



April 2026



VFW

AUXILIARY

**Department of
South Dakota**

General Orders

GO #9 Saluting Our Heroes for April 2026

April 12 is Good Deed Day, what a wonderful reason to reach out and touch someone in a small way to let them know you care. A call or card takes very little and can brighten someone's day more than you might imagine.

I hope by now your auxiliary has turned in all your year-end reports for all programs even if you did not participate in that particular program. This makes the program chairman's job so much easier if she does not have to make calls.

I am pleased to report Department membership is at 100.36% as of this writing. Thank you to everyone who got out and collected dues and signed up new members.

My President's project was food insecurity for the VOC in Rapid City only since Sioux Falls said they had things covered. Since that time, the Sioux Falls VOC has suffered a shortage, and I have expanded the project to also cover the Sioux Falls VOC. I am asking that your District do a food drive at your spring District meeting and that the District President take that food collected to either the Rapid City or Sioux Falls VOC. Any cash or check donations should be sent to Nancy Chester, Department Treasurer. Please send me a statement giving the value of the food donated so I can add it to the total for the year.

Again, Department Convention will be in Mitchell June 11-14, 2026 at the Heartland Convention Center and lodging at the Comfort Inn or the Hampton. Hopefully you already have made your reservations at the hotel and sent in your registration.

Once again, I cannot emphasize this enough. Do not be fooled by scams asking for cards or money to be sent to Department officers. Please pass this information on to every member you know.

Thank you for all your assistance so far this year; it is appreciated.

/s/ Sue Jones, President

VFW & AUX STATE

CONVENTION

REGISTRATION FORM

June 11 - 14, 2026



Convention Location:
 Highland Conference Center
 2000 Highland Way

Hotel Options:
 Comfort Inn & Suites @ \$189/Night
 605-990-2400
 Hampton Inn @ \$189/Night
 605-995-1575

Email:

Telephone Number:.....

Full Name:

Title:

Location:..... Post:

..... VFW / AUX:

Gluten Free Option:

Register after May 11, 2026 - \$150

Convention Registration - \$125

**Includes: Gold Star Luncheon*



Non-Member Banquet ONLY - \$40

Non-Member Name: _____

**Disclaimer: Banquet Only is not applied to VFW/AUX members.*



Grand Total: _ \$ _____



Make checks payable to: Dept of SD VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135 Sioux Falls, SD 57104

[Click Here to Register](#)



SD Department Convention

Delegate Fees

Completed by Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer and sent to Department Treasurer by May 15, 2026.

Auxiliary No. _____ Location: _____

Membership # of _____, on date the election of Delegates was made. Date _____

Your Auxiliary is allowed 1 Delegate for each 30 members OR FRACTION THEREOF. Members must be in good standing. Example: Auxiliary membership at time the election of Delegates is 78 members. You have and pay for 3 (Three) Delegates.

Each Auxiliary must also remit for any member(s) from their Auxiliary who is serving as a Department Officer, this includes a District President. (Not your local Auxiliary) during the current year 2025-26. Also for any Past Department Presidents within your Auxiliary.

NUMBER OF DELEGATES ENTITLED _____ AT \$2.00 TOTAL \$ _____

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (IF ANY):

Name	Office Title
Name	Office Title
Name	Office Title

Total Department Officers _____ at \$2.00 each Total \$ _____

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS (if any):

Name	Name
Name	Name

Total Past Department Presidents _____ at \$2.00 each Total \$ _____

TOTAL Submitted for all entities \$ _____

Mail to Department Treasurer with Department Delegate & Alternate Form before May 15, 2026

Nancy Chester, PO Box 55, Fort Pierre, SD 57532 605-220-1468



Auxiliary No. & Name _____
Auxiliary City _____ District No. _____

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota
DEPARTMENT DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE REGISTRATION FORM**

For registration to Department Meeting: One (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof. Members must be in good standing. Election shall be held at a regular Auxiliary meeting not less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to date of Department Meeting. The Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer shall forward the list to the Department Treasurer with Delegate Fees.

DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____
11. _____	11. _____
12. _____	12. _____
13. _____	13. _____
14. _____	14. _____
15. _____	15. _____
16. _____	16. _____
17. _____	17. _____
18. _____	18. _____
19. _____	19. _____
20. _____	20. _____

Mail with Department Delegate Fees Form and payment to Department Treasurer before May 15, 2026.

Department Treasurer: Nancy Chester, PO Box 55, Ft Pierre, SD 57532 605-220-1468



Auxiliary No. & Name _____ Auxiliary City _____ District No. _____

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
 Department of South Dakota
 DISTRICT DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE REGISTRATION FORM**

For registration to District Meeting: One (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof. Members must be in good standing. Election shall be held at a regular Auxiliary meeting not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to date of District Meeting. The Auxiliary Secretary shall forward the list to the District Secretary. (Article III, Section 302)

DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____
11. _____	11. _____
12. _____	12. _____
13. _____	13. _____
14. _____	14. _____
15. _____	15. _____
16. _____	16. _____
17. _____	17. _____
18. _____	18. _____
19. _____	19. _____
20. _____	20. _____
21. _____	21. _____
22. _____	22. _____
23. _____	23. _____
24. _____	24. _____
25. _____	25. _____

Mail (or email) to District Secretary ASAP or bring to District ___ meeting on _____ at _____ Post.

District Secretary: _____
 Contact Info: _____



NOT ACCEPTED BEFORE APRIL 1, NOR AFTER MAY 31
of the Current Calendar Year

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OFFICIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

~~DO NOT SEND THIS FORM IN IF NAMES HAVE BEEN INPUT ONLINE~~

TO: National Secretary
VFW Auxiliary
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

FROM: AUXILIARY NO. _____ DEPARTMENT OF _____
AUXILIARY NAME _____
CITY AND STATE _____

Per Section 304 of the National Bylaws, "Delegates and Alternates to the National Conventions shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April; one for each thirty-five (35) members or fraction thereof in good standing on March 31. The VFW Auxiliary Secretary shall provide the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the National Secretary, along with their membership ID number, within thirty (30) calendar days of the day of election" and no later than MAY 31. The Auxiliary Secretary is asked to input this or her Auxiliary's Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) online in MALTA via use of their respective membership ID number(s) and to print out a copy of the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for his or her records.

This is to certify that the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) listed below were duly elected to represent our VFW Auxiliary at the upcoming National Convention on _____ based on the total VFW Auxiliary membership as of MARCH 31 in the MALTA System.

ID Number and Name ARE REQUIRED to complete this form.
TYPE or PRINT NEATLY each Delegate's or Alternate's ID NUMBER and NAME.

~DELEGATE CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED AT CONVENTION SITE UPON CHECK-IN.~

DELEGATES		ALTERNATES	
ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME	ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(Auxiliary Secretary) (Address) (City, State & Zip Code)

NOTE: This is a listing only. (NO CHECKS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM.)

Baby Shower

HONORING VETERANS

APRIL 18, 2026

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

SIOUX FALLS VA HEALTH CARE

2501 W. 22ND STREET SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105

We are requesting gender neutral items for our guests. We have an Amazon Baby Shower Registry at <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/voluntary-servicessiouxfalls>

All items must be in new condition.

We are not able to accept the following:

Used clothing or homemade blankets at this time.
Light snacks will be provided to our guests. We plan for parents to meet other new parents, providers and have fun!

The following items are being requested:

Sleeper Sets, Receiving Blankets, Travel sized bath kits, Bath towels/wash cloths, Thermometers, Nail clippers, Bottle brushes, Home safety kits, Teethers, Developmental toys, Diapers size 1-4 and Wipes, Play Mats, Bouncer/Rocker chair, Portable highchair, Wrap/Carrier, Bath tub/chair.

