

# POST 15 NEWS



October 2023

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

Issue Number: 2023—10

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Dale Hill*

Don Toft served in the Army in Europe near the end of World War II and is a Post 15 member. He raised the American flag at the Minnesota Twins baseball game on Saturday, September 9. He had about 75 family members at the ballgame to celebrate with him.

We will be teaching flag etiquette and folding at local schools. Please let us know of any schools that would like us to present this program.

I would ask that members refer to our location as the Legion Post, rather than at the Alliance. Many think the Legion, VFW, and Alliance have combined into a single organization. The American Legion is a veterans organization that rents office and meeting space from the Alliance. The Alliance is the non-profit company that owns the buildings; it is not a veterans organization. This confusion has hindered our Post's fundraising efforts.

On October 12, Post 15 will host VA suicide prevention seminars at the Post at 10:30 and 1:30. Avera representatives will also attend. Suicide prevention is the MAJOR Legion priority - BE THE ONE! This is done by helping one person at a time.

When recruiting new members, ask if they have served in the military rather than if they are veterans. Most Guard members are not recognized as veterans by the VA, but if they have one day of federal military service, they are eligible for Legion membership. If they are not a veteran, ask if they have a parent or grandparent who has served in the military. It may be a mother or grandmother. Recruit for the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion as well.

The main areas of focus at the Legion National Convention in August were suicide prevention, Americanism programs, baseball, and membership. The Legion needs strong membership when we go to Congress to push for veterans' support programs. Some politicians are saying it is time for younger generations to step into major leadership roles in government. This is true for the American Legion as well. Stay well and be safe.

## UNIT 15 AUXILIARY *Kellie Heazlett,* *President*

I would like to thank everyone who participated in, donated to, and volunteered their time and talents for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chip in for Vets Golf Tournament. This year was even bigger and better than last year. We had more golfers, more prizes, and more volunteers. We raised over \$20,000 for the Veterans Community Project. The funds will be used to refurbish the homes when a veteran moves out and a new one moves in. A huge thank you goes to Kasey Jacobson, Deb Metzger, and Karen Dunham for putting together and hosting one of the best golf tournaments around. These ladies work tirelessly for months on end to make this event so successful. You ladies are beyond amazing, and I am grateful you are all such a big part of our unit. I am even more grateful to call you friends. Thank you again and congratulations on such a spectacularly successful fundraiser.

September was a busy month for our unit. Several members attended the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony showing the families that they are not forgotten. Belinda Ready, our Junior Auxiliary leader, joined Legion members at Terry Redlin Elementary School to teach students about flag etiquette, how to properly fold the flag, and what each fold stands for. It is so vital to teach each generation the importance of our flag, and what it stands for.

As I write this, we are preparing for the Stand Down event—a day where pretty much every veteran organization, along with businesses and organizations in the community, come together to help our vets in need. Our auxiliary is once again donating clothing items, rain ponchos, and hand warmers. We have jackets, pants, shirts, and everything in between. We hope this wonderful event will continue to be successful. Thank you to everyone who donated, helped sort and tag, set up, tear down, and handed out items. We succeed because of all of you!

## 1ST VICE COMMANDER

*Patrick Branco*

September was National Suicide Prevention Month. The *Be The One* program has really begun to take hold, not only with the Legion, but with our friends at the VA Hospital. They are working along with us on this important effort for our fellow veterans. We are preparing ourselves to become more aware of those at-risk veterans around us—to find ways in which we can assist with support, resources, referrals, and follow-up. Our emergency fund is one of the tools in our belt to help mitigate circumstances that might lead to feelings of helplessness or hopelessness. We are each called upon to be mindful and vigilant in helping recognize situations of concern early. We will be offering two training sessions by VA staff. Everyone is invited to attend.

On Friday, September 15, Larry Panning and I participated in the Sanford International Golf Tournament, a televised event of the Senior PGA tour. Our job was to stand by on the 17<sup>th</sup> green, in uniform, and when the players came to the green, the flag pin (an American flag) was brought to us where we held it at parade rest. Most of the players shook our hands and thanked us for being there and thanked us for our service. If you get the opportunity next year to participate, I highly recommend you take the time. We even got to see Fred Funk make a hole in one!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Community Care and Tricare members should know we are each responsible for reporting emergency services used. It is the service member or family's responsibility to report within 72 hours of care.

**72-Hour Emergency Care Reporting line is 844-724-7842**

THIS NUMBER SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED INTO YOUR PHONE AND OTHERS THAT MAY NEED TO MAKE THIS CALL FOR YOU/YOUR SERVICE MEMBER (Children, grandchildren, spouses & others who are your emergency contacts). Being proactive may help ensure billing is reported correctly.

