



September 2025



**VFW
AUXILIARY**

**Department of
South Dakota**

General Orders

Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary



Fall Council

SD Military Heritage Alliance Center in Sioux Falls
1600W Russell St, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

📅 **October 3–5, 2025**



Registration Fee: \$105 (Includes Friday & Saturday breaks, Saturday lunch, banquet, and band)
After September 3, 2025, registration price will be \$130

Banquet Only Ticket: \$40

Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center

Room Rate: **\$110/night**

Reserve your room online:

🔗 [Click here to book](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1751320909249&key=GRP&app=resvlink) or go to <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1751320909249&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Or Call 605-331-0100

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

VFW or Auxiliary: ☐ VFW ☐ Auxiliary **Post Number:** _____

💡 Payment Options

Make checks payable to:

Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Use QR Code or Pay online:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/department-of-south-dakota-vfw-and-auxiliary-fall-council>



💡 **Return this form and payment by mail or email by September 20, 2025** to confirm your registration.

Questions? Contact us at 💡 anna@vfwdeptsd.com or 💡 (605) 332-7441

GO #3 Saluting Our Heroes

National Presidents Visit will be in Pierre September 23 to 24. I would like as many Auxiliaries as possible to attend on the afternoon of September 23 so we can do the Avenue of Flags for Lois Callahan as she arrives for supper at the American Legion. The next day we will be touring all day but you will be free to leave at any time as Lois flies out at 6 am the next morning.

Fall Council Meeting is coming up October 3 and 4 in Sioux Falls. See Attached Agenda.

Again, 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. Your Auxiliary should decide this month who will represent your Auxiliary and bring home the training information.

Registration is \$105. 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 is \$40 if you are not registered. There are many options for lunch for those who do not register.

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.

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.

Sue Jones, SD VFWA President

AUXILIARY FALL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Friday October 3

1:00-5:00 pm Early registration

The Department is also offering free use of the gun range. Bring your own handgun and ammunition. You may purchase ammo there, if you wish.

7:00-8:00 pm Audit and Budget Meeting – room to be announced

5:00-10:00 pm Hospitality Social

Saturday October 4 Registration

8:00-9:50 am Council of Administration and Start of Specialized Training

And Officers and District Presidents' Training

9:50-10:00 am Break (snack included in Hallway for those registered)

10:00-10:30 am Continue Specialized Training

10:30 am-11:30 am VOD/PP Training – Dale & Margaret Greenfield
(Auxiliary will be sitting in with Department)

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

1:00-3:00 pm Continue Specialized Training and School of Instruction

3:00-3:15 pm Break

3:15-5:15 pm Continue School of Instruction and Closing

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

5:30-7:30 pm Banquet – (Included in Registration or \$40 to attend)
(Sports theme so wear your Sports Jerseys) Hospitality Room
immediately following Banquet

7:30-10:30 Nolan Clark Band (All Veterans Service Organizations invited)

This schedule is dependent upon timing by the Department and is subject to change.

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items for the Joint Commander and President's Project to benefit the Rapid City Veterans Outreach Center.

National Convention News

I am very pleased to announce that South Dakota was a BIG winner at the National Convention.

Past President Colleen is part of the Circle of Excellence...This gives our department \$500
Other awards that were brought home

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT - Tammy Chase, chairman *Best Promotion of awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans *1st place Outstanding Performance Award

AMERICANISM - Toni Huber, chairman *Outstanding activity educating their community about lesser-known holidays, awarded to Lemmon SD Auxiliary *1st place Outstanding Performance Award

AUXILIARY OUTREACH - Nancy Worth, chairman *2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME - Penny Galinat, chairman *Most outstanding activity/event to recognize and celebrate National Home 100th birthday Awarded to Pierre auxiliary
*Best Promotion of recognizing National Home 100th birthday *1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

HOSPITAL - Sue Jones, chairman *Best promotion of creative ways to interact and provide happiness to veteran patients *1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

SCHOLARSHIPS - Amanda Schwarz, chairman *most outstanding activity educating the community about scholarship opportunities. Brookings Auxiliary *Best promotion of scholarships *1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Nancy Worth, chairman *Best Promotion of youths reading to Veterans or Veteran reading to Youths. *1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Each of these first-place awards is \$200 and the second-place awards \$100 for the Department.

Thank you to ALL the chairmen. You were all winners and I am very proud of all of you.
This money goes into the General Fund and is a great addition to our budget.

There were several National By-laws changes that will affect all Auxiliaries:

Resolution #1 passed stating that Auxiliaries and Departments are required to review their rosters annually and ensure that all deceased members are entered as deceased in MALTA. National may recoup any life payouts for those deceased members if they are not removed.

Resolution #3 passed removing "Profess a belief in God" from Section 101 Eligibility.

