15 Members

We welcome the following new members to Post 15 and invite you to attend our membership meeting on May 3 and monthly social on May 17:

Reiley Licha, Scott Bull, Dennis Clauson, Gene Jorgenson, Jeffrey Cox, Kerry Loudenslager, Kathleen Sherer, Peter Sherer, Larry Nicholson, Eugene Erickson, Bonnie Schmidt, Jason Kleinschmit, Todd Proffitt, Mitchell Kann, Pattie Mayrose, and Scott McDermott.

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

Air rifle teams are still awaiting word if they qualified for further competition for National matches. BB gun shooters recently held a large tournament at TriValley school with area teams. Thanks to our Honor Guard for doing opening colors. State BB Gun Tournament is coming up later in April, and I'll report on it next month. In the meantime, practice is the main event for all shooters.

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Legion Pan- cake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon— A	2 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	3 Legion Post 15 Meeting 7 pm	4 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	5	6	7 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
8	9 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	10 Legion Aux. meeting 7 pm	11 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm Legion Riders 7 pm	12 Sons of the Legion 7 pm	13	14 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
15	16 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	17 Legionnaires <i>only</i> : Social 5:30 pm— A Dinner 6:30 pm	18 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	19	20	21 Coffee/Donuts 8:30 am Armed Forces Day—10 am— A
22	23 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm	24 VFW/Legion Auxiliary*** Social 5 pm— A Dinner 6 pm— A	25 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm	26	27	28 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am
29	30 Memorial Day Ceremony at State Ceme- tery 10 am	31	***Entire event open to public; reservations 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).

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Free Coverage

Members of the LEGION FAMILY (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of Legion) who are 18 or older are eligible for free insurance from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. This \$1,000 accidental death policy pays \$5,000 if you are injured or killed while on Legion business. (Carry a membership application with you at all times.) If you are not sure if you are signed up, or would like to register, call 1-800-235-6943 and have your membership number available. It only takes a few minutes, and there is no cost. They will not keep calling you. The website is <https://www.thelit.com>.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On April 2 the Singing Legionnaires were honored to sing at the funeral of former chorus member Wallace Nelson. Wally was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of Post 15 for many years. He sang baritone with the chorus for over 20 years and served as president of the chorus during 2003. On April 26 the chorus performed at the dinner held at the Alliance for the current National Commander of the American Legion. The chorus will be performing on May 30, Memorial Day, at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls. The chorus continues observing its 75th anniversary during 2022 and will be resuming its Avenue of Flags program by posting flags on May 21, Armed Forces Day, as well as on Memorial Day. If anyone knows of a business in Sioux Falls that would like to sponsor American flags to be flown by the chorus on holidays special to veterans, please call Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405. If anyone is interested in singing with the chorus or has questions regarding chorus activities, contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

The Honor Guard continues to be busy, and I continue to be overwhelmed with the participation. We welcome Russ Heidt to the Honor Guard. The funeral count as of April 2 is 48. We meet for breakfast the second Monday of the month at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant at 10th and Cleveland. We had a record crowd this month & Joe Smook joined us too. Put this on your calendar for each month.

On April 14, Post 15 Honor Guard along with seven other Honor Guards, was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame Acts of Excellence. It was an honor that was truly appreciated. Thanks to all who attended the ceremony.

Memorial Day will be a busy day. We will be doing the Rifle Salute at St Michael Cemetery at 0900. We then go the State Cemetery to participate in Memorial Day Services there. The music starts at 1000 hours and the program begins at 1030 hours.



The South Dakota Hall of Fame, along with Sanford Health, presented "Acts of Excellence" awards to eight honor guards who support the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery with military funeral honors. They are VFW Post 628, the Marine Corps League, and American Legion posts from Sioux Falls, Hartford, Harrisburg, Garretson, Del Rapids, and Wakonda.

Minnesota Twins game against Milwaukee Brewers in Minneapolis

Larry Panning is organizing a one-day bus trip on July 13, at \$29.00 per seat plus the cost of the bus. Section S on third-base side rows 5 - 7. One stop on the way for lunch — beverages and restroom on the bus. Some may wish to meet us there; we have 55 seats reserved. Alternate dates are August 3 (Detroit Tigers) and August 17 (Kansas City Royals). We need to gauge interest — please call the office this week.



LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

We welcomed new member Brian Hahn to the Legion Riders. Everyone present was treated to a slice of Arlene's pineapple upside-down cake. Thank you, Arlene.

May is going to be a busy month for the Riders, please check our website calendar for events. We plan on riding in the Brandon Loyalty Day Parade on May 1, escorting the returning Honor Flight on May 14, Thunder on the Missouri on May 29, and Memorial Day at the State Veterans Cemetery on May 30. Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar. Anyone who rides a motorcycle and is a member of the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest and to join. Next meeting is May 11 at 7:00 PM.

Our meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the post home. Keep the rubber side down.



VAVS (CDCE) *Larry Panning*

Holly Mathieu has been selected as the new director. Congratulations, Holly!! There is a new needs list that includes t-shirts and sweatshirts, bottled water and several other items. A complete list can be found on our website (siouxfallslegion.org) or our Facebook page, so please check those. Call Holly at 605-333-6806 with further questions.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Sue Panning, President

Hello to Post 15 Legion Family,

As I write my last Legion newsletter, I am in a reflective mood. Last June, when I took office as President of Unit 15, we faced a lot of unknowns. I had given myself three goals: Assist Post 15 where we were able, get our Unit 15 noticed in the Sioux Falls community as an entity willing to help all Veterans and their families, and increase the support of our many programs set forth by National ALA. It was a big job. As a unit, with the leadership of my key chairmen, we have had an exciting and successful year. We held raffles and successful bake sales to increase the funds needed to take on new projects. **I am excited to announce we will hosting a 1st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT to fund our Veteran projects! More information to follow!**

Thank you to all who have considered American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 a worthwhile commitment. We continue to welcome new Unit members each month, with our numbers now close to 180. With your membership, we are able to take on and successfully complete many much-needed projects. We had 29 and 27 members (new record) attend our last two Unit meetings, so we will be holding our meetings in the Spirit of America room from now on.

Jane Mairose is our Poppy chairman and more information to follow for our May Poppy month activities.

At our last meeting, we voted to elect Kellie Heazlett as President, Beth Honerman as 1st Vice, Amy Buldoc as 2nd Vice, Chaplain is Marva Petit, Treasurer is Carole Lee, Historian Judy Hill, and Sergeant at Arms, Barb Hayes. We will nominate and vote for two positions for our Executive committee and install all officers at our Unit meeting on May 10th. Nancy Adres has agreed to be our Unit Secretary. *Thank you to all.*

On May 24th Social/ Bingo is open to everyone, please let Barb Hayes know if you are planning on attending (to eat). 605-376-7972 5pm Social, 6 pm Dinner (\$7), 6:30 Bingo. \$5 for a packet of 12 bingo sheets.

It is my wish that Unit 15 continues to grow and achieve new goals while we work together in harmony. Congratulations, Unit 15, for a truly amazing 2021-2022 year. *My best wishes to our Legion Family~ Thank you.*

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

SHARON TAPLETT-LUNDGREN

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: 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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