

# SIOUX FALLS POST 15



August 2025

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*Patrick Branco*

Membership renewal for 2025-2026 began July 1. We have already renewed the memberships for those over age 90. On July 2, while waiting to depart for a funeral, I stopped in to see Nancy Anderes and renew my membership. She happily took my money. When I got back to the SD room, I let Barry Andres know I had renewed, and he asked if I had done it online. I replied that I paid cash. He looked at me funny and said, "You know how much easier it is if you do it online? It saves the Post time and money." I didn't know that. So, my pitch here is to get your renewal done right away and, if you are able, please consider doing it online. Of course, we will still take your cash if you wish to remain old fashioned – like me!

Renewing your membership in American Legion Post 15 is far more than an administrative task—it's a meaningful act that sustains both the vibrant community and enduring mission of our Post. The American Legion stands as a pillar of support for veterans, their families, and the broader community, offering vital services ranging from advocacy on veterans issues to organizing local events and charitable outreach. By renewing your membership, you help ensure that these essential programs continue to thrive and that the voices of veterans remain strong at every level. Membership renewal also reinforces the camaraderie and shared purpose that are hallmarks of Sioux Falls Post 15. Each renewal is a reaffirmation of your commitment to fellow members, honoring the traditions that have bound generations of veterans together. It provides opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and meaningful service, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply offering a listening ear to another member.

Moreover, timely renewal—especially through online methods—enables the Post to operate more efficiently, allowing resources to be directed to its core mission. Whether you choose to renew with a handshake and cash or via a few clicks online, your membership is a vital thread in the fabric of Post 15, ensuring that the legacy of service and support endures for years to come.

## UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

*Deb Metzger*

Many things are happening with Auxiliary Unit 15. August 9 is the USS South Dakota Day of Honor with the Navy Band entertaining us. This will be held at the Battleship Memorial at 10 a.m. On August 19 is our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. We are full! We have 144 golfers raising money for the Veteran's Community Project (Tiny Homes). We are looking forward to another great tournament with lots of fun and hopefully a sunny day. Put September 6 on your calendar for the District 7 meeting hosted in Montrose. The Stand Down is scheduled for September 19 at the Alliance. We can use more help with this project. As a fundraiser, we are going to bus tables at the Pizza Ranch on 41st Street on September 24. Give me a call if you want to help - 605-366-7379. Our new National Auxiliary President, Pam Ray, will be coming to Sioux Falls on October 11. She and a group will be working at the "Tiny Homes" on October 13' and our Auxiliary will host a dinner for her at the Post. Please put this on your calendar to attend, it isn't often that our National President comes to Sioux Falls. On October 14 the Auxiliary is planning a new member potluck prior to our monthly meeting. I will call our new members and personally invite them to the potluck. Would love to see as many as possible come to this event. Susie Learning, our State President, as well as Jill Lamers, our District 7 President, are invited to this event. Let's get a bunch of people to attend so we can enjoy each other's great cooking/baking skills. At the State Convention, I grabbed 13 bags that were made by convention attendees for needy children. I had the privilege to drop these off at the Bishop Dudley's Home for Families. They were excited to receive them to assist making a child's life happier. I hope our members can take time to help out with one of our many projects. A little time goes a long way to making someone else's day better!

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

*Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander*

At the Legion State Convention in Huron, the Sons of the American Legion National Vice Commander of the Midwest Region, Mike Monserud from Iowa, presented the Five Star Program to the Sons. Everyone present was certified in the program. The Five Star Program teaches: 1) Patriotism, 2) Citizenship, 3) Discipline, 4) Leadership, and 5) Legionism. I plan to briefly discuss each of these points over the course of the year at our monthly meetings. Two themes at the afternoon business meeting were "Be The One" (which is the number 1 goal of the Legion) and next year's theme, "Better Together" (Legion Family).

The Sons have two events in August. First is the Sioux Empire Fair. The Sons, as in years past, will raise and lower the flag each day. The other big event is the start of our 2025 raffle. The grand prize is \$2500, with \$500 for second prize, and 10 get their money back. Tickets cost \$20, and we are only selling 250 tickets. Proceeds go to Boys State, Girls State, and the Veterans and Child Welfare fund. Both events support the Son's mission of 1) Supporting our Veterans and Families, 2) Promoting Patriotism and Americanism, and 3) Promoting programs that benefit our youth. These two big endeavors require our Sons members to make them successful. Can I count on you to help with the flags for one morning or evening at the fair or sell a book of raffle tickets? If you can help, please contact me or the Legion office.

Finally, we now have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/16Xp9wzd9P/>. There will be no Sons meeting in August. I hope to see you all at our September business meeting or at the Fair.

