

POST 15 NEWS



May 2023

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Bill Peters*

It's hard to believe this is my last article as Commander. A few years ago it was only a dream that I would be the Commander of Post 15, the largest Post in South Dakota. This all started when I joined the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard played a huge role in where I am today. It continues to be the best of the best. We are the only post that sends a full honor guard to bury our veterans. Thank you all. My involvement continued with the Executive Committee, then to Adjutant, and then Commander and it has been an experience, to say the least. When I think about the last six years, we have come so far. Our post has assisted many veterans in need, cared for the families of the deployed, and become a presence in the community. As Commander, I have had the privilege to host two National Commanders at our Post. These accomplishments are because of all of you. Many have stepped up to the call to do "just one thing" for your post each year. Thank you all for everything. To my leadership team, thank you all, it was a great ride. We started the year with a strategic planning meeting asking officers and executive board members to step up and many of you did. I see that continuing with a great team in place for 2023-2024. We have been assisted by the best ambassador Post 15, the Legion and Auxiliary could have. Sue has helped both reach goals and engage members as hasn't been done for years.

The last two years Post 15 has exceeded the membership goal assigned by National and the Department. You hear me talk about membership a lot and, yes, I am preaching to the choir. You are getting this newsletter because you are a paid-up member. I ask for your help in reaching our goal this year. As of April 24, we are 90 members short. We have 1390 members – would each of you please ask a veteran to join? We all know one person we could ask. Besides membership I would challenge all of you to **"BE the One."** We need to check up on each other, family, friends, neighbors. Be the one to call a friend to see how they are doing. We have members we need to make a home visit to also. Could you make a few home visits? Contact the office if you will help us.

Thank you for all your support and will be seeing you all down the road.

God Bless you and your family.

God Bless the United States of America

God Bless the American Legion.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

As I am writing this newsletter, it appears WINTER doesn't want to give up! April showers bring May flowers, but I wonder what snow brings?

May is Poppy Month. Our unit will be having poppy "stations" at various locations around Sioux Falls, so please look for us. Also, if you haven't volunteered to help, please contact Jane Mairose.

Unit 15 had election of officers for 2023-2024 with installation to be May 9 for the following: Kellie Heazlett - President; Deb Metzger - 1st Vice; Kasey Jacobson - 2nd Vice; Kathy Dathe - Treasurer; Nancy Andres - Secretary; Barb Hayes - Sgt-At-Arms; Judy Hill - Historian. Members at Large: Ann McGoffin, Nancy Renner, Beth Honerman, and Past President Susan Panning.

We will be sending 44 junior girls to Girls State on May 29. Our Bingo/Social continues to grow. This event is open to the public so invite your friends and relatives. You just have to make a reservation with Barb Hayes. To our Unit members, please wear your American Legion Auxiliary name tag, you may have a special surprise. Thank you to all the BINGO players.

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Dale Hill*

I was elected as the next Post Commander at the last business meeting and will take over the helm at our next business meeting on May 2. I was a Post Commander for three years before moving to Sioux Falls, so I understand what is coming for the next year. My previous Post had 350 members and was not as active as Post 15. It will be a busy year following in John Bachmeier's and Bill Peters's footsteps.

We have a good slate of officers and executive board members for this coming year. Major emphasis will continue on increasing membership. We need to keep the Legion strong at all levels for greater impact when Legion national leaders testify before Congress to keep the promises made to military veterans. We need everybody to be a recruiter. This is not just a Post 15 priority; it is a national priority.

The second area of emphasis will be fundraising. Just like at home, money often goes out faster than it comes in. We need to support our programs that have been in place for decades (Boys State, baseball, shooting sports – if these are lost, they will never be replaced). More recently, we have increased our support of veterans in need, and family support events for deployed South Dakota Guard units. We must generate additional income to cover these costs. The Post investments are intended to help cover operating expenses in the future, based on interest income, but the stock market fluctuations the last few years have not provided the return on investment we hoped for. Our investment in the Alliance has yet to provide income to the Post (as expected by this point). Covid has had a definite negative impact.

I ask each of you to help with these two objectives. Donations to Post 15 can be part of your non-taxable donations, and can also be part of your estate planning.

Thank you for your support.

