

A u g u s t 2 0 2 5



Department of South Dakota

VFW AUXILIARY

General Orders

GO #2 Saluting Our Heroes

Sue Jones, Department President

We are extremely busy as we prepare for National Convention, Fall Council and the National President's Visit. I hope as many of you as possible attend these events as a lot of work is involved for the presenters and much good information is given.

Thank you to everyone for getting your auxiliary bonds paid to National before July 31. This gives us extra points for the Circle of Excellence and is much appreciated by the Department as we always hope to earn the award and gather \$500 for the Department. If your auxiliary does not have automatically paying the bond as part of your Standing Rules, I highly suggest you make a motion at your next meeting to remedy this oversight and make this easier for the Treasurer next year.

Our District Presidents have started their official visits to local auxiliaries and the Department officers will start their District official visits after Department Convention.

We will be in Sioux Falls for Fall Council October 3-4. If you are not a member of the Budget or Audit Committees, you do not need to be there until October 4 when we will have the Council of Administration meeting in the morning, lunch, then the School of Instruction in the afternoon, followed by the Homecoming Banquet that evening. Registration is \$105 per member.

You are not required to register and pay if you just attend the meetings. The cost of the banquet is included in registration or \$40 if you are not registered. There is no provision for you to partake in the lunch unless you are registered. The registration forms should be out this week. Please bring food items to donate to my Project for Food for the VOC in Rapid City. There will be a collection can set up for food donations and a cash donation collection can. There is more information in the General Order.

As part of the Circle of Excellence for Auxiliaries, this year it is a requirement for someone from your auxiliary attend each of the Fall Council, Legislative and Department Convention. It is not too soon for your Auxiliary to start thinking about who will attend.

The website is up and has been updated for the 2025-2026 year. Please take a moment and check out our website at vfwauxsd.org to see General orders, forms, and program information.

I want to give you something from the Bylaws book to think about each month.

The question is: How long must an Auxiliary maintain a copy of an application for membership? **Answer:** Per Booklet of Instruction Page 16 and 17 Membership applications for both annual and life members shall be retained as a permanent record until the member has been deceased for 6 years or has reached 120 years of age. Those pages constitute the Record Retention Guide and cover all your files and records.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Department of SD President Project

I'm pleased to announce the 2025-2026 SD VFW Auxiliary Project is the VOC FOOD DRIVE at the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) in Rapid City. The VOCs in Rapid City and Sioux Falls alleviate many veterans' food needs. Both locations were contacted, Sioux Falls stated they are well supplied and our resources would better be used to assist Rapid City, who does not have the weekly resources and food supply. Sioux Falls is blessed to have.

What could we provide?

- Cooking Bags – canned vegetables, beans and soup, mac n cheese, peanut butter, frozen meat, potatoes, onions, or carrots.
- Non-Cooking Bags – shelf stable milk, pop-top cans of food, peanut butter, ramen noodles, freezer microwave meals. Many people have microwaves but not necessarily a stove.

In 2 ½ months, the VOC has distributed 56 Non-Cooking Bags and 171 Cooking Bags to veteran's households. In 2024, they delivered 281 Non-Cooking and 939 Cooking Bags. This is done with an unstable budget, as 90% comes from donations.

Commander Doc Christensen and President Sue Jones will make this a joint effort to have a food drive at our department meetings throughout the year.

What is needed? Cans or boxes of fruits and vegetables, soups, pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat such as Vienna sausages or chicken and tuna. The VOC says they can buy the peanut butter and mac n cheese cheaper than we can – so cash is a great option also!

The Department goal is to raise \$7,800 in cash and food products to fund the Rapid City VOC for a full year.

All cash donations by auxiliaries or individuals must be 'ear-marked' for the **VOC Food Drive**.

Please mail to:

Nancy Chester, Department Treasurer
PO Box 55
Fort Pierre SD. 57532-0055

I know you all will join in to feed our veterans.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2025 – 2026

President Sue Jones 8116 Chickadee Lane Black Hawk, SD 57718 605-461-2719 Home sjones2727@yahoo.com	Senior Vice Karen Sharp PO Box 1133 Fort Pierre, SD 57352 605-223-2523 Home 605-222-3140 Cell daksharp@pie.midco.net	Junior Vice Margaret Greenfield 20539 401 ST AVE Huron SD. 57350 (605) 350-5254 margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com
Secretary Amanda Schwarz Pierre SD 57501 (605) 201-3623 amschwarz3@gmail.com	Treasurer Nancy Chester PO Box 55 Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 605-223-2232 Home 605-220-1468 Cell nancysdvfwla@pie.midco.net	Chaplain Tammy Chase 45980 SD Hwy 10 Sisseton, SD 57262 605-698-7438 cbchase@venturecomm.net
Conductor Susan Baumann 12350 Harris Lane Custer SD.57730 (719)242-5136 Photobug_sjb@yahoo.com	Guard Cheryl VanDyke 1108 Meadow View Rd. Yankton, SD 57078 402-389-0929 cvdfrisbe983@gmail.com	Chief of Staff Pat Cerny 2916 Adkin Drive Yankton, SD 57078 605-830-1916 Cell bpcerny@gwtc.net