## LEGION RIDERS

*Lamar Nance, Chairman*

Upcoming event for the Legion Riders:

July 26: Militiamen VMC Poker Run

Aug 16: Yankton Riverboat Days Parade

Aug 30: 727<sup>th</sup> DAV Poker Run

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:** "This morning, the sun endures past dawn. I realize that it is August: the summer's last stand." – Sara Baume

## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY USA 250 CHALLENGE



The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The **USA 250 Challenge** encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere launched the USA 250 Challenge on July 3, 2025. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—AUGUST 2025

- 3 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 4 (Mon) Dinner with RADM Wosje Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance
- 5 (Tue) NO Legion Post 15 meeting in August; 6:30 in September
- 9 (Sat) USS SoDak Day of Honor 10 am—Battleship Memorial
- 11 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
- 12 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
- 13 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
- 14 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
- 14 (Thur) NO Sons of the Legion meeting in August
- 19 (Tue) Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament 9 am—Elmwood
- 19 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Meatloaf— reservations by Aug 14—**\$1,000 drawing**
- 25 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
- 26 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance  
Open to the public; reservations required for dinner

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

Sept 19—POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony  
Oct 13—Auxiliary dinner for national president  
Oct 18—Navy Ball  
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:

Aug 15 — The Parkwood 7800 South Western @ 2 p.m.

Aug 20 — Bethany 1901 South Holly Avenue @ 2 p.m.



JULY 4, 2026 –  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
USA

We celebrate our nation's 250th birthday.

### FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpst15 [#SDLegion](#)

[www.siouxfallslegion.org](http://www.siouxfallslegion.org)



Post 15 website

[www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15](https://www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15)

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

## New Post 15 Members

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

Calvin Davidson, Kenneth Foster, Douglas Kent, Nathan Kull, David Thornton, Jerry Roblez, Sawyer Abbott, Michael Colwill, George Shafer, Linda Brugger, Phillip Brugger, Marel Aboch, and Mark Parsley

## Up To Now!

Sioux Falls Post 15 members are encouraged to sign up to receive the Department's newsletter, *Up To Now!*, in their email inbox each month: <https://sdlegion.org/up-to-now>

*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.*





Two American Legion Post 15 foursomes at “Tee It Up for the Troops” at the Country Club of Sioux Falls on July 14, 2025. CEO Jim Lake with Vern Eide Motor Cars sponsored the two foursomes. Al Arndt photo collection.

(L-R) Darwin Viet, Bernie DeWald, Tom Van Wyhe, Mike Bruedenbach, Todd Schmidt, Russ Hardy, Jon Theel, and Al Arndt

## SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

**BB Gun** Seven BB shooters traveled to Rogers, Arkansas, for the Daisy Nationals. They placed second in the USA. **Sporter Air Rifle** Two shooters traveled to Rogers for the first time for air rifle competition. Although they did not place, they represented us well and had fun. **Precision Air Rifle** sent six shooters to the CMP nationals. They competed in three different competitions including 60-shot standing precision air rifle and 3-position smallbore (.22 cal.). Many shot personal best scores. It is now recoup time until practice begins middle September for Dixie Double Competition in October and Winter Air in December for the air rifle teams. BB gun practice usually starts late December or January. New Range Building construction is moving along well. There is “**A Chasing An Ace event**” with some proceeds at the Humboldt Bar to support our shooting teams and this new range building. They also are still seeking donations for the project. Both are tax-exempt organizations for your consideration. **CONGRATULATIONS** to all shooters on a Great Year!! Thanks for your support.

## HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

*Bill Peters*

We proudly welcome new members to the Honor Guard and thank those who continue to stand with us when called into service. Your dedication ensures that our fellow veterans receive the honors they have earned. The families we serve are consistently moved by our presence and often express deep appreciation for the respect and care shown during their time of loss. That gratitude reminds us of the importance of what we do.

We also keep in our thoughts the Honor Guard members who are currently unable to join us due to health, distance, or other personal reasons. You are always part of our team, and your past service is deeply appreciated. We encourage others who are interested in joining the Honor Guard to reach out. There is very little cost to be part of this team, and it's a deeply meaningful way to serve our fellow veterans and their families.

As I continue to stay busy with other commitments to the Legion, I want to sincerely thank everyone for their continued support of me and the work we do together. It truly means a great deal.

The **2025 National Veteran Golden Age Games** were held in Memphis, Tennessee from May 31- June 5. South Dakota had 14 participants and won 45 medals or ribbons: 13 gold (1st), 14 red (2nd), and 6 bronze (3rd).



Front Row: Michelle Schuman, Coach, Al Kingsley, Loleta Totton, Kathi Peters, Sharon Taplett-Lundgren, Basil Hunt, Wade Parker, Ron Frentz, Kendra Finch, Coach

Back Row: John Bywater, Bruce Schaefer, Don Phillips, Don Zwart, Steve Baker, Lorne Lane

Not Pictured: Bruce Hansum

## CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed June 29 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and July 20 at Peace Lutheran Church. Singing the national anthem for Legion Baseball at Harmodon Park on July 7 was cancelled due to weather. The chorus will perform August 3 at First Methodist Church, August 4 at the dinner for Navy Rear Admiral Michael Wosje at the Alliance, August 11 at First Reformed Church, August 19 to sing the national anthem at the Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament, and August 25 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. The chorus rehearses at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Anyone 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 [66cycler2019@gmail.com](mailto:66cycler2019@gmail.com). The chorus posted American flags on July 4 Independence Day and 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 businesses that might like to participate in this flag program.

