

POST 15 NEWS



January 2023

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

Saying goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas. As we start a new year, I again need to thank you for your continued support of the American Legion. One of the biggest victories for Veterans and the Legion in 2022 was the passage of the Pact Act. The American Legion spent countless time and energy to make sure this got passed and with the correct language for Veterans. I encourage Vietnam ERA Veterans and all who served since the beginning of conflicts in Iraq etc. to take the time to talk to a Veteran Service Officer. If you need assistance in making an appointment, contact the Legion office. I can not stress the importance that you do this.

If you haven't renewed for 2023, please do so, or you will no longer be a member of the American Legion. You may ask why you need to continue your membership. The Legion is continually working for Veterans benefits, which your membership supports along with Post 15. You can call the office, pay online at www.legion.org, or stop by the office Monday-Friday 11:00-3:00. Thank you all who have renewed for 2023. As of 12-17-2022, Post 15 was at 1208 members paid. My personal goal as your commander is 1500. We are about 300 away. May I ask for your help to reach that goal by February 1? Recruiting or asking a veteran to renew is everyone's responsibility. There are 12,000+ veterans in Minnehaha County. Let's get it done. Thank you.

2023 will get off to a fast start. Pancake Breakfast will be January 1. Bring your friends and family members, let's break 700 in January. At the membership meeting January 3, we will be asking for your 2023 card as you enter. You can pay your dues then. Other upcoming events include Oratorical Contest, 4 Chaplains Service, Mid-Winter Conference, Birthday Party, and Spring District Meeting.

We established a nominating committee for the Post elections to be held at the April membership meeting. I have appointed John Bachmeier as Chairman. If you are interested in a Leadership position or Executive Committee position or have questions, please contact John.

Until next time stay warm and thank you again for supporting the American Legion.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

As this year comes to a close and we welcome in a new year, I want to thank everyone for all you do for Veterans and our community. We have an amazing group of passionate volunteers that continues to grow every day.

The winter months can be a struggle as mother nature affects how much we get out, leaving some more isolated than others. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything, or if you know of someone who does. Call your friends and family, let people know how much you care about them. You never know what a simple smile or hello can do. Let's continue to support and lift each other up.

Our December meeting was cancelled due to the ice. We will have our monthly meeting January 10 at 7 p.m. at the Post. We look forward to seeing you all there.

In January we will vote on whether or not we would like to join with the Legion for the monthly social or keep our separate night. Please keep an eye out for the results of that vote for the next date for the social.

January is not nearly as busy and will allow us to rest and catch up on things. Please take this time to relax and enjoy being with family and friends.

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

This newsletter has been a discussion point at recent Post Executive Board and Business meetings for reducing expenses. Post 15 spends more than \$200 per month on paper, ink and postage to send out about 475 newsletters. Paper and ink costs have been increasing every month this last year. There are an additional 1,000 newsletters sent by email at minimal cost to the Post. The South Dakota American Legion has already stopped printing and mailing the State newsletter; it is available only online. It has been suggested that we ask for a \$10 donation from members who receive it by mail if that is not a hardship. Anyone who wants to contribute to this mailing can also. If you are receiving both a printed newsletter and the newsletter by email, please let us know. We are starting to include advertising to help offset the newsletter costs.

If your 2023 dues are not paid, this will be your last newsletter by mail. If your dues are paid and **you want to continue to receive this newsletter by mail, you must contact the Post 15 office at 605-336-3470 and ask to stay on the mailing list. If you do not contact the Post 15 office, the March newsletter will be your last newsletter by mail.** There will be no changes if you receive the newsletter by email other than 2023 dues must be paid to continue receiving the newsletter.

If you have an email address the newsletter can be sent to instead of being sent by Postal Service, it would be a big help in cost reduction. This newsletter is a member service we don't want to stop.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Diekman