Department Chairmen

- Americanism - Michelle Payne – chellepayne@hotmail.com
- Auxiliary Outreach – Nancy Worth – nworth1971@gmail.com
- Buddy Poppy/National Home- Amy Bolduc – dabolduc1975@gmail.com
- Historian/Media Relations – Dani Bolte – danibolte@sio.midco.net
- Hospital – Tamra Bull – tamara.bull@k12.sd.us
- Legislative – Becky Hafner – tbhafner@santel.net
- Membership – Pam Vissia – pvissia@siouxvalley.net
- Mentoring – Pat Cerny – bpcerny@gwtc.net
- Scholarships – Margaret Greenfield – margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com
- Veterans & Family Support - Tammy Chase - cbchase@venturecomm.net
- Youth Activities – Darnell Bohlander - darnellbohlander@yahoo.com

GENERAL ORDERS AUGUST 2025

AMERICANISM
DEPT CHAIRMAN MICHELLE PAYNE
PO BOX 8; PLANKINTON, SD 57368
605-770-3693
chellepayne@hotmail.com

Department Theme: Saluting Our Heroes

The following definition of “Americanism” was originated in February 1927: “Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

Purple Heart Day will be observed on August 7, 2025. This day is dedicated to honoring the men and women who have been wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. military and remembering their sacrifice.

Agent Orange Awareness Day is observed annually on August 10 to raise awareness about the effects of the herbicide used during the Vietnam War and to honor those affected by its consequences.

Navajo Code Talkers Day is celebrated annually on August 14 to honor the vital role the Navajo marines played during World War II. The day serves to recognize their bravery and contributions to the war effort, as well as to celebrate their cultural heritage.

Summer is winding down and a great time to recognize those in your community who display the U.S. Flag or have yard displays portraying American Pride.

School is just around the corner, please be thinking of ways for your Auxiliary to become active in your local school districts! Some ideas include handing out patriotic items on the first day of school (flags, flag pencils or bookmarks are great ideas) and ways to educate kids by making arrangements with teachers to host a flag etiquette and folding lesson in the classroom. Do your local schools recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily?

I encourage you to check out our State (<https://vfwauxsd.org>) and National (<https://vfwauxiliary.org>) websites; you can find a lot of great information and ideas!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

General Orders August 2025 “Buddy” Poppy and VFW National Home

DEPT CHAIRMAN Amy Bolduc

606 S 3rd St Menno, SD 57045

904-613-5212

dabolduc1975@gmail.com

National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free

Department Theme: Saluting Our Heroes

Program Goals

Educate the community about the “Buddy” Poppy and VFW National Home

Participation in the Department and National “Buddy” Poppy Contest

Raise funds to support the “Let’s Do More Stock the Store” for the VFW National Home

Buddy Poppy

- ◆ The poppy movement was inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields” written by Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces.
- ◆ The Veterans of Foreign Wars was the first organization to promote an organized campaign nationally for the distribution of poppies
- ◆ The VFW registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office in February of 1924. The VFW is the only organization that is allowed to use the name “Buddy” when referring to the artificial flower.
- ◆ “Buddy” Poppies are assembled by veterans who are disabled and are in VA rehabilitation centers.
- ◆ “Buddy” Poppies are distributed throughout the year. Through donations that are received from the distribution, financial assistance is provided to veterans, mainly those who are disabled.
- ◆ So, what does the “Buddy” Poppy represent? The remembrance of those who shed blood and sacrificed in the American Armed Forces and support for our Veterans.
- ◆ REMEMBER WE DO NOT SALE “BUDDY” POPPIES!

