

POST 15 NEWS



December 2022

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

I hope everyone had a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. I need to take a minute and thank everyone for all you have done and continue to do. The one most important thing to keep our VA receiving funding is numbers. I encourage all of you Vets to contact the VA and get in and get a check-up, at the very least. An update on the Pact Act—So far, 620 Vets have been evaluated through Primary Care, 220 have some concerns.

Your Legion continues to support our 4 Pillars. Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. The raffle, which supports Legion programs, is lagging this year. We have 1035 tickets to sell by the end of December. We need all hands on deck to get this accomplished. The 2023 raffle ticket is \$20 for 12 chances to win two each \$500 Visa gift cards. Monthly drawing begins in January. If you have tickets checked out, please make an effort to get them sold. These raffle tickets make good Christmas presents. If you have not gotten yours, please do that this week. If each member would sell/buy one, we would be done.

Thank you all who help with Pancakes each 1st Sunday. This event continues to grow. Please spread the word to your neighbors, friends, and relatives. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at December Pancakes, so bring the kids. Check out their photo on Facebook and share the post. We will be tossing pancakes to those that want to catch them.

Our social has changed. Our members voted at the November meeting to invite our Legion Family: Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders, their spouses and or significant others. Those of you who like to play Bingo can play for about an hour after the program & drawings. **The social now begins at 5 and dinner at 6.** The member cash drawing, which has been won two months in a row, **will be held at the social and also at the business meeting the 1st Tuesday of the month.** **If you attend both, you double your chances to win!** Embrace the changes.

During this Christmas season, remember to call your Buddies and wish them a Merry Christmas. It may be the only call they get. Until next time, Merry Christmas to you and your families.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

We were honored to have representatives from the Veterans Community Project attend our November meeting where we presented them with the funds raised from our 1st Annual Golf Tournament. We served meals at the Legion Chorus Annual Bingo night where fun was had by all! We continue our bake sale the first Sunday of every month during the Legion pancake breakfast. If you are interested in working or bringing treats, please contact Stephanie Scheurers @ 605-553-5245. Several wonderful volunteers helped put up the Christmas trees around the Alliance and one at the Post. Stop by and check out the beautiful decorations. We collected donations for the VA Christmas shop, and a small group of elves went shopping for items we are donating.

Our first Junior Auxiliary meeting will be Dec 11 at the Post. Please bring your juniors for a fun afternoon. At our monthly meeting on Dec 13, we will write cards to our Veterans. Due to the holidays we don't have as much going on.

We will be joining the Legion social and dinner again on December 20. If you want to attend, please contact Barb Hayes @605-376-7972 to sign up for the meal BEFORE December 15. We will vote in January whether we would like to make this permanent.

Don't forget to renew your membership, as well as logging and turning in your volunteer hours. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

The Go-Getters meet the Thursday after the Legion business meeting each month at the Post. Buddy check calls are our primary focus at this time, so if you can help call fellow Legion members, please contact Sue at the office. We will have ham sandwiches at the December Go-Getters meeting.

Membership dues are due by the end of the year. Of the \$40 dues, the Post gets \$6.50, the rest goes to State and National. If we consider this newsletter, Boys State, baseball, veterans assistance, insurance and all of our daily expenses to keep the doors open, our costs are over \$50 per member per year. Our main income sources are raffle ticket sales and pancake breakfasts. Raffle ticket sales have been a challenge in today's economy. If each member bought one \$20 raffle ticket, our raffle would be sold out for 2023. The money from the sale of the previous Post has been invested with the intent of using investment gains to help offset expenses (without touching the original balance). Like everybody else, investments are not doing as well as hoped for.

We need to look at more fund-raising avenues. 5k and 10k fun runs, hog roast, direct solicitation to area businesses, and direct solicitation to members have been suggested. If you have additional ideas and experience in running events, please let us know. Financially, the Post is OK at this time. We want to keep our Post financially strong to be able to continue our current programs. Without additional income sources, we cannot maintain our strong programs at the current level of funding in future years.

