



March 2026



VFW
AUXILIARY
Department of
South Dakota

General Orders

GO #8 Saluting Our Heroes for March 2026

It is with deep regret that I announce the closing of the Quinn/Wall Auxiliary. Those members have left a lasting legacy in their community and their efforts will be sorely missed. I hope neighboring auxiliaries will consider offering them an invitation to transfer into their auxiliary. I would mention that you should evaluate each individual and vote on each separately. Mass transfers are sometimes not a good policy. Nancy Chester can provide you with a list of members eligible to transfer.

Remember year-end reports are due April 15 for all programs which your auxiliary is involved. If your auxiliary does not participate in a particular program, please send a negative report to the chairman.

Department membership has hit every goal set by National so far and we want to continue that record. Chairwoman, Pam Vissia has kept us informed almost every day on our Facebook site as we continue to put up those good numbers. As of this writing, we are only short 16 members to meet 100%. While on the National President's cruise we were told that all members 85 or older are what National is looking at right now for deceased members so this is where you should begin checking your membership to avoid having money clawed back.

My President's project is fighting food insecurity for veterans at the Rapid City Veterans Outreach Center. Each District President has raffle tickets for the Royal Crown blanket and Royal Crown lap robe. Please see one of them to buy a ticket \$5 each or 5 for \$20. I know we have collected food at several events already and several auxiliaries have donated cash – thank you. If your auxiliary has not already donated, please do so now. Any monetary donations should be sent directly to Nancy Chester with a notation it is for the President's project. Make checks to SD VFW Auxiliary. Cash donations will be given to the VOC at a later date. The VOC will utilize that money to purchase food directly from their vendors to fill in the gaps. We will also collect again at the Department Convention for those that have not donated.

Department Convention will be in Mitchell this year June 11-14, 2026 at the Heartland Convention Center and lodging at the Comfort Inn or the Hampton. An email was sent out to all auxiliaries earlier and you can find the tentative Auxiliary agenda, reservation form, a sponsor letter and convention cover flier on our website. Feel free to share with any and all post and auxiliary members. You might want to make your reservations at the hotel sooner rather than later.

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 you have done and what you will continue to do in the year to come. As we Salute our Heroes our TEAM keeps rolling along.

/s/ Sue Jones, President

VIEW & 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](#)

GENERAL ORDERS MARCH 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.”*

I'm not sure about you, but I have no idea where January and February went!

*Wow! Spring is right around the corner and I just want to send a reminder about your
year end report deadline. Your report is due to me on April 15, 2026. Just think Auxiliary
reports along with your taxes!!! Haha! I have received a few reports already, so thank
you to those that have submitted.*

*March is the month of the Military Caregiver! Some important dates in March to pass
along include:*

March 3 - Navy Reserve Birthday

March 5 - Seabee Birthday

March 13 - K-9 Veterans Day

March 25 - Medal of Honor Day

March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 1 - 7: National Invest in Veterans Week

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

PS: Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

Has your Auxiliary completed the Auxiliary Outreach National Program Award form yet?

There is no need to wait for the March 31st judging deadline to accomplish this. If the project you feel your Auxiliary did the best has already been completed, submit the form to me. Make sure you have shared the activity on social media using the #AuxiliaryOutreach hashtag.

It is never too late to make an Auxiliary Resolution for the remainder of the program year. Why not encourage your local Auxiliary to make a Community Impact?! There are numerous non-profits across South Dakota that can use extra help. Your Auxiliary could be the group that helps that organization turn the corner on meeting their goals!

Things to remember with the Auxiliary Outreach program are:

- The project must be voted on by your Auxiliary membership before the project/event.
- Wear anything that will identify you as a VFW Auxiliary member.
- Report the projects in a creative and descriptive way.
- Post photos on social media using #AuxiliaryOutreach hashtag.

Basically said, this program cannot:

- Include any funds spent (either by the Auxiliary OR the member(s) involved in the project.
- Include an event/activity that is sponsored by the Auxiliary and/or Post.
- Include a single member at their own church.
- Be considered to fall under another National Program (i.e., Americanism, Veterans & Family Support, Youth Activities).

Please, please submit your Auxiliary's Outreach program report! Your local Auxiliary won't get the recognition and praise for your community volunteer time unless those reports are submitted. I am again attaching the Year-End report to this bulletin.

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 though. Continue to support your Veterans and their families within your communities. This is the purpose and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary!

South Dakota VFW Auxiliary
Department Year-End Report
2025-2026
AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Auxiliary Location and Number _____

Auxiliary Chairman's Name _____

1. Did your Auxiliary partner with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or Auxiliary? (YES or NO) _____

2. How many organizations did your Auxiliary partner with during the current year? _____

3. Indicate the combined number of members and Auxiliary volunteer hours that assisted other organizations not affiliated with the VFW or Auxiliary.

