



October 2025



**VFW
AUXILIARY**

**Department of
South Dakota**

General Orders

GO #4 Saluting Our Heroes for October 2025

A HUGE Thank You to all the Auxiliary members who turned out for the National Presidents Visit in Pierre September 23 to 24. What an enjoyable visit we all had with her. As you know, Lois flew into Rapid City and I drove her to Pierre. She had never been to this part of South Dakota and was suitably impressed by the hospitality and landscapes. She described the Badlands as “other worldly”. We can all be proud of our state and the fine work you are all doing each and every day.

Once again, I will remind you that the Fall Council Meeting is coming up October 3 and 4 in Sioux Falls.

Remember, you do NOT have to pay a registration fee to attend the meetings. However, if you do not register, there is no provision for you to eat lunch with the group and the banquet price will be \$40.

The Commander and President joint project is a food drive that ties into my President’s project to provide food security for the Rapid City Veterans Outreach Center so please bring non-perishable food items or cash donation to help with this project.

I have started my official visits to District meetings. Please bring your food donations to those meetings, if you have not already donated. While it is appreciated, I DO NOT expect you to donate every time you come to a District or Department meeting.

My email was recently hacked and a message sent out asking for gift cards to be purchased and sent to the party. This is a SCAM, so don’t fall for it. No officer of the South Dakota VFW Auxiliary will ever contact you in this manner and ask for gift cards or other monetary considerations to be sent to them.

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. If you find a problem with a broken link, missing information, etc., please notify Kim Vennard, Amanda S

I want to give you something from the Bylaws, Booklet of Instruction or Ritual book to think about each month. These questions are randomly taken from the book and are not meant to be addressed to any specific auxiliary.

The question is: How does an officer resign?

Answer: Per Bylaws Page 67. A. All resignations of Officers should be in writing and sent to the President and Secretary of the body from which the Officer is resigning. 1. If the Secretary is resigning, the resignation shall be sent to the President of the body from which they are resigning. 2. Resignations are effective when issued. 3. Verbal resignations are binding.

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

Sue Jones, Department President

Auxiliary Fall Council Meeting Agenda

Friday October 3

1:00 - 5:00 PM. Early Registration

The Alliance, 1600 W Russell St

Free use of Gun Range, Bring your own handgun and ammunition or purchase ammo at the Range

7:00 - 8:00 PM Audit and Budget Meeting - Bunker Office, Alliance , 1600 W Russell St

5:00 - 10:00 PM Hospitality/ Social -

The Lobo Lounge at The Alliance, Cash Bar

Saturday Oct 4

8:00 am Registration and Auxiliary Meetings

The Armory, 1700 W Russell St

8:00am Council of Administration, Specialized Training, Officer and District President Training

9:50 am Break (**refreshments in kitchenette area**)

10:00 am Continuation of Specialized Training

10:30 - 11:30 am - VOD/PP Training with Post at Alliance

11:30 am - 1:00 pm Lunch for all registered members (upstairs, name badges required)

1:00 pm - Continued Specialized Training and School of Instruction

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm School of Instruction

5:00 - 5:30 pm Social Hour (cash bar) Event Floor

5:30 - 7:30 pm Banquet Sports Theme - Wear your Jersey (Banquet included in Registration or \$40 to attend)

7:30 - 10:30 pm Nolan Clark Band

(All Veterans Service Organizations are invited)

Schedule is flexible.

REMINDER - - Bring your canned goods and or cash for the Commander and President's Special Project. Battling food insecurities for the West River VOC.

GENERAL ORDERS SEPTEMBER 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.”

Welcome to October! October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. October 14 – 20 commemorates National Baking Week, so send me your patriotic cookie, cake and dessert recipes and I will share them! Other important dates to educate others about this month include:

October 2 – International walk to school day. Maybe your Auxiliary can arrange an event at your local school to sponsor this, hand out something patriotic, wear your patriotic shirts or costumes! I’m picturing Ms. Nancy Worth in her blow-up costume greeting kids at the cross walk!!!

October 12 – Paul Payne’s 85th birthday! Paul is my father-in-law and as a young man he served in the Army. He is also a current member of the VFW Auxiliary. If you know him, you know he is quite the character and has a big heart. Feel free to send him birthday wishes: PO Box 126; Plankinton, SD 57368. (Ha ha, I guess I will see if he actually reads these!!!)