## VAVS *Chris Fischer*

The quarterly VAVS meeting was held July 16 at the Sioux Falls VA. The executive staff updated the group on the following topics: The new Hospice House is now open and is receiving positive feedback, progress on the Water Tower painting, Wi-Fi update, and the Pre-op Patient area. Bids are being accepted for the boiler plant and the new Sterile Processing department. Staffing shortage remains a challenge, but recruitment efforts are improving in all departments. Upcoming event: The annual "Show and Shine Car Show" will be August 13 and the Women's Veteran Retreat will be September 26. Volunteers are needed: Reception area, office work, drivers, Ambassadors/Way Finders, and assistance with the No Veteran Dies Alone program. The current needs list can be found on the Amazon website, and always a need for gift cards from Walmart, Amazon, Dollar General, or BP Gas. Six members from Post 15 attended the July weekly picnic with the Vets. Our next Picnic Lunch with the Vets will be August 20 at the VA hospital.



Post 15 Flag Retirement Ceremony American Legion Members at W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds previous to fireworks on July 4, 2025. (L-R) Pete Waldner, Jim Puthoff, Donna Puthoff, Mike McGoffin, Dale Hill, Patrick Branco, Dick Moss, Darrell Kluge, Al Arndt, and Terry Wolf. Al Arndt photo collection.



Pete Waldner, Chris Fischer, Patrick Branco, Doug Starr, and Jim Puthoff (Dale Hill not pictured) shared a picnic lunch with hospitalized veterans at the VA hospital on July 16, 2025. The last summer picnic will be Wednesday, August 20, at 11 a.m.



## POST EVERLASTING

### May They Rest in Peace

John Fraser, 89, Army, 7/18/2025

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



### Note from Post 15 Admin

WE ARE OVER 50% RENEWALS!!!! Thank you for renewing in July as it saves money to not have to send out another reminder. If you have not renewed, please consider going online to [legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew) and renewing today. It makes the process of renewing 1,400 members much easier. No mail to open, no entries to make into National for payments received. The Post instead receives one report on those who have renewed online and we mail out the new cards. So simple. If that doesn't work for you, by all means mail in or bring your renewal to the office Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See you at pancakes on August 3 and every first Sunday of the month.

**HUMOR FOR HEROES**  
**COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER!**

**OCTOBER 24TH**  
1600 W RUSSELL ST. SIOUX FALLS, SD

**COMEDIANS**  
JERRY IRBY (AIR FORCE)  
TRAVIS WEBER (ARMY)  
HOSTED BY BIG JOHN SMALL

**TICKETS \$15 EACH 2 FOR \$25**

**DOORS 6PM COMEDY 7PM**

**AMAZING SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER FOR POST 15**  
CALL FOR TICKETS 605-336-3470  
**AMERICAN LEGION**

### NEW RATES FOR PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

AGE 24 & under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 & over
\$2,007	\$1,924	\$1,834	\$1,736	\$1,630	\$1,515	\$1,390	\$1,254	\$1,113	\$972	\$835	\$701	\$579	\$494

Members can renew at the Post 15 office or online. Choose the PUFL option with 12 equal payments or one lump sum: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>. For more information, contact Post 15 at 605-336-3470.

### 2026 DUES

Paying now saves \$\$\$ . Starting in July, National mails a reminder each month until dues are paid. When we pay early, no more notices have to be printed and mailed.

## 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](http://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](http://www.siouxfallsdentalimplantcenter.com)  
605.799.2929



## SINCE 1883 ONE AMERICAN BANK

(605) 361-1010  
[WWW.ONEAMERICANBANK.COM](http://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.

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605-336-3470

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**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](mailto:jacobson1122@gmail.com)  
Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291  
email: [karendunham@dunhamresidential.com](mailto:karendunham@dunhamresidential.com)  
Deb Metzger - 605-366-7379  
email: [debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com](mailto:debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com)

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

**Tournament Limited to 144 Players!**

**USS SOUTH DAKOTA  
DAY OF HONOR**  
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

**AUGUST 9, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**BATTLESHIP SOUTH DAKOTA  
MEMORIAL**  
12TH STREET & KIWANIS AVE.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD

**GUEST SPEAKERS**  
SENATOR JOHN THUNE  
REAR ADMIRAL WOSJE

**NAVY BAND  
BRASS AMBASSADORS**

**NAVY CEREMONIAL GUARD**

**SAILORS OF THE USS  
CONSTITUTION**

**DISPLAYS FROM US NAVAL  
HISTORY & HERITAGE  
COMMAND**

**WWII VEHICLES**

**NAVY OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**US NAVY WEEK - SIOUX FALLS, SD | AUGUST 4-10**

**OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION**

[legionoffice.al@gmail.com](mailto: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

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**SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15**  
**1700 West Russell**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57104**