	# of members	_____
	# of hours	_____

Check this box if your Auxiliary did not participate in this program for 2025-2026.

REPORT DEADLINE: email to chairman by April 15, 2026

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
Nancy Worth (605)490-1220
PO Box 47
Piedmont, SD 57769-0047
Nworth1971@rushmore.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

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

Reminders:

“Buddy” Poppy Display Contest

Malta Member Resources (login to Malta and go to the Member Resource tab)

2025-2026 Program Book-page 20 (login to Malta and is found under the Member Resource tab)

VFW.org

The VFW Auxiliary National Chairperson wants to remind everyone of her goal for “Buddy” Poppy this year. The goal is to find creative ways to partner with VFW Posts for joint Poppy drives and/or fundraisers, and how to split the proceeds. She would like more detailed information on any joint events each Post and Auxiliary has held over the past few months.

Remember, when you distribute Poppies, you are honoring the dead by helping the living.

National Home

Stock the Store is a joint project between Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore and President Lois. They are asking Post and Auxiliary from each state to send in funds to help stock the store at the VFW National Home. This is an expansion of the special project to remodel the retail space that was started in 2023-2024 by then Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento and President Carla Martinez. The retail store is almost done, just needs to be stocked. Any support is greatly appreciated.

The 2025-2026 goals for the National Home are to gather ideas from across the nation to help introduce Veterans and/or their families to the services offered at the National Home. You are encouraged to submit your ideas and to share ways that you used to help Veterans and/or families to know more about the National Home or to get into the National Home.

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the following awards:

Auxiliary Award #1

Must be submitted to me by March 31st, 2026

Most Outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”

Poppy

Auxiliary Award #2

Must be submitted to me by March 31st, 2026

Most Outstanding activity and/or event to create awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help Veterans and their families.

Please make sure to have your Year-end reports either mailed or emailed to me by April 15, 2026.

Remember to go to the department website and record what you have done for “Buddy” Poppy and National Home.

Happy St Patrick's Day everyone, I am looking forward to the Sioux Falls St Patrick's Day parade and hoping for warmer weather. I am including in my newsletter a fun St. Patrick's Day Word Search and my Historian & Media Relations Year End Report. Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

What activities do you have planned for the month of March? Remember to promote your activities and post pictures after for all the see! Remember to take the time to speak to our veterans during these cold winter months. Offer your help if they need a ride to the grocery store or need help shoveling snow off their sidewalk and driveway.

Pam Vissia, President Sue Jones and Nancy Worth traveled to Key West and the Bahamas during the Mid-Winter Cruise. Glad you ladies enjoyed some beautiful scenery with other VFW Auxiliary Members from all over the United States! 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



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

General Orders March 2026 Hospital

Dept Chairman Tamara Bull
90888EJamisonRd, Newport NE 68759
Cell Phone: 402-525-0252
tamara.bull@k12.sd.us

I hope 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. The list is sent by email at the beginning of each month. 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.

Having all of your members helping with visits and cards would help everyone get involved and people in the community recognize members of their local VFW Auxiliary.

I still think involving the local elementary schools in your communications with the veterans that are at the State Veterans Home, Community Living Center, and any local veterans would be exciting for both the children and the veterans.

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.

Attached is the list of March Birthdays for the MJF State Veterans Home and the Veterans Administration Community Living Center (CLC).

MARCH BIRTHDAYS at the STATE VETERANS HOME:

Date and Name

1ST Rex

2nd Shirley

11th Richard (Jonsie)

12th Glenn

12th Fred

19th Marlin

28th Mike

If you wish to send cards to the State Veterans Home, place them in one big envelope and send these cards to:

Laura Inman, Activities Coordinator
South Dakota State Veterans Home
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AT THE VA CLC

None

If you wish to send cards to the VA CLC, place them in one big envelope and send these cards to:

Veterans Administration Hospital
Attn: 1 East
500 North 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747-1480

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

March 2026

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PASS THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

Under current law, only veterans with 20 years of service and a disability rating of at least 50 percent can collect both military retirement and disability pay. Veterans with less than 20 years of service who were injured in action and discharged under Chapter 61 should be entitled to their full VA disability as well as their pension.

“Veterans injured in service should not be forced to choose which part of their service counts. All of it counts.” (Austin, Army Combat Medic)

The VFW and Auxiliary support the passage of H.R. 2102. Contact our National Legislators and urge them to sign on as cosponsors and pass this Act.

Updates will be available on VFW Action Corps and sdlegislature.gov for State Bills. Please review current and future Bills that may be submitted.

