

SIOUX FALLS POST 15



July 2026

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

Issue Number: 2026—7

Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mark Parsley

Happy Birthday America!!! 250 years ago, a nation was born. The Legion has several events planned, and the 4th of July parade is one of them. We will participate with the Color Guard, our 1941 vehicle, and a float, and we need volunteers. To start the day, we will meet at the VA at 0630 (please arrive 15 minutes early) to put up flags. At 0900, we will meet to form up for the parade. We will take the VA flags down at 1700 hours. We are also planning a flag retirement ceremony at the fairgrounds, before the fireworks begin.

Our monthly meeting on July 7 has been canceled. Instead, we will attend Military Appreciation Night at Harmodon Park, and I hope to see many Legionnaires there supporting our baseball teams.

Hot Summer Nites with the Corvette Club is July 15. They are very generous to us, and we need 12 volunteers to cover two shifts from 1630 to 2200 hours. July 18 is the airshow and we will need help on Saturday and Sunday; Also on Saturday, after 1730 is military appreciation night at Canaries ball-park.

I went to the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Brookings on June 12. It was a moving experience for me; the tour guide was very thoughtful and respectful. His presentation was excellent. We had a flag retirement on Flag Day (June 14); the Legion Riders and Sons of the Legion helped with the ceremony. Thank you to both organizations for your support. Although we will refine the ceremony for next year, it was well done.

We still have two dates left to deliver veterans to VA picnics: July 15 and August 19. If you're interested, sign up on the Friday before and arrive by 1100 hours to help transport veterans.

We still need help selling our rifle raffle tickets. We began with 1,776 tickets and have made progress, but we still need support to reach our goal.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

The American Legion State Convention was held in Aberdeen this year. I always enjoy these conventions and seeing fellow Auxiliary members across the state, listening to happenings around the state, and working together for a common cause. There are so many people doing exciting things for our Veterans and their families. It's such a pleasure to see all these members on the different committees they volunteer for. A special Thank you to the Executive Committee and our National Executive Committee member for all you do. I'd like to congratulate Susie Learing, our outgoing State President, on a job well done. Susie is now a member of Unit 15 and no one except her will know the number of volunteer hours she spent making our State Auxiliary the best it can be. Patrice Sorensen, our new State President, was installed at the State Convention along with Rose Kraft, 1st Vice President, and me as 2nd Vice President. We look forward to continuing the mission of our Auxiliary on a State level.

I would like to congratulate Post 15 Bill Peters on being installed as the American Legion Department Commander. Thanks, Bill, for all you have done and will be doing for the American Legion. We appreciate your dedication and everything you do.

We "bussed" tables at The Pizza Ranch on June 17 and made \$529. Thanks to Pat Micko for chairing this event and the ladies who helped her make this a success. We will do this again on September 9. Put it on your calendar to come have a great meal and support our Unit 15 Auxiliary.

Registrations are pouring in for the 5th Annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament on August 18 at Elmwood Golf Course. If you plan to participate, please get your registrations in, as we fill this tournament every year. Proceeds go to the Veteran's Community Project (tiny homes). To date, we have donated \$85,000 to support homeless veterans.

Ticket sales for our snowblowers raffle are going well also. Our Auxiliary members will be glad to sell you tickets. This project is earmarked to help our Veterans and their families. Happy 250th Birthday, America!

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Dick Moss*

Flag Day/Flag Retirement Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park was well received. The inclusion of the American Legion Riders and the Sons of the Legion added to the ceremony. The individual reading "Old Glory" and "The Thirteen Folds" did an excellent job. Thank you to all who participated.

Looking forward, please feel free to offer your opinions, suggestions, and areas that need improvement. My goal is to bring the Legion Family and other Veteran Organizations to a more collaborative place. With your support and input we can improve. I would also begin to develop more working committees for the daily operation of the Post. Some potential areas include Media and Social, Medical, events for Families, and any other aspects to grow the Post and community awareness.

I enjoyed the State Convention in Aberdeen. Always more to learn about the Legion and operation of the Post. I met Legion members from other Posts. The sharing of ideas and outcomes is definitely a big part of the future.

VA Hospital Picnics

Post 15 is providing escorts for picnics at the VA Hospital on July 15 and August 19. **Ten volunteers are needed for each one.** Meet at the hospital at 11:30 to push a patient in a wheelchair to the outside picnic area. Your lunch is free. To volunteer, **call the Post 15 office by the Friday prior**, so a head count can be turned in for meals.

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:

July 16 - Bethany Home, 1901 S Holly Ave @12:30 p.m.

July 20 - Good Sam, 3901 South Marion Road @ 2:30 p.m.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

The South Dakota American Legion Department Convention in Aberdeen (June 19-21) provided a great weekend of fellowship and learning as Legion Family members from across the state gathered to celebrate accomplishments and discuss the future of our organization.

The Sons members heard from Thom Skelley of Texas, the leading candidate for National Sons of the American Legion Commander. He praised the exceptional patriotism demonstrated by South Dakota's members. He reminded us of the importance of putting God, Family, and Country first, and he emphasized that the strength of the Sons of the American Legion comes from the local Squadron level. Everything we accomplish grows upward.