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 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

The Senate voted 66-30 to **repeal the Iraq war authorization** granted to President George W. Bush to invade Iraq in 2003. A repeal would help return warmaking powers to Congress and prevent future presidents from authorizing military intervention in the Middle East. The White House endorsed the repeal, noting that it would not affect the 2,500 U.S. troops currently stationed in Iraq. They are there under a separate 2001 military authorization to target al-Qaida in Afghanistan. The House still needs to pass the repeal before President Biden can sign it. –*Military Times*

Senator Tommy Tuberville from Alabama is **delaying military promotions** over the Pentagon's abortion policy. He is preventing confirmation for about 160 promotions to one-star general and admiral because the Defense Department recently announced travel and leave policies for troops seeking abortions. Tuberville's objection has thrown a wrench in what is usually a routine Senate maneuver in which hundreds of military nominations are confirmed all at once under a process known as unanimous consent. If Tuberville continues to hold out, the Senate would have to vote on nominations one at a time. --*Military.com*

The **Senate voted down Senator Tuberville's resolution** to revoke VA Secretary Denis McDonough's seven-month-old policy that allows the VA to provide access to abortion counseling and abortions to pregnant veterans and VA beneficiaries in cases when life or health is endangered, or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. Tuberville introduced his resolution under the Congressional Review Act, which gives Congress the authority to review major rules issued by federal agencies. –*Stars & Stripes*

Military Humor

Deployed to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, I noticed several Marines had written phrases or nicknames on their helmets. A few senior reservists put previous war tour dates on theirs, such as "1968-70 Vietnam." One young Marine inscribed a date that caused double takes. His helmet read: "1972-73 Kindergarten." — SSgt Timothy Lebeda

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MAY 2023

- 1 (Mon) National Commander luncheon—noon
- 2 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
- 7 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 7 (Sun) Boys State orientation 2:30 pm
- 8 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
- 9 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
- 10 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
- 11 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
- 11 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
- 16 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
broasted chicken — Legion/Sons/Auxiliary/Riders w/spouse **-sign up!**
- 20 (Sat) Armed Forces Day ceremony 10:30 am—Alliance (Mil/Vets)
- 23 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 7 pm—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**
- 27 (Sat) Place flags at Woodlawn Cemetery—8 am
- 29 (Mon) Memorial Day program 8:30—State Cemetery (SD VA Dept)
- 29 (Mon) Memorial Day program 10 am—Alliance (SF Vets Council)
- 30 (Tue) Pick up flags at Woodlawn—8 am (call office if it has rained)
- 30 (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

Save the Date: Wed-Sat, June 21-24— Post 15 rummage sale
Wed, Jul 26—bus trip to Minnesota Twins game
Tues, Aug 15 - Golf Tournament fundraiser
Tues, Aug 15 - Post 15 Corn Boil/Hog Roast

21-Gun Salute vs. 3-Volley Rifle Salute

“The 21-gun salute is not to be confused with the three-volley salute (or three-rifle volley) rendered at military honors funerals,” states The Arlington National Cemetery website.

The 21-gun salute is the highest honor a nation renders, usually reserved for national leaders and national flags. The custom stems from when warships would signify a lack of hostile intent by firing their cannons out to sea until all ammunition was spent. Gun salutes are by cannon or artillery and always in odd numbers.

Deceased veterans are honored by three volleys fired from rifles, not guns, by a funeral honor guard of three, five, or seven members. The three-volley tradition originates from when battles would be paused for both sides to clear their dead from the battlefield. When that task was completed, they fired three rifle volleys to signify the continuation of battle. — *Editor*

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Michael Ferrell, 95, Navy/Army, 2/24/2022; Robert Hempel, 90, Army, 3/19/2023; Delbert Hamilton, 94, Air Force, 3/27/2023; Douglas Kapaun, 75, Navy, 4/12/2023

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



DRAWINGS IN APRIL

The monthly Visa card raffle was won by **Todd Boone** of Sioux Falls. He was present at the membership social and collected his two \$500 Visa cards.

Kenny Peterson won the hat drawing at the membership social. The correct name for the March hat drawing winner was **Mark Honerman**.

Scott Hoffman was not present at the membership meeting when his name was drawn for \$300. Nor was **Manny Steele** present at the membership social when his name was drawn. The monthly membership drawing in May will be for **\$325**.

