

POST 15 NEWS



June 2022

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

This being my first newsletter as commander since taking office May 3. I want to thank you the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Commander for the coming year. Thank you John for being our Commander for the past 2 years. In fact, it has been 4 years that he has been in a Leadership position for Post 15. I asked him after the Social the other night how it felt to sit at a table with friends that he hasn't been able to for four years and his response was it was different but okay. Thank you, John, for your service to the Legion and Veterans we serve. You deserve a break. I also want to thank Bob Johnson for serving as our Executive Committee Chair for the past two years; that, too, was no easy task. Also, Ken Headrick and Dave Rowe for their time and service to the committee. The Leadership for the coming year is as follows: 1st Vice Commander Dale Hill, 2nd Vice Commander Terry Wolf, Adjutant Barry Andres, Finance Officer Jim McQuisten, Chaplain Donna Puthoff, Americanism Bruce Swan, Historian Sharon Taplett-Lungren, Sergeant at Arms Duane Krumbach. Your Executive Committee for this year is: Jess Kindelspire, Mike McGoffin, Joan Ishol, Wayne Sprecher, Larry Zikmund, Dean Mann, Will Bolduc. Sue will continue to be Office Manager/Administrator Assistant. You can contact me at 605-360-6547 or by email: sd15commander@gmail.com. You can contact the office at 605-336-3470 or at legionoffice.al@gmail.com if you would like one of the other members of the Leadership to contact you.

In closing, we ask that each of you find "just one thing" you can do to help the post. Not everyone has the time to commit the same so find what fits in your lifestyle. Then take action by contacting the office. Thank you all and till next time, God Bless you, your families and God Bless America.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

I am the new President for the Unit 15 American Legion Auxiliary. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 34 years, starting as a junior. I would love to see our junior auxiliary program get up and running this year. If you know someone under 18 who is eligible, please help them get signed up.

WELCOME to all of our new members. We look forward to getting to know you all.

There is a wide variety of opportunities for service in our unit. If you have a talent or passion, please let us know so we can help you get involved. Everyone has something to offer.

*The Post Pancake breakfast is June 5. We appreciate your donated goods for our bake sale.

*Our June meeting will be Tuesday, June 14. Please join us.

* Our Social/ Bingo will be held June 28, 5 pm social, 6 pm dinner (\$7). Bingo to follow. Contact Barb Hayes to make reservations: 605- 376-7972.



2022 officers

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Diekman

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to the smoke from burn pits used in war zones to dispose of waste. The House passed the bill in March. The Senate has reached a deal to pass the legislation later this summer. As many as one in every five veterans living in America today could directly benefit from the new legislation. It is the most comprehensive toxic exposure bill to ever pass either chamber of Congress. It will cost billions, but veterans say these are benefits well-earned. --*Military Times*

Veterans could have better access to breast cancer screenings under a pair of bills that recently cleared Congress. The House voted 418-0 to approve the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas **Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments (SERVICE) Act**, which would require the VA to conduct mammograms for all women who served near burn pits or other toxic exposures, regardless of symptoms, age, or family history. The chamber also voted 419-0 to pass the **Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act**, which would require the VA to craft a strategic plan to improve breast imaging services within a year, create a three-year pilot program of telemammography for veterans in areas where the VA does not offer in-house mammograms, and expand veterans' access to clinical trials through partnerships with the National Cancer Institute. Both bills passed the Senate unanimously in March, meaning they now only await President Joe Biden's signature before becoming law. --*Military.com*

The **Defense Department budget request for next year asks Congress to cut about 25,000 positions from the military services**, which would bring authorized end strength more in line with current manning levels. The Army, after failing to meet recruiting goals, decided to shrink the service due to the recruiting market. With the low unemployment rate and lack of interest in serving, the Army felt it was not productive to chase higher numbers. --*Military Times*

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

Seven shooters will attend BB Gun competition in Rogers, Arkansas, over July 4th weekend. Sporter Air Rifle has Mya Dissing competing for National Championship late July at Colorado Springs. Precision Air Rifle team (5 shooters) will be shooting USAS Nationals in June in Colorado Springs and then Camp Perry, Ohio, for CMP Nationals in July. Other shooters on all teams practice as they like but will be enjoying their summer off.

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

As I start my second year as Post 15 Vice Commander, recruiting and retention remain high priorities. It seems like I'm being pulled into more and more administrative areas as we are finally (and slowly) escaping the grips of Covid. We are trying to better focus on Post activities with the greatest potential return for our volunteer time.

We have some upcoming events in the next few months that we will need help with. First, flag placement at Woodlawn on the Friday before Memorial Day and pick up on the following Tuesday (weather permitting). Second, Automania in Valley Springs on June 25. Third, we will be hosting some family members of the 235th National Guard Unit on July 9. I will need a cook, a person at the range, and a few extra hands for kids and parents activities (just starting the planning process with the Auxiliary and the 235th). Fourth is the Sioux Empire Fair on Friday August 5 – Saturday August 13 – education of the public about the Legion and Alliance will be the primary focus, with retention and raffle sales secondary. Fifth are the Legion baseball games – we would like to see as many blue hats at each game as we can get to support the teams, educate the public, and sell raffle tickets. Fifth is the VA-sponsored senior games in late July (more details later). The Canaries are looking for veterans to recognize at home games, so call Sue at the office if you are interested. And don't forget the pancake breakfasts will continue through the summer – first Sunday of each month. I'm sure I've missed a few events, and a few more will surface in the next month. We also have the Twins-Brewers baseball trip on July 13 – contact Sue at the office if you want to go.

