



November 2025



**VFW
AUXILIARY**

**Department of
South Dakota**

General Orders

GO #5 Saluting Our Heroes for November 2025

I just returned from Big 10 in Bettendorf, Iowa. Check our Historian/Media page for photos.

The Fall Council Meeting was October 3 and 4 in Sioux Falls and we had a good turnout for the meetings and good comments on the presentations. All the presentation highlights were posted on the webpage so If you need to refresh your memory or your auxiliary was not represented and needs to read up on the different programs, please go to the website and browse.

My email was recently hacked, again, and a message sent out asking for gift cards to be purchased and sent to me. This time it was slightly different in that the email did not return to the same address. I cannot stress this enough. These are SCAMS, so don't fall for them. 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. Be aware and just delete these.

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.

As we enter into the holiday season, please take a moment to stop and give thanks for all your family and friends and the blessings you have received so far this year. Also, give thanks for this great organization we all belong to, the VFW Auxiliary.

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

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: What funds are usually restricted and what can restricted funds be used for?

Answer: Per Bylaws Page 81. 11. The General Fund contains unrestricted monies, which may be expended for any purpose. 12. The other funds established contain restricted funds, which may only be expended for the purposes for which they were received. (This is usually hospital and/or relief funds but may include others that your auxiliary, district or department deems necessary. Be careful as these funds can be difficult to manage as time passes If they are not used.)

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

Sue Jones, Department President



General Orders November 2025

Auxiliary Outreach

Dept Chairman, Nancy Worth

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Nworth1971@gmail.com

Donating money or goods cannot be reported under this program. Auxiliary Outreach is about donating our time through partnerships with organizations in our communities.

Members should determine organizations that could use their energy, skills and volunteers to support that organization's cause. All communities and organizations have areas of need.

I'm asking every South Dakota Auxiliary Outreach chairman to get input from members about another organization they belong to (outside of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary) for ideas of how volunteering will assist this organization. Make sure to approve any new venture through your Auxiliary membership and record the approval in the meeting minutes.

Make sure to share your activities supporting others in your community on social media. Your photos should show members in action (not just posed). ALSO, remember to use the hashtag, #AuxiliaryOutreach, when posting these activities.

Use of the hashtag will indicate to members throughout our country to promote what you have been doing. Yes, we all borrow ideas, so feel free to share them.

Please let me know what your Auxiliary did on National Make a Difference Day – October 25th. This day started in 1992 as a day for community service. We need to help encourage folks to participate in volunteerism and acts of kindness within our communities.

Upcoming observed days that your Auxiliary might consider doing a special project:

November 13 – World Kindness Day. This day started with a mission to promote goodwill, empathy and acts of kindness. A wonderful day to encourage good deeds in your community.

November 22 – National Family Volunteer Day, created in 1991 by Points of Light.

This is a day to strengthen community bonds by having families, and including multi-generations, work together on service projects. These projects can include park cleanups or food bank support.

If you have any questions or wonder if a project qualifies for Auxiliary Outreach, be sure to give me a call, drop me a text or email.

Thank you for your continued service to our communities, our Veterans and their families.



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

Fall is here and the leaves are changing. November is the time when we think about what we are thankful and grateful for: Our family, friends, but most especially our VETERANS.

November is a month to honor those who have served in our Armed Forces.

This can be done at any time throughout the month, not just on Veterans Day.

If you have not done so yet, please contact businesses in your area about setting up a table to distribute poppies for Veterans Day.

Before you set up a table at a place of business, such as Hy-Vee, 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.

Remember, WE DO NOT SELL POPPIES, WE DISTRIBUTE POPPIES.

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.

Remember to take pictures of your Auxiliary distributing Poppies.



Happy November Everyone,

Happy windy fall,

Our group just got back from the Big 10 Conference. It looked like a great time. At fall council school of instruction, I showed the group how to add a reel to Instagram and then add it to our Facebook Historial page. You can add it directly with my instructions below or that I showed the group at Fall Council. Good luck.

Try it out. Hardest part for me was changing the music on a reel. It for some reason likes to revert to the first one in my songs that I have used.

