

POST 15 NEWS



November 2023

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Dale Hill*

We had 37 people attend our recent mental health/suicide awareness classes put on by the VA Medical Center staff and Avera Mental Health Services. I thought I had a reasonably good understanding of some of the silent signs, but I learned a lot attending the class. If you missed it and if there is enough interest, we can get these medical professionals to present this information again in the spring.

We had 17 members of Legion Post 15 on the last two Honor Flights. If you are a WWII, Korean, or Vietnam Veteran, please sign up. It is not just a day of seeing the Military Memorials in Washington, DC – it is a full day of camaraderie with fellow veterans. You will be glad you made the trip. Wheelchairs are provided for those who need them. To the Cold War and GWOT veterans, hang in there, your turn is coming.

If you get this newsletter in time, there will be a Diabetes Lunch & Learn program at the Alliance at noon on Thursday, November 2. This is sponsored by the Alliance and Sanford Health.

The annual Singing Legionnaires Poultry Party will be Friday, November 3, at the Alliance from 6:30-10:00 p.m. The Legion Auxiliary will serve pulled pork, baked beans, chips, and desserts.

It is that time of year again for all of us to recruit for Legion membership for 2024, for Boys and Girls State in May-June 2024, for the Oratorical Contest in January 2024, and for Teacher, Law Enforcement, First Responder, Eagle Scout and Legionnaire of the Year awards. Please contact the office for more information.

Fall is here, and flu season is, too. Check with your health care provider regarding flu, Covid and RSV vaccinations, especially if you are older. I prefer to call it chronologically gifted!!

Snowfall will be sneaking up on us soon, so please make sure your furnace, smoke alarms, car battery and tires are ready for the colder weather.

Please call your fellow Legion members and fellow veterans (Buddy Checks) to make sure they are OK. We often find a few who need help, but they are too proud to ask. If you need emergency assistance, please call the office and we will try to help you or refer you to others who may be able to help. Stay healthy and safe.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

Fall is on its way, and bringing the colder weather with it. Things slow down a bit during the fall and winter months, so not as much going on.

In October we had many members attend the welcome home from the honor flights. We served snacks and drinks at the bridge dedication ceremony for Thomas Martin. There were many members in attendance as well.

We had a bake sale during the Legion Rummage sale. Kay did an excellent job organizing all the volunteers and donations of baked goods. Thank you to everyone who helped.

November 3rd, beginning at 6:30, we will be serving food at the Annual Poultry party / bingo night hosted by the Singing Legionnaires.

We will not have our monthly social in the months of November and December due to holidays. Please join in the Legion family social that is held the 3rd Tuesday.

We will not have a monthly meeting in December. We decided to change this from July as we are very busy in July and August. With the colder weather and holidays, we thought it made sense to move our off month to December.

I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving!

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Thank you for helping to fill some very last minute requests for honors. You are all appreciated. Some members head south to the balmy weather until next spring so thank you to those who step up to fill those spots. Please continue to pray for Bob Johnson and his family with the death of his wife, Maxine. We got through the heat and now comes the cold. Be sure you have sufficient cold weather gear. Most importantly, boots with traction. Patrick Branco is recovering and Bob Shaw will have surgery soon. Please keep them both in your prayers.



Commander Dale Hill welcomed three new members at the October business meeting: Ruthie Nimmons, Don Zimmer (also on the honor guard) and Craig Hanson. October 3, 2023. Photo by Mike McGoffin.



Paul Fiskum, Wayne Sprecher, Jim Minnig, CDR Larry Panning, Doug Starr, CAPT Diane Diekman, LCDR Dale Hill, John Bachmeier, and LT Patrick Branco at the Navy Ball, October 14, 2023. Photo by Sue Peters.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Congress passed a short-term funding bill to avoid a government shutdown mere hours before the end-of-fiscal-year deadline. After trying and failing to pass a Republican measure that would slash non-defense spending and enact strict immigration policies, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy offered a stopgap funding bill similar to the bipartisan Senate version – minus \$6 billion in Ukraine aid. The House passed the stopgap measure to fund the government through November 17 in a 335-91 vote. The Senate then passed it in an 88-9 vote, and President Biden signed it into law the evening of September 30. –*Defense News*

The Senate confirmed Air Force Gen. Charles Brown to serve as the next Joint Chiefs chairman, Gen. Randy George to serve as Army chief of staff, and Gen. Eric Smith to serve as commandant of the Marine Corps. These were the first defense confirmations advanced by the Senate since early February, a delay caused by political fights over the Defense Department's abortion access policy. Admiral Lisa Franchetti has been nominated for chief of naval operations and Gen. David Allvin for chief of staff of the Air Force, but they have not been confirmed. –*Military Times*

The U.S. House of Representatives is still without a Speaker of the House, after Republicans voted to drop Jim Jordan as their nominee. Speaker Pro Tempore Patrick McHenry is leading the House through the process of finding a permanent speaker, following the ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy.



Volunteers folding the newsletter for mailing. September 27, 2023. Photo by Sue Peters.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—NOVEMBER 2023

2 (Thu) Diabetes Lunch & Learn—all welcome— 12-1 pm—Alliance
 3 (Fri) Poultry Party 7-10 pm—Alliance -- **Unit 15 Auxiliary will serve food beginning at 6:30**
 5 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
 7 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
 8 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
 9 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
 9 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
 11 (Sat) Veterans Day ceremony 10:30 am—Alliance
 13 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
 14 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
 21 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Ham — **reservations requested**
 23 (Thu) Thanksgiving Day
 27 (Mon) Executive Committee meeting 7 pm
 28 (Tue) No Auxiliary Social

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7 pm
 Every Wednesday—Ladies bridge 12-4 pm
 Office is open 11-3 pm M-F. **Closed** November 23-24.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Douglas Kapaun, 75, Navy, 4/12/2023;
 Willis Wendell, 89, Army, 10/1/2023

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!!

