

POST 15 NEWS



October 2024

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COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

Four Post members attended American Legion National Convention in New Orleans in late August. We came back with many good ideas for Post improvements and activities. Now we need to figure out what we can reasonably accomplish and afford to do. Although Post 15 has events every week, our community is often only aware of us through the Honor Guard at funerals. This is a challenge when younger veterans don't see Post 15 events in the local news. We take advantage of local news media when they are willing to cover events. Check out the events calendar in this newsletter. Please participate when you are able.

We are close to predicted income and expenses over the last five years and may need to draw from our investments to cover FY24-25 expenses. Post 15 gets \$6.50 of your dues, and the rest comes from donations and fundraising activities. Any amount you can contribute will help. One member recently donated \$1,500. You can also leave a donation in your will for Post 15. Pancake breakfasts and rummage sales are our primary fundraisers, so donations are increasingly important for us to continue local and national Legion programs.

Post 15 provides limited direct financial support to veterans who need help with rent, utilities, and food. This comes under our Veterans Affairs Pillar, along with suicide prevention training. Post 15 continues to support Boys State, Legion baseball, shooting sports, school flag etiquette, and is adding Scouting under the Americanism Pillar and Children & Youth Pillar. Post 15 will continue visiting local assisted living and nursing homes over the winter. Join us for interesting conversations with our fellow veterans. This does make an impact and we are asked when are we coming back.

Check with your health care provider about Covid and flu boosters. I just recovered from Covid (sinus infection), which was more intense than my bout three years ago (also sinus infection). It's time to prepare our homes, cars, and ourselves for winter—it will be here before we know it.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Deb Metzger, President

As the trees turn beautiful colors around our community, our Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 stays busy helping our Veterans. Our "Chip In For Vets" Golf Tournament netted \$23,600 for the Veterans Community Project. In the three years of this tournament, we have raised over \$60,000 to assist in replacing furnishings when the veterans move to permanent homes. The "Tiny Home" project has five homes occupied, five more ready later this year. The Community room is complete and the 35' flag pole is being installed. Our Auxiliary had committed to providing this flag pole and were pleasantly surprised when one of our members stepped up in honor of relatives who had served in our military. We can't thank them enough for such a generous donation.

The Auxiliary is hosting our New Member Potluck on October 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Post with our monthly meeting following at 7 p.m. I am personally calling all new members to invite them to this fun event. Existing members, please call Anne McGoffin at 210-722-1151 to RSVP and let her know what dish you are bringing. State President AnnaMae Warnier and District 7 President Joyce Smith will be joining us that evening. I'm looking forward to hearing about what is going on around the State and District. Our District 7 meeting is scheduled for October 26 at the Legion Post in Dell Rapids. Social starts at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon and meeting to follow. Please put this on your calendar. Other events are the monthly Pancake Breakfast on October 6, Legion Family Social on October 15, and Auxiliary Social on October 22, all at the Alliance. One final reminder, please pay your membership dues at your earliest convenience. You can pay online, at a meeting, or when you stop by the Legion office. Your continued membership keeps our Unit 15 strong so we can continue to help our Veterans. Call me at 605-366-7379 with any questions, concerns, or ideas. I hope to see you all at the New Member Potluck. Let's make this the Best One Ever!

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Patrick Branco

Greetings Legionnaires, Fall is upon us and I am looking forward to the change of season (and especially the end of lawn mowing for the year). I continue to be impressed with the number, type and variety of activities we all are engaged in. We are involved in everything from funerals performed by the Honor Guard to special ceremonies performed by the Color Guard to our routine events like pancake breakfasts, the monthly Social, the Stand Down we just participated in, the Veteran Visits at local nursing homes, and countless other events. When asked, Legionnaires raise their hands and agree to serve our community and fellow veterans. There are still times when our commitments overwhelm our ability to respond. So I will ask once more.

Please volunteer to help in any way you can, for any amount of time you can, in the pursuit of our four pillars. In the interest of growing the family part of our Legion Post, we are going to be looking to having the Sons of the Legion participate more frequently in Color Guard opportunities and other community events. We are aware that many Sons are still working and time off is at a premium, but we value your support, patriotism, and service. Help out where and when you can.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

I want to thank the members of Squadron 15 for being members. Renewals for next year have already started. Dues will be going up \$5.00 next year so you can save that by renewing now. You can go to mylegion.org and create an account if you haven't already done so. Find membership and renewal information there or call the Post 15 Office at 605-336-3470 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at the Sioux Empire Fair. Please consider attending the monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at the Legion Post, 1700 W Russell Ave, starting at 7 p.m. We had a new member, Jack, at September's meeting.