*Boppy pillow, *Swing, *Pack-N-Play, *Stroller System

****Large items to be given as raffle or game prizes. All other options please reach out to CDCE.****

All donations must be delivered by Friday April 10th unless prior arrangement's have been made with CDCE. If you would like to Volunteer at the event or if you have any questions please reach out to either Erin Arnebeck or Crystal Reimers
Erin.Arnebeck@va.gov or Crystal.Reimers@va.gov

GENERAL ORDERS APRIL 2026
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 April! I am keeping it short and sweet this month! I would like to extend a thank you to those who have already sent year end reports! It has been exciting to see what everyone has done this past year. Just a reminder, reports are due to me on April 15, 2026. Just think Auxiliary reports along with your taxes!!!

April is the month of the Military Child. April 5 is Gold Star Spouses Day; April 14 is Air Force Reserve Birthday and April 23 is the Army Reserve Birthday. As always, 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!

Sincerely,

Michelle Payne

General Orders April 2026
Auxiliary Outreach
Dept Chairman, Nancy Worth
PO Box 47, Piedmont, SD 57769
605-490-1220
Nworth1971@gmail.com

Are you sharing your Auxiliary Outreach activities on Facebook? Make sure you have shared the activity on social media using the #AuxiliaryOutreach hashtag.

I have received a few Year-End Reports – remember these are due to me by April 15th so that all of your Auxiliary's hard work in the community can be praised and rewarded. What other organizations have your members worked with? Has your Auxiliary helped those organizations meet their goals?

You need to also remember to report activities to the Post because the VFW has programs that many of our activities/events will fit into. Auxiliaries don't have an opportunity to report projects/events hosted at the Post Home that may benefit folks other than Veterans. Please keep in mind that the VFW Auxiliary is also here to help support the efforts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Even after reporting all of your Auxiliary's assistance to other community organizations, don't stop helping. There are a number of observations and ways to help our communities.

April is:

Alcohol Awareness Month	National Stress Awareness Month
Autism Awareness Month	National Volunteer Month
Distracting Driving Awareness Month	National Woodworking Month
Move More Month	National Youth Sports Safety Month
National Card and Letter Writing Month	Parkinson's Awareness Month
National Child Abuse Prevention Month	Sexual Assault Awareness Month
National Poetry Month	School Library Month

Weekly Observances in April 2026

Crossword Puzzles Week (3/31-4/6)	Medication Safety Week (4/1 to 4/7)
Golden Rule Week (4/1-4/7)	Passover (4/1-4/9)
International Dark Sky Week (4/13-4/20)	World Hula Week (4/5 to 4/11)
Parkinson's Awareness Week (4/7-4/13)	Week of the Young Child (4/11-4/17)
National Park Week (4/18-4/26)	National Library Week (4/19-4/25)
National Volunteer Appreciation Week (4/19-4/25)	

If your Auxiliary isn't reporting activities (for any of our programs) through the Department website, you need to do that. This feature of the website was put in place for the ease of Department Chairmen in judging program accomplishments. If there are ANY questions regarding the eligibility of an event, call me and we will talk it through. Continue to support your Veterans and their families within your communities. This is the purpose and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary!

General Orders April 2026
Auxiliary Outreach
Dept Chairman, Nancy Worth
PO Box 47, Piedmont, SD 57769
605-490-1220
Nworth1971@gmail.com

Happy Spring South Dakota Auxiliary Members,

It is that time of year to fill out year end reports. I have included the SD VFW Auxiliary Department Year End Report. These are due to my mail or email by April 15th, 2026. The winner will be announced at our State Convention in Mitchell. Thank you to all that have already submitted these forms to me.