October 13 – U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday

October 16 – National Veterans BBQ Day – This day is for celebrating our local veterans by cooking them some BBQ or taking them out for a BBQ meal.

October 17 – Women in Military Service for America Memorial Anniversary – This day pays tribute to the military women who have lost their lives in service.

October 21 – National Pets for Veterans Day – This day is dedicated to bringing together veterans and shelter animals looking for loving homes, promoting the benefits of animal-assisted therapy for veterans.

October 26 – Day of the Deployed - Day of the Deployed is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and sacrifices they are making for our country. Ways to support include sending care packages, positive messages and other morale-boosting activities to those currently deployed and their families.

October 27 – Navy Day

What is the difference between Navy Day and the Navy Birthday? Both holidays recognize the service and sacrifices of those in uniform. Navy Day is specifically about military service. Navy birthday celebrates the origins and history of the U.S. Navy.

October 31 – Halloween. A great opportunity to hand out educational pamphlets along with a sweet treat to the little ghosts and goblins!

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

Have a great October!

Sincerely,
Michelle Payne

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

I've been asked by Auxiliary members for ideas of organizations to partner with under the Auxiliary Outreach Program. There are many ways to grow your network of organizations outside of the VFW Post and Auxiliary:

Check local community activities on the internet ("Google it") to see what is happening in your local area.

- * Homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks/pantries
 - * Local Police, Fire Departments and EMT Services
- * Schools and libraries to help with reading/tutoring programs
 - * Youth organizations
 - * Senior Centers
- * Community Parks and Recreation Departments
- * Habitat for Humanity and other community family projects

You can also go to www.volunteermatch.org – you merely enter your zip code and fill in your Auxiliary members interests to receive a list of places in your area to reach out to. This is a wonderful resource. Another way to promote the availability of volunteers from the Auxiliary is to make and distribute flyers in public community areas. This gives an opportunity for you to reach organizations you may not think of. Be sure to include a contact person and number.

Don't forget to have the project pre-approved at an Auxiliary meeting and have it recorded in the minutes. On rare occasions (i.e., a natural disaster or emergency community need) the project can be voted upon after the fact. When reporting include the number of members volunteering, the hours involved, and the miles driven to assist another organization.

To let it be known that you are 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! Volunteering can be done as an individual or as a group.

Promote your Auxiliary Outreach activities on your social media page. Pictures say so much about how members serve their neighbors and other community organizations. Be sure to include the hashtag #Auxiliaryoutreach on your post.

This program is about partnering with another organization. It does not include donations of good and/or money to help the organization.





South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary

"Buddy" Poppy and National Home 2025-2026

www.vfwauxsd.org

Amy Bolduc: 606 S 3rd Street Menno, SD 57045

dabolduc1975@gmail.com

The month of October means that cooler weather is here and the leaves are changing colors and falling.

This month is a good time to contact businesses in your area about setting up a table to hand out poppies in November for Veterans Day. Before you set up a table at a place of business, such as Hyvee, make sure you have permission from the Store Manager or Management Staff. Make sure to count and write down how many Poppies you will be handing out beforehand. This will make it easier when you go to report what you have done.

There are many ways that could be used to decorate with "Buddy" Poppies.

At Fall Council in October, I would like each Auxiliary to bring at least one example of a way they used Poppies for decoration.

If you have not done so already, check out and like the VFW National Home Facebook page. Lots of interesting posts about what is going on at the National Home and about each of the houses located there.

Hope to see everyone at Fall Council in October.



Happy October Everyone,

Thank you to all that attended your local district meetings around the state and Fall Convention in Sioux Falls.

I had the pleasure of meeting our National President Lois Callahan in Pierre. I love her motto this year! From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free. It is always a great time to tour our States Capitol Building and we toured Governor's Residence, then in Ft Pierre at Verendrye Museum, Verendrye Monument and Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center.

Suicide Awareness Month is upon us, be the difference and listen for signs that someone in your life may be struggling.

While you might think of 988 as a resource in times of crisis or suicide, it can help with any emotional concern. You can reach out to ask questions, find help or if you just need to talk.

- Help with any mental health-related distress
- Suicide crisis or having thoughts of suicide
- Help with substance misuse
- Grief, trauma or family troubles
- Behavioral health resources and treatment options
- Help with a loved one's behavioral health

Contact 988 in times of crisis or when you just need guidance for mental health concerns, substance use, suicidal thoughts, emotional support or if you're seeking help for a loved one. Available by call, text or chat.