Resolution #4 passed. Sec. 210 Meetings, Regular and Special. The letter H was added to read as follows: H. Divulging of VFW Auxiliary private business to non-members outside of the actual VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting, shall not be allowed.

Resolution #8 passed. Sec. 814-Trustees Duties of (All Levels) Sec. 814 E.1, will now read as follows:

As surety in a sum of at least 1.25 times the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the President and Treasurer may be accountable.
This reduces your bonding requirement from double to 1.5 times, saving your Auxiliary so me money.

Resolution #9 passed. Sec. 915-Solicitation of Funds Section 915.E. is added and reads as follows: Sec. 915.E. All monies collected for special projects shall be forwarded to the designated program/project within that fiscal year, unless the motion authorizing the program/project specifies a different time frame.

There were also many proposed Ritual revisions which I intend to cover at a later date.

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.”

Important dates to educate others about this month include:

September 2. V-J Day or Victory over Japan Day - marks the day when Japan surrendered in World War II, bringing the war to an end. It is celebrated in the United States on September 2, as this is the date the formal surrender document was signed in 1945.

September 11. Patriot Day –a day of honor for those killed in the terrorist attacks of 2001. Ways to tribute the heroes and victims who lost their lives include flying the U.S. flag at half-staff, taking a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 am, Eastern Standard Time, which is the time the first airplane struck the World Trade Center or participate in a remembrance ceremony or candlelight vigil. This day is also recognized as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, which encourages people to participate in some sort of community service.

September 13. Uncle Sam Day – this day celebrates the man behind the image of Uncle Sam, who supplied meat to soldiers during the War of 1812. Uncle Sam is a symbol of American strength and idealism.

September 17. Constitution Day & Citizenship Day - On 9/17/1787 the Constitution was signed by 39 delegates at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

September 18. Air Force’s birthday – 1947.

September 19, 2025. POW / MIA Recognition Day - we honor the commitments & sacrifices every prisoner of war has made and those still missing in action. It is specified by law the POW/MIA flag be flown on this date over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices, and military installations. One way to educate others is by conducting a Missing Man Table Ceremony and placing it in a prominent location in your community. Information about The Missing Man Table Ceremony is located on the SD VFW auxiliary website under the Americanism program or in MALTA.

September 28, 2025. Gold Star Mother’s & Family Day - for people to recognize and honor mothers and families who have lost a military service member while serving the United States

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

Summer is officially over with the beginning of school. Now is the time for Auxiliaries to support our future leaders by assisting with activities tied to our youth.

How, you ask? Volunteering in classrooms, your local library, or partnering with area youth groups. Yes, these activities also cover the Youth Activities area, but volunteer hours can be divided to both programs. REMEMBER to first get the approval (by motion and acceptance) of your Auxiliary for these functions.

NOTE: 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.

What is your most treasured commodity? Our time! And our time is exactly what we provide under this program. 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.

Remember to get approval for such a project at a regular Auxiliary meeting. 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!

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

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

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 September means two things: school has started back, and fall is on the way.

There are several days that could be used for the distribution of Poppies in September: Labor Day, Patriot Day (9/11), Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Day, and Gold Star Family Day.

Before setting up a table at a place of business, such as Hy-Vee, ensure 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 September Everyone,

The National Convention was a great success! I got Colleen's scrapbook done and will print the final pictures from National Convention for her to put in her book.

H – is for history

I – is for ideas. Bring new ideas or older ideas that some of us are often great at forgetting.

S – is for the story. Make sure to include all the pertinent facts to get people interested in your events.

T – time keeping. Make sure to record all activities so when it is time to do year end notes, you know exactly what events were held.

O – is for being original. New ideas may not always be welcomed by all.

R- is for relationships. I love the relationships that I have made around the state of South Dakota with both men and women in the VFW post and auxiliaries

I – is for information. More information that can be shared with our members is so very beneficial. You think you may have told someone certain information, but sometimes key information is forgotten to be relayed to all involved.

A is for being available to use our knowledge to help others.

N – is for being nice. Be nice to everyone you meet, especially to all who help with your events.

I look forward to seeing the pictures from parades and other activities around the state in the month of September.

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

2025-2026 Historian/Public Relations Chairperson

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER
September 2025

I recently attended the National VFW/Auxiliary Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The VFW elected the FIRST WOMAN veteran as Commander-in-Chief. Carol Whitmore is a highly decorated veteran with 36 years of Army service. She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 in Des Moines, Iowa where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership.

!!! CONGATULATIONS COMMANDER WHITMORE !!!

One proposed Legislative Bill that is of interest to all veterans is the “Major Richard Star Act.” This Bill is aimed at allowing combat-disabled veterans who are medically retired with fewer than 20 years of service to receive both their full Department of Defense (DoD) retirement pay and their full Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation concurrently, without any offset. Currently, veterans in this situation often have their retirement pay reduced by the amount they receive in disability compensation. **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
301 West Cherry Street
Parkston, SD 57366
605-661-4484
tbmhafner@santel.net

Membership Bulletin September 2025

The days are getting shorter and the morning sunrise is later each day.
Summer is winding down.

