

POST 15 NEWS



February 2024

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

Issue Number: 2024—02

Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

Nature's Law of Averages is catching up on a very mild December with a very cold January. I hope all of you are doing OK. We could use a few more members to help with Buddy Check calls.

We have several events coming up in February and March. The Four Chaplains Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 4, following our monthly pancake breakfast. If you have not attended this event in the past, I would encourage you to do so. It is the moving story of four chaplains of different faiths who gave up their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship during World War II.

Several Post members will be visiting veterans at Avantara Rehabilitation Center at 1 p.m. on Monday February 12 and at Good Samaritan on Friday February 23 at 3 p.m. We recently visited with veterans at TouchMark and had a great time sharing our military experiences. Please call the office and let us know if you can join us for one or both of these events.

The South Dakota American Legion Mid-Winter Conference will be in Deadwood February 16-18. This is a great opportunity to see how the Legion works at the State level. Check the "UP TO NOW" state newsletter for details.

On February 29, Post 15 will Serve the Banquet, serving food to needy people in Sioux Falls. We need about 18 people for this afternoon, early evening event.

The 105th Legion Birthday Awards Dinner will be Friday, March 15 at the Alliance – social at 5 p.m., food served at 6 p.m. Plan to attend this awards dinner.

Every one of us is a recruiter. If you have not renewed, please do so. National has increased dues by \$5 for next year. Passing this increase on to members was discussed at the January meeting, and the Post will vote at the February 6 meeting per the requirement of notifying members at least 10 days before the voting is done. There is a limited time option to pay three years of dues at the current \$40 per year. Call the office for details.

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Patrick Branco

I am excitedly looking forward to the Four Chaplains Memorial service on Sunday, February 4. It should be a terrific event. It is certainly a somber event but one with an uplifting message of faith and courage for past, present, and future veterans.

Al Arndt and I will be attending the Chamber mixer on February 13 at Montgomery's furniture store on 41st Street. The event begins at 1630 hours. If you would like to come and meet some of our community business leaders and share our message of service to veterans, please plan on attending. Wear your hat and Legion shirt and be ready to help explain who we are to the curious. We may even sign up some new members to the Post, the Auxiliary, or the Sons of the Legion. It can be a very enjoyable time and an important time to wave the flag! Let either Al or me know if you would be interested in attending.

The annual Legion Birthday is coming up March 15 at the Alliance. This is when we recognize many of our members for their contributions throughout the year. We have an incredible team of individuals who raise their hands to volunteer, lead, organize, and support the numerous activities of the Post. Many of these folks work extremely hard, and often their only payment is a sincere thank you. Please plan on attending the event and help recognize all the incredible work by Legion members.

Several of us participated in a funeral on Tuesday, January 16' at Woodlawn. It was bitter cold but everyone did a fantastic job, and the most heartwarming moment came as we were marching away from the grave site. Several family members called out with strong statements of "thank you." That warmth of feelings cut through the bitter cold and reminded me of the gift families receive from the many ways our Legion Post serves our veteran community every day. God bless you each!

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Dupree Chavez and I attended the VAVS quarterly meeting on January 18, held in the VA Hospital conference room. Comments were presented by the executive staff, a brief review of 2023-24 donations, and upcoming events [National Salute Week 2/12-16, Possible Sweetheart meal on 3/13, Easter on 3/31]. Updated newsletter coming soon, scheduling outreach events to recruit new hospital volunteers and signups for in-patient pizza parties available June-December. Current needs list is on the Post 15 website. Coats and Gift cards are a major need right now.

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun Shooters are practicing for upcoming matches with other BB Gun clubs around the state.

Sporter and **Precision Air Rifle** are practicing as well for an end of January Legion match and others around the country. The big fundraiser for all teams is January 27 at St. George Hall in Hartford. This is a Silent Auction and Free Will Donation event with lots of tasty soups and goodies. All proceeds go to support shooters and the range events. Open to everyone!! Let's show some **Legion SUPPORT!!**



Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony

Sunday, February 4, 2024

2 p.m.

American Legion Post 15

Coffee and cookies to follow

Free and open to the public

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Congress passed the \$886 billion **National Defense Authorization Act**, and President Joe Biden signed it, after House and Senate negotiators agreed to drop the proposal to roll back the Pentagon's abortion travel policy. The legislation only authorizes funding and doesn't actually allocate any money. Congress must still enact a full fiscal 2024 appropriations bill. —*Politico*

Congress passed its **third stopgap funding bill** to avoid a partial government shutdown. While it extends Defense Department funding through March 8, funds appropriated for military construction will expire March 1. The cascading effect of short-term funding bills hampers Pentagon contracting on programs ranging from shipbuilding to the beleaguered munitions industrial base. Fiscal year 2024 began October 1. —*Defense News*

All military services now have regional **special trial counsel offices** up and running, with dozens of specialized prosecutors and support staff to make decisions about 14 major crimes, including sexual assault, murder, manslaughter, domestic violence, and child abuse. Military commanders are no longer in charge of decisions to prosecute these crimes. Only trained, designated attorneys will decide whether to press charges or send a case to trial. —*Military Times*

99th South Dakota Legislative Session

HB-1007 - Changes requirements for employing county veterans service officers. Referred to House Military and Veterans Affairs.