To add a reel to Facebook, open the app, tap the "Create reel" or "+" button, and then either record a new video or upload one from your camera roll. You can then edit the reel by adding music, text, or effects, and finally, you can write a caption, choose your audience, and tap "Share" to publish it.

Create a new reel in a group

1. Open the Facebook app and go to the group page.
2. Tap "Write something..." at the top of the group's feed.
3. Select Reel or Photo/Video from the menu.
4. Record a new video or select an existing one from your camera roll.
5. Edit the reel as desired with music, text, or effects.
6. Add a caption and tap Post.

To add a reel to Instagram, tap the plus (+) icon in the top right, select "Reel," and then either record a new video or upload one from your camera roll by tapping the gallery icon. You can then add audio, effects, text, and stickers, and finally share it by adding a caption, tagging people, and tapping "Share".

To create a group Reel on Instagram, you can use the Collabs feature to invite multiple collaborators to be listed as authors, or you can share the Reel directly to a **group chat or a **group on Facebook. The Collabs feature is for co-authoring, while sharing to a group chat or Facebook group is a way to distribute the content to that specific audience.


Adding a Reel to Instagram

1. Hit the + button.
2. Hit the right button to add multiple pictures.
3. Hit the next button.
4. Pick an audio selection, hit next.
5. You can edit the video if you would like to or you can add a caption with the
- Aa. Add your captions if you would like.
6. Tag People, tag location and hit share.
7. This sends your reel to your Facebook page.
8. Save reel. Hit the three dots at the top and copy link.
9. Paste link in the group that you want to show the reel in.



Remember that new Auxiliary books are now out and the new applications will be available and must be used starting on January 1st.

I see many great feather parties and Christmas activities that will be coming up in the next two months. I cannot wait to see all your posts. Take care my fellow Auxiliary and remember to always include the who, what, where when and why in all your advertising.



UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

VFW AUXILIARY

Press Releases: What to Include

First Paragraph: Be Concise and Get to the Point

Always include the who, what, where, when and why

- **Who** – Who are you talking about? Can you include a quote from them?
- **What** – What is the event or activity?
- **Where/When** – Where and when can the reporter cover this story?
- **Why** – Why would the reporter want to cover this? How is it interesting or unique?

I can always be reached for questions at [**danibolte@sio.midco.net**](mailto:danibolte@sio.midco.net), message me on Facebook or text to **6057591993**.

Take care,
Dani Bolte

General Orders Novemer 2025

Hospital

Dept Chairman Tamara Bull

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Hopefully everyone is 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.

Each Auxiliary could have a signup sheet for members to volunteer to visit the veterans and auxiliary members who are in assisted living arrangements or the hospital. This would help get more members involved in the auxiliary activities.

I would like to hear if any auxiliary has implemented the plan I introduced last month with the youth and the veterans. One of the teachers at the school in my area asked if they could get names of veterans in the facilities so they could personalize the pictures. They also wanted to write letters to the veterans. Maybe start a pen pal situation.

Please send me any pictures or stories of how your auxiliary is helping the veterans that are in the hospital or assisted living in your own areas along with any other youth activities that are sending pictures to the State Veterans Home and the Community Living Center.

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

November 2025

PROGRAM GOALS

VFW Priority Goals and Action Corps Weekly

Be an Advocate, Be Informed and Be Engaged

November is typically Election Month. There are no scheduled statewide elections in South Dakota in 2025. However, local elections for cities, schools and special districts may be held. Exercise your Right to Vote.

The VFW strongly supports strengthening oversight, transparency, and coordination of programs ensuring veterans receive clear information concerning the “Community Care Program.” Women veterans in rural areas depend heavily on the Community Care Program for their specialty needs. In addition, veterans in mental health crises may require immediate inpatient services outside of VA facilities.

[Contact our National Senators and Representative and urge them to support future Bills concerning Veterans.](#)

Becky Hafner

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

Happy Fall Everyone!



Holy Hannah! Where has this past year gone! I am so Thankful for all the members of the Auxiliary! Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and time to enjoy with your families.