If you are able to commit a fixed dollar amount to support the Post for the next 5 years, or if you can leave a donation to the Post in your Will, please do so. We need a strong Legion Post to help support our younger veterans. Let us treat them better today than we were treated years ago. Thank you to all members who donate their time to support our Post.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Dickman

When the **117th Congress convenes January 3, it will include 91 military veterans**, the lowest total since at least World War II. In 1973, nearly three in every four members had some type of military service. In 2023, it'll be about one in six members. However, the number could grow in coming years. Of the 79 lawmakers elected to the 117th Congress who are 45 or younger, 21 served in the military. Here's a look at the 91 total veterans in the 117th Congress: • 17 in the Senate, 74 in the House. • 28 Democrats and 63 Republicans • 13 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier. • 50 served in the military after 2000. • More than half (49) had overseas combat deployments. • 15 are first-time lawmakers. • 6 are women, a decrease of 1 from last Congress. • 12 states have no veterans in their state delegations. More than 200 veterans were on congressional and gubernatorial ballots in the mid-term election, more than any election since 2012.

—*Military Times*

The South Dakota Veterans Council is pushing for two laws to be modified in the next South Dakota legislative session. Both are American Legion resolutions. First is an effort to codify into law the **minimum number of Veteran Services Officers (VSO) in each county**: one fulltime VSO for veteran populations 1,000-3,999 and one for each additional 4,000 veterans. This would force Minnehaha County to hire two more VSOs to handle its 13,000-veteran population. (Pennington County currently has three for its 12,000 veterans.) Beadle County and Meade County would each be required to hire a second VSO. Second is an amendment to the recently passed law that **exempts the first \$150,000 in property taxes** for owned residences of 100% disabled veterans or their surviving spouses. The amendment would add those 70-90% disabled to the property tax exemption.

CDCE/VVS *Larry Panning*

See the complete new needs list on our website. It includes winter coats, sweat pants & shirts (all M to XXL), gift cards, phone cards, new hygiene items, alcohol-free , 3 oz. or less. All items must be new. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and has a Wonderful Christmas!!

Calendar of Events—December 2022

3 (Sat) Booth volunteers 9am - Benson Flea Market
 4 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
Special appearance from Santa & Mrs. Claus
 4 (Sun) Booth volunteers 10 am—Benson Flea Market
 6 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
 8 (Thu) Go-Getters meeting **6 pm (notice time change)**
 8 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
 12 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
 13 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
 14 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
 17 (Sat) Wreath Laying - SD Veterans Cemetery
 20 (Tue) THE LEGION FAMILY Social 5 pm, Dinner 6 pm —Alliance
 24 (Sat) CHRISTMAS EVE
 25 (Sun) CHRISTMAS DAY— OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 26
 27 (Tue) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
 31 (Sat) NEW YEARS EVE—OFFICE CLOSED JANUARY 2
 Jan 1—MONTHLY PANCAKES! Come start the New Year with us.
 Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7 pm
 Every Wednesday—Ladies Bridge 12-4 pm
Save the Date: Sat, April 29, 2023 - Annual Honor Guard dinner

POST EVERLASTIN

May they Rest in Peace

Maurice Bills, 97, Navy, 10/27/2022;
 Dean Gough Sr., 85, Navy,
 11/7/2022



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

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.



Pete Waldner, recipient & Commander Bill Peters on Veterans Day 11/11/22 at the Alliance. Photo by Al Arndt.

CASH DRAWING FOR POST 15 MEMBERS

Double your chance to win. Attend both the membership meeting the 1st Tuesday of each month and the social/dinner the 3rd Tuesday. Cash prize will increase by \$25 each month until someone wins. Member numbers will be randomly drawn, starting with \$200 in December. Members who have not renewed by the end of the year will be dropped from the list. Stop by the office or send in your dues before December 31.