Grabbing the lifeline – 20-year Veteran's story. The National Home is a refuge for veteran's families. Each family does not have to pay for rent, daycare, utilities and they receive the help they need. Counseling and numerous resources that the National Home provides is so important. Thank you to all that raise money for this wonderful place!

800-313-4200 is the National Homes helpline if anyone needs help.

Please make sure to use all your resources to promote your Auxiliary activities. I can always be reached for questions at danibolte@sio.midco.net, message me on Facebook or text to 6057591993.

Take care,
Dani Bolte

General Orders October 2025
Hospital
Dept Chairman Tamara Bull
90888 E Jamison Rd, Newport NE 68759
Cell Phone: 402-525-0252
tamara.bull@k12.sd.us

Birthdays are important to everyone, especially someone who is in the hospital. This is why we are going to continue sending birthday cards to the veterans who are at the State Veterans Home and the Community Living Center at the Hot Springs VA. All the Auxiliaries should think about sending cards or going to visit any veterans that might be in their local hospitals, assisted living, or nursing homes. This would make them feel good.



I would like to start another project that would involve the elderly and the youth. It is great to receive cards on your birthday, but what about just on a normal day. My thought is to have each Auxiliary contact their Elementary School in their area and see if the teachers would be willing to have their students draw or color pictures, make cards, or make a craft that we could send to the State Veterans Home and the Community Living Center each month. I suggest that we spread it out over time so the whole elementary is not sending everything at once. Have each elementary class takes a month and do some projects that would be sent. Then next month it would be a different class. Example is 5th grade would do October, then 4th grade would do November, and so on. When the homes receive the envelope of pictures and cards, they could distribute them out to the veterans or hang them up so all can see. I think this would brighten the veteran's normal day.

I am still new at being the chairman of the Hospital committee and am always willing to hear new ideas. Please let me know if there is something you do in your own communities that might be good for all of the Auxiliaries to think about.

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

October 2025

PROGRAM GOALS

VFW Priority Goals and Action Corps Weekly

Be an Advocate, Be Informed and Be Engaged

We should pay particular attention to Senate Bill 2061, the Molly R Loomis Research for Descendants of Toxic Exposed Veterans Act. This Bill would amend the PACT Act to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to expand its research focus to include the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions in descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during military service.

Without government leadership, research remains fragmented, underfunded, and inconclusive, leaving veterans' families to struggle without clear guidance or accountability.

Contact our National Senators and Representative and urge them to support this Bill.

If you have not signed up for “VFW Action Corps” take this opportunity to do so at vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

Becky Hafner

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Parkston, SD 57366

605-661-4484

tbmhafner@santel.net



**VFW Auxiliary Department South Dakota
October Report 2025
Membership
Pam Vissia, Membership Chairmen**

Happy Fall Everyone!

Currently South Dakota is setting at 89.55% and we need 430 members to reach the 100% milestone. We are doing great.

We are busy preparing for the Fall Council to be held in Sioux Falls on October 3rd and 4th at the Alliance. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing wonderful ideas on membership with all of you. Along with the other chairmen I will be doing a presentation on membership and have a table and handouts for you and will be available to answer any questions you may have. I can assist you with filling out membership forms properly, explaining who is eligible for the Auxiliary and any other questions you may have regarding membership.

I hope that you have sent out your first dues notice to those who are annual members. If not, you need to do so as soon as possible. I highly recommend that you send out a reminder to those that have not paid every month or so. I know it seems like a lot of work but the sooner we get the dues paid the better.

We have also got a list of the at large members and are working on sending letters to them asking them to join a local auxiliary. We send them a letter and ask them to join an auxiliary near them. Be on the lookout for some membership transfers.

I am asking that at least once a year your auxiliary prints out a list of your current members and review it for any deaths. We need to report them as soon as possible. It was voted on at National Convention that they can come back and take the money from you that National has paid you for dues.

Please ask your Post commander for a list of members and review the list for potential members. We have twelve possibilities from each VFW post member to get an auxiliary member. The list of the eligible members are: Brother-Father-Husband-Wife-Mother-Sister-Daughter-Grandmother-Grandfather-Granddaughter-Grandson-Son. Let us start looking for some new members and make them feel welcome and get them involved.

