

POST 15 NEWS



May 2024

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

Issue Number: 2024—05

Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

I have been re-elected as your Post Commander for next year. Please note the other elected officers listed in this newsletter. Chaplain and Historian positions are still open. Thank you to all who helped make the Post successful this last year.

While membership and recruiting new members are always a top priority to ensure the continued survival of the Legion and Post 15 (we had more than fifty Post 15 members pass away this last year), fundraising is another top priority. The current programs and activities our Post members have voted to support take about \$75,000 per year. Membership dues provide about 10%, pancake breakfasts about 30%, rummage sales about 12%, raffles about 12%, and the rest MUST come from fundraising. We have not yet drawn any funds from the Post account and DO NOT plan to draw on the original amount invested. Our intent is to build this account to a level that most Post activities can be funded from the gains on this account. Our investments are not as aggressive/high risk as some would like. This is the Post's money, and the investment committee must make smart choices. It is not our money to take risks with. There has been no income from our investment in the Alliance, as profits so far have been used to help pay building loans and building maintenance projects.

We need to raise money for funding our programs and activities, while also keeping costs as reasonable as we can. Almost every week, we get requests for financial support that are in line with Legion programs – but many of these are turned down due to Post 15 financial constraints. Last year we sent direct donation requests to more than 200 Sioux Falls businesses, which netted about a 1% response and about \$1000 in donations. We continue to explore additional opportunities but are somewhat restricted by lack of Post member participation. Please help when you can.

There are two main areas of financial need: 1) programs, activities and operating expenses, and 2) increasing the amount in our investment account. If you can contribute an extra dollar or more at pancake breakfasts and social dinners, or make a donation of \$5, \$50, \$500, or \$5000 (or any amount), or make a donation from your estate, every dollar helps.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Kellie Heazlett, President

Happy Spring! On April 7 we hosted the District 7 Spring meeting. About 40 members attended. The meeting went well and we got several compliments on how well everything was set up. On April 9 we held our monthly meeting. Officer nominations were discussed and voting will be held at our May 14 meeting at the Post at 7 p.m. We will also review changes to the constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. Our 3rd annual golf tournament planning is in full swing. The event will be August 13 at Elmwood Golf Course. If you are interested in putting together a team to golf, volunteer to work, or donate items for door prizes or swag bags, please reach out to Kasey Jacobson, Deb Metzger, or Karen Dunham.

We will be hosting the Girls State orientation on May 5 at 1 p.m. for all of District 7. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will be speaking at the event. All are welcome.

Our monthly social/bingo will be May 28. Social will begin at 5 p.m., dinner at 6, and bingo around 6:30. On May 27, there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at the Alliance. Doors open at 9:30, and the program starts at 10 a.m.

As always, we have a bake sale at the pancake breakfast the first Sunday of every month. If there is anything you are interested in helping with, please let us know. We look forward to everything our unit will accomplish this spring and summer.

New Post 15 Members

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

Robert Kelly and Damian Vacin

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Patrick Branco*

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires! Spring has sprung. We have all heard that expression, but it never has quite as strong a meaning as here in the upper Midwest. Despite the fact that this has been a relatively mild winter, we still look forward to warmer weather and the activities we can begin to enjoy again. Getting back out in the garden or taking a walk on a sidewalk not covered in ice, going fishing, or even washing your car. Regardless, we begin to get more active. The same is true with Post 15, and this is a great opportunity for our members to get involved in a few activities. We realize that sometimes it can be difficult to step up and say, "I'd like to try something new." You might be worried you will be suddenly put in charge. The theme of this article is to invite you to try something new. There is so much going on and much of it is just plain fun. For example, here is a short list of things we have been involved with this spring and some of those still coming up. If one or two of these appeals to you, just let us know. We will be more than happy to show you and make certain you enjoy yourself.

Long Term Care/Assisted Living: We have been visiting with veteran residents at our local nursing homes and assisted living centers. The veterans we meet are rich with great stories and are so happy to have a conversation with folks who know their language. Join us on this mission of joy and giving back to our fellow veterans.

Honor Guard/Color Guard: Volunteer for this mission. I can assure you it is a genuine mission and one we take great pride in.

Fundraising activities: These are great way to interact with our community, for two purposes. The first is to raise money to help in our pursuit of assistance to community veterans, and the second is to demonstrate our presence to our community through service.

Please let us know if you can help with one or two of these activities. We would love to have you join us!

