

POST 15 NEWS



March 2024

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COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

I just returned from the SD Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Deadwood. Some of the highlights were presentations on Legion awards and required paperwork, computer security and phone scams, VA "Be the One" to prevent suicide, and America's 250th birthday in 2026.

Post 15 will be cooking and serving at The Banquet on February 29 – need more volunteers. We will be visiting fellow veterans at long term care facilities - March 15 at Ponderosa Ledge at 1:30 p.m., Good Samaritan on Creekside Drive on March 21 at 2 p.m., Vietnam veterans meeting with veterans at Touchmark on March 28 at 10:30 a.m. and Good Samaritan on Marion Road on April 22 at 2 p.m. These are fun events to talk to fellow veterans about their military experiences. All are welcome.

Pheasant Fest will be at the Sanford Center on March 1-3. We will have a booth to recruit for the Legion family, but mostly to talk to people and let them know what the Legion does in our community. Our pancake breakfast will start at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 3, to feed as many of the exhibitors as we can. Need help – call the office.

We have free tickets for the Summit League Womens' basketball tournament on March 10.

Our Legion Birthday/Awards dinner will be Friday March 15 at the Alliance – Social at 5, dinner at 6. You MUST call the office for reservations by March 8, as the meal is catered. Our March Legion Family Social will be Tuesday, March 19. Please RSVP.

The Gun Show will be March 22-24 at the Sanford Center. We will have a booth for recruiting, raffle ticket sales (final chance to buy these tickets), and letting the public know what the Legion does. Need help - call the office.

We are working with DAV and Vietnam Veterans for a Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon at the DAV on March 29 at noon.

Nominations for Post officers and three Executive Board positions will be received in March and April, with the election in April. Officers will be installed in May. I strongly encourage our younger generation to step into Post 15 leadership positions.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

We didn't schedule a meeting in December, and our January meeting was cancelled due to weather. We made up for lost time in February and covered a lot at our monthly meeting. On giving Tuesday in November, we donated \$500 each to the Union Gospel Mission, The Banquet, and St Francis House. On December 20, we donated \$500 to the Salvation Army in twenty dollar bills. Thanks to local businesses, every \$20 donated became \$100. Our donation was turned into \$2,500! We also donated items to the VA Christmas Shop. A few members volunteered at the Christmas Shop and said it went very well. What a successful holiday and giving season! This is what it is all about.

This March we are looking forward to the joint birthday party for the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. It will be held March 15, starting at 5 p.m. at the Alliance. Reservations are needed for the meal. The following week we will be helping at the Stand Up for Women / Women's Veterans Wellness retreat. We will assist with registration, guest relations, prize distribution, and the clothing swap. We will need several volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested.

Our next meeting will be March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Post. The Legion Family social will be March 19 at 5 p.m. at the Alliance, and the Auxiliary Social/Bingo will be March 26 at 5 p.m. at the Alliance. We would love to see you at some or all of these gatherings. I am so grateful to all of you and appreciate all the hard work. We are a very active unit and are doing amazing things!

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Patrick Branco*

Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

Offering a quick update from the VHA/VBA meeting I attended in February. DAV has been processing more claims under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. They have produced a list of Coast Guard and Navy ships exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam era. This bill extends the presumption of herbicide exposure to veterans who served within twelve nautical miles seaward of the demarcation line of Vietnam. The Chief of Staff reported that the hospital has acquired a new, fulltime oncologist. The business office is experiencing zero wait time in processing records requests, billing notices, and freedom of information requests. I learned about a veteran's benefit I had not known. There was a discussion of the Community Nursing Home Program in which veterans with a disability rating of 60% qualify for nursing home care (those with 70% or higher have mandatory eligibility when applying). Type I coverage is for short term rehabilitative care and Type II covers long term care. This includes semi-private room and board.

We are also represented on the C7 and C3 Boards of the Alliance. I attend the C7 meeting and Dale attends the C3. The biggest difference between the two is that C7 deals with the business enterprise and C3 deals largely with not-for-profit elements. The C7 meeting this month discussed a new benefit being offered through the gun range. With payment of your annual dues you become eligible to purchase weapons through the Alliance contract at cost. Careful to note the Alliance is not the gun dealer but solely offers the path to purchase through their contract.

I'll close by commending everyone who participated in the Four Chaplains program. Well done! Bravo Zulu.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Governor Noem has signed two veteran-related bills from the **99th South Dakota Legislative Session**. HB-1068 allows disabled veterans to obtain standard license plates at no charge. HB-1101 authorized special motor vehicle license plates for Legion of Merit recipients. Three bills have been passed by the Legislature but not yet signed. HB-1008 modifies eligibility for state veterans home, HB-1007 changes requirements for employing county veterans service officer, and HB-1082 changes the property tax relief program for disabled veterans/spouses. House Concurrent Resolution 6007 to encourage Congress to let veterans receive long-term care services at facilities that do not meet all VA requirements was passed by both House and Senate. Senate Resolution 701 to support opening an official inquiry into Medals of Honor given to US soldiers who participated in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890 was adopted by the Senate. Deferred to 41st legislative day were HB-1121 (constructing veteran's skilled trade center in Hot Springs), HB-1138 (sales tax exemption for disabled veterans), HB-1191 (Congressional action required before federalizing South Dakota National Guard), and SB-105 (employment of veterans service officers). SB-180 (collecting fees for veterans benefits assistance) was tabled by Senate Military and Veterans Affairs. Still in work is SB-29 (free tuition for National Guard members at private colleges). Passed by the Senate, it is currently with the House Committee on Appropriations.

