

POST 15 NEWS



July 2023

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

Issue Number: 2023—7

Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Dale Hill*

Thank You to Ron Lien and all who helped place flags on Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery. Paul Weckman recruited a group from Sanford to help, and he also provided coffee and donuts. We were short on help to pick up the flags on Tuesday, but we got the job done. Sioux Falls Fire Department will check/replace smoke alarms in your homes. They provide special smoke alarms for those who are hearing-impaired. Call the non-emergency Fire Department phone 211 to request a home visit.

Check out our upgraded website –

www.siouxfallslegion.org. You will be able to pay your dues on this website and see upcoming Post events.

Notes from SD Legion Convention on June 9-11 in Oa-coma – Hermosa Post 303 will host the State Golf Tournament on Sept 9-10. Post 15 received “Pride of the Prairie” Excellence Award for submitting all required reports and attaining 100% membership for 2022. Grant Roth, Post 15’s Eagle Scout of the Year, was awarded SD Eagle Scout of the Year. He made the Honor Guard concrete apron at the State Veterans Cemetery. Post 15’s Post Yearbook was awarded 1st place (Thank You Sharon Taplett-Lundgren). Post 15 was awarded 1st place for the Post newsletter (Thank You, Diane Diekman). Bill Peters was installed as District 7 Vice Commander. Courtney Steffens was elected as State Commander.

The Veterans Administration is partnering with the American Legion to make the first day of each month “Mental Health Day” for suicide prevention, along with the VA using the “Be The One” logo and “Buddy Check” programs.

Predatory veterans benefits companies are becoming a problem. NEVER pay for someone to do VA benefits applications of any kind. Contact your local Veterans Administration Benefits Office or local County Veterans Service Officer for free assistance on all benefit programs. Please check the events calendar for July and August. We need volunteers for many activities. THANK YOU to those who can and do volunteer your time.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY *Kellie Heazlett,* *President*

Girls State was a huge success. Girls we sponsored were elected as both Lt Governor and Governor. We were fortunate to have the Girls State Governor at our June meeting to talk about her experience. We held our 2nd annual bake sale during the Legion Rummage sale in June. A big thank you to all who donated baked goods and volunteered their time. We continue to have our Auxiliary bake sale the first Sunday of every month at the Legion pancake breakfast. Treats and baked goods are always welcome. If interested in working at the bake sale, please call Stephanie at 605-529-5453.

There will be a bridge dedication for Robb Roling, son of Rex and Margie Roling, on July 4 at 2 p.m. at the Alliance. Margie is a member of our Unit and one of our two Gold Star Mothers. Please come and show your support to the Roling family.

That evening at 8 p.m., Post 15 will host a flag retirement ceremony at the fairgrounds. It is a wonderful ceremony to honor our flags no longer fit for use.

Our July meeting will be July 11 at 7 p.m. at the Post. July 18 is the Legion Family social at the Alliance. Call 605-336-3470 by July 12 for reservations.

July 25th will be the Auxiliary social and bingo. This social is open to the public, so bring a friend for bingo. Please contact Barb at 605-376-7972 to sign up for the meal.

Unit 15 will have a booth at the Power on the Prairie Air Show held July 29-30. We are working to get our name out to the community and let everyone know what we do. If you would like to help at the booth, contact Kellie at 605-310-9993 or Kellie-heazlett@hotmail.com.

Our 2nd annual “Chip in for Vets” Golf Tournament will be Aug 15. See the flier inside this newsletter. Following the tournament, stop over to the Alliance as Legion Post 15 will be hosting its annual Hog Roast. All are welcome!

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Patrick Branca*

As this is my first report as the Post 15 First Vice Commander, I will provide a brief introduction. I moved to Sioux Falls slightly over a year ago. I finally retired from my job in the healthcare world and moved from Kentucky. We were raised in Minneapolis and have lived in ten states during our marriage. As we approached retirement, we began discussing the “where” question. Twenty years ago I ran the hospital in Angie, MN, and we would visit Sioux Falls on the weekends. We fell in love with town and people. When I retired in Kentucky, we narrowed our choices to New Braunfels, Texas, or Sioux Falls. We happily chose Sioux Falls!

My military service includes service in the Coast Guard and the Navy, both enlisted and commissioned. I retired from the Navy while stationed with the Army at Fort Meade, Maryland, in 1995. I am looking forward to serving in my new role. My background in business and service will form the backbone of my tenure and I hope to bring a fresh look to the role. I am deeply committed to honoring our history and preserving our traditions, but I will always look for new opportunities to improve the way we accomplish our mission of service to our nation’s veterans. Being new, I need your assistance to help me learn and grow.

Last weekend I attended my first State American Legion Convention. It was very interesting, and I learned a great deal. One thing I learned is that there are a whole lot of different colored hats in the Legion! One day I will learn what they each mean.