American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley stated that South Dakota has something special happening with the Sons of the American Legion. He noted our role in complementing and supporting our Posts.

I accepted several awards on behalf of Squadron 15: **Citation of Achievement** for surpassing our membership goal in March, **Certificate of Achievement** for attaining 111% of our membership goal, and **2026 100% Membership Ribbon**. Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership and helped make these accomplishments possible.

July 1 marks the beginning of the 2027 membership year. I encourage all members to renew in July. This reduces the need to send reminder notices throughout the year. Early renewals also allow us to focus our resources on supporting veterans and the programs of the American Legion Family.

The comments from our national leaders and these membership accomplishments should make every member of Squadron 15 proud. The work our members perform at the local level—whether it is supporting Post activities, volunteering in the community, fundraising, or assisting veterans and their families—makes a difference. As we begin a new membership year, let us continue to build on that success and remember that the future of the Sons of the American Legion starts with each of us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JULY 2026

- 4 (Sat) Independence Day parade 10 am —downtown Sioux Falls
 5 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
 7 (Tue) **NO** Legion Post 15 meeting
 7 (Tue) Military Appreciation Night 6 pm—Harmon Park
 8 (Wed) Declaration of Independence 4:30 pm—S.D. Battleship
 9 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
 9 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
 9 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
 13 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
 14 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
 15 (Wed) Picnic with the Vets 11:30 am—VA Hospital
 15 (Wed) "Hot Summer Nites" 6 pm—8th & Railroad
 18 (Sat) Military Appreciation Night—Canaries Ball Park
 18-19 (Sat-Sun) Sioux Falls Air Show—Air Guard base
 21 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
 Broasted Chicken — call by July 16 IF YOU WILL ATTEND
 27 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 6:30 pm
 28 (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 (except holidays)

Save the Date

Aug 8—USS South Dakota Day of Honor—Battleship Memorial
 Aug 18—"Chip In For Vets" Golf Tournament
 Sept 18—POW/MIA Recognition Day



**JULY 4, 2026 –
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
USA**

We celebrate our nation's 250th birthday all year long.

Upcoming America 250 events include the Independence Day parade in downtown Sioux Falls at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, and a ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on July 8 at the Battleship South Dakota Memorial to read the Declaration of Independence. Sign up for the parade at <https://sfindependenceparade.com>.

America's 250th Anniversary Independence Parade

Sioux Falls will be hosting an Independence Parade on July 4th, beginning at 10 a.m. and going down Phillips Avenue. According to the organizing committee, it'll go regardless of the weather, except for lightning or tornados. The Post's participation will include the color guard that leads the parade, driving the 1941 Chevy, the Legion Riders, and a float.

We currently have a basic committee consisting of Paul Clinton, Marsha Dede and Mike McGoffin. The basic concept of the float is for a trailer with banners on each side; the Post show banner; and Legion Family members riding the float or walking alongside. Some folks on the float dressed in uniforms from the Revolution to present day. We need your help to refine the float, find uniforms and people who can fit them. If you're interested, contact the Legion office or one of the folks listed above. We also need volunteers to ride on the float, walk beside it, or march in the color guard. With your help, we can make this a parade to remember. —Mike McGoffin



Post 15 wins its fifth consecutive Post Newsletter award and third 1st Place award at the Department convention in Aberdeen. Department Commander Kevin Hempel and Charemon Dunham, South Dakota American Legion Press Association, present 1st Place Post Newsletter award to Post 15 Newsletter editor, Diane Diekman, June 21, 2026. Photo by John Bachmeier.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders participated in several area events, including Thunder on the Missouri, Honor Flights, 605 ride, and the "Wall that Heals" escort in Brookings.

Honored guests at the June meeting were Post 15 Commander Mark Parsley and Adjutant John Bachmeier. Mission pins were awarded to: Junior Borg, Mark Honerman, Todd Proffitt, and Lamar Nance.

Upcoming Events:

June 28 - Calm Waters Veterans Retreat Poker Run

Jul 4 - Flags at VA for Independence Day

Jul 4 - Sioux Falls Independence Day Parade

Jul 4 - Flag Retirement Ceremony at Fairgrounds

July 18 - Militiamen VMC Poker Run

July 18 - Midwest Honor Flight Poker Run – Pilot Mikes

Our meetings are the second 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. 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: "A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done." — Fred Allen



Thunder on the Missouri

American Legion Baseball

July 7 - Military Night is hosted by SEBA and Post 15 baseball teams at Harmodon Park, with West hosting East. **Free admission for all.**

3:30—Junior Legion Game

6:00—Announcements/Recognition of Veterans and Post 15 baseball teams/Post 15 Color Guard and Singing Legionnaires

7:00— Senior Legion Game

July 30-August 2 – Class A Junior State Tournament at Harmodon Park is hosted by Post 15 Junior East

Sioux Falls Post 15 Athletic Officer Randy Miller presented Post 15's annual donation to help the Sioux Empire Baseball Association (SEBA) administer the Post 15 American Legion Baseball Program. Jeff Campbell, Director of Baseball Operations, and Zak Evers, Head Coach-SF Post 15 Sr West, accepted on behalf of SEBA.