The Senate passed the \$847 billion **National Defense Authorization Act for the 2023 fiscal year** (which began Oct. 1) in a 83-11 vote after overwhelming approval by the House. The bill now moves to the White House for President Joe Biden's signature. The bill rescinds Defense Secretary Austin's August 2021 order requiring troops to be vaccinated against the coronavirus or face dismissal. About 8,200 service members were discharged from the military for refusing to get the vaccine. About \$817 billion is for the Pentagon, and the other \$30 billion is for nuclear activities in the Energy Department. The 4.6% raise for service members and the Defense Department's civilian workforce takes effect Jan. 1 and is the largest pay hike for troops in 20 years. The final defense authorization bill deleted seven of eight House-passed NDAA provisions pertaining to extremism in the U.S. military or American society. The provision that requires a report was reduced in scope to discuss only foreign threats, not homegrown ones. The 4,000-page legislation makes heavy investments in counter-ing China and Russia, including earmarking \$800 million for a program used to purchase weapons for Ukraine. Nearly \$3 billion is set aside to procure new munitions and ramp up production of munitions sent to Ukraine as well as for future conflicts. --*Stars and Stripes*

The House passed the **Veteran Service Recognition Act**, which would help deported veterans and non-citizen troops. The bill cleared the House in a largely party-line 220-208 vote and is unlikely to pass the Senate. Non-citizens are eligible for expedited citizenship if they serve honorably in the U.S. military. --*Military.com*

VAVS *Larry Panning*

This will be my last writing as the American Legion rep for South Dakota. Chris Fischer has been my deputy for a year or two and will become your news writer henceforth. I will be his deputy. In a discussion with VA officials, I asked about CDCE and VAVS. Turns out that national correspondence is via CDCE for the hospital but most everyone else calls it VAVS or Voluntary Service, which we have all heard for years. So unless Chris says or is directed otherwise, we will hear and see VAVS here. Our State Legion dollars for the VAVS are sending about 90 veterans to the Alliance for some Air Rifle fun in 2023. An updated needs list will be on our website when available. Wishing everyone a wonderful New Year and hope you all had a great Christmas.

Calendar of Events—January 2023

- 1 (Sun) NEW YEARS DAY
- 1 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 2 Office Closed
- 3 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
- 5 (Thu) Go-Getters meeting 7 pm
- 9 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
- 10 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
- 11 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
- 12 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
- 16 (Mon) MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
- 17 (Tue) THE LEGION FAMILY Social 5 pm, Dinner 6 pm —Alliance
- 31 (Tue) Executive Board meeting 7 pm

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7 pm
Every Wednesday—Ladies Bridge 12-4 pm

Office is open 11-3 pm M-F (except Jan 2)

Save the Date: Sun, Feb 5, 2023—Four Chaplains service
Sat, April 29, 2023 - Annual Honor Guard dinner

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Rickey Nelson, 66, Army/Navy, 10/6/2020; Wallace Nelson, 88, Army, 3/28/2022; Kenneth Friesen, 87, Air Force, 11/25/2022; Paul Swain, 79, Air Force, 11/26/2022; Wesley Nelson, 89, Army, 12/3/2022

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



JANUARY MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

New Price & Policy:

Tuesday, January 17—At the Alliance

New Time: Social hour: 5:00 / Dinner: 6:00

Tony's Catering—Meat Loaf— **\$10.00**

MEMBERS of Legion, Auxiliary & SAL (from any Post/Unit/Squadron) spouse/significant other are welcome.

Legion & SAL call the office 605.336.3470.

Auxiliary members call Barb 605.376.7972.

Two membership drawings are now being held each month. **Roger Berndt's** name was drawn at the December monthly meeting, and **Eric Bertness's** name at the December membership social. Neither was present to win \$200. This month's drawings will be for **\$225.**

Bruce Swan won the hat drawing. **Joe Stauss** of Sioux Falls won the final monthly raffle of 2022.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of American Legion (SAL) exists to honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans. Squadron 15 holds meetings the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 **#SDLegion**



www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

[HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL)

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed December 3 at First United Methodist Church, December 4 at the Streets of Bethlehem at Zion Lutheran Church, and December 5 at The Inn on Westport Senior Living Community. Freezing on roadways resulted in the cancellation of the December 12 performance at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. No chorus performances are currently scheduled during January. The chorus held its annual Christmas party December 11, at which **Larry Zikmund** was honored as Singing Legionnaire of the Year. The chorus will resume its Avenue of Flags program in May 2023. If anyone knows of a business in Sioux Falls that would like to sponsor an American flag to be flown on holidays special to veterans, 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 any questions regarding chorus activities, feel free to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or 66cycler2019@gmail.com.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

As I write this article, it is one degree, and it is going to be colder the rest of the week. We have three funerals the week before Christmas. I'm so thankful that even during this cold snap, you continue to say yes to honor our Veterans. You have been and continue to be an amazing group and I can not say thank you enough. We will finish 2022 with 5,880 volunteer hours! We are the only full honor guard in this area. Thank you. You make us proud.