**Have a wonderful October everyone.
Pam Vissia
Membership Chairmen**



e-news October 2025
SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026
DEPT CHAIRMAN MARGARET GREENFIELD
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HURON, SD 57350
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margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com

Hello VFW Auxiliary members!!

We are down to our last month to be reaching out for our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year. They are due to the Post/Auxiliary by October 31st. Start reaching out to your community to figure out who you want for your judges. Remember they do not have to be a Post or Auxiliary member.

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. Let's 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, churches, 4-H Clubs, and your local fairs. 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:

[Your paragraph text](#) under "Programs" then "Scholarships"
In MALTA Membership Resources [Your paragraph text](#)

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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support - October 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

October 25th is Make a Difference Day! Make a Difference Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Saturday of October. If you have ever wondered if your actions can make a difference, the answer is yes. If you have wondered where to start, the answer is MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY! We come together to volunteer, raise funds, offer support, and learn about the most urgent needs of our society. You don't have to join a group or travel the country – you can start by cleaning your own backyard (literally and figuratively) because volunteering is all about becoming the change you wish to see in the world.

5 facts about volunteering that will blow your mind!

- 1) It's about the endorphins – multiple studies have concluded that a single act of volunteering can help people lead happier lives.
- 2) College students love to volunteer – the hottest demographic of volunteers falls in the 18-24 year-old college student category.
- 3) Girls trump boys – historically, the female gender has been more active in volunteering projects than males.
- 4) Peer pressure works, so keep it up – 40% of all volunteers rise to the occasion after being convinced by a friend or loved one.
- 5) It's a cure for the lonely heart – as per a survey, the majority of people confessed that they took up volunteering to be a part of a team.

Keep It Local – Think of Make A Difference Day – you do not have to have a large blow-out party, you can simply send a card, make a meal or just go visit a veteran, family member or care giver. The smallest act of kindness is volunteering your time to help others or make yours and those around you a better happier world.

SD VFW Auxiliary

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

Tammy Chase 45980 SD HWY 10
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-7438

SCAN ME

Veterans & Family Support





October 17-18, 2025 VFW

& AUXILIARY

BIG 10 CONFERENCE

ISLE CASINO HOTEL, & QUAD CITIES
WATERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER



ISLE CASINO HOTEL

1777Isle Parkway
Bettendorf, IA, 52722

Call the hotel at: **(563) 441-7000**

Tell them you are reserving rooms under Group: **VFW1025**

Or reserve online at the dedicated event site at:

<https://tinyurl.com/vfw1025>

Or scan the following QR Code with your Smart Device:



Group Rate is: **\$1 24/N ig ht taxes & fees**

SERVICE DOGS

The hotel is equipped with animal friendly rooms. Guests with service dogs, please tell the hotel that you will be bringing your service dog so they can be sure to place you in an animal friendly room. There is a \$25 additional cleaning fee if your service dog stays.

CHECK-IN/OUT

Check-in begins at **4PM**. Check-out is at **11 AM**. If you arrive early the hotel would be happy to securely store your luggage until they are able to get you checked into your room.

HOTEL CONTACT

AnnKlundt | (563)441-7115 | Ann.klundt@islebettendorf.com



CAESARS
ENTERTAINMENT.

TM.

TRADEMARK
COLLECTION BY WYNDHAM



Registration for is only **\$165** for VFW and Auxiliary Members
\$200 for Non-Member Guests

Registration includes live entertainment and fun activities exclusively for registered Big 10 Conference attendees, including a live band, a hypnotist, murder-mystery, and more. Registration also includes heavy Hors d'oeuvres on Friday, all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on Saturday, and numerous exclusive gifts, including \$10 free casino play for every registered guest over the age of 21!



Website



**Mobile-Friendly
Registration**

To register scan one of the QR Codes above with the camera on your smart phone or tablet, or visit the following site on your desktop or laptop computer:

<https://tinyurl.com/2025vfwbig10>

ADVERTISEMENTS & GREETINGS

Please consider purchasing an advertisement or sending a greeting in our Program Book. Ads can be purchased on the same website as above at the following rates:

Full-Page = \$200

Half-Page = \$125

Quarter-Page = \$75

VENDORS

Boothspace can also be purchased from the same site above for \$300/6ft table area.