

# POST 15 NEWS



April 2023

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Editor: Diane Diekman [diane@dianediekman.com](mailto:diane@dianediekman.com)

## COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

Throughout February and March, we watched our Department Legislative team lobby in Pierre behind bills important to South Dakota Veterans. One bill passed and signed was 100% tuition paid for Guardsmen to attend South Dakota colleges. That is an amazing benefit. The Legion lobbies for all veterans. Share this when asking someone to join.

Legion representatives also traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby our Congressmen for the National American Legion's legislative priorities. Again, one of our greatest strengths as an organization is the ability to lobby on veterans' behalf—you're not only pay your membership, you're part of a bigger voice that works to improve and defend your benefits. Our National Commander addressed a Joint Session of Congress on March 1, where he represented 2.5 million plus veterans to deliver the American Legion priorities and ask for support. The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective, and dependable advocate of veteran affairs—fighting for better active duty pay, improved housing for military families, and ensuring the VA medical system can properly care for veterans. Share this when asking someone to consider joining.

Dick Moss has volunteered to be our chairman for Flag Retirement ceremonies. Thank you for stepping up, Dick!

At our April 4 membership meeting, we will take additional nominations for Post leadership positions and hold elections. Those who have already agreed to serve, thank you for stepping up. I encourage anyone who may have a desire to serve to please call the office.

POST 15 will have the honor of hosting National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola for lunch on May 1. All are welcome. RSVPs required. Details to follow.

If you did not renew your Post membership by January 31, your FREE accidental death insurance has lapsed. You must sign up again: [Home - lit \(thelit.com\)](http://Home-lit(thelit.com))

Thank you for your membership and for supporting me this past year as your commander. It was a privilege to serve you.

## UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

### *Kellie Heazlett, President*

April is the month of the Military Child. Purple Up for Military children by wearing purple. The color combines all branches' colors into one, referencing the joint environment and encompassing Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. Please invite any military children you know to join our Junior Auxiliary. It is a way to help them feel involved and supported.

If you would like to sponsor a hole or donate prizes at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chip in for Vets Golf Tournament on August 16, contact Kasey at 605-270-9289.

Baked goods and volunteers are needed for the Legion Pancake breakfast and Auxiliary bake sale Sunday morning, April 2. Bring your donated baked goods to the Alliance that morning. To volunteer, contact Stephanie at 605-529-5453 or Kellie at [kellieheazlett@hotmail.com](mailto:kellieheazlett@hotmail.com).

The Veterans Community Project will hold an Open House on April 2 from 10-1 as the first five Tiny Homes reach completion. Stop by to check out their progress at 367 N Willow Avenue. Also on April 2, the Spring District 7 meeting will be in Hartford at the Post on Main Ave from 1-3 p.m.

Our Auxiliary Unit 15 holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on April 11. Please join us for the Unit 15 monthly Social and Bingo on April 25. This is open to the public, so bring a friend. Call Barb at 605-376-7972 to sign up for the meal, \$10. The social starts at 5, with supper at 6 and Bingo to follow.

April 30 is our Joint Post Everlasting with Post 15 to honor those members we lost this last year. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Post for a short ceremony.

May 26 is National Poppy Day. We will distribute poppies around Sioux Falls on May 20. Volunteers are needed to go to the various businesses. If you would like to help, call Jane at 605-682-1222.

## 1ST VICE COMMANDER *Dale Hill*

I came across a song recently that I had not heard for a long time, and the words struck me as defining the reasons I am a Legion member.

"Don't take the good times for granted,  
For things keep on changing each day.  
Make time to be with the ones that you love,  
Let nothing stand in your way.  
We don't know what waits round the corner,  
We never know what lies ahead.  
So just for a moment, forget all your troubles,  
And count all your blessings instead.  
Should you choose a road less traveled,  
Just know that I'll be there till the end.  
You're not just a shoulder to lean on,  
I thank you for being my friend."

This song explains why we do Buddy Checks, why we make the phone calls, why we ask fellow veterans to join, renew and support the Legion and its objectives of supporting fellow veterans, especially in difficult times. "Be The One" to support fellow veterans in need, support our communities, and support our great nation during our current challenges. Every member counts when we go in front of Congress to remind them not to cut promised veterans' medical care and benefits. Be a Proud Legion member.