\$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: **Donald DeNure, Dale Cowman, Marvin Knock, and Keven Aldring**. We can't reach **Gordy Albers**.

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, stop in at 1700 W Russell Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 from 11 am-3 pm Monday-Friday or mail.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders welcome new member Jackie Frye. The January 11 meeting will include elections for Officers for 2023 AND the annual Christmas potluck and White Elephant.

The Chili Cook-off and Army Navy game party was a huge success. Winners of the Cook-off were:

"Spiciest" – Karen M.

"Most Unusual" – Todd P.

"Sweetest" AND "Most Like Mom's" – who else but Rosie M!

"Best All Around" – Clarence M.

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, Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest and join. Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the post home.

Quote of the Month: "You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police." —Joan Rivers



(photo credit to Arlene Allen)

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	Terry Wolf
Finance Officer	Jim McQuisten
Historian	Sharon Taplett-Lundgren
Sgt-At-Arms	Duane Krumbach
Chaplain	Donna Puthoff
Adjutant	Barry Andres

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Bachmeier—Chair
Jess Kindelspire, Joan Ishol, Dean Mann, Larry Zikmund
Will Bolduc, Mike McGoffin, Wayne Sprecher

COMMITTEES

Chorus: Bruce Naasz	Americanism: Bruce Swan
Legion Riders: Lamar Nance	Go Getters: Dale Hill
Vets Council: John Bachmeier	SAL: Clarence Mellang
Post Everlasting/Flag Retirement: vacant	Raffle Sales: vacant

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President	Kellie Heazlett
1st Vice President	Beth Honerman
2nd Vice President	Amy Bolduc
Treasurer	Carole Lee
Historian	Judy Hill
Sgt-At-Arms	Barb Hayes
Chaplain	Marva Petit
Secretary	Nancy Andres
Parliamentarian	Ann McGoffin
Past President	Susan Panning
Executive Board	Sue Peters
Executive Board	Nancy Renner

Building & Grounds: **vacant**
Baseball: Terry Wolf
VAVS/VA: Larry Panning
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Pancakes: Dale Haas

SHOOTING SPORTS

Larry Panning

The PRECISION Shooting team shot in Winter Airgun Championship in Colorado Springs. While there were several personal best scores, no one made it to the awards podium this time around. The next safety class will be January 7 at Humboldt Elementary School at 8:30 a.m. (<https://fb.me/e/2q9rmOLFX>). BB season kickoff meeting will be January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hartford range. Practice for BB gun will start the following weekend. A dinner fundraising event with a silent auction will be held at St. George Parish in late January. More details on our website as they unfold. For more information on any events, call Scott at 605.359.6779.

New Post 15 Members

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

Brenda Eden, Jerry Greve, Jonathan Husman, Gary Kerska, Fred Servis, Garry VanDoren

Wayne Wants Military Humor

Tex Houston remembers being an aviation machinist mate striker assigned to NAS Quonset Point and working for “a foul-mouthed second class petty officer named Keeler, of the ordnance persuasion.” Houston relates, “He harassed the airmen verbally and, on occasion, physically. ‘A boot in the butt to move you out, smartly,’ as he said. Until my discharge in 1948, he loomed over the airmen like an evil plague. In 1959, I was sitting in the Atsugi Air Terminal, a full lieutenant decked out in my aviation greens, when Keeler, still a second class ordnanceman, walked in. I said, ‘Hi, Keeler, long time no see.’ He didn’t recognize me. I said, ‘Weren’t you stationed at Quonset back in ‘48?’ He said, ‘Yessir, was you a pilot dere?’ I said, ‘No, I used to work for you. I was Airman Houston.’ His eyes widened with recognition, and he said, “Yer...Houston? Geez, sir, I guess it just goes to show ya. Never kick an airman in da ass. He may grow up and be yer division officer!” — *The Hook*



Sioux Falls Dental Implant Center

Kevin Haiar, DDS, DABOI | 605.799.2929

www.siouxfallsdentalimplantcenter.com

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of Kiwanis Ave & West 12th St

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Opens for the summer on April 29, 2023

(605) 367-7141

Southdakotabattleship.org

info@southdakotabattleship.org

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