Consider attending the many events Post 15 is involved in. Check the website at <http://siouxfallslegion.org> for events calendar. As always, check on friends to Be The One. It's okay to not be okay and reach out for help.



The American Legion is now an official sponsor of the Army-Navy Football Game, celebrating its 125th edition on December 14, 2024. This is the first time a veterans service organization (VSO) has sponsored this event. The multi-year deal includes sponsorship of both Army West Point and Navy Athletics, starting with this year's game at Commanders Field in Landover, MD. This partnership advances our Be the One mission to prevent veteran and servicemember suicides.

LEGION RIDERS *Lamar Nance, Chairman*

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

Upcoming Events:

Oct 8: Midwest Honor Flight Mission 22. Meet at Sioux Falls Airport Cell Phone lot at 8:15 p.m.

Oct 12: Hobo Days. Meet at Circle K off Baltic Exit (Exit 94 on I-29) at 7:15 a.m., KSU 7:30. Check in at Corner of S. Norbeck St. and E. Main St. in Brookings by 8:30. Parade starts at 9 a.m.

Oct 15: Midwest Honor Flight Mission 23. Meet at Sioux Falls Airport Cell Phone lot at 8:15 p.m.

Dec 14: SAVE THE DATE - Army / Navy Game - sponsored by National American Legion. In conjunction the Legion Riders of Post 15 hosts an annual "chili cookoff contest" Doors open at the AAA Bldg at noon / game at 2 p.m. Auxiliary bake sale. Entertainment & prizes TBA.

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: "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous." – Frederick Douglass

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—OCTOBER 2024

- 1 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—\$750 drawing
 6 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
 8 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary potluck 5:30 pm meeting 7 pm—Alliance
 9 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
 10 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
 10 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
 14 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
 15 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Lasagna — **reservations by Oct 9**
 19 (Sat) Navy Ball 5 pm—The Barn
 22 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
 Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**
 26 (Sat) District 7 Fall meeting—Dell Rapids Legion
 28 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
 29 (Tue) Legion County meeting 8 pm—Dell Rapids

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

Save the Date

Dec 14—Army/Navy Game & Legion Riders chili cookoff—AAA
 Dec 31— New Years Eve dance—El Riad Shrine

SAVE THE LAST DANCE
 AMERICAN LEGION
 American Legion Post 15
DEC 31, 2024
DANCE 8-12:30
MOGENS HEROES - 8-10
LAST CALL 10:30-12:30
At El Riad Shrine
510 S. Phillips in Sioux Falls
 Doors OPEN at 6pm for dinner tickets / 7:30pm for dance
 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED for tables and ALL meals 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

DANCE FLOOR DINNER TABLE FOR 8 - \$800
 1st TIER DINNER TABLE FOR 8 - \$600
 1st TIER DINNER TABLE FOR 6 - \$450
 GENERAL ADMISSION w/ MEAL \$55 RESERVATION REQUIRED
 GENERAL ADMISSION DANCE ONLY \$25 ADVANCED / \$35 AT THE DOOR

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Soon we will be approaching the cold weather season. The Veterans Needs list can now be accessed online, via Amazon registry. More VAVS info to follow after our upcoming October 17 quarterly meeting.



John Bachmeier teaching fifth graders at St Michael Parish school how to fold the flag. Chris VanBriesen, Pete Waldner, and Jann Haas also participated in the flag etiquette classes. September 19, 2024.

Veterans Visits

Veterans and spouses, we need you to exchange your military stories with those in retirement homes and hospice care. Residents and visitors usually number 15-20, and the visits last an hour or two. Call the Post 15 office at 605-336-3470 for more information. All are invited to come and join the conversations. Current visits scheduled:

Fri Oct 11 Edgewood East, 3409 E 5th St, 2 p.m.