*Uniform caps available in the office  
\$65 (hat & pheasant)*

*Wear your cap to membership meetings  
and events to let others know of your service  
and membership.*

## HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

*Bill Peters*

It is the time of year that we celebrate together. You all give so much of your time and talents far beyond the honors you perform for veterans.

Our annual honor guard dinner will be held at the Post on Saturday, April 29, with a 5 p.m. social and dinner at 6 p.m. We will serve Beef Brisket and Prime Rib. Reservations needed by April 15.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

The **Department of Veterans Affairs** has changed **its motto** to read, "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors." It replaces the motto adopted in 1959, a decade after the Women's Armed Services Integration Act went into effect, that said, "To care for him . . ." The VA released a study in 2020 that found women veterans were less likely to report feeling welcome at VA health care facilities—the same year then-VA Secretary Wilkie began installing plaques inscribed with the old motto at 142 VA-operated cemeteries nationwide. With Secretary McDonough's desire to make the agency a more inclusive place for veterans and employees, those plaques will now be replaced. -- *Stars And Stripes*

The **Military Spouse Hiring Act** has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House to amend the Internal Revenue Code to grant a tax credit for hiring military spouses. Companies who hire veterans are already eligible for credits via the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program. -- *Military Times*

Governor Kristi Noem signed the following bills passed by South Dakota's 98th Legislative Session: **HB 1039** increases National Guard tuition payments to 100%, **HR 1045** increases salaries for county veterans service officers, **HB 1046** provides tuition for families of National Guard members killed in line of duty, **HB 1054** provides \$100 for private headstones for veterans, **SB 13-14** provide funds for BG Dean Mann Readiness Center, and **SB 15** accepts military IDs for adding veteran designation to state licenses.

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of American Legion (SAL) is a group of male direct-lineage family members of Legion-eligible veterans. It exists to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Squadron 15 holds meetings the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Grandfathers/fathers/sons/grandsons of all ages are invited to join.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—APRIL 2023

2 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance  
2 (Sun) District 7 Spring Meeting in Hartford 1 pm  
4 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm  
8 (Sat) Counting Memorial Day flags 8 am  
10 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan  
11 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm  
12 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm  
13 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm  
13 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm  
18 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10  
Lasagna — Legion/Sons/Auxiliary/Riders w/spouse *-sign up!*  
25 (Tue) Executive Board meeting 7 pm  
25 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 7 pm—Alliance  
Open to the public; reservations required for dinner  
29 (Sat) - Annual Honor Guard dinner—Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm  
30 (Sun) - Post Everlasting 6:30 pm

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:** Wed-Sat, June 21-24— Post 15 rummage sale

Tues, Aug 15 - Golf Tournament fundraiser

Tues, Aug 15 - Post 15 Corn Boil/Hog Roast



Thanks to Dennis Harsma and Commander Bill Peters for purchasing dinner for everyone at the February Legion Social. Photo by Al Arndt.

## POST EVERLASTING

### May they Rest in Peace

Thomas Zimmer, 90, Air Force, 7/25/2022; Gary Van Surksum, 88, Army, 11/15/2022; Norman Ekland, 99, Army, 2/8/2023; Joseph Rowe, 77, Army, 2/20/2023; Past Commander Ricky Towns, 74, Navy/Air Force, 3/16/2023

A Post Everlasting ceremony for families of all Post members who died in 2022 will take place at the Post on April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

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



## DRAWINGS IN MARCH

The monthly \$1,000 Visa card raffle was won by **Scott McDermott** of Harrisburg. **Mark Harmon** won the hat drawing at the membership social.

The monthly membership drawing in April will be for **\$300**. **Bradley Anderson** was not present at the membership social when the computer chose #39 of 1,312 Post 15 members.

