

POST 15 NEWS



March 2023

Published monthly by American Legion Post 15, 1700 W Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Issue Number: 2023—3

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

Dale Hill, John Bachmeier, and I attended the Mid-Winter Convention in Huron. It was well worth our time. Please consider attending the state convention in Oacoma in June. Elena Andrews of Beresford from District 7 took home first place in the Oratorical Competition. Listening to the speeches, I found it rewarding to know there are young people out there who really do believe in America and what we stand for.

The Youth Trooper Academy is a program sponsored by the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the South Dakota American Legion. It is designed for young people interested in law enforcement or the military and is open to high school juniors and seniors. All expenses are paid. The program is in its 11th year and has 30+ graduates now in Law Enforcement. If you know someone who would be interested in going, I would encourage you to pass on the link for information and registration: <https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy>. Deadline is March 23, 2023. Register ASAP as space is limited to 24 young people from across the State. I had the opportunity to spend a day at the Academy a couple years ago and it was a great experience.

Another program available for high school juniors and seniors is Boys State. Post 15 has been sending young men to Boys State for years. I've have talked to people my age who attended and, to this day, they say it is one of the best experiences they had in their lifetime. I ask your help in getting this information out and encouraging the young men you know to learn more about Boys State and hopefully apply at this link: www.southdakotaboysstate.com. Post 15 pays the registration fee and bus transportation – no cost to the student. Auxiliary Unit 15 pays registration fees for Girls State.

At the March and April Membership meetings, we will be accepting nominations for Post 15 Leadership for next year. All leadership positions and four executive committee positions need to be filled. If you or someone you know might be interested in filling one of these positions, please call the office. Nomination committee members are John Bachmeier, Ed Hruska, and Chris Fischer. Elections will be at our April membership meeting on April 4. All current executive committee members and people running for a position must complete the BASIC TRAINING at <https://www.legion.org/alei> prior to that date. I encourage others to do the same.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

As we welcome in March, we are gearing up for a busy spring. During our February meeting, Kasey Jacobsen was appointed 2nd Vice President to finish out this term. Congratulations, Kasey! Carole Lee gave a recap of the Mid-Winter Conference in Huron. Belinda Ready and our Junior Auxiliary members made Valentines for our Veterans. The next Junior Auxiliary meeting will be March 5 at 2 p.m. Thank you, Belinda, for taking on the Junior Auxiliary. Our March meeting will be Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. Please email Kellie-heazlett@hotmail.com if you have a committee report or need something added to the agenda. Our monthly social and bingo will be March 28 at the Alliance: 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. bingo. Contact Barb Hayes at 605-376-7972 if you would like to attend. March 11, we will be volunteering at the Women Veterans Wellness Retreat at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. March 31, we have the joint birthday party with Legion Post 15, where many of our annual awards will be presented. We look forward to seeing you all there. Please send your volunteer hours to Susan Panning at spaux317@gmail.com or give them to her at the monthly meeting. If you are interested in volunteering or chairing a committee, please let me know, and we will find a good fit for you. We love when our members get involved. See you all at our next event!

GO-GETTERS CLUB

Dale Hill, 1st Vice Commander

Just a reminder - your 2023 dues **MUST** be paid and you **MUST** contact the Legion office at 605-336-3470 if you want to continue receiving this newsletter by mail. Otherwise, this will be your last issue. We are seeking newsletter advertising to offset the cost of mailing newsletters to members without email addresses.

The Post voted to open the Social on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to Legion members, Riders, Auxiliary, Sons, and spouses. Please **RSVP** the Wednesday prior to the Legion office so we order enough food. Price is \$10/person. Social starts at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6:00.

The PACT ACT for exposure to toxic chemicals has a two-year Sunset clause, meaning you **MUST** apply through VA before August 2024 for any benefits. The PACT ACT expands toxic chemical exposure for Vietnam vets as well. Contact the Legion Service Officer at the VA for more information.

Post 15 will be helping with the Gun Show at the Convention Center on March 24-26. We need 20-25 members to help on those days.

The 104th Legion Birthday and Awards dinner will be Friday, March 31, at the Alliance, with social starting at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. We will need 8 people to help set up Friday after 1:30 and to help clean up after the event. **RSVP by March 23** to Legion office is required so we order enough food.