The dinner served by the auxiliary will start at 6:30pm.



Al Arndt, Patrick Branco, Ryan DeGraff (Elementary Principal), Bruce Swan, Mike Mc Goffin, Barry Andres, and Dale Hill at Terry Redlin Elementary School for US Flag Etiquette and US Flag Code presentation. September 18, 2023.

New Post 15 Members

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

Craig Hanson, Richard Rust, Lonnell Peterson

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

I would like to encourage everyone to renew your membership. We are members because of our fathers, mothers, grandmothers & grandfathers' service to our country. We support the veterans with our membership in the Sons. You can renew online for \$22 at legion.org/renewal, or come to the Post 15 office, or mail a check. We were present at the pancake breakfast and monthly social, the 1st Lt. Thomas M Martin bridge dedication ceremony, and the District 7 fall meeting. Upcoming events include the Legion Chorus poultry party Nov. 3, where we will help clean up, the pancake breakfast Nov. 5, the Sons monthly meeting Nov. 9 and Veterans Day program Nov. 11. Please get involved somewhere.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On October 18 the Singing Legionnaires performed at the funeral for John Moe at Baltic Lutheran Church. John was a Navy veteran and sang baritone with the chorus for the past 20 years. The chorus also performed October 2 at the Veterans Recognition Luncheon at Linwood Wesleyan Church and on October 23 at Legends at Lake Lorraine. The chorus is scheduled to perform November 11 at the Veterans Day program at the Military Heritage Alliance. The chorus invites everyone to attend its annual Poultry Party on Friday, November 3, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Unit 15 Auxiliary begins serving food at 6:30. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags on October 9 Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples Day) and will be posting flags on November 11 Veterans 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 who is 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 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.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

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

Upcoming Events:

November 24: Sioux Falls Parade of Lights.

December 9: Army\Navy game and Chili Feed.

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

Quote of the Month: *"Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes."* — Maggie Kuhn

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 [#SDLegion](#)



www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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



The Post 15 honor guard gathers for breakfast at the Fryn' Pan the second Monday of every month.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of
Kiwanis Ave &
West 12th St

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



Sioux Falls Dental Implant Center

Dr. Kevin Haiar, DDS, DABOI
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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. 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. 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

Post 15 organized the first class on mental health awareness training. On October 12, the Mental Health Departments of the VA Hospital and Avera Hospital presented "Be The One to ask the question." Post 15 attended the quarterly VAVS meeting in the Sioux Falls VAVS conference room. We were briefed on respiratory infection rates, ongoing construction projects focusing on Pharmacy, Hospice Cottages, Prosthetics, and an updated [2024] Front entrance and lobby area. Volunteer drivers are currently being recruited. Cold weather wearables (gloves, coats, hats, scarves) are in demand. The current updated full needs list is on our website. Upcoming events: Veterans Day, ALA Gift Shop, and the inpatient Christmas party.

We learned at the October Legion Family Social that the Sioux Falls VA has approximately 33,000 Veterans enrolled for care, with 26,000 using those services in 2023. The Sioux Falls VA Healthcare system includes East River S.D., southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa, and northeast Nebraska. Outreach clinics are in Aberdeen, Watertown, Spirit Lake, Dakota Dunes, and Wagner.

American Legion Post 15 Survey October 24, 2023

To help the leadership of American Legion Post 15 better serve our membership, we are asking for your response to the following questions.

What can the Post do to better serve our members?

Post 15 needs to best utilize our member's talents. What talents and/or professional training are you willing to provide in support of Post 15? Examples our talents we sometimes need: accounting, carpentry, painting, printing, computer skills, gunsmithing, woodworking, flag etiquette for grade school students, Color Guard, Honor Guard, cooking at pancake breakfasts and other events, organizing events, golfers, bowlers, baseball spectators, coaches and umpires, etc.

How do you feel the Alliance partnership is working for Post 15?

Are you interested in "Queen of Hearts" or "Chase the Ace" raffle for fundraising? Are you interested in computer gaming being available at the Post? Are you interested in watching NASCAR-Indy racing events at the Post (or other TV sports) – should there be a chili feed or other meal in conjunction with this type of event?

If you are a new member, would a mentor be beneficial to you? If you are an established member, would you be willing to serve as a mentor to new members?

Would you be interested in more age-specific or special interest activity groups within Post 15 – What specific activities would you like to see and participate in? What are your recommendations for making Post 15 more family-friendly for our younger members? What are your recommendations for increasing activities and participation for younger Guard members who drill in Sioux Falls?

National Defense, Americanism (Boys State, Oratorical Contests), Youth activities (Legion baseball and shooting sports), and Veterans Affairs (direct support for veterans in need, Post veterans service officers) are the Four Pillars of the American Legion and are the priorities of the National American Legion. Any comments or suggestions regarding these priorities for fundraising activities and financial support of these programs by Post 15? (National Defense is primarily a Congressional lobbying function of the National American Legion).

Do you follow Post 15 on Facebook? Do you use the Post 15 website to get information about Post 15 activities and to renew your membership online? Do you use social media?

Any other comments that you want to provide to Post 15 leadership?

Veterans' support of local communities is important. Please report any volunteer hours and donations within the community, not just support to the Legion. This includes volunteer time for other organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, blood donations, etc.

Please return this survey to the Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 office. You can email it back to:

legionoffice.al@gmail.com OR call the office OR mail to the address below.

Thank you for your response.

Commander
American Legion Post 15
1700 W Russell St, Suite 510
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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 Reuschhoff, 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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