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

Guide to Completing a Membership Form

ONLY Jan 2026 application will be accepted

1. All Member applicants (New, Transfer, Rejoin, Member at Large) **must** complete the blue areas in **Section A, Section B and Section I.**
2. **New member applicants** must check the yellow box in **Section B.**
 - a. If the applicant is signing up under a current VFW Member, they must fill out the yellow boxes in **Section D Post-Affiliated.** Applicant and Post-Affiliated Members **MUST** belong to the same post.
 - b. If the Veteran is **NOT** a current VFW Member at the Post of the auxiliary the applicant is joining, Applicant must fill out ALL the yellow boxes in **Section E Non-Affiliated.** Applicant **must** also supply the DD214 of the Veteran they are joining under.
 - c. Applicant must check the appropriate boxes in **Section H.**
3. **Transfer Members** must check the green box in **Section B** and complete the green boxes in **Section C.**
4. Rejoining Members or Members at Large must complete the pink boxes in **Section B.**
5. The Post or Auxiliary Member recruiting/recommending the applicant must complete the blue area in **Section F.**
6. Investigating Committee just enter their signatures and complete the remaining peach boxes in **Section G.**

Failure to complete the appropriate boxes on the updated January 2026 Form will result in the application being returned to the Auxiliary for proper completion.

See Membership Example on the Following Page

Current Malta Membership Numbers are listed on the Second Page following

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H, I . Auxiliaries/Departments complete section B,F,G.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

A Name Female Male
 Address Date of Birth / /
 City State ZIP Phone () - Email

B Auxiliary Post No. City State
 New Member Transferring Member Rejoining Member (Prior Member ID Number)
 Member at Large in Department of Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

C (Transfer only information) ANNUAL TRANSFER LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER
 Member ID Previous Auxiliary Paying Nonpaying

D **POST-AFFILIATED** (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
 VFW Membership ID VFW Post (Must be same as B)

E **NON-AFFILIATED** (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
 Name of campaign ribbons or medals:
 Dates of Service: to Foreign Location:

F Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID
 Check one: Aux VFW

G Investigating Committee Signatures
 1 2 3
 Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Obligated Date

H Annual Membership Life Membership Check here if this is a (Membership card will be sent to . Transfer not mandatory.)
 Payment Method and Amount: Cash Check Credit Card ***
 ***If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days. Otherwise, your application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please provide your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.
 Phone Email

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
 Life Membership fees are not refundable.
 Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

I OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and I solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power I prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.
 Signature Date

By filling out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of e-mails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephone dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt-out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.

Auxiliary	Life New	Rejoin	Life Cont	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual I Cont	Current Total	Decease	Paid Total	Prior Total	Current Percent	Paid Percent
628	4	0	230	9	0	66	309	19	328	328	94.21%	100.00%
791	1	0	201	1	0	39	242	6	248	255	94.90%	97.25%
915	2	0	29	0	0	11	42	0	42	42	100.00%	100.00%
2975	0	0	57	0	0	9	66	1	67	86	76.74%	77.91%
3164	0	0	56	0	0	21	77	3	80	80	96.25%	100.00%
4726	1	0	48	0	0	17	66	0	66	67	98.51%	98.51%
6149	2	0	19	0	0	7	28	4	32	31	90.32%	103.23%
Dist 1	10	0	640	10	0	170	830	33	863	889	93.36%	97.08%
750	0	0	144	0	1	40	185	4	189	188	98.40%	100.53%
2118	1	0	136	0	0	48	185	4	189	196	94.39%	96.43%
2638	0	0	63	0	0	42	105	2	107	107	98.13%	100.00%
3342	1	0	88	1	0	47	137	0	137	139	98.56%	98.56%
3486	1	0	38	5	0	34	78	1	79	75	104.00%	105.33%
4690	0	0	37	0	1	10	48	0	48	49	97.96%	97.96%
Dist 4	3	0	506	6	2	221	738	11	749	754	97.88%	99.34%
17	3	0	81	1	1	5	91	3	94	89	102.25%	105.62%
1776	6	1	84	1	0	22	114	2	116	106	107.55%	109.43%
2038	1	0	171	0	0	14	186	8	194	194	95.88%	100.00%
2755	0	0	65	0	0	25	90	11	101	104	86.54%	97.12%
3214	0	0	20	0	0	15	35	2	37	37	94.59%	100.00%
6481	0	0	7	0	0	10	17	0	17	17	100.00%	100.00%
8530	0	0	71	0	0	32	103	1	104	104	99.04%	100.00%
Dist 6	10	1	499	2	1	123	636	27	663	651	97.70%	101.84%
2750	2	0	48	0	0	8	58	0	58	60	96.67%	96.67%
2966	1	0	69	0	0	20	90	6	96	94	95.74%	102.13%
3239	0	0	29	0	0	19	48	0	48	48	100.00%	100.00%
3298	0	0	34	0	0	1	35	2	37	37	94.59%	100.00%
4674	0	0	276	0	0	40	316	2	318	321	98.44%	99.07%
6554	1	0	94	0	0	7	102	1	103	101	100.99%	101.98%
6895	0	0	29	0	0	6	35	0	35	35	100.00%	100.00%
7319	2	0	65	1	0	17	85	2	87	84	101.19%	103.57%
9950	3	0	105	2	0	1	111	4	115	112	99.11%	102.68%
Dist 7	9	0	749	3	0	119	880	17	897	892	98.65%	100.56%
1273	0	0	183	0	1	27	211	6	217	221	95.48%	98.19%
2730	1	0	90	2	0	55	148	8	156	153	96.73%	101.96%
2969	2	0	54	0	0	0	56	0	56	54	103.70%	103.70%
3442	3	0	115	0	0	7	125	3	128	128	97.66%	100.00%
5969	7	1	184	1	0	35	228	15	243	234	97.44%	103.85%
9120	0	0	19	0	0	0	19	0	19	20	95.00%	95.00%
Dist 10	13	1	645	3	1	124	787	32	819	810	97.16%	101.11%
SD	0	0	112	0	0	0	112	2	114	120	93.33%	95.00%
Grand Total	45	2	3151	24	4	757	3983	122	4105	4116	96.77%	99.73%