If you have paid your 2023 dues, THANK YOU. If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues, please support our Legion programs by paying your dues. Membership count is essential when the American Legion lobbies Congress for support for all veterans.

Thank You, Honor Guard, for your dedication this winter. Thank You to those who helped with the Four Chaplains Memorial Service.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Diekman

House Republicans passed the Pandemic is Over Act (HR 382), to immediately end the national emergency; the bill is now in the Senate. The Biden administration has declared that national emergency pandemic measures will end May 11. The Department of Veterans Affairs is asking to keep the authority to conduct telehealth appointments and prescribe medications across state lines. COVID rules allowed physicians to hold virtual appointments with patients and approve medications, including controlled substances. This has bolstered the VA's ability to provide care to veterans in rural or remote areas. --*Military.com*

South Dakota's 98th Legislative Session had 450 bills and 41 resolutions for action. **SB 13** and **SB 14**, a pair of bills related to the BG Dean Mann Readiness Center in Sioux Falls, have been sent to the Governor for signature, as has **SB 15**, to accept Uniformed Services ID as proof for adding veteran designation to state license or ID card. The House Committee on Appropriations has passed **HB 1039** to increase tuition payments for National Guard members from 50% to 100%, **HR 1045** to increase basic salaries for county veterans' service officers, and **HB 1065** to increase state payment from \$100 to \$200 to erect headstones for deceased veterans.

104th Family Birthday & Awards Dinner for Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, & guests

Friday , March 31, 2023
Alliance Main Event Floor
5pm social / 6pm Chorus, Introductions & Dinner

Grilled Pork Chops OR Lemon Pepper Cod
salad, wild rice green beans & corn, roll & butter
Birthday Cake for dessert

\$20 per person
RSVP by March 23
legionoffice.al@gmail.com or 605.336.3470



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARCH 2023

5 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
7 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
8 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
9 (Thu) Go-Getters meeting 6 pm
9 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
13 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
14 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
21 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Legion/Sons/Auxiliary/Riders w/guest Corn Beef & Cabbage **OR**
Irish Stew—CHOOSE ONE when making your reservation
28 (Tue) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
28 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30pm—
Alliance Open to the public; reservations required for dinner
31 (Fri) Post 15 birthday—Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance

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

Office is open 11-3 pm M-F

Save the Date: Sun, Apr 2 - District 7 Spring Meeting in Hartford
Sat, April 29 - Annual Honor Guard dinner
Sun April 30 - PostEverlasting
Tues, Aug 15 - Golf Tournament & Post 15 Corn Boil/Hog Roast

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun – Practice continues. First match is at Doland on March 4. Busy two months for BB gun kids coming.

Sporter Air Rifle – Mya and Zoe Dissing advance to second round of American Legion competition. The team placed 14th of 71 teams nationwide. Top individuals are invited to second round and the top 15 of these are invited to Colorado Springs to compete for the National Championship and the \$5000 and \$1000 scholarships from the American Legion.

Precision Air Rifle – Nicolette Hoffman, Jasmine Hays, and Josie Eichmann all advance to the second round of American Legion competition. The team placed 8th of 41 teams nationwide. The top fifteen in this next round of competition will be invited to Colorado Springs to compete for the National Championship and the \$1000 and \$5000 scholarships given by the Legion. This team is competing Feb 17-19 in standing air rifle and 3-position small bore in SD State Junior Olympics Championship.

Air Pistol – This a new team and we have four kids on it who will also be shooting in the SD State Junior Olympics Pistol Championship on Feb 17-19.

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Donald Dean Norby, 88, Air Force, 4/2/2022; George Johnson, 97, Army, 6/12/2022; Dean Rallis, 95, Army, 1/25/2023; Gerald "Jerry" Gannon, 76, Air Force, 2/11/2023

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



DRAWINGS IN FEBRUARY

Two membership drawings are now being held each month. **Eugene Limmer** was not present when his name was drawn for \$250 at the monthly meeting. Nor was **Roger McCollar** present when his name was drawn at the membership social. Drawings for March will be for **\$275**.

