

SIOUX FALLS POST 15



October 2026

Published monthly by American Legion Post 15, 1700 W Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
Issue Number: 2026—10

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mark Parsley

Hello, fellow Legionnaires. Thank you for sending me to the 2026 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The experience was informative and inspiring. One speaker in particular, Medal of Honor recipient Britt Slabinski, gave an excellent speech about the covenant created when we joined the military. Service members pledge to defend the nation, even at the cost of their lives; in return, the nation promises to support them through educational benefits, home loans, VA care, and other services. We make a similar covenant when we join the American Legion. Our dues strengthen the Legion's ability to advocate for veterans at the state and national levels, but the organization also depends on our time and service. We can volunteer through Americanism initiatives, youth programs, nursing home visits, and outreach to veterans who are homebound. The American Legion is here to help us, but we must ask for support. With more than 1.3 million members, no one facing financial, medical, or other challenges should feel alone. Let your American Legion comrades know when you need help—we are here for one another.

I participated in the well-attended POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony on September 18. National Commander Jay Bowen delivered the keynote address and highlighted his motto for the year, "BPOTS—Be Part of the Solution." His message was clear: if you recognize a solution but choose not to act, you become part of the problem.

On October 1, VFW Post 628, American Legion Post 15, and the Alliance will host a free meal for veterans. Although the RSVP deadline has passed, please come anyway.

The State Commander's Homecoming is October 10. Please RSVP. The event will begin around 4:30 p.m., following the District 7 meeting.

Our fall fundraiser, another major event, will be held October 23 at the Alliance. Ventriloquist Kevin Horner and singer Danca Michaels will perform. We hope you can attend.

Thank you for reading and for your support.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

It sure has been cooler weather - Welcome to Fall! As always, Unit 15 Auxiliary is busy. On September 9, we had another fundraiser bussing tables at the Pizza Ranch - we made \$461 for our general fund. The Stand Down took place on September 18 at the Alliance. We had lots of sweatpants, hand warmers, and socks to give our Veterans in need. Thanks to Susan Panning for heading this up and the volunteers who helped. September 18 was also the POW/MIA program which I and others from Auxiliary attended. Refreshments and Pizza were served at the Post afterwards. Next month's meeting on October 13 will be the New Member Potluck beginning at 5 p.m. We are welcoming 17 new members with great food made by our members. I always enjoy this meeting. It's so nice to get to know the new members and have great food and conversation with everyone. The monthly meeting will start at 7 p.m. Please put it on your schedule to attend - the more, the merrier. We have invited Dave Buus and his wife to attend - he is the one who donated the Red, White, & Blue Snowblower plus two others for our raffle. We will draw the names of the winners at the beginning of the meeting. This has been a profitable fundraiser for Unit 15 Auxiliary with \$4,560 raised. A big Thank You to Dave for the donations and all the volunteers who sold tickets!

Other events coming up are the Gold Star Mothers event on September 27 at 1:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park and September 30 at 4 p.m. for the Grand Opening at the Veteran's Community Project. Our Unit 15 Secretary, Beth Honerman, emailed you the flyer for the Free meal at the Alliance on October 1 at 5 p.m. This is open to the American Legion Post 15, VFW Post 628, and both Auxiliaries and spouses or significant others. Please try to attend as this will be a fun event plus you will be able to see old and maybe meet new friends. October 10 is the District 7 meeting in Tea plus Homecoming that evening for State Commander Bill Peters. Please try to attend both events as we need to represent Unit 15 at the District 7 meeting and show State Commander Bill Peters we appreciate his service. Until next month - take care and enjoy the beautiful weather.

1ST VICE COMMANDER Dick Moss

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237 / S. 4744) remains stalled in Congress. The American Legion supports this legislation and encourages each and every member to contact their Congressional Representatives, supporting this specific legislation. Additional information can be found at TCAVA Resource Center(<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/take-care-of-americas-veterans-act>) and Grassroots Action Center (<https://www.legion.org/advocacy>).

On a different note, Jay Bowen, National Commander, recently spent several days in South Dakota. He attended a gathering at Montrose Post 154 Wednesday, September 16. At that time he announced his theme for the upcoming year: "Be Part of the Solution." He will maintain the Mission of "Be the One." He also spoke at the Alliance after the pancake breakfast. The Legion Family and the Four Pillars are important subjects for him. At the National Recognition POW/MIA Day event on September 18, he further addressed Being Part of the Solution. If not part of the solution, are you part of the problem? Paying your dues is only a small part of being a member of the American Legion. There are volunteer opportunities for each member that will strengthen the Post and its relationship with the community, district, state and nation.

