

POST 15 NEWS



April 2024

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COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

Officer nominations and elections will be held April 2 at the business meeting. If you missed the Legion Birthday/Awards dinner, you missed a good event. The Lincoln High School MCJROTC presented Colors. Evan Hutchinson, a scout from Troop 731, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Singing Legionnaires sang the national anthem. Department Commander Courtney Steffen was our guest speaker. Ten Honor Guard members were recognized for 60+ funeral honors. Ten Post members received special recognition certificates. A few members received longevity awards (many were not at this event, and we will get the awards to them). An award from National HQ to Humboldt Sharpshooters was presented to Larry Panning to present to this club. The Educator of the Year was Sara Hutchinson (mother of the scout who led the pledge – that's how we got her to attend and NOT know she was getting this award). The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was Sgt Chad Westrum of the Sioux Falls Police Department. The Good Samaritan Life Saving Award was presented to Jeff Gifford of Post 15, and photos were taken with the person whose life Jeff saved by doing CPR quickly. Randy Miller and Mike McGoffin were both recognized as Legionnaire of the Year (two awards this year). Kelly Gillespie received the Son of the Year from Sons of the American Legion. The Legion Auxiliary also presented several awards. State Senator Larry Zikmund presented State Legislature awards to 2023 Boys State Governor Gavin Pischke and 2023 Girls State Governor Sophie Spier.

Anne and Mike McGoffin took the lead in decorating for the party, and the whole crew did an amazing job – Thank You to all who helped with this event!!

As we continue our membership renewal efforts, we are also working on Boys State, Shooting Sports, Youth Trooper, Baseball and other activities – all supported in part by income from our pancake breakfasts – please come out and eat pancakes with us the first Sunday of each month from 8:30-noon. It really helps support the Post's activities. Our next big event is Post Everlasting, scheduled for Sunday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Post. This event transfers membership from Post 15 to Post Everlasting and is focused on letting family members of deceased Post 15 members (passed away in 2023) know they have not been forgotten. Smile – Spring is here.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

I would like to congratulate Kasey Jacobson on being voted Unit 15 member of the year. Kasey was given this honor at the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Birthday party. Kasey is so deserving of this honor and I am so grateful that she is a part of this unit! Congratulations to all those who received awards at this year's party. I will hand out the remaining awards at our next meeting for those of you who were unable to make it.

At our March meeting, the chairs of the golf tournament presented \$20,000 to the new executive director of the Veterans Community Project. We are doing a public check presentation at the village on March 26 at 1 p.m. We are blessed to be able to donate these funds and help keep the building going in the village.

We have been busy this month with the birthday party and getting everything ready for the Stand up for Women's / Women's veterans wellness retreat. We are excited for another wonderful event hosted by the CAV. On April 7, we will host the District 7 Spring meeting. This is the same day as the Legion pancake breakfast and Auxiliary bake sale. Pancakes will go from 8 a.m.-12. We will have a social for the Legion Family from 12–1 p.m. Our meeting will begin at 1 in the Post building. We look forward to seeing you all there. Our next meeting is April 9 at 7 p.m. We have formed a nominating committee for officer elections. If you are interested in holding a position, please let either Sue Peters, Susan Panning, Eileen Fritz, or Kasey Jacobson know. We look forward to another busy and fun summer!

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Patrick Branco*

Greetings fellow Legionnaires! Offering a quick update from the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) and the Veteran's Benefits Administration (VBA) stakeholders meeting I attended March 10. Both programs are administered by the Veteran's Administration (VA) nationally and here locally. The stakeholder's group that we belong to is a broad spectrum of agencies, organizations, and individuals committed to assisting Veterans in our community. Since PACT was first authorized, over 1.4 million claims have been filed, and 1.1 million of those have been processed. The current timeline is roughly 120 days from filing a claim to decision and getting shorter. One of the current areas of focus is "Military Sexual Trauma Victims." Claim processors are specifically trained for this very sensitive type of claim and handling.

The PACT act has now been expanded and, under this change, all toxic-exposed Veterans were supposed to become eligible for VA care by the year 2032. The VA has decided to accelerate the program and it has gone into effect in March 2024. Veterans who were exposed to toxins or other hazards while serving our country are now eligible for VA care. More information can be found at www.va.gov/health-care/update-health-information/.

On another note, I would like to highlight our community outreach/presence activities so many have engaged in lately. From the Farm Show, to Pheasant Fest, Nursing Home visits with Veterans, Chamber of Commerce (morning mingles and afternoon mixers), and countless other events in which we "show the flag." The bottom line is that we are becoming noticed. Well done!



American Legion Post 15 birthday party, at the Alliance, March 15, 2024. Photo by Sue Peters.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

The 99th South Dakota Legislative Session completed its military/veterans work with Governor Noem signing SB-29, which grants **free tuition for National Guard members at private colleges**. Payment for public college tuition was increased last year from 50% to 100%.