105th Family Birthday & Awards Dinner for Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, & guests

Friday, March 15, 2024

Alliance Main Event Floor

5pm social / 6pm Chorus, Introductions & Dinner

Grilled Boneless Pork Chop OR Salmon (specify which)

Strawberry Spinach Salad, Baked Potato, Green beans

Birthday Cake

\$25 per person / Reservations by March 8

legionoffice.al@gmail.com or 605.336.3470



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARCH 2024

- 3 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 7am-noon—
Alliance – TIME CHANGE THIS MONTH ONLY
- 5 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7pm—\$575 drawing
- 11 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8am—Fryn' Pan
- 12 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7pm
- 13 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7pm
- 14 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6pm
- 14 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7pm
- 15 (Fri) Post 15 birthday Social 5pm, dinner 6pm —Alliance
- 19 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5pm, dinner 6pm —Alliance—\$10
Broasted chicken — **reservations by March 15**
- 25 (Mon) Executive Committee meeting 7pm
- 26 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**
- 29 (Fri) National Vietnam Veterans Day 10am — DAV

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7pm
Every Wednesday—Ladies bridge 12-4pm
Office is open 11-3pm Monday-Friday.

Save the Date

April 7— District 7 spring meeting hosted by Post/Unit 15
April 19—Dance at El Riad Shrine—Last Call/Mogens Heroes
April 27—Honor Guard annual dinner

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

Eugene Irvine, Jr., 59, Army, 6/26/2023;
Mike Karolewicz, 76, Navy, 1/15/2024;
Don Toft, 96, Army, 1/30/2024

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



New Post 15 Members

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

Martina Goergen, Wayne Hansen, and
Brett Williams

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Thank you for your continued dedication to burying our deceased veterans. Challenges arise daily and still we manage to have a full honor guard at 99% of the funerals. When speaking of the honor guard, remind families that there is no cost to them to have honors performed. Please keep long time member Dean Mann in your prayers as he deals with multiple health issues. Saturday, April 27, will be our annual honor guard dinner. Mark your calendar so you are able to join us.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed February 4 during the annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service at Post 15. Upcoming chorus performances are February 27 at Touchmark at All Saints and March 15 at the annual American Legion Birthday party. The chorus continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7 p.m. and will resume the 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 flag program. 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.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

Upcoming Events:

March 13: Regular Monthly Meeting

March 16: St. Patrick's Day Parade – Sioux Falls

Our meetings are on the second 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. Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Quote of the Month: "I came from a real tough neighborhood. Once a guy pulled a knife on me. I knew he wasn't a professional, the knife had butter on it." — Rodney Dangerfield

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Please keep Crystal Reimers and her children in your prayers. She is our contact at the VA Hospital and very supportive of the veteran organizations. Her husband, Luke, was killed in a car accident on February 7. May he rest in peace.

*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.*

JUST BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO
DANCE

Mogens
HEROES

LAZEBALL

FRIDAY
APRIL 19 6-10:30
At El Riad Shrine - 510 S. Phillips in Sioux Falls

AN EVENT BENEFITTING American Legion Post 15

AMERICAN
LEGION
Veterans Strengthening America

TABLE FOR 8 ON DANCE FLOOR - \$500
ONE TIER UP TABLE FOR 8 - \$360
ONE TIER UP TABLE FOR 6 - \$270
GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 / AT THE DOOR \$25

Tickets available for purchase with cash, check or most credit card
at the American Legion Post 15 Office located at 1700 West Russell in Sioux Falls.
CALL 605-336-3470 FOR MORE INFO



Post 15 monthly business meeting, February 6, 2024. Photo by Al Arndt.

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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)

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Corner of
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West 12th St

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

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SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun – Practice continues. First Match is at Doland on March 4. Busy two months for BB gun kids coming.

Sporter Air Rifle – Mya and Zoe Dissing advance to second round of American Legion competition. The team placed 14th of 71 teams nationwide. Top individuals are invited to second round, and those top 15 are invited to Colorado Springs to compete for the National Championship and \$5,000 and \$1,000 scholarships from the American Legion.

Precision Air Rifle – Nicolette Hoffman, Jasmine Hays, and Josie Eichmann all advance to the second round of American Legion competition in this class. The team placed 8th of 41 teams nationwide. The top fifteen in this next round of competition will be invited to Colorado Springs to compete for the National Championship and \$1,000 and \$5,000 scholarships given by the Legion. This team competed Feb 17-19 in standing air rifle and 3 position small bore in SD State Junior Olympics Championship.

Air Pistol – This a new team. We have four kids on it who competed in the SD State Junior Olympics Pistol Championship on Feb 17-19.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

I had the opportunity to attend the midwinter conference. Two highlights of the meetings were membership and the "Be The One" campaign. Being a member of the Sons Of The American Legion benefits the Veterans community and their families. We show our commitment to our country as we honor the service of our parents and/or grandparents. Thank you to all who have renewed and to our new members. "Be The One" focuses on watching out for someone who is struggling with life issues. We need to say it's okay to not be okay. We have to ask if someone is okay or not. If they are struggling we can try to direct them to get help. Dial 988 and press 1. There are many opportunities to get involved with the Legion family. Check the Post 15 website for upcoming events. Our next meeting is March 14. Bring your ideas on how we can represent the Sons and the Legion.

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

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 Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Dave Rowe, 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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