Our Honor Guard is our most visible activity, and we need to get more blue hats in front of the public every time an opportunity comes up. Please help out if you are able. High visibility makes recruiting and retention a lot easier.

Pancake Breakfast

First Sunday of every month May - August
Thank you, **Smithfield Foods**, for donating the sausage.

June 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| Office is open 11-3 pm M-F | A = event at Alliance | | 1 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm | 2 | 3 | 4 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am |
| 5 Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—A | 6 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm | 7 Legion Post 15 Meeting 7 pm | 8 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm Legion Riders 7 pm | 9 Sons of the Legion 7 pm | 10 | 11 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am |
| 12 | 13 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm | 14 Legion Aux. meeting 7 pm Flag Day | 15 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm | 16 | 17 | 18 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am |
| 19 | 20 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm | 21 Legionnaires only: Social 5:30 pm—A Dinner 6:30 pm | 22 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm | 23 | 24 | 25 Coffee/Donuts with Veterans 8:30 am |
| 26 | 27 Singing Legionnaires Practice 7 pm | 28 VFW/Legion Auxiliary*** Social 5 pm—A Dinner 6 pm—A | 29 Ladies' Bridge 12-4 pm | 30 | ***Entire event open to public; reservations required for dinner | |

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).

JUNE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Members Only—No Guests

Tuesday, June 21—At the Alliance
Social hour: 5:30 / Dinner: 6:30
Tony's Catering— Broasted Chicken — \$9.00
Reservations requested—call the office

Member # 975, **Ron Patterson**, was not present when his name was called for \$350 at the May membership social. This month's drawing will be for **\$375**. **Moe Olson** won the \$20 hat drawing. The monthly winner of Post 15's 2022 gun raffle was **Jeremy Risty** of Brandon.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires were honored to perform on May 23 at the funeral for John Norberg at First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. John sang baritone with the chorus for over 30 years and served as secretary for three years as well as chorus president in 1996.

The Singing Legionnaires also performed on May 30 Memorial Day at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls. The chorus plans to perform June 20 at Good Samaritan Society - Hearthstone Assisted Living at 4001 S. Marion Road in Sioux Falls. The Singing Legionnaires are continuing with activities in observance of their 75th anniversary during 2022. They were featured May 17 in a news release on *Dakota News Now*. The link is posted on Facebook at American Legion Sioux Falls SD POST 15. Sharing all posts from this page is appreciated. The chorus posted flags on May 21 Armed Forces Day and May 30 Memorial Day. 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, please have them call Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405. Anyone 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 66cyclor2019@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.

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Robert "Bob" McKellep, 78, Navy, 2/17/2022; Gene Jorgensen, 78, Army, 4/23/2022;



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

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Welcome back to you who have returned from your winter home. It is good to have you back and helping with funerals and more. The Honor Guard breakfast was well attended in May. Reminder that our breakfast is the 2nd Monday of each month. We meet beginning about 0730 hours at the Fryn' Pan at 10th and Cleveland. All are welcome. As always, the end of May was busy for the Honor Guard. We participated in two cemetery Memorial Day programs along with a program at Fleet Farm for the first time. I again say thank you all for your continued dedication to the Honor Guard. It is not just Honor Guard things it seems that when there is something to do for the Legion you are always there to help. I will continue to coordinate funerals and will participate in them as my time permits.

\$100 DRAWINGS

FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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

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.

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 legionoffice.al@gmail.com, or stop in at 1700 W Russell Street from 11 am-3 pm Monday-Friday.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

We welcome guest Scott McGaha, son of the legendary Rosie McGaha, to the Legion Riders. On June 12, the Riders will escort a returning Honor Flight. 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, or the Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the Legion is invited to join. Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the post home. Keep the shiny side up!



Order your LOGOWEAR

Help promote the Legion family.

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OR

<https://emblem.legion.org/Apparel/departments/4/>

OR

<https://emblem.legion.org/Apparel/departments/38/>

OR

<https://emblem.legion.org/Apparel/departments/22/>

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

Webpage: www.siouxfallslegion.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

New Post 15 Members

We welcome the following new members to Post 15 and invite you to attend our membership meeting on June 7 and monthly social on June 21:

David Phalen, Eric Gage, Ed Lewis, Barry Totman, Bruce Jones, Rodney Jones, Bryan Manzeck, Ned Douma, Marvin Vos, Charles Garcia

VAVS (CDCE) *Larry Panning*

Volunteers are needed for the Senior Games (NVGAG – National Veterans Golden Age Games) July 18 to 23 here in Sioux Falls. If interested in volunteering, please contact NVGAGVolunteers@va.gov and register there.

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.



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

COMMANDER

BILL PETERS

1ST VICE COMMANDER

DALE HILL

2ND VICE COMMANDER

TERRY WOLF

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, JESS KINDELSPIRE, JOAN ISHOL, DEAN MANN,

LARRY ZIKMUND, WILL BOLDUC, MIKE MCGOFFIN , WAYNE SPRECHER

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** — Athletic Officer, Terry Wolf

Newsletter Editor, Diane Diekman

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