Six months into the fiscal year, the **Pentagon still doesn't have a full budget**. Service leaders warn of catastrophic effects if there is a yearlong continuing resolution. And the administration plans to introduce its FY25 budget request. Welcome to budget season 2024, the government's split-screen effort to secure spending deals for two fiscal years at once. For the Pentagon, the moment is one of almost unique uncertainty. Looming over the budgeting process for the Pentagon is the threat of a full-year continuing resolution, or CR. In a briefing with reporters, the undersecretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force warned that such a scenario would hamstring their efforts to upgrade weapons systems and ramp up production. The second threat is possible sequestration. If Congress doesn't pass all its spending bills by April 30, there will be automatic 1% across-the-board budget cuts, per the terms of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, a deal struck last year to avoid a government default. – *Defense News*



Al Arndt, Cal Plienis, Bruce Naasz, Mike McGoffin, Wayne Sprecher, Patrick Branco, and Kelly Nelson at Sioux Falls Chamber Mixer held at Augustana University Midco Hockey Arena, March 12, 2024. Photo by Al Arndt.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—APRIL 2024

- 2 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7pm—\$600 drawing —ELECTION
7 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—
Alliance
7 (Sun) District 7 spring meeting hosted by Post/Unit 15
8 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 8am—Fryn' Pan
9 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7pm
10 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7pm
11 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6pm
11 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7pm
16 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5pm, dinner 6pm —Alliance—\$10
Lasagna — **reservations by April 12**
19 (Fri) Dance at El Riad Shrine—Last Call / Mogens Heroes
22 (Mon) Executive Committee meeting 7pm
23 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**

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

Save the Date

May 4 —Honor Guard annual dinner (date change)

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

Robert Tabbert, 93, Air Force, 12/25/2023;
Dale Drew, 77, Air Force, 2/17/2024; Elvin Nordlund, 83, USMC, 2/29/2024; Roger Tiede, 77, Army, 3/6/2024; Joseph Bassing, 94, Air Force, 3/15/2024; Loren Nelson, 80, Army, 3/16/2024

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



HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

March came in like a lamb so it looks like it will go out like a lion according to the weather man as I'm writing this article. Looking forward to April showers bringing May flowers. March has been a little slow for the Honor Guard as far as funerals go; that's not to say the members haven't been busy. Many of them have helped with the Pheasants Forever, Birthday Party, Gun Show, to just mention a few. Thank you very much for all you do. We look forward to welcoming the snowbirds back during April since it is still too cold for them up here in God's country. Due to several conflicts with schedules, we have moved the **Honor Guard Party to May 4, 2024**. Watch for details. As of now, the only thing I know for sure is we will have prime rib. Until next time.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed February 27 at Touchmark at All Saints, as well as March 15 at the annual American Legion Birthday party. At this time, the chorus does not have any performances scheduled during April. The chorus continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7 p.m. and will resume 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 flag program. Anyone who may be 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 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

New Post 15 Members

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

Homer Hill, Kelly Hill, Tyson Hill, Bruce Matthews, and Scott Stryker

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Riders welcome two new members: Mike Nelson and Ron Obe.

Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and the American Motorcyclist Association is urging motorists to be aware of motorcycles on the nation's roads and highways.

Upcoming Events:

April 10 - (2nd Wednesday): Monthly meeting 7 p.m. at Post Home

May 7 - Brandon Loyalty Day Parade

May 26 - Thunder on the Missouri

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: "People say, 'But Betty, Facebook is a great way to connect with old friends.'

Well, at my age, if I want to connect with old friends, I need a Ouija board." — Betty White

JUST BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO
DANCE

Mogen's
HEROES

LATE CALL

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
ADVANCED \$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

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.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

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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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www.facebook.com/bb57memorial
https://southdakotabattleship.org/
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Community Care and Tricare benefit members should know that **we are each responsible for reporting emergency services used.**

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 that are your emergency contacts).

It is the service member or family's responsibility to **report within 72 hours of care.** Being proactive helps to ensure that billing will be reported correctly.

Community Care 877-881-7618 can assist with questions.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION *Paul Fiskum*

Our April meeting is Thursday, the 11th. We meet at the Legion office 1700 W Russell Ave at 7 p.m. Use the rear parking lot and rear door. We will be nominating and electing officers for the upcoming year. Your presence and vote would be appreciated.

The 105th Legion Family birthday party was held March 15. We were honored to have detachment commander Shane Lamer present to award Kelly Gillespie the Squadron 15 Son Of The Year plaque and me the South Dakota State Son Of The Year plaque. These are earned by participating in post and squadron events. I encourage you to check the Post 15 website <https://siouxfallslegion.org> for news and upcoming events.

I would like to thank all Sons members for their membership. We are here to honor our parents and grandparents and support the Veterans in our community. Let's try to recruit additional members. Remember to Be The One and take time to check on the welfare of other members and let them know it's okay to not be okay. The Veterans Crisis Hotline can be accessed by dialing 988 and pressing 1.

It has been an honor to be Squadron 15 Sons Of The American Legion commander this past year.

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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