VAVS Chris Fischer

Thank you to those from Post 15 who attended this summer's Picnic with the Vet events, held in June, July, and August. The VA in-patients always enjoy having lunch with the different service groups that support this lunch event. At the August Picnic, Commander Mark and I presented gift cards {\$500} to the VAVS/Rec Therapy dept. Recently we attended the VA Stakeholders briefing at the VA Hospital. They provided an operational update highlighting current activities and ongoing initiatives. Key topics included remarks from the Director, Community Care performance metrics, Business office updates, HR hiring in many departments, and Primary Care Mental Health. Volunteers are needed in the following departments: Drivers, Front Desk, Patient Escorts, and Pharmacy. Upcoming events at the VA are as follows: Oct. 30 Halloween Carnival, Weekly Bingo, and Veterans Day. More info will be coming soon.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

FALL INTO ACTION WITH SQUADRON 15

Fall is here, and it's a great time to get involved with Sons of the American Legion. A BIG THANK YOU to all of our members who continue to support Squadron 15. Whether you volunteer, attend meetings, help with projects, or simply keep your membership current, YOU make a difference!

GET INVOLVED

This fall, we'll continue discussing new fundraising ideas to help support our Legion and programs benefiting veterans, their families, and our community. Have an idea? We want to hear it. Come to a meeting, share your thoughts, and help shape the future of Squadron 15. Watch your email and our meeting agendas for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

RENEW YOUR 2027 MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is 80% membership renewal by December 31. If we reach this goal, we'll celebrate with a pizza party at our January meeting. Renew through myLegion.org, call the Legion Office at 605-336-3470, or stop by Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Remember, your membership is more than paying dues—it's a way to honor the veterans who made your membership possible and continue their legacy of service.

STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15 Sioux Falls Facebook page for meeting updates, events, volunteer opportunities, and photos. Let's keep the momentum going this fall—get involved, share your ideas, and help us continue serving our veterans, families, youth, and community.



Thank you to Jim and Chesterman Co. Coca-Cola of Sioux Falls for the generous donation of a beverage refrigerator to our AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD. Your support helps us continue serving our VETERANS and community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—OCTOBER 2026

1 (Thur) Veterans dinner Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance
4 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
6 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting 6:30 pm
8 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
8 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
10 (Sat) District 7 meeting 1 pm - Tea Legion
10 (Sat) Commander's Homecoming Social 4:30 pm--Alliance
12 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
13 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
14 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
20 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Lasagna — call by Oct 15 IF YOU WILL ATTEND
23 (Fri) Night of Laughter and Music 7 pm – Alliance
26 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 6:30 pm
27 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5pm, dinner 6pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance

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

Dec 12 - Army/Navy game - Legion Riders chili feed
June 18-20 - Department convention - Ramkota



U.S. Senator Mike Rounds, American Legion National Commander Jay Bowen, South Dakota NEC Fred Nelson, and Department Commander Bill Peters at POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony. Veterans Park, September 18, 2026. Photo by Kim Hanson.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
USA**

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

Notes

- Legion Tribute Rifle Raffle Update – Ticket sales are moving along well. We have ticket books left to be signed out. Although our goal is to hold the drawing on Veterans Day, we'll keep going until all are sold, or December 31, whichever comes first. Tickets are \$20 apiece or three for \$50. The three for \$50 sell as well or better than the singles. If you've signed out a book, please finish selling it. If you haven't picked up a book yet, please get one from the Legion Office. Let's work to have the drawing on Veterans day.
- Please pay your 2027 dues. Paying now saves dollars. National mails a reminder each month until dues are paid. When we pay early, no more notices have to be printed and mailed.



Two of Post 15's newest members, Army veterans Donna Kittrell and Gwen Jamerson, who came to numerous events. Date unknown. Photo by Sue Peters. Gwen died September 8, 2026.

LEGION RIDERS Lamar Nance, Chairman

Mission Award pins were presented to Larry Hofhenke and Jack Frye. Upcoming Events:

Oct 1--Veterans appreciation meal. 5 p.m. at the Alliance. No charge, hosted by Post 15 and VFW Post 628.

Nov 11-- Flags at VA for Veterans Day. Meet at VA. Put the flags up at 0645 and take down between 1800 and 1900.

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. 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: "In every age it has been the tyrant, the oppressor and the exploiter who has wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism, or religion, or both to deceive and overawe the People." — Eugene Victor Debs

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 THAT MAY NEED TO MAKE THIS CALL FOR YOU/YOUR SERVICE MEMBER. (Children, grandchildren, spouses & others that are your emergency contacts)
Being proactive helps to ensure billing will be reported correctly.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Gerald Michael Brown, 82, Army, 5/20/2026; Gwendolyn Jamerson, 60, Army, 9/8/2026

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



Avera Pantry Legion/Community team volunteering on August 25, 2026. Al, Alli, Jean, Rachel, Laura, Joan, Mark, Darrel, Dick, and Bob. Photo by Al Arndt.

