

POST 15 NEWS



December 2023

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COMMANDER'S CORNER—*Dale Hill*

As November comes to a close, Post members are making Buddy Check calls to ensure fellow members are doing OK and receiving our newsletter. Sometimes this is the only way we find that members have passed away or changed address, phone number and/or email address. We would also like to have each member's military service dates, branch of service, and next of kin contact information.

Suicide prevention is always the highest priority. The holiday season is especially difficult for some. If you need help, PLEASE CALL 988, then press 1 to talk to a trained person to help you work through your challenges.

If you have not yet paid your 2024 dues, please do so to support our American Legion programs. If you have a few hours each month that you can help the Post, we have activities for everyone who wants to volunteer.

Please support the Post by coming to Pancake breakfast the first Sunday (8:30-noon) of each month and by attending the Social dinner (Stag) with your spouse on the third Tuesday of each month (5 p.m. Social, dinner at 6, program at 6:45, then prize drawings, and usually done by 8 p.m.). We do need an RSVP, as the dinner is catered by Tony's, and we need a head count. Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders are welcome. These events are at the Alliance.

The December Social speaker will be Darin Seeley, who will present plans for the Veterans Memorial upgrades around the Capitol Building in Pierre. The current Memorial, fountain and flame cannot, from an engineering and environmental perspective, remain as is, due to a drop in water table (fountain was an artesian well with very high sulfur in the water) and the natural gas pocket deep underground has been exhausted. We will open this Social dinner on December 19 to all veterans and spouses for this program, but you must RSVP to have a meal (Beef tips - \$10/person). Those who only want to listen to the program are welcome and will be seated upstairs.

As winter weather is just around the corner, please make sure you, your home, and your vehicle are ready for the cold weather. Happy Holidays to all.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

Happy Holidays! This is my favorite time of year. Christmas lights and decorations bring so much joy! This is also the season where it feels like everyone is just a little kinder and more giving. We have had a great year at the Auxiliary and have been blessed to be able to give back to our community and our Veterans. I want to take this time to thank each and every one of you for all you do. Our unit is a success because of all of you. Thank you for your time spent volunteering, donations, and support.

We voted to not have a meeting in December so everyone can have more time to be with family and friends. As well as stay off icy roads and stay warm! We also do not have our social in November and December due to the holidays. The Legion Family Social will still be held, so please attend that one.

Please reach out to anyone you know who may need a little extra cheer during this time. Let's make sure no one feels alone, especially this time of year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

New Post 15 Members

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

Bruce Gering, Darrell Kluge, David Manson, William Paradeis, Harvey Schmidt, Danny Whiting, and Brett Williams

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Patrick Branco

Greetings fellow Legionnaires! We have officially entered the holiday season and I, for one, am excited to be preparing for one event in particular. My wife and I are playing Santa and Mrs. Claus again this year on December 3 at the pancake breakfast. I grow my beard a little longer for the event and start in August. We thoroughly enjoy playing the North Pole couple and we only do this for the December pancake breakfast. Last year was our first time and the children were so delightful. Please tell your friends and families to come to the pancake breakfast to see Santa and his wife!

Several of us attended the event hosted by Progressive Insurance and Enterprise Rent-a-Car in which two cars were given away. We helped one of our fellow Legionnaires through a tough spot and Sue encouraged him to apply for an opportunity from Progressive. Joshua received a beautiful car and several other perks and gifts, like insurance coverage for six months and a service plan for a full year. Joshua and his lovely family were overwhelmed with the generosity of both Progressive and Enterprise. When you have an opportunity, please thank these companies for their active support of our veteran community.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

President Biden signed a **bipartisan short-term funding bill** that will keep the government operating until early 2024. It was flown to California, where the President signed it while in San Francisco for the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The continuing resolution extends funding for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Energy and Veterans Affairs until Jan. 19, while other government entities are funded through Feb. 2. The bill passed the Senate in an 87-11 vote, with only one Democratic senator voting against it. It passed the House 336-95, with more Democrats supporting the bill than Republicans. --CBS News

The Senate voted to confirm **Admiral Lisa Franchetti as the Navy's 33rd chief of naval operations**. She is the first woman to serve as the Navy's top officer and the first on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General **David W. Allvin was confirmed as the next Air Force chief of staff**. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney was confirmed as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. His confirmation became doubly urgent after Marine Corps Commandant Eric Smith was hospitalized for a heart attack. These confirmation votes came one day after Senate Democrats threatened rule changes to overcome an eight-month blockade of military promotions and confirmations by Alabama Republican Tuberville to protest the Defense Department's abortion access policy. --*Navy Times*

SHOOTING SPORTS

Larry Panning

Precision Shooting team is competing in the Winter Air Gun Championship match in Colorado Springs on December 8-10. Sporter Air Rifle is practicing and organizing matches for the winter. BB Gun has an orientation and safety class coming up January 6 at Humboldt Elementary School. This class is for youth to learn about gun safety and then shoot BB guns to determine if they are interested. The two sessions are at 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. BB gun practice starts the next day.



