

POST 15 NEWS



June 2025

Published monthly by American Legion Post 15, 1700 W Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
Issue Number: 2025—06

Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Patrick Branco

Whenever I entered a leadership position throughout my career, I found it important to begin by managing expectations. One key lesson I learned is: "unarticulated expectations lead to resentment." If you don't tell people what you expect, how can they know what you want? Managing expectations is an essential leadership skill. It requires clarity, communication, and consistency. Here are my key expectations for each Legion member to consider:

Respect We value each other's contributions and recognize that our collective efforts drive our success. Respect fosters collaboration, unity, and a supportive environment. Each of us brings a different set of skills, abilities, and challenges.

Volunteer Even if you can only volunteer for one event per year, your contribution matters. Each act of service helps us progress toward our goals and strengthens our community. Your participation brings us closer to collective success. My expectation is that every member choose at least one activity to be involved in. Once a year, once a month, once a week, or daily, there are countless ways for you to contribute. Pick one (or more).

Duty Membership in the American Legion has an element of duty as well. When we wear our Legion hats, we have a duty to behave as professionals. We served our nation, and people see us in that light. Don't disappoint them. Wear your hat with pride and honor.

Politics In keeping with our organization's non-partisan status, it's critical to refrain from expressing political opinions while representing the American Legion. Neutrality ensures our mission remains focused on community service, free from divisive political influences.

Ethics and Integrity Act with integrity in every situation, as it fosters trust, respect, and credibility. Honor your commitments to the best of your ability. Practicing ethical behavior sets a positive example and inspires others. I am honored to serve as your new commander. If I am not clear on what I expect of each of you, then ask and I will try to be clearer.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

I just finished my shift for Poppy Days/Armed Forces Day. It's so great to see the people willing to help with this project. I talked to many about Armed Forces Day and explained to the ones who didn't know what it was. It was fun giving the kids coloring pages, stickers and bookmarks. A big Thank You to Jane Mairose for heading this committee and the many Auxiliary volunteers who helped. At our monthly meeting, John Holter with the Veteran's Committee Project gave an update. Ten homes are occupied by veterans, five more are close to being ready for occupancy, and all 25 will be ready for homeless veterans by the end of the year. It is so rewarding to know that our Auxiliary is making a difference.

We also elected officers. Please join me in congratulating 1st Vice President Barb Hayes, 2nd Vice President Vicki Branco, Secretary Beth Honerman, Treasurer Kathy Dathe, Chaplin Kasey Jacobson, Sgt of Arms Jill Tolbert, Historian Elaine Shaefer, and Executive Committee members Roxann Zenobi, Pat Micko, and Judy Hill. I will remain as your President. To the people going off the Executive Committee - a big Thank You for all you have done and will continue to do in other ways.

We do a bake sale during the Legion Pancake Breakfast on the first Sunday of the month. Chairperson Stephanie Schreurs could use more help with donating baked goods. People love our baked goods, and they are selling out way before the Pancake Breakfast is over. Please give Stephanie a call at 605-553-5245 if you can help.

Other upcoming events are the Department Convention in Huron (June 19-22) and the 4th Annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament (Aug 19 at Elmwood), to name a few. The Legion website lists all upcoming events for the Legion and Auxiliary. Thanks to all who step up and volunteer. We can always use more volunteers - if you have a passion about something, reach out to me so we can work together to find the right fit.

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Dick Moss

This is my first time writing for the Newsletter. In fact, most everything I do at Post 15 is a first-time experience. I look forward to serving you and getting to know as many of you as possible. I also fully realize there is so much for me to learn, and further realize I need your help going forward. Your past experiences can be a huge part of my learning and growing. Remember, Flag Day, June 14, at Veterans Memorial Park at 7 p.m. Bring lawn chairs.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

I would like to start my first newsletter article as Detachment Commander by telling you why I became a member of the Sons of the American Legion. The first reason is to honor my father's service as an Air Force Veteran, who through his service, made my membership possible in the Legion Family. The second reason is that I grew up in a small town in West Central Minnesota where my father is a member of the local Legion and I have seen firsthand how important the Legion is as a cornerstone of the community. Because of this community involvement I have seen from the Legion growing up, I decided I wanted to be part of an organization that gives back to the community and our veterans who have served our country.