Tue Oct 14 Prince of Peace (surprise Anniversary party), 4513 S Prince Of Peace Place, 2:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

Congress approved a **\$3 billion budget stopgap for the Department of Veterans Affairs**, preventing a threatened delay in the delivery of some veterans' benefits checks in October. VA leaders said the budget shortfall came as a result of record-high benefits approvals and medical services usage by veterans in the last fiscal year, much of it due to the PACT Act. Through the first 10 months of fiscal 2024, VA staff granted disability compensation benefits to more than 1.1 million veterans and survivors, a new record. Nearly 413,000 veterans newly enrolled in VA health care services over the previous 12 months, up 27% from the same time frame a year earlier. Numerous Republican lawmakers criticized the department for not recognizing the budget issues sooner, leading to a near emergency situation. VA officials have also asked for an additional \$15 billion in the fiscal 2025 budget to cover increased benefits and medical care costs. Lawmakers are expected to debate that request after the November elections. —*Military Times*

House GOP leaders pulled their **stopgap funding plan** hours ahead of a scheduled floor vote amid opposition from defense hawks. The funding plan linked a six-month continuing resolution (CR) with a bill that would require proof of citizenship to vote. GOP defense hawks, who worry about the impact of not increasing funding for the Pentagon, say they want to see a shorter CR in the next iteration of House Speaker Mike Johnson's plan. The longer the CR goes into the next year the more problematic it becomes for U.S. defense. The Pentagon has also vehemently opposed any long-term CR, with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin saying an extended version of the temporary measure would "set us significantly behind" in meeting foreign challenges. Lawmakers have failed to finalize the military appropriations bill on time every year but one (FY19) since 2011. —*The Hill*

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER *Bill Peters*

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, the Honor Guard at Post 15 continues its solemn duty with unwavering commitment. This service is not just a tradition but a core part of Post 15's mission, providing a final salute to comrades who have passed on. The past quarter, we rendered honors for 28 veterans. With the advancing age of current Honor Guard volunteers and some inevitable health challenges, this pace becomes increasingly difficult to maintain. The impending departure of some members seeking warmer climates further strains our capacity. That makes the call for new volunteers ever more urgent. The Honor Guard's mission—to offer a final tribute to fellow veterans—is a sacred responsibility, one that carries the weight of gratitude and the honor of service. Volunteering for the Honor Guard is not only about participating in a revered ritual; it is about upholding a promise to those who have dedicated their lives to the nation's service.

The act of volunteering is met with profound appreciation, often expressed in the heartfelt thanks of bereaved families, whose expressions of gratitude resonate deeply. These moments of acknowledgment are a poignant reminder of the significance of the Guard's duty.

For those considering this noble endeavor, a call to the office is the first step. Personal items required are the Legion cover, personal ribbons for display, and a pair of black shoes. The post provides the uniform.

We hope new volunteers will step forward, ensuring that the legacy of respect and remembrance continues unbroken. The Honor Guard ranks are open to any Legionnaire who shares in this profound commitment. The call is clear: join and be part of a mission that transcends the individual, embodying the collective spirit of gratitude and respect for those who have worn the uniform.

Thank you all for all you do.

God Bless you all.

God Bless the United States of America.

National Regional Informational Conference

November 16, 2024

Westminster, Colorado (20 minutes from Denver)

This one-day national level training is available to all Legionnaires. They pay their own travel and housing expenses. Westin Westminster hotel rate is \$169 plus tax, and registration is \$70. Contact Erin Bossen at (317) 630-1287 or ebossen@legion.org to register.

Calling All Renewing Post 15 Members

Ten members who have paid their 2025 dues by the end of the day on November 11 will win **\$50**. The random generator will be used to draw the ten names.

The goal is to have ALL 2025 dues paid by this date.

Please encourage others.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed September 1 at First Presbyterian Church and September 20 at the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. On September 21 the chorus sang the national anthem for the first annual Freedom Festival at Huset's Speedway, a fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight. The chorus does not have any performances scheduled during October. It continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Mondays at 7 p.m. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags September 2 Labor Day and September 11 Patriots Day and will be posting flags October 14 Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples Day). The chorus is currently offering individual sponsorships for our flag program in an effort to post more flags along downtown Phillips Avenue. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a flag, perhaps in honor of a loved one, please contact Todd Schmidt or Bruce Naasz. Also, 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 66cycler2019@gmail.com.

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.