HB-1008 - Modifies eligibility for state veterans home and repeals residency requirement. Referred to House Military and Veterans Affairs.

HB-1068 - Allows disabled veterans to obtain standard, in lieu of disabled, license plates. Passed by House and sent to Senate.

HB-1082 - Changes property tax relief program for disabled veterans/spouses. Referred to House Military and Veterans Affairs.

HB-1101— Authorizes special motor vehicle license plate for recipients of Legion of Merit. Referred to House Transportation.

SB-29 – Allows National Guard members free tuition for private colleges as well as public ones. Referred to Senate Military and Veterans Affairs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FEBRUARY 2024

- 4 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
4 (Sun) Four Chaplains 2 pm
6 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—\$550 drawing
8 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
8 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
12 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8 am—Fryn' Pan
13 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
14 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
16-18 (Fri-Sun) Mid-winter Conference—Deadwood Lodge
19 (Mon) Presidents Day federal holiday
20 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Beef stroganoff — **reservations by Feb 15**
26 (Mon) Executive Committee meeting 7 pm
27 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—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.

Save the Date

April 19—Dance at El Riad Shrine—Last Call/Mogens Heroes

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>.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

George Johnson, 97, Army, 6/12/2022; LeVern Jacobson, 95, 4/28/2023; Gerald Budgett, 95, Navy, 12/23/2023; Loren Wiese, 88, Army, 1/1/2024; Ivan Miller, 83, Air Force, 1/2/2024; Alan Bonine, 77, Navy, 1/6/2024; Daniel Kennelly, 83, Air Force, 1/8/2024

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



HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Many believe a fee is charged to have honors conducted at a burial. There is no fee. It is our privilege to lay veterans to rest at the time of their deaths. Donations are sometimes given to the post and that is entirely up to the family's discretion. The service we perform is free. Others ask, "How does one arrange to have honors at a funeral?" When making your funeral arrangements, you should list that you would like to have honors for the veteran. Many funeral homes make those arrangements for the families at the time of death. You can always call our post at 605-336-3470 to make sure that has been arranged, arrange it with us yourself if it is a family-directed service, or call with questions you may have. "Never Forgotten"

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires did not have any performances during January. Upcoming chorus performance: February 4, annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service at Post 15. Last year the chorus embarked on a new member recruitment program. We are happy to report we gained six new members during 2023: tenor Roger Lamp, baritones Nate Kander and Don Kranz, and basses Jay Campbell, Jesse Comp, and Dan Peters. Anyone who may be 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. The chorus will be resuming its Avenue of Flags program in May. Contact Todd Schmidt at 605-370-4405 if you know of any Sioux Falls business that would like to participate in this program.

SAVE THE DATE

Just Because-- It's Time to Dance!

Friday, April 19

El Riad Shrine

Mogen's Heroes (6-8)

Last Call (8:30-10:30)

*Uniform caps available in the office
\$70 (hat & pheasant)*

*Wear your cap 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:

William Blake, Dion Dutcher, Charles Frick, and Michael Nelson

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

Welcome to new Legion Rider member Bill "Mr. Bill" Blake. Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar. 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: "When in doubt, look intelligent." — Garrison Keillor

ADJUTANT *John Bachmeier*

Notice of vote to raise dues to \$45/year. At the December 5 membership meeting a motion was made, seconded and approved to raise dues to \$45. This requires publication in the newsletter at least 10 days before final vote. There will be a final vote on this matter at the February 6 general membership meeting in our meeting room at 1700 W Russell St, Sioux Falls. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. The reason for this increase is National Dues have been raised by \$5 starting July 1 for 2025 membership. There is a new program in place to pay your dues for the next three years at the current rate. If you have not yet paid your 2024 dues, go online to legion.org and click Renew.

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

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial
<https://southdakotabattleship.org/>
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Unit 15 Auxiliary bake sale at Legion pancake breakfast the first
Sunday of every month at the Alliance, 8:30-noon.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

Greetings to all SAL members. It has been a cold month and hopefully everyone is staying warm and safe. We are still a little short on membership renewals. If you haven't renewed, your membership ran out January 1st. You can still renew by going to legion.org or contacting the Post 15 office at 605-336-3470. Your membership helps the Legion family when we go before Congress to advocate for veterans' needs.

We were happy to have a new member, Bill L., at our January meeting. Our next meeting will be February 8. Please consider attending. Other upcoming events are the pancake breakfast February 4, the Four Chaplains ceremony February 4, and the Legion social February 20. Check the website at www.siouxfallslegion.org and the FB page American Legion Sioux Falls SD to stay in touch.

Find a way to **Be The One**. Check on any veteran in your circle for mental health or other assistance. If they aren't a Legion member, try to recruit them. Have a great month.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

legionoffice.al@gmail.com / 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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Peters—Chair
Joan Ishol, Wayne Sprecher, Mike McGoffin
Steve Rueschhoff, 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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