Jeff Campbell, Randy Miller, Zak Evers. June 12, 2026.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

James Barry, 84, Army, 5/29/2026; Wayne Hanson, Navy; Phillip Brugger, 84, Air Force, 5/29/2026

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



CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On June 14 the Singing Legionnaires performed at a church service in Egan, South Dakota, in celebration of America's 250th birthday. The chorus performed June 29 at Dow Rummel Village and is scheduled to perform July 6 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community and on July 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The chorus will sing the national anthem at Harmodon Park on July 7 for Legion Baseball Military Appreciation Night, as well as on July 30 for Legion Baseball State Tournament Opening Ceremonies. The chorus continues to rehearse Monday nights at 7 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 66cycler2019@gmail.com. The Singing Legionnaires posted American flags on June 14 Flag Day and is scheduled to post flags on July 4 Independence Day. Individual sponsorships are available 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.

Pancake Breakfast—July 5, 2026



New Post 15 Members

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

Brian Drummond, Melissa Rops, Jacqueline McDowell, Randy Olson, Dave Thompson, J. Sroufe, Dean Noble, Gregory Johnson, James Horn, and David Ohme

Continue your July 4 America250 celebration with attending our monthly pancake breakfast on July 5. We serve from 8:30 a.m. to noon at The Alliance, 1600 West Russell Street. Come and support the veterans who served to get us to 250 years of freedom.

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

Seven **BB Gun** shooters and six **Sporter Air Rifle** shooters will attend the Daisy Air Rifle Nationals in Arkansas this month. **Precision Air Rifle** participated in the USA Shooting Nationals in Alabama last month and are headed to Camp Perry, Ohio, this month. The other teams are off for the summer. **Chase the Ace** has a winner! The final pot was over \$80,000.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 **#SDLegion**

www.siouxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

[HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://www.legion.org/join/pufl)

Bill Peters elected as Commander of the American Legion Department of South Dakota



Diane Diekman giving nomination speech



Post 15 members: Mark Parsley (commander), Martina Goergen, Dick Moss, Dale Hill, Randy Miller, Barry Andres.



Bill Peters being sworn in as Commander



Sue Peters placing the Commander hat on her husband's head

All photos by John Bachmeier. Aberdeen, South Dakota. Sunday, June 21, 2026.

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.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



USS South Dakota
Day of Honor—August 8
12th St & Kiwanis Ave

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial
info@southdakotabattleship.org

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

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

Nelson & Nelson, CPA's LLP

1701 S Minnesota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57105

(605) 336-1988
www.nelsoncpas.com



A relationship to count on, since 1923.

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.



Commemorating the first
reading of the Declaration of
Independence
250 years ago in Philadelphia



4:30—Battleship
South Dakota Sea
Cadet Division posts
the colors

Remarks by sponsoring
organizations



July 8, 2026
4:30 PM

Battleship South Dakota Memorial
12th Street & Kiwanis Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

5:30 Concert by
Sioux Falls Municipal
Band



Free and open to
the public

Community event
to celebrate the
250th birthday of
the United States

Bring lawn chairs

For additional information:
(605) 367-8002
info@southdakotabattleship.org



Firing the Revolutionary
War cannon
"Providence"

5:00 Reading of the
Declaration of Independ-
ence



AMERICA
250!
Daughters of the
American Revolution
Mary Chilton Chapter

5th Annual
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 15 - Golf Tournament
August 18, 2026
Elmwood Golf Course
"Chip in for Vets"

\$550
PER TEAM
4 PERSONS

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

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
ASSIST Veterans and
Families through the
Veterans Community
Project and the
American Legion
Auxiliary!

Multipl... 2 for \$10
Available Day of
Tournament!

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
Feet, Sponsor Recognition Sign
„BLUE“ SPONSOR - \$100
Hole Sign

The ALA is a 501(c)(19) 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!

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 Mark Parsley
1st Vice Commander Dick Moss
2nd Vice Commander Kate Van Dam
Finance Officer Jim Cero
Historian **vacant**
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier
Post Service Officer John Bachmeier

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE— Patrick Branco—Chair
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Randy Miller, Bob Groenewold
Wayne Sprecher, Jonathan Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

Membership: Patrick Branco
VSO: John Bachmeier
Vets Council: Jonathan Theel
Post Everlasting: **vacant**
Birthday Party : **vacant**

Americanism: Martina Goergen
Baseball: Randy Miller
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss
Color Guard/Flag Etiquette: Chris Van Briesen

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President Deb Metzger
1st Vice President Pat Micko
2nd Vice President Barb Hayes
Secretary Beth Honerman
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Chaplain Kasey Jacobson
Historian Robin Schiro
Sergeant-At-Arms Nancy Renner
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin

Past President Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board Karen Dunham
Executive Board Bobbi Jo Ramm
Executive Board Nancy Renner

Youth Trooper: Dave Rowe
Honor Guard: Bill Peters
Pancakes: Dale Haas
Shooting Sports: Larry Panning
Gun Shows: Mike McGoffin

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