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

All the shooters are attending school. Coaches are viewing 2025 dates for tournaments, matches and so forth. Family vacations will be built around the matches that shooters, coaches, and families choose to attend. All hope they can improve slightly on the very successful 2024 year.

A team of 16 veterans from Sioux Falls attended the **National Veteran Golden Age GAMES** in Salt Lake City UT. The Sioux Falls VA System sponsored the team and Legion Post 15 paid for the t-shirts and one meal. The team won 49 awards, including 22 Gold Medals, 7 Silver, and 4 Bronze.



Back row L to R: Coach Kendra Scheidt, Lorne Lane, Steve Baker, Jeff Cox, Bill Johnson, John Hennings, Bruce Schaefer, Don Phillips, Don Zwart, Coach Michelle Schuman.
Front row L to R: Ron Frentz, Al Kingsley, Cindy White, Loleta Totten, **Sharon Taplett-Lundgren**, Daryl Hennings, Wade Parker. Not pictured: Bruce Hansum. Saturday, August 24, 2024.

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Alsdpost15 #SDLegion



www.siouxfallslegion.org

Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

[HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL)

19
OCT
2024

NAVY BALL COMMITTEE PRESENTS

249TH NAVY BIRTHDAY

Ball

Celebrating Our Navy!

THE BARN
SIOUX FALLS, SD

INCLUDES FOOD, DRINKS & SOUVENIRS / MUSIC

FOR MORE INFO
SFLSNB2022@GMAIL.COM

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS




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

Starting in July, National prints and mails a reminder each month until 2025 MEMBERSHIP dues are paid. That is a huge expense for National, not your post. We can help eliminate that expense by paying early. Please consider paying your 2025 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>.

New Post 15 Members

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

Barbara Mark, Natasha Wohlwend, Sandra Swanson, Eric Olson, Jeremy Cross, Jonathan Fischer, John Horning, Kim Palmer, Chad Morken

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

72 Hour Emergency Care Reporting line is 844-724-7842

It is the service member or family's responsibility to report within 72 hours of care. THIS NUMBER SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED INTO YOUR PHONE AND OTHERS WHO MAY NEED TO MAKE THIS CALL FOR A SERVICE MEMBER. (Children, grandchildren, spouses & others who are your emergency contacts)

By being proactive, you may help to ensure that billing will be reported correctly.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Thomas Keck, 80, Army, 6/25/2024; Wayne Spars, 92, Army, 9/3/2024

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



Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Corner of
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West 12th St

Closed for the winter
Oct-April

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial

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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>.




Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
East River Legal Services

FINANCIAL & MEDICAL DIRECTIVES VETERAN ADVANCE CARE PLANNING CLINIC

2nd Wednesday of the month at
the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.
1600 W. Russell Street, Sioux Falls
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

★ It's always too early until it's too late ★

Contact for questions:
rebekkah@erlservices.org susan.morgan1@va.gov





If you don't have advance directives in case of unexpected illness/injury (and everyone should), this monthly clinic in the meeting room at the Alliance can prepare them for you.



A VA rep will explain and prepare a durable power of attorney for health care (someone to make your medical decisions when you can't) and a living will (your wishes about life-sustaining treatment).

East River Legal Services (605-336-9230) will help you write a durable power of attorney for financial matters. You provide your information for a document to be prepared offsite for your signature. This is income based for those under 65 and free after that.

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 Don Kranz
Adjutant John Bachmeier

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President Deb Metzger
1st Vice President Kasey Jacobson
2nd Vice President Vicki Branco
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Historian Judy Hill
Sgt-At-Arms Barb Hayes
Chaplain Marva Petit
Secretary Nancy Andres
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin
Past President Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board Sue Peters
Executive Board Nancy Renner

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Peters—Chair
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Dave Rowe, Randy Miller,
Wayne Sprecher, Jon Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

Membership: Patrick Branco	Americanism: Martina Goergen	Youth Trooper: Dave Rowe
Rummage Sale: vacant	Baseball: Randy Miller	Office Maintenance : vacant
Vets Council: John Bachmeier	Dance: Patrick Branco	VAVS: Chris Fischer
Post Everlasting: vacant	Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien	Pancakes: Dale Haas
Gun Shows - Mike McGoffin	Flag Retirement: Dick Moss	Shooting Sports: Larry Panning
	Birthday Party : vacant	Color Guard/Flag Etiquette: Chris Van Briesen

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15
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