SHOOTING SPORTS—*Larry Panning*

Precision Air Rifle is signed up for US Winter Air gun Champion Match at Colorado Springs in December. Both Precision and Sporter Air rifle are signed up for American Legion National Matches and are full swing with practice. The Club is holding a CMP Sporter camp in Pierre in January to raise SD Competitive levels to national level. BB gun practice starts in January.

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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 Nov 11 for the Veterans Day program at the Military Heritage Alliance. They also sang at the 80th birthday party for chorus member Harvey Jewell on Nov 12. Upcoming performances are as follows: Dec 3 at First United Methodist Church; Dec 4 at Streets of Bethlehem at Zion Lutheran Church; Dec 5 at The Inn on Westport Senior Living Community; Dec 12 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. The Singing Legionnaires hosted their annual poultry party at the Military Heritage Alliance on Nov 4, where 70 turkeys and 10 hams were awarded as prizes. Raffle winners were: \$82 cash prize to Larry Panning, \$250 to Marvin Holmgren, and \$500 to Michael McGoffin. The chorus thanks all who participated in this event in supporting the mission of bringing honor to God and country through music. The Singing Legionnaires are also continuing with activities in observance of their 75th anniversary during 2022. The chorus posted flags on November 11 Veterans Day and will be resuming their Avenue of Flags program in May 2023. If any business in Sioux Falls would like to sponsor an American flag to be flown on holidays special to veterans, call Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405. Male singers interested in singing with the chorus, or anyone with questions regarding chorus activities, please contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or 66cycler2019@gmail.com.

BE THE ONE — BUDDY CHECKS

Please take a minute right now to call or go see someone you have not been in touch with for a while. For some, that may be two days. If you know a person is struggling - check on him/her. For others, it may be a year - make that move now to get in touch with them. If you are struggling, call us at 605.336.3470 or dial 988. We do care. We just don't know how bad your day is - call please.



American Legion Post 15 Honor Guard breakfast, 11/14/22 at the Fry'n Pan. Al Arndt photo.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders welcome new member Todd Proffitt.

December 10, starting at noon, is the Chili Contest followed by the Army Navy Game. This is all at the "old" AAA building on Russell, west of the Legion. Winners will be announced at half-time. Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Post home. The December 14 meeting will include elections for officers for 2023 AND the annual Christmas potluck and White Elephant. 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 join. Quote of the Month: "If I had to live my life over, I'd live over a saloon." – Mark Twain



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

LEGION OFFICE: 605-336-3470 / 1700 W. Russell St., Suite 510 (north door) M-F 11am—3pm

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
VAWS/VA: Larry Panning
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Pancakes: Dale Haas

New Post 15 Members

Welcome and thank you for choosing to join POST 15

Kenny Peterson, Jennifer Barse, Bill Brennan, Gerald Buchholz, Carl Fredrickson, Bob Groenewold, Jeanne Hisek, Darrel Hodne, Douglas McGath, Ralph Oliver, Jerald Roberts, Jade Ronk, Drew Sanders, Tim Steppan



Doug Starr on his 97th birthday, with Sue Peters (Post 15 Administrative Assistant), at the Post 15 membership social, 11/15/22. Photo by Al Arndt.

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

New Policy: Post, Auxiliary & SAL

Tuesday, December 20—At the Alliance

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

Tony's Catering—Beef tips in gravy — \$9.00

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

Reservations due by December 14.

Legionnaires call the office 605.336.3470.

Auxiliary members call Barb 605.376.7972.

Number 275 of 1,513 Post 15 members was drawn at the November membership social, and for the second month in a row, the winner was present.

Lyle Dede happily accepted \$200. This month's drawing will be for **\$200**. **Dale Haas** won the hat drawing. **Roger Haack** of Lennox won the monthly raffle. We celebrated Douglas Starr's 97th birthday.



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