

POST 15 NEWS



September 2023

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Dale Hill*

Several members have asked me about our move to the Alliance. This change was already in place before I transferred to Post 15. Based on financial records, Post 15 was on the brink of being unable to meet payroll or pay bills to stay open. Many Legion Posts have closed their bars, many more have closed due to financial hardship and lack of membership participation. This has happened in small communities and large cities. Today, we live in a very different world (post-Covid) than even five years ago. If Post 15 had not committed to being part of the Alliance (passed by Post 15 members by a very slim margin), there might not be a Post 15 today. There has been considerable give and take by both the Alliance and Post 15 to make this work. Some aspects of the Alliance agreements are working well, and some aspects have not met members' expectations. However, since this change, Post 15 has focused on the Legion Four Pillars of priorities instead of the bar and grill business. This has also changed our fundraising efforts and focus.

There were about 10 members who helped at the Fair. THANK YOU. Many of us worked every day at the fair. We recruited for the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and Singing Legionnaires. We gained some new family members for our efforts. The Auxiliary Golf Event was held August 15. Most teams were filled by area golfers, including two teams of Legion members. I hope the Auxiliary had a successful fundraising event.

The Hog Roast was also on August 15, with Auxiliary and Sons members helping. The event went much better than last year, we still had a few glitches, but the food and weather were excellent. We gained a few new members. Thanks to all who helped. Expenses were greater than income for this event as attendance was less than hoped for.

In today's environment of widespread antisocial attitudes, I remind all members to treat others like you want to be treated. The Golden Rule is still good advice.



Al Arndt, Mike McGoffin, Joan Ishol, and Bob Shaw at the Sioux Empire Fair, August 9, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt..



Jim Minning & Gary Van Doren cracking eggs at the Post 15 pancake breakfast, August 6, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt.



Dale Haas (manager of the pancake breakfast) and Cal Plenis serving coffee at the Post 15 pancake breakfast, August 6, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt.

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Patrick Branco*

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires! I want to start with a quick update on my health and to extend my deep appreciation for all the prayers I have received. They are working. About a month ago, I had a kidney stone. It was no fun but it has turned out to be one of the blessings of my life. While the doctor was surgically removing the stones, he discovered both bladder and kidney cancer. You may ask, "What is the blessing in that?" Well, if I didn't have the stones, who knows how long I would have gone before diagnosis. In follow-up to the surgery, we did a chest CT and the good news is there are no metastases to my lungs, heart, or lymph nodes. Yay! In October, the surgeon will remove my right kidney and then we will just watch things for the years to come. Thanks again to everyone for your prayers.

We held the second annual Hog Roast on August 15. I want to make certain we recognize the countless volunteers who made the event happen. A team began roasting the hogs at 5:30 a.m. Dozens of folks took care of setting up the tents, tables, serving lines, clean up, ticket sales, registration for new members, and on and on. Impossible to name all the individuals who performed at such an incredible level of joy, service, and comradery. We heard rave reviews regarding the quality of the food, and all attendees seemed completely satisfied.

Many thanks to Diane, Dale, and Larry for their role in the dedication event at the USS South Dakota Day of Honor. It was a moving ceremony and Post 15 figured prominently in the ceremony. Well done, shipmates!

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Diane Diekman

Congressional leaders are confident they can reach agreement on a compromise defense authorization bill later this year even though the House and Senate drafts differ significantly on a host of contentious social issues. The National Defense Authorization Act is considered must-pass legislation and has been passed out of Congress for 62 years. Senate lawmakers approved their \$886 billion version after more than a week of amendments work, which included new protections for military members from debt collectors and new limits on Chinese access to sensitive U.S. military technology. The final measure passed 86-11. The House authorization bill passed 219-210, largely along party lines. House Democrats don't want the amendments that repeal the Defense Department's abortion access policies, restrict medical care for transgender troops, eliminate military diversity initiatives, and ban the Pentagon from implementing climate change mitigation. Congressional leaders expect to sort out the competing drafts in interchamber negotiations. —*Military Times*



Unit 15 Auxiliary members enjoying the Sweet Corn Boil and Hog Roast, August 15, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt.