PANCAKE

Breakfast

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

SIoux FALLS
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 15

CAKES
SAUSAGES
EGGS
COFFEE
ORANGE DRINK

SUNDAYS 8:30-Noon / OPEN TO PUBLIC / \$8 for 11yrs and over / \$2 for 10 and under

The Alliance, 1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls

2026	JAN 4	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR - EASTER NO BREAKFAST	MAY 3	JUN 7	2026
	JUL 5	AUG 2	SEPT 6	OCT 4	NOV 1	DEC 6	

AMERICAN LEGION

Served by the American Legion Post 15 for veterans assistance, Boys State, Legion Baseball, and other programs.
The Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 Auxiliary hosts a bake sale at all pancake breakfasts!

For more information regarding the Pancake breakfast contact the office at 605-336-3470, and follow us on Facebook @ American Legion Sioux Falls SD Post 15 and siouxfallslegion.org.

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.

CHORUS NOTES Len Neugebauer

On September 14 the Singing Legionnaires performed at Peace Lutheran Church for the WELCA group meeting and on September 18 at the POW/MIA ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. The chorus is scheduled to perform October 10 at the American Legion Post 15 homecoming dinner for South Dakota Department Commander Bill Peters, which will be held at the Military Heritage Alliance. The chorus continues to rehearse 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 66cycler2019@gmail.com. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags on September 7 Labor Day as well as on September 11 Patriot Day and will be posting flags on October 12 Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples 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 businesses that might like to participate in this flag program.



Post 15's 1941 Chevrolet on display at the Linwood Wesleyan Church car show September 13, 2026. Photo by Larry Panning.

New Post 15 Member

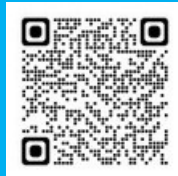
We welcome our newest member to Post 15 and invite you to attend our membership activities:

Wendell Peterson

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 #SDLegion

www.siouxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

[HTTP:// WW W.L EGIION .ORG/ JOIN/P UFL](http://www.w.l.egion.org/join/p_ufl)

NAVY LEAGUE
SOUTH DAKOTA COUNCIL

Navy
BALL
— AMERICA 250 —

HONORING OUR PAST.
CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT.
INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17TH, 2026

SOCIAL HOUR
5:00 PM
DINNER
6:00 PM

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CIVILIAN ATTIRE
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★ PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE ★
<https://navyleague-sodak.org/event/navy-ball/>

QUESTIONS?
president@navyleague-sodak.org | **605-728-9401**

October 2026 Gun Show

The Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association will hold its next gun show at the Lyons Fairground Exhibition Hall on October 10-11. This show draws vendors and customers from across the region. It's a great opportunity for us to talk to veterans, their families and others about the Legion Family and VA opportunities. If past experience is any guide, we should be able to sell a lot of raffle tickets and flags. We have two tables for our booth. Those of us who've been to the gun shows know it's a great place to get our message out. We'll need your help to work the booth and sell tickets.

Shifts on both Saturday and Sunday are 0900-1300 and 1300-1700. Sign-up sheets will be at the October meeting, then in the Legion office. Even if you can't work a full shift, please sign up. If you haven't signed up, you can still come help out. Be sure to wear your Legion hat and/or shirt. It's important we have representatives from the entire Legion Family there.
—Mike McGoffin

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>.

SHOOTING SPORTS Larry Panning

Both the Precision shooting team and the Sporter team will start practice in October. No matches are currently scheduled.



Battleship South Dakota Division Sea Cadet color guard at POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony. Veterans Park, September 18, 2026. Photo by Kim Hanson.

RATES FOR PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

AGE 18-24	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



South Dakota 250
Commission will bury
time capsule Nov 2
(South Dakota's birthday)
to be opened in 2076.

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

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★ 4:30PM SOCIAL / DINNER & PROGRAM TO FOLLOW ★







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 **THE ALLIANCE**
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 **RSVP BY 9-25 USE QR CODE**

★ LET'S WELCOME HOME OUR COMMANDER
AND SUPPORT HIS YEAR OF SERVICE! ★

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PRESENTS**
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LAUGHTER
& MUSIC**
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • GREAT CAUSE • UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

KEVIN HORNER
VENTRILOQUIST

DANICA MICHAELS
COUNTRY SINGER

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WHEN
OCTOBER 23RD, 2026

**DOORS OPEN
6:00 PM**
SOCIAL HOUR & SILENT AUCTION

**SHOW STARTS
7:00 PM**

TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT THE
LEGION OFFICE
OR BY CALLING
605-336-3470

 **\$50** SINGLE TICKET
 **\$80** 2 TICKETS
 **\$1000** SUITES (INCLUDES 10 TICKETS)

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS. BUILD OUR COMMUNITY.
Be a part of something that matters.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

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