My focus for the year 2025/26 is going to be on increased involvement in Legion Family activities and in the community. You can help at the monthly pancake breakfast, join the Color Guard, attend the Legion Family Social, put the Flags up at the VA, place flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day, flag sales, and raise/lower the flag at the Sioux Empire Fair, to name a few. I will also focus on improved communication with our existing and new members. For now, we will continue emailing our members via the Son's email sdsq15sal@gmail.com. Please check your spam folder if you are not receiving these emails. In the future we will explore texting as well.

I look forward to serving as your Commander over the next year and getting to meet you all at various events. You are more than welcome to email me at sdsq15sal@gmail.com or call/text at (507) 227-4539.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS to the officers for Sioux Falls American Legion Riders Post 15 Chapter 2

Junior Borg, Treasurer
Lamar Nance, Chairman
Korry Melstad, Vice Chairman
Karen Miller, Secretary
Nicholas (Grubby) Peddicord, Sergeant-at-Arms



ADJUTANT NEWS - *John Bachmeier*

—UPCOMING VOTE—A motion was made and seconded at the May general membership meeting to amend the constitution and bylaws to change the start time of the general membership meeting to 6:30 p.m. This motion will be brought up at the July membership meeting. Further amendments will be entertained, with final vote to occur at the July membership meeting after adhering to these publishing requirements for amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JUNE 2025

- 1 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
3 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—**\$950 drawing**
9 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
10 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
11 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
12 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
12 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
14 (Sat) Flag Day
17 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Burgers and brats — reservations by June 12
19-22 (Thur-Sun)—Dept convention—Huron SD
24 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance Open to the public; reservations required for dinner
30 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm

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

July 5—Military Night—Harmon Park
July 10—Twins baseball game bus trip
Aug 19—Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament
Oct 24—Comedy Night/Silent Auction

Veterans Visits

Veterans and spouses, we need you to exchange your military stories with those in retirement homes and hospice care. 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:

June 12 - Good Samaritan Luther Manor
1500 West 38th Street @ 2 p.m.

June 25 - Good Samaritan Sioux Falls Cntr
401 West 2nd Street @ 2:30 p.m.



It's time to be making plans for celebrating our nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 [#SDLegion](https://www.instagram.com/SDLegion)

www.sioxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/sioxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

The **Public Contact Office for Veterans Benefits** no longer has a direct line. Anyone who calls will get a recording that the number has been disconnected. Veterans are now required to make virtual appointments online on VERA:

<https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>

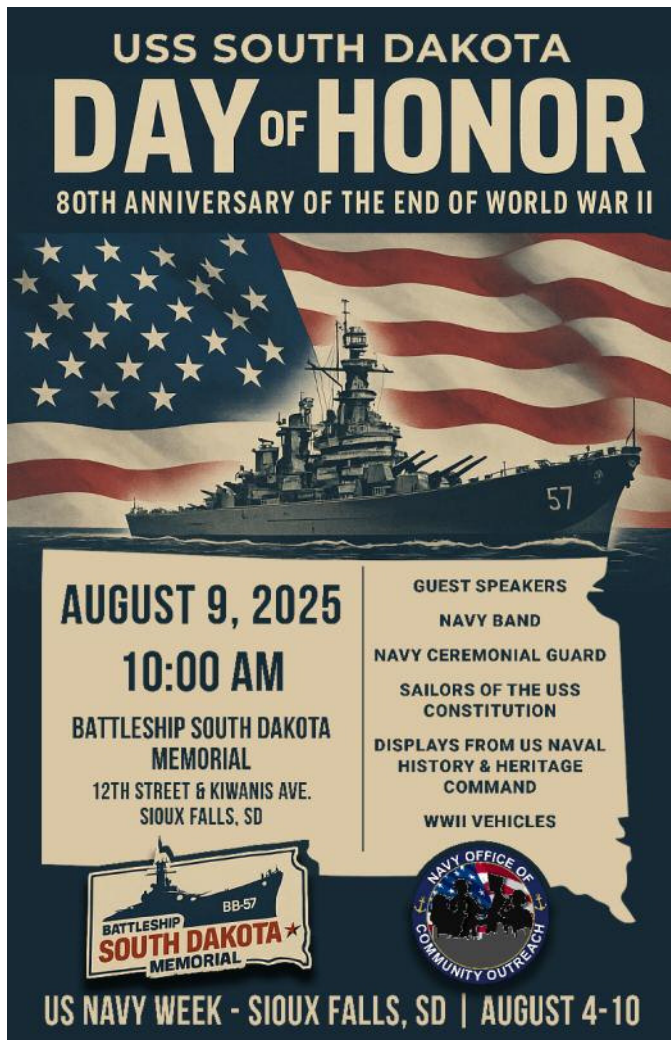
After making the virtual appointment, they will be called at the time they sign up for.