Larry Panning cutting pork after all-day rotisserie roasted whole hogs, August 15, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SEPTEMBER 2023

- 3 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
4 (Mon) LABOR DAY holiday
5 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
11 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
12 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
13 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
14 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
14 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
15 (Fri) POW/MIA Remembrance Service 6:30 pm —Veterans
Memorial Park (bring lawn chairs)
19 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Shepherd's pie— **reservations needed by Sept 15**
25 (Mon) Executive Committee meeting 7 pm
26 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 7 pm—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**

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

Office is open 11-3 pm M-F — except Labor Day

Save the Date

Sat, Oct 14 – Bridge Dedication for Thomas Martin (Candy Martin's son)

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION *Paul Fiskum*

It was a good month for the Sons. We had a great presence at the Air Show. We raised and lowered the flag at the Sioux Empire Fair and helped at the Legion information booth. We just got through the Hog Roast social with a great turnout to help clean up afterward. Thanks, Kelly, for heading up that project. There are opportunities to help in the coming month as well. I encourage you to come to the monthly pancake breakfast on September 3. Have a great breakfast and stay to help. The September social will be the 19th. Please call the office by September 15 and make a reservation. Good meal and a chance to meet the Legion members.

We have begun membership renewals. For online ease go to legion.org/renew. If you haven't created an account, please do. Another option is to call the office at 605-336-3470 or stop in at 1700 W Russell Avenue. Hours are 11-3 Monday through Friday. Yearly dues are \$22, or \$5 under 18 years old. Our newest member is seven months old. He is the son of a new member of Post 15.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Kenneth Salisbury, 100, Army, 6/5/2023;
Sandra Freed, 71, Navy, 7/15/2023; Ray-
mond Neuroth, 91, Air Force, 7/23/2023;
Vern Brown, 83, Army, 7/27/2023; Wilbert
Eichmann, 90, Army, 8/6/2023; Dorothy
Nash, 96, Navy, 8/13/2023; Harley Kuper,
90, Army, 8/13/2023

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



Deb Metzger, Karen Dunham, and Kasey Jacobson, organizers of the Auxiliary Unit 15 golf tournament, "Chip In For Vets!" August 15, 2023. Photo by Al Arndt.



Todd Schmidt & Gary Joyce's team obtain -19 under and win first place with \$400 cash prize presented by Deb Metzger. Photo by Al Arndt.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed July 24 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community, July 31 at Dow Rummel Village, August 7 at Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community, August 10 at the 125th anniversary of the Kingsbury County Courthouse in DeSmet, August 13 at Faith Lutheran Church, and August 20 at First United Methodist Church. The chorus is scheduled to perform September 3 at Post 15 Pancake Feed, September 15 at the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, and September 17 at the VFW Pancake Feed. The Singing Legionnaires are finalizing plans for the **Annual Poultry Party** to be held at the Military Heritage Alliance on **Friday, November 3**. The Singing Legionnaires will be posting flags on September 4 Labor Day and September 11 Patriots Day. Contact Todd Schmidt at 605-370-4405 if you know of any Sioux Falls businesses that would like to participate in this 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 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

*Legion covers available in the office
\$65 (hat & pheasant)*

Wear your Legion cover to membership meetings and events to let others know of your service and membership.

New Post 15 Members

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

Caleb Black, Joseph Campbell, Jeremiah Fawcett, Kyle Korver, Tim Werner, Wyatt VanZee, Susan Lathrop, Tom Keough, Cody Hanson, Tony Brende, Vanessa Drake, Richard Graff, David Gunner, James Nyberg, Dante Weatherholt, Timothy Brady, Alexander Farmer, Marty Van der Sloot, Richard Grant, Daniel Nelson, John Dotter, Jason Haller, Barton Sheridan, Christian Burlison, Ruthie Nimmons, Douglas Pierce, Jeffery Stone

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:

September 26: Honor Flight Escort

October 10: Honor Flight Escort

Our meetings are on 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, Auxiliary, or Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest and join.

Quote of the Month: "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E. Luccock



We escorted the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall from Fulda to Slayton on August 15.

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)

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of Kiwanis
Ave & West 12th St
Last month open
9:30-5:30—FREE

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

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PAID UP FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP—PUFL

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
	\$1535	\$1399	\$1229	\$1025	\$815	\$599	\$429	\$329

National requests that 2024 MEMBERSHIPS be paid starting in July. We encourage all members to mark your calendar to pay each July. National will print and mail a reminder each month until dues are paid. That is a huge expense for National, not your post. We can help eliminate that expense by paying in July. Please consider paying your 2024 dues online, in the office, or by mail, as soon as possible. This year we are seeing more members choosing the Paid Up for Life option. Thank you. A member can renew online and choose the PUFL option with 12 equal payments or one lump sum. Or you can come into the office to do either of these.

For more information, contact Post 15 at 605-336-3470 or
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Larry Panning

Shooting youth are enjoying the last days of summer vacation and school starting up. Junior shooting (BB gun) will begin practice in January with two safety meetings and opportunities before that for new youth to discover more about the sport. More advanced shooters will start practicing late September or October as their competition is very tough. There was an awards picnic for all shooters on August 20.

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
Membership: Patrick Branco
SAL: Paul Fiskum
Raffle Sales: **vacant**
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss

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

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

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
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