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Our local VAVS Dept. will conduct its quarterly meeting on July 21. Most supporting organizations will be attending this meeting at the VA. A detailed review of upcoming scheduled events and activities, will be shared in the newsletter. We are currently in discussion with the VA Health Care System regarding the possibility of offering a S.A.V.E. classroom informational meeting. More info to share after the meeting with the Suicide Prevention Coordinator. Immediate needs are gift cards for food and gas. Additional needed items are listed on the Post 15 website.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

The American Legion is urging Congress to take immediate action on H.R. 1413, ***Expanding America’s National Cemeteries Act of 2023***. The bill protects access to Arlington National Cemetery and its tradition of bestowing full military honors. Because the cemetery is nearing capacity, the Department of Defense has proposed restricting Arlington eligibility primarily to recipients of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, and higher awards, potentially disregarding the service of deserving World War II, Korea, and Vietnam era veterans. H.R. 1413 enables an existing VA-run national cemetery to expand into a new location. It maximizes resources rather than restricting them. We must devise a sustainable, long-term solution. Contact your members of Congress and urge them to pass the Expanding America's National Cemeteries Act: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/105345/Respond>



Charemon Dunham and Doug Feltman presenting Diane Diekman with first place award in the South Dakota American Legion Press Association contest for best post newsletter. June 11, 2023. Photo by Dale Hill.



Clarence Mellang, Squadron 15 Commander, congratulates Paul Fiskum on his selection as South Dakota Son of the Legion member for 2023.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JULY 2023

- 2 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 4 (Tues) Independence Day parade 10 am—downtown Sioux Falls
- 4 (Tues) NO Legion Post 15 meeting
- 4 (Tues) Flag retirement ceremony 8 pm—W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
- 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 Beef tips & gravy — Legion/Sons/Auxiliary/Riders w/spouse **-sign up!**
- 22 (Sat) —Rick Towns memorial at Tea Legion
- 25 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 7 pm—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**
- 25 (Tue) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
- 26 (Wed) —bus trip to Minnesota Twins game 6:30 am

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

Office is open 11-3 pm M-F
Closed July 4

Save the Date: Tues, Aug 15 - Golf Tournament fundraiser
Tues, Aug 15 - Post 15 Corn Boil/Hog Roast



Past Commander Bill Peters with Pride of the Prairie Post Excellence Award for Post 15 at the Department convention, June 10, 2013. L to R: Diane Diekman, Jim McQuisten, Barry Andres, Peters, Dupree Chavez, Dale Hill, Larry Panning. Photo by Lorraine Paver.

POST EVERLASTING

May they Rest in Peace

Larry Kelso, 83, Army, 2/20/2022; Larry Zwemke, 81, Navy, 12/11/2022; Ken Salisbury, 100, Army Air Corps, 6/5/23



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

RENEWAL TIME

National helps the posts by printing and mailing ALL renewal notices. If you renew in July for 2024, you will help save printing and mailing costs because no further notices will be sent to you. Several options are available to make this easy. Go to [Renew \(mylegion.org\)](https://mylegion.org) For more information, call the office at 605-336-3470, email legion-office.al@gmail.com, or stop in at 1700 W Russell Street from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

2nd Annual Sioux Falls Legion Post 15 Hog Roast & Corn Boil

WHERE: Military Heritage Alliance, 1600 West Russell St
WHEN: August 15, 2023, with 5 PM Social.
SERVING will start when the hog is done, tentatively 6 PM.
COST: One sandwich, baked beans, and ear of corn for \$10. (\$5 for ages 3-10.) Drinks and soda can be purchased. Dave Rowe of "Last Call" will provide music. There will be indoor and outdoor seating, parking lot games, the Alliance game room, and golf cart rides to the seating area for those in need.

Proceeds will help all programs sponsored by Legion Post 15, especially Boys State, Girls State, Legion Baseball & Shooting Sports.

Contact the office at 605-336-3470 for more information.
This event is open to the public.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed May 26 at the funeral for Bill Roberts. He was an Army veteran who sang bass with the chorus for 20 years and was named Singing Legionnaire of the Year in 2010. The chorus performed at the Memorial Day program at the Alliance on May 29 and also sang the National Anthem at the Canaries game on June 17. The chorus is scheduled to sing the National Anthem at Legion Baseball on July 12, as well as singing at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community on July 24 and Dow Rummel Village on July 31. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags on Memorial Day and Flag Day and is scheduled to post flags on Independence Day. Contact Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405 if you are interested in helping with the flag program or if you know of a Sioux Falls business that would like to participate in this program. The Singing Legionnaires are presently conducting a membership recruitment program. Anyone interested in singing with our men's chorus or who has questions regarding chorus activities is encouraged to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at 66cycler2019@gmail.com.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders have been busy with area parades. Many more events and rides are scheduled. Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Upcoming events:

July 4 - Sioux Falls Independence Day Parade

July 22 - Slayton Legacy Run

August 12 - Too Broke to go to Sturgis Fun Run.