24 100%+

10 90% - 99%

0 80% - 89%

1 70% - 79%

e-news M a r c h 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!!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEPARTMENT OF SD CONTINUING EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AMBER WILHELSEN FROM BURKE POST 9950!!**

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 - March 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

March 3rd is Caregiver Appreciation Day – We often forget the person that

is there to take care of the veteran or family member that is in need of help. Behind every veteran who is healing, adapting, or aging, there is often a caregiver quietly serving alongside them. These caregivers provide emotional support, medical assistance, transportation, and daily care, often at great personal sacrifice.



Caregivers may experience burnout, isolation, financial strain, and stress-related health issues. As an Auxiliary, we can be a lifeline by reminding caregivers they are seen, valuable and supported.

This ties in with our: Keep It Local –

IDEAS:

- *Offer support through meals, meal trains, errands, time off, or check-in calls*
- *Provide information about caregiver resources and benefits*
- *Send handwritten notes or care packages to show appreciation*
- *Advocate for caregiver recognition at local and state levels*
- *Listening without judgement*

Reminder

You should have your year-end reports to my by April 15th. If you email them to me and I do not reply that I received it, please let me know or resend. I will always let you know that I received it. You need to complete a report even if you do not think you did anything, because you all do something and you do not realize it.

There is also a National Award that is due by the March 31st.

Kim has sent out all the year-end reports and National Awards forms.

To Our Auxiliaries & Members:

Our Awesome Auxiliaries have been working hard through the winter, and with spring approaching, we are excited for the opportunities ahead to connect with our community and share the vital work we do for Veterans and their Families. Thank you so for your dedication and service to our VFW Organization but your service to our Military and their Families.

Community education is at the heart of our mission. By setting up tables at local events and sharing information, you help ensure Veterans and their families know about the services and support available to them. Your enthusiasm and outreach are key to making a lasting impact!



Saint Paddy's Sudoku

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grids so that each horizontal row contains each letter exactly once, each vertical column contains each letter exactly once, and each subgrid contains each letter exactly once. We recommend you use a pencil.

RAINBOWS

	B						R
		B	N	R		O	
W					I		
	S					I	
N			O				W
						S	
	R	S		N		B	

CLOVER

			V	E	
L					
			C		
		L			V
					E
R	L				

DUBLIN

	N	U	D		
N					
			L		D
	B				
	D		U	I	

SHAMROCK

C	M						
						A	
A					O	C	
O			K	R	A	S	
	H					O	
R		K		C			
	A	H					
			O				R



*SSD VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support*

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

***Tammy Chase45980 SD HWY 10
Sisseton, SD 57262 605-698-7438
605-742-4179***



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

darnellbohlander@yahoo.com

Happy Spring! The snow is melting in Aberdeen now. Hopefully, it is melting in your area too and everyone is able to make those in person contacts with your schools, scouting groups, libraries, etc. Just a reminder to get year-end reports completed.

Please note that the Youth Activities “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.

- I have emailed this “National” Program Awards Entry Form to the Auxiliaries Youth Activities Chairman.
- 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.

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.

Please remember to follow all the rules and regulations when promoting our contests and that everything you need, from the entry form and certificate to a press release can be found in MALTA Member Resources under the Youth Activities tab and on the National website.