—Notice from VA Patient Public Contact office

New Post 15 Members

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

Danny L Burley, Christopher D Dickes, Yvonne A Haas, Nathan Kull, Sawyer Abbot, David Thornton, Douglas Kent, Kenneth Foster, Jerry Roblez



HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

Memorial Day is a time for reflection, remembrance, and honor — and our Honor Guard rose to the occasion with exceptional dedication. This past Memorial Day weekend, they were very, very busy, taking part in six important events that paid tribute to our fallen heroes and reminded our community of the true meaning of the holiday.

The Honor Guard participated in services at St. Michael Cemetery, the Veteran's Memorial Day program sponsored by the Sioux Falls Area Veterans Council at the Alliance, and the Memorial Day program at the State Veterans Cemetery. They also ensured our nation's colors were proudly displayed by putting up and later taking down the flags at the VA. Their participation in Taps Across America at Fleet Farm and at the El Riad Shrine added a solemn and powerful touch to the day's remembrance.

To each member of the Honor Guard — thank you. Your commitment, presence, and professionalism made a lasting impact. You helped our community remember what Memorial Day truly stands for: honoring those who gave everything for our country. We are grateful for all that you do.



15 Legion Family members put out flags at the VA Healthcare in Sioux Falls on Saturday May 17 for Armed Forces Day. We did that again on Memorial Day and will also do so on July 4 at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, contact the office.

Twins Baseball Home Game

July 10, 2025

Minnesota Twins (1987/1991 World Series)

Vs.

Chicago Cubs (2017 World Series)

Bus loading begins at 5:30 a.m.

Game time 12:10 p.m.

Seats are grouped together on the first base side. Cost is \$125. All are welcome. Deadline for signing up and paying: June 10

The last game Legion Post 15 attended ended with the excitement of the game being decided in the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs; the Twins batter hit a home run with two men on base.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed on May 1 at First Lutheran Church and on May 26 at the Memorial Day program at the Military Heritage Alliance. The chorus is scheduled to perform June 8 at Grace Lutheran Church and June 29 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The chorus continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7 p.m. 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. The chorus resumed its Avenue of Flags program by posting American flags on May 17 Armed Forces Day and May 26 Memorial Day and is scheduled to post flags on June 14 Flag Day. The chorus is still offering individual sponsorships for posting 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.

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

I recently attended the VAVS committee quarterly meeting, held in the VA Hospital Auditorium. A topic for review was the status of VAVS monetary donations, which continue to be ahead of last year. Discussion of events included the Women's Health Baby Shower, Volunteer Appreciation week, and ongoing Wednesday picnics and cookie giveaways. Current needs list continues to be updated and can be found on the Amazon Registry. There are special needs for the Hospice Cottage that will be opening soon. VAVS always has a demand for men's T-shirts, Gift cards [\$25] for food, gas, everyday items, etc. Volunteer needs.... office work, Red Coat Way Finders for front lobby, Specialty Clinic assistants, and support for the No Veteran Dies Alone program. Contact Crystal, 605-585-3748.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Larry Panning

BB Gun shooters recently competed in the State tournament at Pierre. Many shot their personal best. They are now practicing and studying for the Nationals at Rodgers, Arkansas, June 29 to July 3. **Sporter Air Rifle** will have two shooters at Rodgers for a competition held at the same time. **Precision Air Rifle** (four shooters) is shooting at Anniston, Alabama, for USAS Nationals June 8-14. They are shooting both Air Rifle and .22 Small Bore at this competition. They are also sending six shooters to Port Clinton CMP Championship on July 7-14. Here are photos of the new building's progress.