Currently South Dakota is setting at 87.4% in membership and we have 518 unpaid members. Keep up the good work everyone and let us continue to work towards our goal of 95% by November 30th.

If you have not sent out dues reminders please do so as soon as possible and if you have it might be a good idea to send a second notice.

I am excited for our Fall Conference in Sioux Falls on October 4th. I am working on my presentation and ideas for everyone to help promote membership and get new members. If you want to come over for the day and attend them meeting and the program presentations you most certainly can do so. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next month and chatting on membership with you and sharing ideas with you and you sharing your ideas as well.

Remember if you need any help with your membership, I am here to help you out.

Have a wonderful September everyone and enjoy the fall days. It is the most beautiful time of the year.

Pam Vissia
Membership Chairmen

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

Hello All 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. Let's make this a great year!

If your Auxiliary or District hasn't submitted your scholarship chairman, please do so ASAP! We would like to make sure everyone is in Scholars App before Fall Council, October 4th.

I know school is just starting for us. Please make sure you reach out to your schools about the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, and Young Creative Patriotic Art (2 and 3 Dimensional). See if they have any questions. Also try and reach out to our homeschoolers.

The Teacher of the Year must be to the post by or postmarked October 31st.

All deadlines are final. Please make sure you have everything into the post/auxiliary, Districts and state by the deadlines.

There is 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
- Teacher of the Year
Department Deadline: October 31, 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

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support - September 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

September is here and school is going. Time to get into the school to offer to assist with anything that is needed as well as promoting and educating the youth about our Veterans, Military Members and their families. The students, especially the younger ones are always so curious and have lots of questions and it is fun to have parents come back to you later and say the students came home and were telling about what they learned. The VFW Store has different items you can order to hand out to the children as well as amazon (stickers, flags....) Example – Constitution week is September 17-23.

Keep It Local – We are going to look at getting talking to your hometown Housing Authority and the dwellings/apartments that they have in your local areas. Visit with the Manager and find out about the Veterans that live there. Veterans/local heroes living there are maybe all alone and need just a friendly call, card or visit. Sometime in the apartment buildings they have activities/community areas that you could do a little program to honor our Veterans. Remember that, simply recognizing someone by saying hello and how are you will be uplifting for our Veterans.

That leads up to our Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness month. That simple hello may be doing way more than you think for someone that is in crisis. Having someone “see” them is all that it takes for them to choose a different path.

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)!

You are all invited to attend the webinar below: All you have to do is register and you will get an email with how to attend. Please register at least the day before the webinar

Volunteer Community Network (VCN) -
Mental Health & Suicide Prevention – Let's talk!

September 9th 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Eastern
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7872027615766516314>

September 11th 9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5865515651821656406>

September is National Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness Month
Join us for a special session with an expert in the field of mental health who will share insights on suicide prevention, emotional well-being, and resources available for support.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalGuardVolunteerProgram/?fref=ts>
Both dates will be the same webinar.

September has many special days that we as Auxiliaries can honor.

2nd – V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

11th – Patriot Day

17-23 – Constitution Week

18th – Air Force Birthday

18th – Air National Guard Birthday

19th – POW/MIA Recognition Day

28th – Gold Star Mother's Day

29th – VFW Day

SD VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

Tammy Chase
45980 SD HWY 10
Sisseton, SD 57262

SCAN ME

605-698-7438
605-742-4179
cbchase@venturecomm.net

VFW AUXILIARY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
YEAR-END REPORT
YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

Auxiliary Name & Number: _____ Location: _____

Program Chairman Name: _____ District: _____

Chairman's Address: _____ City: _____

Chairman's Email: _____ Chairman's Phone: _____

Youth/Youth Groups:

Did your Auxiliary work with Youth this year? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, number of Youth that you worked with during the Program Year: _____

Did your Auxiliary work with Youth Groups this year? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, number of Youth Groups that you worked with during the Program Year: _____

Did your Auxiliary award any Youth with VFW Citations & Awards? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, number of awards given: _____

Did your Auxiliary award any Youth Groups with VFW Citations & Awards? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, number of awards given: _____

Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, number of books donated: _____

Illustrating America Art Contest:

Did your Auxiliary promote the Illustrating America Art Contest? Yes or No (Circle one)

If yes, how many entries did you receive? _____

How many were submitted to the Department for judging? _____

Did your Auxiliary host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees & participants in this Contest? Yes or No (Circle one)

Recognition Costs:

The total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented to Youth and/or Youth Groups by your Auxiliary: \$_____

SD Department Youth Activities Chair: Darnell Bohlander, 515 21st Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401
cell phone: 605-290-8942; email: darnellbohlander@yahoo.com