We have just returned from the Big 10 Conference in Bettendorf Iowa and what a great time it was. It was great to network with the other Departments and being able to chat with our Ambassador Michael and Big 10 coach Nancy. Lots of excitement in the air for Big 10.

We have learned that we will have a new membership application and this is the ONLY one that will be accepted. Please throw away all old membership forms and hand out the new forms. Check the date on the bottom of the form if it does not have January 2026 on the bottom, it will be returned to you. I am enclosing one for you and it can also be found on the Auxiliary web page.

This morning, we are setting at 92.06% and we need 122 members by November 30th to reach 95% and to achieve the Bronze Department Award and \$200 for the Department.
We can do this!

We need to continue to recruit new members. Always keep an application with you (a new application form for the upcoming year). When you have your Christmas party hold a membership drive during the party and talk with your post member and see if they have a family member that is eligible for the auxiliary. Please invite your new members to the meetings and most importantly make them feel welcome.

I am just a phone call away and I am here to help you in anyway that I can. If I do not answer leave a message and I will call you back. We are working on a letter to send to the at large members and hope to have that completed in the next week.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and I am thankful for all of you.

Loyally in Membership,

Pam

VFW Auxiliary Department South Dakota
November Report 2025
Mentoring and Leadership
Pat Cerney, Chief of Staff

To All Auxiliary Members
From: Pat Cerny, Chief of Staff

I was asked to give some information regarding motions, etc. It seemed the easiest was to write a short scenario to explain.

Making Motions, Amendments, etc.

Scenario: Jane stands, addresses the Chair and says "I move that we donate \$40 a year to the Girls/Boys Club. Mary seconded the motion. The President opens it for discussion.

Karen stands, addressed the chair and says "I amend the motion to \$50 a year". No one seconds the motion. President says "the amendment dies for lack of second". Susan stands, addresses the Chair and says "I want to amend the motion to \$30 per year." Jason stands and says "I second the motion". The amendment is discussed. President says "hearing no further discussion all those in favor of the amendment say Aye, those opposed say Nay". The Ayes have it.

The President then says "will the Secretary read the motion as amended. All those in favor signify by saying Aye, those opposed say Nay". If the President is not certain of the count he/she may ask all those in favor please stand or raise their hands, then all those opposed please do same. The President then announces the vote.

Should the discussion of the motion determine that very few like the idea, (before an amendment is made or passed) it is permissible for Jane (who made the motion) to stand, address the Chair and say "I wish to withdraw my motion". The president asks if anyone objects, and if no one objects, the motion is withdrawn.

So called 'friendly amendment'. There is no category for this. Once a person makes a motion and it is seconded, the motion belongs to the body and the originator no longer has any say as to any amendments being added. They can speak for or against any proposed amendment.

If a member of a committee, moves a motion regarding that committee's recommendation, there is no need for a second because it is deemed that because there is more than one on the committee it is already seconded.

In most cases majority rules on voting: 100 present, 51 voting aye is the majority.

VFW Auxiliary Department South Dakota
November Report 2025
Mentoring and Leadership
(Continued)

However, if a Standing Rule is changed at Council, and it was not sent out to Council members prior to the meeting, it takes a 2/3's vote to pass. I.e. 101 present, $2/3 = 67.33$. It must be rounded up, meaning 2/3 would be 68.

President: The President can vote on the issues. He/she cannot speak to any issue or make any motions UNLESS he/she moves away from the President's station and requests the Senior Vice President to preside. The President is to remain neutral while presiding.

Minutes: No vote is necessary. If the minutes have been read, or circulated, the President asks if there are any corrections or amendments. If not, the minutes stand approved as read/circulated. Or the minutes stand approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report - No vote is necessary. The report indicates the payment of bills or budgeted items already having been voted on. President asks if there are any corrections. If none, he/she says the Treasurer's Report (or corrected report) will be filed subject to audit.

Audit - This must have a vote. This votes indicates that ALL monies, funds and deposits are accurate and correctly accounted for.

Further questions: Google – Roberts Rules, then state your question and an answer will appear.

I hope this has been of some assistance to the members.