John Bachmeier won the hat drawing at the monthly social. \$30 because he had on legion logowear also. January's monthly raffle for a \$1,000 Visa card was won by **Gary Wolkow** of DeSmet, and the February Visa card goes to **Andy Garriss** of Sioux Falls.

New Post 15 Members

We welcome the following new members to Post 15 and invite you to attend our membership activities:

Benjamin Cortez, Michael Donovan, Matthew O'Neal, Ron Aaker, Rory Binkerd, Craig Cherrington, Graydon Elverud, Eric Knutson, Bryan Manzek, Dale Nustad, David Schnabel, Glen Schoepf, Arthur Westendorf, Marvin Shulz, Richard Voges

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed February 5 for the annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service at Post 15. On February 15 we were presented a 75th anniversary commemoration from the South Dakota Senate and House of Representatives in Pierre. Upcoming chorus performances are: 12:30 p.m., March 18 at Tailgators in Brandon for the Celebration of Life of Carole Naasz, recently deceased wife of our chorus president; March 31 at the annual American Legion Birthday party. The chorus will resume its Avenue of Flags program in May. We still need one or two volunteers with pickups to drive a morning and/or afternoon flag route. A stipend is paid to help offset expenses. Contact Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405 if you are interested in volunteering. If any male singer is interested in singing with our men's chorus or if anyone has any questions regarding chorus activities, please contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.



Aaron Van Beek, Midwest Honor Flight President, with Marva Petit and Carole Lee, Unit 15 members. Unit 15 donated money for Midwest Honor Flight to purchase two AEDs. They will now have an AED on all flights and at most functions. Photo Credit Commander Bill Peters.

Memorial Day Flags *Ron Lien*

We will sort and count the cemetery flags on Thursday March 9 at 6 p.m., so we can order more if needed. Call the office to volunteer 605-336-3470. We will be putting out flags on Saturday, May 27 at 8 a.m. and picking them up Tuesday, May 30 at 8 a.m.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

2023 Officers were installed by Post 15 Past Commander John Bachmeier.



New officers are: Chairman Lamar Nance, Vice Chairman Korry Melstad, Secretary Larry Hofhenke, Treasurer Junior Borg, Sergeant-at-Arms Nicholas "Grubby" Peddicord (not pictured), Post 15 Commander Bill Peters. Photo credit: Sue Peters.

Our meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Post home. 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. Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and their spouses and significant others are all welcome to the monthly **POST FAMILY social & dinner** on the 3rd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Alliance. Make your reservation for the **POST FAMILY birthday party** on March 31, where the 100% family membership will be presented.

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Our local VAVS department recently announced the newly selected VA Medical Center Director, Ms. Sara Acker. She will assume her role March 12, 2023. This month's current needs and financial support requests are for Veterans polo shirts and duffle bags. Plus, the fundraising initiative continues by VAVS to restore the 1948 Steinway Piano. Bingo caller is needed at the hospital. Contact me for more details.

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	John Bachmeier (temporary)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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	Kasey Jacobsen
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: Chris Fischer
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Pancakes: Dale Haas



Department Commander Doug Feltman and Elena Andrews, sophomore from Beresford, who won first place in the state oratorical competition. We wish her well in the national competition. Photo Credit Sue Peters.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 [#SDLegion](https://www.instagram.com/SDLegion)



www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

[HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://www.legion.org/join/pufl)

RENEW ONLINE

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

Invite a veteran to join the legion—Membership count is essential when the American Legion lobbies Congress for support for all veterans.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of Kiwanis
Ave & West 12th St

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial
<https://southdakotabattleship.org/>
info@southdakotabattleship.org

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Unit 15 Sioux Falls, SD
Looking for new members.
Join to honor those who have served.
605-336-3470

Girls State and Boys State

Legion Post 15 pays application fees and transportation for local Boys State attendees. Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 pays application fees for local Girls State attendees.

Open to all high school juniors and seniors. Applications due May 1.

<https://www.sdlegion.org/boys-state/>

<http://www.alasdgirlsstate.org/>

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*All meals were **FREE** at
the February Social. Thank
you Denny Haarsma &
Commander Bill Peters*

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
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