National Home

- ◆ On January 7th, 2025, the VFW National Home celebrated 100 years.
- ◆ The National Home was officially founded by Amy Ross, who in 1922, had made it her mission to help unemployed veterans in the Detroit area find jobs. Corey Spencer gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan to help Ross build on her vision of helping veterans and their families.
- ◆ The first family to live at the National Home was the Pollett family. Mrs. Pollett was a recent widow with six children who lost her husband’s military pension after he died. Mrs. Pollett and her six children moved into a farmhouse located on the property on March 9, 1925.
- ◆ Over the years more homes have been added and more Veterans and their families have been helped .
- ◆ There are several ways to support the VFW National Home:
 - Donate to Health and Happiness at \$0.25/member of your Auxiliary (based on June 30th Malta membership count)
 - Become a life member
 - Purchase a brick for Tribute Park
 - Become a Home Front Hero
 - National Home’s wish list on Amazon
 - Donate to “Let’s Do More Stock the Store” in 2025-2026 Program year
- ◆ The VFW National Home 100th Birthday was celebrated on June 28th, 2025.

Did you know?

- ◆ There are two options for a “Buddy” Poppy: the traditional flower and a tin metal one.
- ◆ “Buddy” Poppies can only be ordered through a VFW Post or VFW Department Headquarters.
- ◆ “Buddy” Poppies are distributed for donations only and should be allocated on the Post and Auxiliary levels in the Relief Fund per the Bylaws.
- ◆ Distribution drives do not only need to be held during Memorial Day or Veterans Day. A distribution drive can be held monthly, quarterly, or annually.
- ◆ Distribution drives could be as simple as handing out poppies and a container at your monthly meeting.
- ◆ Any Federal Building, such as the U.S. Post Office, are public property areas and you do not need permission to set up a table outside. Not allowed to distribute poppies inside the building.
- ◆ Use social media outlets and radio stations to publicize your “Buddy” Poppy distribution event.
- ◆ Some good places to hold a distribution event would be at fairs, craft shows, hospitals, and any walks/runs that are being held. Just sure to get permission first before setting up a table.
- ◆ You could include a poppy in packages that are being distributed to troops or to veterans.
- ◆ Work with other Veteran Organizations in your area to distribute poppies.

REMEMBER TO REPORT EVERY TIME YOU OR YOUR AUXILIARY DO A “BUDDY” POPPY DRIVE! KEEP TRACK OF HOW MANY POPPIES YOU STARTED WITH AND HANDED OUT.

General Orders August 2025
Auxiliary Outreach
Dept Chairman, Nancy Worth
PO Box 47, Piedmont, SD 57769
605-490-1220
Nworth1971@gmail.com

Auxiliary Outreach is a program with a focus on volunteering, not monetary OR in-kind donations. Activities can be a single day or ongoing events/activities. This is not the Community Service of our past. Participating in Auxiliary Outreach means to **Volunteer WITH another organization not Volunteer FOR.**

This program has to do with improving the lives of Veterans, service members, their families and our COMMUNITIES as a whole. Remember, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary has greatly improved how we are perceived; but many still think of a VFW as a smoky, dimly-lit bar where Veterans tell old war stories.

Working the Auxiliary Outreach program will help to improve the perception of both the VFW and Auxiliary within our communities. HOW? By letting residents know what we do, who we are and our purpose; which includes helping the local communities.

Presenting a positive presence in our communities (urban or rural) by forming PARTNERSHIPS with other organizations can help increase our membership and help to promote us as a positive presence in our communities. Auxiliary Outreach can fit into many aspects of our communities as activities can:

- Be performed by folks of any skill level, ability or age.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Benefit senior citizens, those with disabilities and children.
- Partner with other organizations in any type of community setting – urban or rural.

While helping another organization, identify yourself as a VFW Auxiliary member (& to get Auxiliary Outreach credit), wear an Auxiliary item. This can be a shirt, hat, jacket or a name tag. Be proud to wear these items and smile! Be sure to take pictures when assisting another organization as there is a National Award this year for the best photo collage of community events. Volunteering can be done as an individual or as a group.

The benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach program are:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Meeting new people
- Developing a sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Auxiliary Outreach projects cannot be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the VFW Auxiliary. Events held at your Post Home are allowed if:

- ✓ The VFW or Auxiliary did not plan the activity and will not benefit from the activity.
- ✓ The organization is using the Post Home only as a venue to hold its event and the complete preliminary planning was on their own.
- ✓ Auxiliary members are only there as volunteers to help on the day(s) of the event.

General Orders August 2025

Legislative

**DEPT CHAIRMAN Becky Hafner
301 W Cherry St, Parkston SD.57366
605-661-4484
tbmhafner@santel.net**

Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and Veterans well-being in mind. With the strength of more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored. The VFW has six Priority Goals for 2025. They are Budget, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition, Health Care, Military Readiness and National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA.

Among the VFW's most and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve by passing the VA MISSION Act.

Be an active and informed member through the VFW Priority Goals and VFW Action Corps Weekly.