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.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Congress passed the FY24 defense funding bill on March 23, missing a midnight deadline but staving off a government shutdown. The House passed the appropriations package in a 286-134 vote, with 112 Republicans voting against the measure amid concerns about border security and nondefense spending. Representative Dusty Johnson voted yes. The Pentagon has operated the first six months of the fiscal year under a continuing resolution, which kept funding at previous-year levels and prohibited starting new programs. The budgetary chaos was further deepened by the release of the Defense Department's FY25 spending request on March 11, creating an unfortunate situation in which DoD had to defend its budgetary priorities for next year without knowing what it had for this year. *—Breaking Defense*

American Legion's legislative priorities for action by 118th Congress: Suicide Prevention & Mental Health, Expand research into Alternative Treatments, VA Healthcare Modernization, PACT Act Implementation & Oversight, Safeguard Veteran Benefits and restore criminal penalties for charging veterans to file VA claims, Concurrent Receipt that ends policy of requiring military retirees to forfeit retired pay when receiving disability compensation, Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity to allow GI Bill eligibility when activated under state orders, GI Bill for Honorable Service to allow veterans with "general under honorable" discharges to receive VA educational benefits, Military Quality of Life legislation, Pay the Coast Guard during shutdowns, Improve access to military Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and Protect the American Flag.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Free Coverage

Members of the LEGION FAMILY (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of Legion) who are 18 and older are eligible for free insurance from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. This \$1,000/\$5,000 accidental death policy pays if you are injured or killed while on Legion business. (Carry a membership application with you at all times.) If you are not sure if you are signed up, or would like to register, call 1-800-235-6943 and have your membership number available. It only takes a few minutes. They will not keep calling you. The website is <https://www.thelit.com>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MAY 2024

- 3 (Fri) Veterans visit—Trail Ridge 2-4 pm
4 (Sat) Honor Guard annual dinner 6 pm (social hour 5 pm)
5 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
5 (Sun) Loyalty Day Parade—Brandon 1 pm
7 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—\$625 drawing
8 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
9 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
9 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
13 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fry'n' Pan
14 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
15 (Wed) Veterans visit – Legends/Lake Lorraine 2-4 pm
18 (Sat) Armed Forces Day 10:30 am—Alliance (Mil/Vets)
21 (Tues) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Pork loin — **reservations by May 17**
25 (Sat) Place flags at Woodlawn Cemetery—7:30 am
26 (Sun) Post Everlasting service 6:30 pm
27 (Mon) Memorial Day 10 am—Alliance (SF Vets Council)
27 (Mon) Memorial Day 12 pm—State Cemetery (SD VA Dept)
28 (Tue) Pick up flags at Woodlawn Cemetery—4:30 pm
28 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**
31 (Fri) Veterans visit—Inn on Westport 2-4 pm

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7pm
Every Wednesday—Ladies bridge 12-4pm
Office is open Monday-Friday 11-3pm (closed May 27)

Save the Date

June 20-23—Department convention in Pierre
August 13—Auxiliary Unit 15 golf tournament

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB GUN Teams have done well all year with 12 and Up team winning all matches they have entered. The 10-11 and 8-9 year olds have won some matches throughout the year. Sutton Plucker has earned a chance to break the Prone National record at the Upcoming National BB Match at Rogers, Arkansas.

SPORTER AIR RIFLE Zoe Dissing is in the Top 15 shooters in the country so will be invited to go to Colorado Springs to shoot for the National Title and Legion scholarships. Mausten Stelter recently shot in the Junior Olympics at Colorado Springs and earned the bronze medal in the Under 15 Precision Air Rifle. Precision Air Rifle participants were close but were not in the top fifteen for an invite to Colorado Springs and a chance for Legion scholarships.



**3rd Annual
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 15 - Golf Tournament**
August 13, 2024
Elmwood Golf Course
"Chip in for Vets!"

**\$500
PER TEAM
4
PERSONS**

Registration: 8 - 9
(Coffee & Rolls)
Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.
FORMAT:
4 Person Scramble
FLIGHTS:
Pay 3 FLIGHTS: 1st, 2nd 3rd each flight
PIN PRIZES: Front and Back Nine

*Mulligans 2 for \$10
Available Day of
Tournament!*

**ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO ASSIST IN
FURNISHINGS FOR
THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY
PROJECT (TINY
HOMES) FOR
VETERANS!**

The American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 15 -
Invites you to participate at these
sponsorship levels!

"GOLD" SPONSOR - \$5000
Clubhouse Banner, Two Teams
"RED" SPONSOR - \$1000
1 Team & Hole Sign
"WHITE" SPONSOR - \$500
Food, Sponsor Recognition Sign
"BLUE" SPONSOR - \$100
Hole Sign

The ALA is a 501c19 Non Profit
Organization!

For more info contact: Golf Committee
Kasey Jacobson - 605-270-9289
email: jacobson1122@gmail.com
Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291
email: karendunham@dunhamresidential.com
Deb Metzger - 605-366-7379
email: debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com

**MUST PRE-PAY TO
SECURE A SPOT
FOR YOUR TEAM!**

Tournament Limited to 144 Players!

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

The Annual Post Everlasting Service will be held Sunday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. Our deceased members will have their names moved to Post Everlasting at this service. Use the north parking lot at 1700 W. Russell Street and the north doors to reach our POST. Families of members who died during 2023 are invited to this service. Unit 15 Auxiliary will serve refreshments during a time of sharing after the service. Please consider attending to show our respect to the families.