**VFW Auxiliary Department South Dakota
November Report 2025
Mentoring and Leadership
(Continued)**

TO: All Auxiliary Members
FROM: Pat Cerny, Chief of Staff
SUBJECT: Floor work at Convention

We have reached a point of having to make a big decision.

First: Money – our membership is less than half of what it was 20 years ago. This means that much less dollars in the bank. We had to slash our funding to the VA Hospitals, SD Veterans Home and Human Services Center by one third. That is a huge chunk to take away from our veterans.

Second: Partly because of the lack of numbers renting motel rooms for convention and partly because the motel/hotel situation is changing we are not always allowed large rooms for our meeting. Floor work demands large rooms. We also have the challenge of getting the VFW to understand the need for room size.

Third: If we have to pay to rent large rooms it not only depletes from our funds but in some cases we may have to travel to other facilities, lugging all our ‘stuff’. The rent usually is \$150 to \$200 , sometimes more, for each day. \$400 may not sound like much, but in our very limited budget it means cutting something else and there is hardly anything left to cut.

Forth: Many younger members feel it is a waste of their time for floor work when the time could be spent on programs, socializing, etc. They (plus many of the long time members) feel we need to change. We need the younger crowd.

Fifth: National Bylaws do NOT say we need to do floor work. We can follow a Contemporary format as we do in our Auxiliary and District meetings.

Sixth: We are proposing to try Contemporary for a Convention or two. Incoming Presidents have the option of “doing it their way”. (After they make proper additions to their budget for the year)

This will be the proposal to be discussed at the next Council of Administration meeting which will be held at Legislative Conference.



e-news November 2025
SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026
DEPT CHAIRMAN MARGARET GREENFIELD
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Hello VFW Auxiliary members!!

I know we are just finishing up the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs. It has been a busy few months. Now on to the judging all the applicants. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are due to your Districts by November 21st. I wish everyone good luck!

Now is the time to be reaching out for the high school students for their artwork. Reach out to your schools, library, 4H Clubs and churches. It is due to your Post/Auxiliary by March 31st. The applications are on the website www.vfwauxsd.org under programs tab scholarships.

If you have anyone applying for Continuing Education, they are due by February 15th. The forms are available on the website www.vfwauxsd.org under programs tab scholarships.

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

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

November is a month of gratitude and reflection, and it holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans. It is the month we celebrate National Military Family Month (Military Family Appreciation Month) which intersects with National Veterans & Military Families Month. It is a time to honor and appreciate the sacrifices made by military families. Let's take some time and honor our Veterans and Military Families this month.

Military Family Appreciation Month takes place the month of November every year in the United States. The month is dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the families of service members across all branches of the military. These families – much like the services members themselves – make sacrifices for the greater good of the country.

National Veterans and Military Families Month is broader than Military Family Month, it includes both veterans and their families. These two complement each other, emphasizing the collective sacrifices made by those who serve and those who support them.

Both of these November observances are important because they:

- **Acknowledgment of Sacrifice:** Military families often endure long separations, frequent moves, and the emotional toll of having a loved one in a dangerous line of work.
- **Community Support:** The month serves as a rallying point for communities to show their support for military families.
- **Policy Focus:** It brings attention to the policies affecting military families, encouraging lawmakers to consider their unique needs.
- **Emotional Well-Being:** The month-long observance can serve as a morale booster for both service members and their families.

Do not forget that Veterans Day also is in the month of November.

Keep It Local – November is a wide open month for activities, events and just acknowledgement of the Veterans, Military Member and their Families! Again you can celebrate the Veterans on Veterans Day. You can send cards of “thanks for your sacrifices” to the families of current military members, retired members and Veterans.

If the active members have an active Family Readiness Group – you can maybe do something for them during their meetings. Please remember the children, they also sacrifice!

SD VFW Auxiliary

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

Veterans & Family Support

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

SCAN ME



Here is some great information to share for families of service members (and DoW Civilians) who may be facing delayed pay due to government shutdown:

Two key dates come to mind that may be associated with financial risk. 15 October and 16 October for military and civilian, respectively.