August 15 - 2nd Annual Hog Roast at Alliance

August 15 - Escort Vietnam Wall from Fulda to Slayton.

Our meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 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: "A very interesting theory makes no sense at all" – Groucho Marx



Legion Riders at Jesse James Days in Garretson

2nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 - Golf Tournament

August 15th, 2023
Elmwood Golf Course

"Chip in for Vets!"

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ASSIST IN FURNISHINGS FOR THE VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT (TINY HOMES) FOR VETERANS!

Registration: 8 - 9 (Coffee & Rolls)
Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.
FORMAT:
4 Person Scramble
FLIGHTED:
Pay 3 FLIGHTS: 1st, 2nd 3rd each flight
PIN PRIZES: Front and Back Nine

Mulligans 2 for \$10
Available Day of
Tournament!

\$450.00 PER TEAM - Includes:
18 Holes Golf, Practice Range before tournament, Cart, Rolls & Coffee, Prizes and Souvenir Team Picture!

For more info contact: Golf Committee

Kasey Jacobson - 605-270-9289

email: jacobson1122@gmail.com

Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291

email: karendunham@dunhamresidential.com

Deb Metzger - 605-366-7379

email: debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com

Mail registration with check
Payable to:

ALA - Unit 15 - Golf Tournament
Karen Dunham - Dunham Company
201 N. Minnesota Ave., Ste L 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



MUST PRE-PAY TO
SECURE A SPOT
FOR YOUR TEAM!

The ALA is a 501c9 Non Profit
Organization!

Tournament Limited to 144 Players!

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

We welcome Dupree Chavez to the Honor Guard. He comes to us from Nashville where he was very active in the American Legion. Dupree will also be helping with Post 15 membership.

New Post 15 Members

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

Jerod Mosley, Elliot Pavlik, Jeramiah Fawcett,
Jerry Lush, Doug Wallin, Robert Steib, Curtis Jorgenson, Rod DeHaven

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 Dale Hill
1st Vice Commander Patrick Branco
2nd Vice Commander Pete Waldner
Finance Officer Jim McQuisten
Historian Sharon Taplett-Lundgren
Sgt-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Peters—Chair
Joan Ishol, Wayne Sprecher, Mike McGoffin
Steve Reuschoff, Al Arndt, Dave Row, Randy Miller

COMMITTEES

Chorus: Bruce Naasz
Legion Riders: Lamar Nance
Vets Council: John Bachmeier
Post Everlasting: **vacant**

Americanism: Bruce Swan
Go Getters: Dale Hill
SAL: Clarence Mellang
Raffle Sales: **vacant**
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss

Office Maintenance : **vacant**
Baseball: Terry Wolf
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Pancakes: Dale Haas

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President Kellie Heazlett
1st Vice President Deb Metzger
2nd Vice President Kasey Jacobsen
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Historian Judy Hill
Sgt-At-Arms Barb Hayes
Chaplain Marva Petit
Secretary Nancy Andres
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin
Past President Susan Panning
Executive Board Beth Honerman
Executive Board Nancy Renner

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

The Sons Of The American Legion Squadron 15 is growing. We currently have over 70 members. We would like to increase that number for next year. You can join or renew by stopping at the Post 15 office at 1700 W Russell. If your parents or grandparents served in the military, you are eligible. We encourage sons or grandsons of current Legion members to join.

Our monthly meeting is the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Post. Come to the north door. If you attend two meetings, we will give you a Sons hat. We are currently offering a raffle to benefit the Veterans and Childrens Foundation. A Lee Guldammer handmade bat will be given away July 12. Tickets are \$5.00 apiece or 3 for \$10.00. There are many ways to get involved with the Legion. Please consider becoming an active member. Check the events calendar at our new website <https://siouxfallslegion.org/>

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

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



www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

All teams competing in tournaments later this summer are practicing, and most other shooters are enjoying the summer off. The Humboldt Sharpshooters want to give a BIG THANK YOU to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 for the generous donation for the upcoming trip expenses getting the BB gun team to Arkansas for the National Daisy BB Gun Tournament. It is very much appreciated!!

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

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
605.799.2929



SINCE 1883
ONE AMERICAN BANK

(605) 361-1010
WWW.ONEAMERICANBANK.COM
Member FDIC

Advertise here —
Call
605-336-3470

Dunham

Residential Real Estate
Karen Dunham 605-366-3291
Deb Metzger 605-366-7379
Call us for all your real estate needs!



SINGING LEGIONNAIRES
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Bringing Honor to God and Country

If you sing tenor, baritone or bass, the
Singing Legionnaires **want YOU!**
Call 605-261-0506 for more information.

PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) is an option
now while your 2023 dues are paid.
DO NOT WAIT until after July 1 or you
will have to pay for 2024, and then
you can do a PUFL option. Go
to [Renew \(mylegion.org\)](http://Renew(mylegion.org)) and choose
the PUFL option today.

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit # 74
Sioux Falls, SD



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