We will have our annual Honor Guard dinner on Saturday, May 4, with social hour beginning at 5 p.m. and prime rib dinner served at 6. Attendees are asked to bring an item for the potluck meal.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires did not have any performances during April. At this time, the chorus is scheduled to perform May 27 at the Memorial Day program. The chorus continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7 p.m. The chorus will resume its Avenue of Flags program by posting American flags on May 18 Armed Forces Day and May 27 Memorial Day. 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.

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>.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and the American Motorcyclist Association urges motorists to be aware of motorcycles on the nation's roads and highways.

Upcoming events:

May 5: Brandon Loyalty Day Parade

May 7: Honor Flight Escort

May 21: Honor Flight Escort

May 26: Thunder on the Missouri

Our meetings are on 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.

<http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Quote of the Month: "Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you're finished." — Leslie Nielsen



2024 Legion Rider officers: Junior Borg, Treasurer; Lamar Nance, Chairman; Korry Melstad, Vice-Chairman; Karen Miller, Secretary; Nicholas (Grubby) Peddicord, Sergeant-at-Arms

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Donald Lange, 94, Navy, 4/2/2024; Harvey Schmidt, 92, Army, 4/14/2024; Ronald Hubner, 87, Army, 4/16/2024

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



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

Open seven days a week 9:30-5:30

Free admission

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Unit 15 Sioux Falls, SD
Looking for new members.
Join to honor those who have served.
605-336-3470



A relationship to count on,
since 1923.



NELSON NELSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
(605) 336-1988
www.nelsonnelson.com

Sioux Falls Dental Implant Center

Dr. Kevin Haiar, DDS, DABOI

5200 S. Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

www.siouxfalldentalimplantcenter.com

605.799.2929



SINCE 1883 ONE AMERICAN BANK

(605) 361-1010

WWW.ONEAMERICANBANK.COM

Member FDIC



Wreath Designs

Elaine Kirby
605-774-2885
ek-wreath-designs.com

Dunham

Residential Real Estate

Karen Dunham 605-366-3291

Deb Metzger 605-366-7379

Call us for all your real estate needs!



SINGING LEGIONNAIRES
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Bringing Honor to God and Country

If you sing tenor, baritone or bass, the
Singing Legionnaires **want YOU!**
Call 605-261-0506 for more information.

PINNACLE INSURANCE GROUP



Ryan Nelson, Agent
(507) 830-0117

208 E Holly Blvd
Brandon, SD 57005
Office Phone:
(605) 900-6737



Dixie Obbink, Agent
(605) 868-0257

VAVS Chris Fischer

Larry Panning and I attended the April VAVS meeting at the VA hospital. It was led by Christa Pick and well attended by local and surrounding service groups. Contractors are nearing completion of the new 10-bed Hospice Cottage, expected to open in late summer. The ongoing Hall/Walls project will have the ICU completed in June. The Prosthesis dept. has relocated to the 4th floor. Physical Therapy is launching an Outreach program for homebound vets. The Front Lobby renovation project has been delayed and should start early 2025. The VA is adding more community providers, due to staffing shortages. Volunteers are needed! Especially local van drivers. Always looking for donations and currently have fallen short for the 2nd quarter. Upcoming events: VA2K Walkathon and Show/Shine car show. Current needs list is now available on Amazon.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Paul Fiskum

Welcome to May and spring. Squadron 15 has been busy this past month. We surpassed our membership goal and are working on renewing some past members. We had a presence at the monthly pancake breakfast and Legion family social. We attended the District 7 meeting. We participated in the fundraising dance and the Sioux River cleanup project for the city.

Our next meeting is May 9 at the Post. We will be installing new officers. We have a dedicated email address of sdsq15sal@gmail.com that is monitored daily. We are trying to inform everyone of upcoming meetings and events. We are planning a Sons outing to a Canaries game June 15. Current Sons members will have free admission, and family members will need to pay.

Upcoming events are the pancake breakfast May 5, Sons meeting May 9, and Legion social May 21. We are helping put up flags at the VA on May 18 and flags at Woodlawn cemetery May 25. Thanks for honoring the Veterans in your family.

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 Damian Vacin
Finance Officer Jim Cero
Historian **vacant**
Sgt-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain **vacant**
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
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Dave Rowe, Randy Miller,
Wayne Sprecher, Jon Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

Chorus: Bruce Naasz
Legion Riders: Lamar Nance
Vets Council: John Bachmeie
Post Everlasting: **vacant**

Americanism: Bruce Swan
Membership: Patrick Branco
SAL: Paul Fiskum
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss

Office Maintenance : **vacant**
Baseball: Randy Miller
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Pancakes: Dale Haas

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit # 74
Sioux Falls, SD



THE AMERICAN LEGION
SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15
1700 West Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104