View of lower level poured walls and floor from the road at the southeast corner of the property



View from inside future second level southwest corner, viewing poured walls and floor. First level floor will be set on top of lower level walls and then main level walls will be set.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Elton Fordyce, 70, Army, 4/24/2025; Robert Frank, 72, USMC, 5/3/2025; David Clauson, 83, Army, 5/11/2025



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

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.

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 the year's 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 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>.

To honor and support Veterans welcoming a new addition to their families in the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System proudly hosts a



VA Baby SHOWER

Open to all new Veteran parents, Veteran parents-to-be, their children and significant other/support persons. Please join us for a chance to meet other Veteran parents and parents-to-be, education, fun and games!

June 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Location: Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial
Hospital Auditorium
2501 W. 22nd St., Sioux Falls, SD**

RSVP by June 9, 2025

by email VHASUXVoluntary@va.gov or

[HTTP://www.eventbrite.com/e/sioux-falls-va-baby-shower-tickets-1357365369359](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sioux-falls-va-baby-shower-tickets-1357365369359)

by calling 605-336-3230 Ext. 6806



Scan the QR code
for event
information



Battleship South Dakota Memorial



USS South Dakota
Day of Honor
August 9, 2025

May 1—September 30
Free admission—open 9:30-5:30 daily
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



Sioux Falls Dental Implant Center

Dr. Kevin Haiar, DDS, DABOI
5200 S. Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108
www.siouxfallsdentalimplantcenter.com
605.799.2929



SINCE 1883 ONE AMERICAN BANK

(605) 361-1010
WWW.ONEAMERICANBANK.COM
Member FDIC



**Fly A Flag In Honor Of
Loved Ones**—The Post 15
Chorus is offering to fly
your flag along Phillips
Ave during 8 holidays for
a \$44 donation. Call the
Legion office for details.

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.

Advertise here —

Call

605-336-3470

Thanks to our advertisers. We ask our members to support them and use their services.

4th Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 - Golf Tournament August 19, 2025 Elmwood Golf Course

"Chip in for Vets!"

\$500
PER TEAM
4
PERSONS

Mulligans 2 for \$10
Available Day of
Tournament!

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

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!

Post 15 Baseball Season—First Week

May 29

West Sr Vs Huron, 4 & 6 pm, Harmodon Park

June 2

West Sr. @ Watertown, 5 & 7 pm

East Jr. vs Brandon Valley, 5 & 7 pm (Harmodon)

West Jr. vs. Harrisburg Gold, 5 & 7 pm (Harmodon)

June 3

East Sr-Pierre, 4 & 6 pm (Harmodon)

West Sr. vs Lake Norden, 6 pm (Harmodon)

West Jr. vs. Harrisburg Maroon, 5 & 7 pm (Harmodon)

June 4

East Sr @ Brookings, 5 & 7 pm

East Jr. @ Yankton, 5 & 7 pm

June 5

Post 15 vs Dell Rapids, 5:30 & 7:30 pm (Harmodon)

June 6-8

East Sr. & West Sr @ Lewis & Clark Tourney (Crofton NE/
Yankton)

East Jr & West Jr. @ Alexandria Tourney (Alexandria MN)

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 Patrick Branco
1st Vice Commander Dick Moss
2nd Vice Commander Sandy Erickson
Finance Officer Jim Cero
Historian **vacant**
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier
Post Service Officer Fred Ahrens

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrick Branco—Chair
Wayne Sprecher, Jonathan Theel, Terry Wolf, Dale Hill,
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Tony Brende, Randy Miller

COMMITTEES

Membership: Patrick Branco
Rummage Sale: **vacant**
Vets Council: Jonathan Theel

Americanism: Martina Goergen
Baseball: Randy Miller
Dance: Patrick Branco
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President Deb Metzger
1st Vice President Barb Hayes
2nd Vice President Vicki Branco
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Historian Elaine Shaefer
Sergeant-At-Arms Jill Tolbert
Chaplain Kasey Jacobson
Secretary Beth Honerman
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin

Past President Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board Judy Hill
Executive Board Roxann Zenobi
Executive Board Pat Micko

Youth Trooper: Dave Rowe
Office Maintenance : **vacant**
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