All SD VFW Auxiliaries can compete for our Historian & Media Relations National Program Awards. I have included the 2025-2026 Entry Form and the instructions for creating a Facebook Reel. Reels can be between 3 seconds and 90 seconds long. If you would like to compete for these awards, please have your local Auxiliary Chairperson complete the National Awards 2025-2026 Entry Form and email me your Facebook Reels. **(Please do not fill in these two fields – screenshot is shown below and is at the bottom of the form. I will sign and date these two fields on our state winners form for submission. Thank you.)**

Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman: _____
Signature
Date: _____
Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

Both the form and reel are due to me by email by March 31, 2026, for judging. (Sorry for the short notice). I will choose the most outstanding reel and forward to my National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo by April 30, 2026, for judging. Have fun with this and please ask me if you have any questions.

Enclosed below are the SD VFW Auxiliary Department Year End Report due by April 15th, 2026, the Historian & Media Relations National Awards Form and the directions for making a Facebook Reel which are due by March 31st, 2026.

I am so proud of all that our auxiliaries do around the state. You all amaze me at how you care for our veterans and our communities. I can always be reached for questions at danibolte@sio.midco.net, message me on Facebook or text to 6057591993.

TakeCare,

DaniBolte

2025-2026 Historian/Public Relations Chairperson

SOUTH DAKOTA VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT YEAR END REPORT

Historian & Media Relations 2025-2026

Auxiliary Name & Number: _____ Location: _____

Program Chairman Name: _____ District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

1. Did your VFW Auxiliary communicate quarterly to each of their members via email, mail, text or phone call. Circle Y for yes or N for no.
2. Did your VFW Auxiliary have a Facebook page or pages? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
3. Did your VFW Auxiliary have an Instagram account? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
4. Did your VFW Auxiliaries have a website? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
5. Did your VFW Auxiliary post your projects in the newspaper? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
If yes, how many times? _____
6. Was your VFW Auxiliary on the news? Either Radio or Television? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
If yes, how many times? _____
7. Did your auxiliary make a scrapbook showing your projects? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
8. What do you think was your biggest project that touched the most people in your community or surrounding communities? _____.
9. Please describe this project on a separate page and attach.

Chairman Signature _____ Date _____

Year End Report Due by April 15, 2026

Mail to: Department Chairman Dani Bolte

6308 S Mogen Avenue. Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Or you can scan and email to danibolte@sio.midco.net

Please put "Auxiliary Year-End Report" in the subject line



Historian & Media Relations

National Program Awards

2025-2026 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their VFW Auxiliary in action.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form and the social media reel to the Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Instructions on how to make a social media reel is in MALTA Member Resources under Historian & Media Relations, Websites & Social Media- Websites, How to Create a Facebook Reel.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.

The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form along with the Department-winning social media reel to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman: _____

Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

VFW Auxiliary Historian & Media Relations

How to create a Facebook Reel



What is Facebook Reel?

Facebook Reels are a new way to create short, up to 90 seconds long, entertaining videos. Reels allow you to add your own original audio, captions, stickers, backgrounds and use a range of filters. Facebook Reels can be created by uploading photos and videos from your phone's photo gallery or by recording new video clips during the creation process.

To create a Facebook Reel on your phone:

1. Open the Facebook app on your phone.
 - Make sure you're using the latest version
2. From your feed, tap the + in the top right and select "Reel"
3. Add a new video (tap the camera icon), add an existing video or multiple photos by clicking "Select multiple"
 - Alternately, you can click on "Templates" and choose from an existing template
4. Add audio, text, effects, or stickers
5. Tap "Next" when you're finished
6. Write a description for your reel
7. Choose an audience for your reel
8. Opt to share the reel to Instagram
9. Click the folder icon at the bottom to "download" the Reel to your phone.
10. Tap "Share now" to publish your reel

Here are some tips for creating Facebook Reels:

- **Recommended format:** .mp4
- **Recommended resolution:** 1080p
- **Recommended video format:** Vertical videos are easier to create than horizontal videos.
- **Video quality:** Avoid low-quality videos, like those that are blurry or recycled from other apps.

- **Audio:** Use music from the Facebook music library or create or find your own original audio. You can also add a voiceover to personalize your content.
- **Length:** Reels can be between 3 seconds and 90 seconds long.
- **Engagement:** Use creative tools like text, filters, or camera effects, stickers and drawings.