## New Post 15 Members

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

Evan Hoogshagen, Vern Hennings, Rick Lipary, Steve Rowe, Shanna Saribalis, Mariann Weber, Charlie White



## CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On March 5, the Singing Legionnaires made a surprise short performance at the Post 15 Pancake Feed. The chorus also performed on March 18 at Tailgators in Brandon for the Celebration of Life of Carole Naasz, recently deceased wife of our chorus president. The chorus does not have any performances planned during April. The chorus will resume their Avenue of Flags program in May. We are still in need of one or two volunteers who have a pickup to help drive a morning and/or afternoon flag route. A stipend is paid to help offset expenses. Please 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 feel free to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at 605-310-6210 or by email at [66cyclor2019@gmail.com](mailto:66cyclor2019@gmail.com).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is the family's responsibility to report within 72 hours any Community Care or Tricare emergency services used by members. This helps ensure billing is reported correctly.

**The 72 Hour Emergency Care Reporting line is 844-724-7842.** This number should be in your phone and those of emergency contacts who may need to make this call (children, grandchildren, spouses, fishing buddies, shopping buddies). Community Care 877-881-7618 can assist with questions.

### 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).

## LEGION RIDERS

### *Lamar Nance, Chairman*

We were a no-go for the St. Patrick's Day parade. We may need to come up with an ALR equivalent to the "Order of the Blue Nose."

April is get them out and get them ready month. May Events will include Motorcycle Awareness Month and Loyalty Day in Brandon.

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.

## Memorial Day Flags *Ron Lien*

**Help is needed!** We will sort and count 3,000 cemetery flags on Saturday, April 8, at 8 a.m., and then order more if needed. This is the second time to set a date, because no one showed up in March. A minimum eight people are needed. **Please call the office (605-336-3470) and volunteer.**



Char and Ron Lien counting flags on March 9. Photo by Sue Peters.

## VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Our local VAVS Medical Department will conduct its quarterly Zoom meeting April 13. The annual VAVS National Conference will be held April 25-28 in Denver, Colorado. More info will be available following these two April meetings. The fund-raising initiative to restore the 1948 Steinway piano continues.

## 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: <b>vacant</b>	Raffle Sales: <b>vacant</b>
Hog Roast/Corn Boil: <b>vacant</b>	Flag Retirement: Dick Moss

### 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

## SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

The BB gun team that traveled to Delmont for a tournament placed first in that match. The team members who qualified for the second round of Sporter air rifle competition have shot and submitted those matches. The weather has made completion of the Precision air rifle competition difficult. The process is nearly done as I write this. The top shooters from these two classes from across the country are invited to Colorado Springs to determine National Champion and the winners of the two \$5,000 and \$1,000 scholarships from the American Legion. Congratulations to all shooters in these matches and best of luck for further success.

## 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](mailto:legionoffice.al@gmail.com), or stop in at 1700 W Russell Street from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

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



[www.siouxfallslegion.org](http://www.siouxfallslegion.org)

Post 15 website

[www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15](https://www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15)

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

## Military Humor

It was apparent to the pilot of the taxiing F-4 fighter jet that he would soon be competing for space with a huge C-124 transport at an upcoming intersection. To determine his priority, the F-4 pilot called the control tower, saying, "Elmendorf Tower, what are the intentions of the C-124?" Before the ground control tower could respond, the large clamshell doors of the transport plane began to open and a voice sonorously proclaimed, "I'm going to eat you!"  
—*Readers Digest* Humor in Uniform

### Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of Kiwanis  
Ave & West 12th St  
**Opens April 29**  
**9:30-5:30**

[www.facebook.com/bb57memorial](http://www.facebook.com/bb57memorial)  
<https://southdakotabattleship.org/>  
[info@southdakotabattleship.org](mailto: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

**Advertise here —**  
**Call**  
**605-336-3470**

### Sioux Falls Dental Implant Center

Dr. Kevin Haiar, DDS, DABOI  
5200 S. Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
[www.siouxfallsdentalimplantcenter.com](http://www.siouxfallsdentalimplantcenter.com)  
605.799.2929



### Dunham

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**Advertise here —**  
**Call**  
**605-336-3470**

### BUDDY CHECKS

Post 15 has over 200 members we can't reach.

Commander Peters is asking for volunteers in the next two weeks to go visit these individuals to see how they are getting along.

Come to the office and pick up some names to go visit.



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