Community Care 877-881-7618 can answer questions.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

*Diane Diekman*

The U.S. House of Representatives failed to advance two spending bills, as party infighting threatens the ability of Congress to fund the government. The House voted 214-212 to defeat a measure to open debate on an \$886 billion fiscal 2024 defense appropriations bill. A larger division within House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's fractious Republican majority prevented lawmakers from agreeing on a short-term measure to keep federal agencies afloat after funding expires Sept. 30. Even if they had advanced the two bills, either would face stiff opposition from Democrats and from the White House. McCarthy delayed a key procedural vote on the 30-day stopgap measure, a continuing resolution (CR) that faces opposition from a dozen Republican hardline conservatives, enough to block its path forward in the House. The CR would keep federal agencies afloat until Oct. 31 but cut discretionary spending by about 8% for non-defense agencies, veterans affairs, and disaster relief. It would impose restrictions on immigration and resume construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. -- *Reuters*

The Senate confirmed Gen. CQ Brown as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Brown's confirmation vote comes as Democrats try to maneuver around holds placed on hundreds of nominations by Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville over the Pentagon's abortion policy. The Senate is also expected to confirm Gen. Randy George as Army Chief of Staff and Gen. Eric Smith as commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. -- *Associated Press*

## 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>.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—OCTOBER 2023

- 1 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance  
3 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm  
9 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan  
10 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm  
11 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm  
12 (Thu) BE THE ONE awareness training 10:30 & 1:30 –Avera/VA  
12 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm  
12 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm  
14 (Sat) – Bridge Dedication: Thomas Martin (Candy Martin's son)  
17 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10  
Pork Loin — reservations requested  
24 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 7 pm—Alliance  
Open to the public; reservations required for dinner  
30 (Mon) Executive Committee 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

Thu-Fri, Nov 2-3—Rummage sale [rescheduled from Oct]  
Fri, Nov 3—Poultry Party

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

### *Paul Fiskum*

After taking August off, the Sons had their monthly meeting September 14, with new member Anthony in attendance. When a member attends two meetings, they will receive a Sons hat and pheasant pin at no charge. This is a \$70 value. We have enjoyed having Lee Stevens visiting from Arizona this summer. We are continuing to grow in membership, and we encourage everyone to renew their membership for 2024. You can call the office at 605-336-3470 or stop in at 1700 W Russell Avenue between 11 and 3 Monday through Friday. Another option is to go to [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew). Membership is \$22 per year.

The Sons were present at the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony at Veterans Park. The monthly pancake breakfast is October 1. Come for a great meal and volunteer to help. The Legion social is October 17. Please call for reservations. These are Legion family events and a great way to meet and interact with other members.

Find a way to Be The One to help.

## POST EVERLASTING

### May They Rest in Peace

Dennis Fowlds, 76, Navy, 9/18/2023;  
Lauritz Clauson, 82, Navy, 8/19/2023

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



SINGING LEGIONNAIRES

## POULTRY PARTY

Friday, November 3, 2023  
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

at the  
Military Heritage Alliance

\$1.00/game Bingo for Ham & Turkey Prizes  
Cash Raffle Drawings (need not be present to win)

Food & Refreshments Available  
Everybody Welcome!!

## SHOOTING SPORTS

### *Larry Panning*

None of the shooting teams have begun practice yet. If anyone is interested in getting a child or grandchild into shooting sports, call Scott Ivey 605-359-6779 or Eric Dissing 605-351-6370. They can answer your questions and will return calls if unavailable when you call.

## CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed September 3 at Post 15's Pancake Feed, September 15 at the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, and September 17 at the VFW Pancake Feed. The chorus is scheduled to perform October 2 at the Veterans Recognition Luncheon at Linwood Wesleyan Church and October 23 at Grand Living at Lake Lorraine. The chorus invites all American Legion members and friends to attend the annual **Poultry Party on Friday, November 3 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing you at this fun event in support of our mission to bring honor to God and country through music. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags on September 4 Labor Day and September 11 Patriots Day, and will be posting flags October 9 Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples Day). Contact Todd Schmidt at (605) 370-4405 if you know of any Sioux Falls business 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 [66cyclers2019@gmail.com](mailto:66cyclers2019@gmail.com).

*Legion covers available in the office  
\$70 (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:

Joshua Anderson, Chris Asfeha, Donald Cooper, Daniel Erickson, Jessica Jimison, Shirlee Meier, Patrick Roberts, Robin Rowe, Wayne Schultz, Mark Spain, Randall Ward

**RUMMAGE SALE RESCHEDULED**  
Thursday Nov 2 - Friday Nov 3

## LEGION RIDERS

*Lamar Nance, Chairman*

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

Upcoming events:

October 7—Dakota Days Parade in Vermillion

October 10—Honor Flight Escort

October 14—Hobo Days Parade in Brookings

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: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" – Martin Luther King, Jr.



October 2, 2023 - February 26, 2024 (20 weeks)

Each team will have five members (one sub or rotate bowlers), and one must be a Legion Post 15 member. Men and women, 18 years and older, are welcome.

Cost per person is \$18 for 3 games (\$3 more for shoes).

Payout will be determined by the number of teams.

**FOLLOW US on Instagram!**

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



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

Post 15 website

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

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

### Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of  
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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>.

### VAVS Chris Fischer

The VAVS annual awards luncheon was recently held at Sertoma Park. Larry Panning and I represented Post 15.

We have now finalized BE THE ONE classroom training, in support of the National Commander and embraced by our Post. In conjunction with the Mental Health Departments of the VA and Avera Hospital, an option of two sessions repeated, will be held October 12 at 10:30 and 1:30. This class will be held in the Post 15 meeting room and will focus on recognizing the signs of suicidal thinking. It is open for all to attend. More info to follow. Hope to see you on October 12.

**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

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**1st Vice President** Deb Metzger  
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**Executive Board** Beth Honerman  
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**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

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

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