Questions? Contact National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo at vfwauxpahistorian@gmail.com.

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

April 2026

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COMMUNITY CARE REFORM

Technology that will help the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule Community Care appointments faster than ever before is now up and running at all VA facilities, and VA will be expanding its use in 2026 so Veterans can more easily choose the health care they have earned.

The External Provider Scheduling (EPS) system gives VA employees instant access to scheduling system of all community care providers who participate in this program. With that information, VA can immediately book appointments for Veterans that fit their schedules.

Today, 27,000 Community Care providers are participating in the EPS program covering 78 medical specialties. VA's goal is to sign up thousands of additional Community Care providers in 2026 as part of VA's ongoing effort to deliver timely, Veteran-centered care. When the Mission Act was signed, Veterans eligible for Community Care were guaranteed the right to choose the health care that is best for them, whether at a VA facility or a community provider.

Monitor ACTION CORPS WEEKLY for updates.

REMINDER: Year End Reports are due to me by April 15th.

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Hafner

301 West Cherry Street

Parkston, SD 57366

605-661-4484 /// tbmhafner@santel.net+

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

South Dakota VFW Auxiliary
Membership April 2026
Pam Vissia-611 North Main-Plankinton SD 57368
Phone 605-770-5089-email pvissia@siouxvalley.net

- Recruit-Reinstate-Retain---the 3 Rs in Membership
 1. Recruit New Members
 2. Reinstate Members that have lapsed-contact these members and make them feel welcome and ask them to rejoin.
 3. Retain—We need to retain the members we have. Contact them if they have not been to a meeting in some time. Ask them to attend a meeting and make them feel welcome.
- Review your membership list at least yearly for members who have passed away.
Review the contact information for your members. It may be a good
- idea to send a newsletter to those not living in the area to verify address and contact information
- Did you know that you can now scan your membership cards into MALTA. This is a wonderful tool and you will not have to go searching through boxes of cards when you are looking for information. I have completed our auxiliaries. FYI-I had two great nieces that did it for me. If you would like your membership forms scanned in let me know and I would be happy to assist you on this.

I am just a phone call away if you need anything.

Loyally,
Pam Vissia Membership Chairmen



No year end membership reports need to be submitted for the program. I will get the information from Malta!

e-news 15 March 2026
SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026
DEPT CHAIRMAN MARGARET GREENFIELD
20539 401 S T AVE
HURON, SD 57350
(605) 350-5254
margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com

Hello Members!!

Just a reminder that our Patriotic Art Scholarship 2 and 3-Dimensional are due by the end of this month!

Also don't forget our Young Patriotic Art Scholarships. This scholarship is available for those in grades 9-12. Please get this out to your schools, libraries, churches, and homeschoolers. These applications are available on our website <https://vfwauxsd.org> under "Programs" then "Scholarships"

□ **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

I'm looking forward to seeing all the art from across our "Great" state. Good luck to everyone!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary

Veterans & Family Support - April 2026

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

Wow, it is the last general order of the year. Make sure to get your year end report completed and to me by the 15th of April. You can email them to me (If I do not respond that I got it, please resend – I always reply that I got it) or put in the mail but make sure to mail by the 10th if putting in the mail.

Even if you did not do anything – Please email or mail me a report that you did nothing. We want 100% reporting – you will be getting calls and emails if you do not send or email it in.

It has been a great year! We truly appreciate all your hard work, commitment, dedication and passion for our Veterans, Military Member and their Families. Let's keep it going and teaching our communities about our Veterans, Military Members and Famies.

April 15th is “Purple Up Day” It is a day set aside to celebrate Military Children for their sacrifices made for having a military parent. April is the Month of the Military Child so let us celebrate our military kiddo’s all month. Why Purple? Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. All the service colors are represented including Air Force blue, Army green , Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue; said to combine for the mutual benefit of all into the color purple. Keep local: 1) You can go to your school or after school programs and talk to them about military children and the challenges they face with military parents. 2) You can release purple balloons in honor of “Purple Up Day”. 3) Do something special for the kids if you have a local unit.