New Post 15 Members

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

Rick Barondeeau, Jorge Ferguson, Thomas Grimmond, Bruce Grizzle, Joshua Haiar, Jerome Mayer, Todd Mergen, Harvey Renville

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed March 31 at the Post 15 American Legion Birthday party. The chorus is scheduled to perform April 28 at the interment of Orville Hill at SD Veterans Cemetery, May 1 at the luncheon for the American Legion National Commander, and May 21 at the VFW Pancake Feed. The chorus will resume its Avenue of Flags program in May. We still need one or two volunteers with a pickup, to help 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 helping with the flag program. The Singing Legionnaires are presently embarking on a chorus membership recruitment program. 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.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Free Coverage

Members of the LEGION FAMILY (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of Legion) who are 18 and older are eligible for free insurance from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. This \$1,000/\$5,000 accidental death policy pays if you are injured or killed while on Legion business. (Carry a membership application with you at all times.) If you are not sure if you are signed up, or would like to register, call 1-800-235-6943 and have your membership number available. It only takes a few minutes. They will not keep calling you. The website is <https://www.thelit.com>.



Prints of the John Green painting of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery are available at the Post for \$100 each (until gone). Raffle tickets for a framed print (shown here) are \$10 each. The drawing will be held on Memorial Day.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

April was get them out and get them ready month. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month.

May events:

May 7 Loyalty Day in Brandon

May 16 Honor Flight returning

May 20-21 ALR Rendezvous in Pierre

May 28 Thunder on the Missouri in Sioux City

May 31 Honor Flight returning

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.

Quote of the Month: "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." – Winston Churchill

*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.*

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Sara Ackert, recently appointed Medical Center Director for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, opened the quarterly VAVS meeting on April 13 by focusing primarily on "Care of the Vet." The VA hospital has suspended the masking policy and the one/one admittance screenings. The new auditorium on the first floor, Bldg. 1, is finished. All are welcome to stop by. The old auditorium will be converted to a prosthetics department. The new Mental Health facility is open and currently in use for all vets. The Hospice Cottage is expected to be completed this time next year. The S.D. Dept. of Veteran Affairs will hold a Memorial Day event at the State Veterans Cemetery, May 29. Current needs are Gift cards for gas/food, small household items for the homeless program, summer clothing/t-shirts, etc. and volunteer drivers.

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: vacant	Raffle Sales: vacant
Hog Roast/Corn Boil: vacant	Flag Retirement: Dick Moss
	Minnesota Twins Trip: 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

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB GUN The final state 4H match was April 28-30. We will be sending 7 shooters to Daisy National Championship match (looking for sponsors) where one of our members set the current national record last year.

SPORTER AIR RIFLE We have two teams competing at Port Clinton, Ohio for the Northeast Regional Championship. If they do well in this competition, they may be invited to compete for the National championship in late June. They will be competing April 28-30 in Pierre for both state Junior Olympics and 4H matches.

PRECISION AIR RIFLE While none of our team qualified individually for the National Scholarships, the team placed fifth nationally. The precision team is hosting the sporter match (above) at Pierre. Possible matches this summer depending on qualifying: Civilian Marksman Program (CMP) July 10-12, CMP National Air & Small bore matches July 13-18 and USAS National matches June 1-10. Good Luck to all competing SHOOTERS!!

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)

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of the American Legion elected officers at the April meeting: Commander Paul Fiskum, Vice Commander Kelly Gillespie, Adjutant John Bachmeier, Finance Officer James Ricketts, Sergeant at Arms Edward Hruska, Chaplain Evan Hetland. Members are working on a fundraiser by selling raffle tickets for a Genuine Goldie Slugger model 2023 handcrafted Maple bat. The drawing will be at the Legion baseball game on Military night, July 12. The Sons continue to assist the Legion at pancake breakfasts, with the color guard, and at other Legion events.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of Kiwanis
Ave & West 12th St
Open every day
9:30-5:30—FREE

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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BUDDY CHECKS

Post 15 still has 200 members we can't reach. No one answered last month's call to pick up a list of names for home visits. Please help contact our missing members.

MEMBERSHIP — IT TAKES US ALL TO RECRUIT

We are asking all members to recruit two new members before May 10. With 1,390 in Post 15, it should not be hard to reach our membership goal. Will you help?



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