Financial Readiness professionals are standing by to assist as well as other avenues to support as well (USA Cares and Red Cross)s). Military banking institutions (Abound CU, Armed Forces Bank, and Navy Federal Bank) on the installations are prepared to support their members.

Request for Emergency Relief (Army Emergency Relief, Navy-Marine Corps Relief, Air Force Aid, Coast Guard Mutual Aid) Assistance due to government shutdown non-receipt of pay:

Can apply starting immediately

Assistance will not be disbursed until after a decision is made 14 October 2025

LOAN REPAYMENT WILL BE TAKEN OUT WHEN PAY IS RESTORED IN FULL

Application Process:

- AER ONLINE PORTAL
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief
- Air Force Aid Society
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
-

Service members pending CHAPTER or ELIMINATION from the Service are not eligible
Service Members expected to ETS through November are not eligible

NOTE: Navy Fed, USAA, Pen Fed (as well as many local, installation based credit unions) will offer 0% loan options that may be quicker and more advantageous.

BEST Practice: **DO NOT DOUBLE DIP** as this will cause additional financial hardship.

Please let me know if you need assistance in locating additional resources. Keep in mind that the VFW has announced that they will be unable to assist at this time due to the magnitude of the shutdown.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist in any way possible!

V/R

Annie O'Connor
Veterans and Family Support
National Ambassador
VFW Auxiliary



Veterans Day

Word Scramble

On November 11th of each year, Americans honor their citizens who have served in the armed forces. Can you unscramble the Veterans Day vocabulary words? Watch out! One of them is made up of two words.

ADEML

CEEVIRS

EERANVT

RTEITUB

AGUECR

OREH

PADRAE

OOHRN

RPEID

MILMEARO

RMLYIITA

YTUD

OPTIART

AYODLHI

SHATKN

IACFRERO

STYHIOR

IEMANR

RAYBE

ACEEP

VYAN

SELORIDS

MERVONEB

TCOMBA

General Orders November 2025
Youth Activities 2025-2026
Darnell Bohlander, Dept. Chairman
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darnellbohlander@yahoo.com

For those who attended Fall Council can now attest to something that I always knew was true about myself...I am best suited behind a computer instead of a microphone...ha! It was my first Fall Council Meeting, and I came away with lots of information to share with my Auxiliary and hopeful several fellow Auxiliary members who attended felt the same way.

Exciting news...Northern State University's Art Department will be judging our Department's "Illustrating Art" entries. Also, I did verify at Fall Council that we do not have any Districts who award a District Winner, therefore, I have removed the District Deadline for "Illustrating America".

I will quote from Shannon Stanley our National Youth Advisor; "Remember, keeping the youth involved in all your programs and Auxiliary functions will only help increase our membership in the future."

"Auxiliary Youth Activities" allows our members to interact with our youth. It is my hope that our interaction with our youth will be a positive experience, not only for the youth but also for each of us. Isn't it wonderful to be involved with our youth and watch them grow (along with help from their parents, teachers and other leaders) into responsible adults?

I know November is a very busy month for our Auxiliaries and the perfect month to attend those Veteran's Day Programs that some of our grade schools, middle schools and high schools present and thank them for doing those programs. This would also be a good time to reconnect with those teachers and remind them of our "Youth Activities".

Patriotic Youth Award:

The "Patriotic Youth Award" is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support to our veterans, service members and their families. A fillable, printable version of the Patriotic Youth Award is available in MALTA, Member Resources, under Youth Activities. "National Program Awards 2025-2026 Entry Form" is due to me by March 31, 2026. I will forward the Department-winning form to National Youth Activities Ambassador Shannon Stanley for judging.

Patriotism through Literacy:

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free (use your local library) initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.

Illustrating America:

Open to any student in grades K-8 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial school, or home study program in the United States. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible. National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.

Deadlines (received by):

VFW Auxiliary – March 31, 2026

Department – April 15, 2026

National Headquarters – May 5, 2026

Official form, details on requirements and contest rules can be found in MALTA, Member Resources, or on the VFW Auxiliary website.