May is the month of the Military Caregiver – I have talked about caregivers in previous bulletins. It is a great time to do a LOCAL event honor the caregivers.

May 9, 2026 if Military Spouse Appreciation Day - On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration, and reset. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the nation's strength, and they serve our country just like their loved ones. Come up with some local ideas in your community and show your support.

May 16 – Armed Forces Day - Armed Forces Day is a joint celebration of all six branches of the U.S. military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. The day honors all people currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. This includes the men and women who have served or are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, including the National Guard and Reserve components. Locally show your support to Veteran and Military Members in your community.

May 25 – Memorial Day - Memorial Day is meant for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of a wound sustained in battle.

*SSD VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support*

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

***Tammy Chase 45980 SD HWY 10
Sisseton, SD 57262 605-698-7438
605-742-4179***





WORD SCRAMBLE
DIRECTIONS:
Unscramble each set of letters to discover a vocabulary word relating to the lovely month of April.

OFLO _____

BTFURTYLE _____

ARSSG _____

TPAEILRLACR _____

ERTDYAHA _____

ADRGNE _____

ANIR _____

LAGUH _____

LUIPT _____

RENGE _____

RECYCEL _____

RTSEAE _____

LLAMUBER _____

LNAPT _____

UBNYN _____

UORPTS _____

ATNREU _____

PALRI _____

OEKJ _____

OLFERW _____

SEBLAABL _____

NSPRGI _____

OLMBO _____

NIOBR _____

General Orders April 2026
YouthActivities 2025-2026
Darnell Bohlander, Dept. Chairman
515 21st Ave NE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 290-8942
darnellbohlander@yahoo.com

DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING!!

Please note that the YouthActivities “National” Program Awards Entry Form is due to me by March 31, 2026 for judging. I will send the Department-winning entry form to Shannon Stanley, our National Youth Activities Ambassador for National judging.

- This entry form is also available in MALTA, under Member Resources – Youth Activities – Award Forms – “Youth Activities Aux. Award No. 1. This is not a fillable form. You will have to print it off , complete it and then mail it in. _____

As of March 20, 2026, I have received one “National” Program Awards Entry Form from Tomzcak-Bartels, #1776, Huron. There is still time to get your Auxiliary’s entry form sent to me too. Thank you.

Also, please notice in MALTA, under Member Resources – Youth Activities – Illustrating America Certificates - that there is an “Illustrating America Certificate (fillable)” and “Illustrating America Recognition Certificate.

The following is from Shannon Stanley, our National Youth Activities Ambassador:

Promoting our Illustrating America Contest

Did you know that art can be therapeutic for youth as well as a wonderful way for our children to express themselves and show their creativity? I am encouraging all our members to work on promoting our Illustrating America Contest. The Illustrating America Contest is open to our elementary and junior high school students, with three age groups: kindergarten-second grade, third-fifth grade and sixth-eighth grade. I do know how hard it is to get into the schools, so once again I challenge you to take information to your local art studios, churches, day cares and scouting groups and to always think outside the box. Please check out the rules and regulations; remember that the information for Illustrating America contest can be found on the Member Resources page on MALTA and on our National website.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- March 31: Student entries are due to participating /sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- April 15: First-place winner from each participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Department

for judging.

Please remember that artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the student if not advancing to the next level.

As of March 20, 2026 I have not received any Illustrating America Contest entries. Please reach out to your contacts and see how they are coming.

SD Department Year-End Reports are due April 15, 2026. I have received Year-End Reports for Youth Activities from the following:

District 4: Milbank
District 6: Redfield
District 7: Parkston, Tyndall and Winner

Thank you to these Auxiliaries and I look forward to receiving more by April 15, 2026.