**Becky Hafner
301 West Cherry Street
Parkston, SD 57366
605-661-4484
tbmhafner@santel.net**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership—August

Yes, your membership matters! Everyone is important and a vital piece of the puzzle to make our organization thrive. Every member's opinion is

Let us tackle membership with a vengeance and all be 100% early in the year and then we are not scrambling at the end of year to reach our goal. I hope that you have all sent out your first due notices for the continuous members. Follow up with a phone call or a visit or invite them to the meeting.

Retaining our members and keep them involved. Stop by and visit them and ask them to attend your meeting and have them get involved. The past couple of years my auxiliary has been doing a day trip for members and it has been very well received. We make a day of it. This year we are starting out about 10:30 in the morning and doing a tour of a gardens and then following up with lunch at a cute little restaurant in a nearby town. In the afternoon we are going to a museum and the opera house. We did a day trip last year and everyone enjoyed it so much and they were asking what we would do this year. We included members that live in this town as they are unable to attend meeting but it is a perfect way to get them involved and network with our other members.

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Pam Vissia

Membership Chairmen

General Orders August 2025
SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026
DEPT CHAIRMAN MARGARET GREENFIELD
20539 401ST AVE
HURON, SD 57350
(605) 350-5254
margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com

Hello VFW Auxiliary members!!

The VFW Scholarships Chairman is my husband, Dale Greenfield, dale.greenfield@yahoo.com (605)350-2319. If you have any questions for either one of us, please feel free to contact either or both of us. Lets make this a great year!

If you are looking for other ways to promote Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Patriotic Art (2 and 3 Dimensional) and Continuing Education Scholarships look to putting fliers at your public library or churches. This will help get the word out to your homeschoolers.

There are a total of 5 scholarships available through the VFW and VFW Auxiliary: Voice of Democracy (VFW), Patriot's Pen (VFW), Continuing Education (Auxiliary), and Young Creative Patriotic Art (Auxiliary) (two categories: 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional). The information you will need for your year-end reports for each scholarship is already available on our website as "Scholarships Year End Report 2025-2026".

All scholarships have their own deadlines and requirements, which are available at:

<https://vfwauxsd.org> under "Programs" then "Scholarships"

In MALTA Membership Resources <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org>

Please remember to read through all requirements for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

- **Voice of Democracy Scholarship (essay and oral presentation)**
Theme "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"
Post/Auxiliary Deadline: October 31, 2025
District Deadline: November 21, 2025
Department Deadline: December 5, 2025
National Deadline: December 15, 2025
- **Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship**
Theme "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"
Post/Auxiliary Deadline: October 31, 2025
District Deadline: November 21, 2025
Department Deadline: December 5, 2025
National Deadline: December 15, 2025
- **Continuing Education Scholarship**
Department Deadline: February 15, 2026
National Deadline: February 15, 2026
- **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship**
2-Dimensional
Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2026
District Deadline: April 10, 2026
Department Deadline: April 15, 2026
National Deadline: May 5, 2026
3-Dimensional
Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2026
District Deadline: April 10, 2026
Department Deadline: April 15, 2026

National Deadline: May 5, 2026
UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support - August 2025

www.vfwauxsd.org

Tammy Chase – 45980 SD Hwy 10 – Sisseton, SD 57262

cbchase@venturecomm.net

home: 605.698.7438 cell: 605.742.4179

Program Goals

VFW National Veterans Service

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

Assist Veterans, Service Members & their Families

Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

Veterans & Family Support is the reason we do what we do. Remember – everything we do as an Auxiliary at every level is to support Veterans and/or their families, now you just have to report it and that is the easiest part. In July, I explained what we were going to do this year and the year-end report – use the QR code to get to it.

Keep It Local – We are going to look at getting into your Nursing Homes, Assisted Livings and Specialty Living Centers in your local areas. Visit with the Manager or Activities Directors in the facilities and find out about the Veterans in the Area. They love to honor the local heroes living there and you can come in and do activities with the residence honoring the Veterans and Family Members. Some examples would be to do a Veterans Day program, bring in a group or individual singer to provide entertainment for an hour with snacks, they love to see the youth – if you have youth that come in and do an activity or craft with them and just good ‘ole visiting!

What you should know...

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness month is in September. Many combat Veterans are still at war...with a mind and heart struggling to process what they have seen and had to do. We must remember that the battle isn't over when they un-lace their boots. In fact, when those boots come off for good is when the fight truly begins for a large percentage of Veterans. The Auxiliary can never stop ensuring that people are aware of the warning signs of ANYONE possibly considering ending their life. **Always promote that help is a call or text away at 988 (press 1)!**

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

Tammy Chase
45980 SD HWY 10
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-7438
605-742-4179
cbchase@venturecomm.net

SD VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support

SCAN ME