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Post 15 pancake breakfast at the Alliance on Sunday, December 3.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—DECEMBER 2023

3 (Sun) Legion Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
5 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm
11 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
12 (Tues) No Legion Auxiliary meeting
13 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
14 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
14 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
16 (Sat) Wreaths Across America —State Cemetery 11 am
19 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Beef Tips and Gravy — **reservations requested by Dec. 15**
25 (Mon) Christmas Day
26 (Tue) No Auxiliary Social
28 (Thu) 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. **Closed** December 25.

Save the Date

Jan 21—District 7 Oratorical Contest— Humboldt 2 pm
Feb 4—Four Chaplains 2 pm
Feb 16-18—Mid-winter Conference—Deadwood Lodge

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION *Paul Fiskum*

Remember and honor the Veteran who made it possible to be part of the Sons Of The Legion. We are working hard to recruit new members and encourage present members to renew their membership. Renewal can be done online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>. Find the Sons portion. Or stop by the office, call 605-336-3470, or send a check to 1700 W Russell Ave Suite 510 Sioux Falls SD 57104. Membership is \$22 per year.

Detachment Commander Shane Lamer visited us during the November Sons meeting. We presented a check to Shane for the Veterans and Childrens Foundation. The money was raised by our bat raffle earlier this year. We need ideas and input for a new raffle. Plan to attend the next meeting on December 14.

Vice Commander Kelly Gillespie and I attended the District 7 meeting, and I attended the county meeting. One thing that came out of these meetings is that Legion membership is declining and we need to support them in recruiting members for the Legion and Sons. Have a great Christmas.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Edward Colella, 93, Air Force, 12/20/2022;
Lewis Carpenter Jr., 91, Air Guard,
5/22/2023; Willis Dreesman, 82, Air Force,
6/7/2023; Paul Brude, 95, Air Guard,
7/18/2023; Willis Wendell, 89, Army Guard,
10/1/2023; H. John Peckham, 89, Air Force,
10/6/2023; William Seney, 86, Air Force,
10/22/2023

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



Commander Dale Hill presents Randy Miller with the Post 15 Veteran of the Year Award at the annual Veterans Day program hosted by The Greater Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce on November 11, 2023. Randy serves as Post 15 executive committee member, athletic director, liaison with SEBA baseball, and as a base commissioner for the South Dakota American Legion Sports commission.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed November 11 for the Veterans Day program at the Military Heritage Alliance. Upcoming chorus performances are as follows: December 3 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tea; December 4 at Dow Rummel Village; and December 11 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community.

The Singing Legionnaires hosted their annual poultry party at the Military Heritage Alliance on November 3, where turkeys and hams were awarded as bingo prizes. Raffle winners were: \$82 cash prize to Doug Hoisington, \$246 cash prize to Susie Meyers, and \$493 cash grand prize to Rosie Kindt. The chorus would like to thank all who participated in this event in support of our mission of bringing honor to God and country through music.

The chorus posted flags on Veterans Day and will be resuming the Avenue of Flags program in May 2024. 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 any questions regarding chorus activities is encouraged to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at (605) 310-6210 or by email at 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

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
December 13— ALR Christmas Party and White Elephant exchange

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday 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: "I haven't even finished eating all of my Halloween candy!" — Sally Brown, *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*

ADJUTANT *John Bachmeier*

We look forward to receiving your renewal and dues by the end of December and maintaining your membership in the American Legion. You can renew online by going to legion.org, clicking renew, and entering your name and member number. Your number is on your 2023 membership card and the renewal notices mailed to you. You can also mail your renewal to 1700 W Russell St, Suite 510, Sioux Falls SD 57104 or stop in at the office between 11 and 3 on weekdays. We would be happy to take your call, 605 336-3470, and we can renew you over the phone. To maintain your accidental death insurance benefit, your renewal should reach the office by December 15.



VA& R Golf Award. Susan Panning, Kellie Heazlett, Deb Metzger, Kasey Jacobson, Karen Dunham. Not pictured, VA&R chairman Roxann Zenobi. Photo by Judy Hill.

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www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

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[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. 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 supplied 100 table-top mini-flags for the 2023 Veterans Day Ceremony at the VA Hospital. The Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System has announced a Music Therapy Department. Post 15 will be donating IHeart gift Cards from the VAVS fund. Cold weather is here, and more wearables are in demand. The current VA Needs/Wish List can be reviewed on our website. Dupree Chavez and I will attend the upcoming State VAVS committee meeting—more info to follow. Have a great Holiday Season.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER *Bill Peters*

At the present time we have 41 active members, 5 retired, and 8 on the sick / south list. We appreciate all that each of you do because it is so much more than burying our dead. You are the first to step up when your Post needs volunteers. Please continue to pray for Bob as he recovers from surgery. Who can you invite to join our honor guard? Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

LEGION OFFICE: 605-336-3470 / 1700 W. Russell St., Suite 510 (north door), Sioux Falls SD 57104

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEES

Chorus: Bruce Naasz	Americanism: Bruce Swan	Office Maintenance : vacant
Legion Riders: Lamar Nance	Membership: Patrick Branco	Baseball: Randy Miller
Vets Council: John Bachmeier	SAL: Paul Fiskum	VAVS: Chris Fischer
Post Everlasting: vacant	Raffle Sales: vacant	Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
	Flag Retirement: Dick Moss	Pancakes: Dale Haas

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