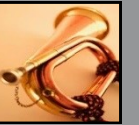




Bliss Bugle



Commander—Hosea Bennett
 Senior Vice Commander—Randy Kirkvold
 Junior Vice Commander—Richard Selter
 Quartermaster—Tom Anez
 Judge Advocate—Harry Engberg
 Surgeon—David Meyer
 Trustee—Joseph Worley
 Trustee—Bill Peters
 Trustee—Harry Engberg
 Adjutant—Joseph Worley
 Service Officer—Guy Word
 Chaplain—Doug Callahan
 Assistant Quartermaster—Rich Swanke

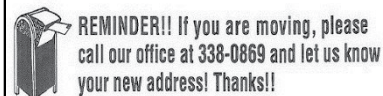
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Auxiliary Officers 2020-21

Auxiliary Officers 2018-2019

President—Kim Vennard
 Sr. Vice President—Mary Kirvold
 Jr. Vice President—Connie Christensen
 Secretary—Malinda Word
 Treasurer—Shari Sorenson
 Chaplain—Diana Wells
 Conductress—Bernie McMahon
 Guard—June Caron



Office: 605-338-0869
Honor Guard: 605-360-6547
Service Officer: 605-338-0869
Office email: office@vfw628.org
Commander: cmd@vfw628.org
Quartermaster: qm@vfw628.org

Post Web Site: www.vfw628.org
facebook.com/SiouxFallsVFW

State VFW Office: 605-332-7441
State Website: www.vfw628.org

Taps

Post: Marvin Bjerke, Wesley Hill, William Heaston, Clyde Schultz, Roger Christiansen, Eugene Coyle, Marvin Johnson, Rick Nelson, John Mc Munigal, Orren Lee

Auxiliary: Beretta Woelz, Rose Barber, Alice Gillette, Lucille Austin

United States Marine Corps 245th Birthday Ball

Saturday November 7, 2020

New Location—SD Military Heritage Alliance

Tickets \$20 Still available

Dave—paymaster.mcldet659@gmail.com or

Mark—adjutant.mcldet659@gmail.com

Meeting Dates

11-4 7 pm Post/Auxiliary Meeting - Post
 11-4 5 pm Women's Veteran Group - Alliance
 11-5 4 pm Shoot THEN Sip Alliance Gun Range
 11-7 10 am Air Force vs Army Football—Alliance
 11-10 9:30 am Air Guard Retiree Coffee—Alliance
 11-10 7 pm Marine Corps Offices Meeting—Alliance
 11-11 9 am Flag Pole Dedication—Post
 11-11 10:30 am Veterans Day Program—Alliance

11-11 7 pm MOC/Cootie Auxiliary - Alliance
 11-12 7 pm Military Order Purple Hart—Alliance
 11-14 5 pm TriState Navy Chiefs Meeting - Alliance
 11-17 7 pm Vietnam Vets Meeting—Alliance
 11-18 5 pm Women's Veteran Group—Alliance
 11-19 7 pm SF Area Vets Council—Alliance
 11-21 3:30 pm Vietnam Vet/Legacy Vets Motorcycle—Alliance
 11-26 7 pm Marine Corps League Meeting—Alliance
 11-28 10 am Rolling Thunder Meeting

Words from the Commander



Happy Thanksgiving.

In a blink of an eye its November. With all that has happened with the Pandemic this year a lot of us are glad to say good bye to 2020.

There has been some bright spots in 2020. We have completed our move to our new location on 1700 W Russell St. next to the Alliance. The membership approved and I have signed the purchase agreement for the sale of our Minnesota avenue building and real state. So when 2021 gets here we will be ready to take on what ever the new year brings.

The post adopted SD National Guard 196th MEB unit that is currently deployed and assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

We will hosting a Holiday party for the Spouses and children of these deployed Soldiers. If you are interested in helping with this party please contact Auxiliary President Kim Vennard.

Nov 11 -Veterans Day we along with American Legion Post 15 will be having a ceremony for the dedication of the flag pole in front of our new location. This will be at 9:15 am.

Also on Nov 11th –The Veterans day program that is normally at Lincoln High School will be next door at the Alliance at 10:30 am Please join us as one of our own Leroy Berndt will be honored as one of the City's Veteran of the year.

In 2021 the Post will be celebrating it's 100 year anniversary. If you would like to be apart of the 100 year committee please contact me at cmd@vfw628.org.

Hosea Bennett | Commander

Inputs for the *Bliss Bugle* are due to the office or cmd@vfw628.org by **Nov 20**. Photos, articles, and announcements are appreciated.

VFW Auxiliary President



Saturday Sept 26, Out of the Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk was held at Terrace Park. The Auxiliary set up a tent and handed out Suicide Awareness keychains. We touched a few hearts and a few tears were shed for those going through the struggle.

Remember... What we do DOES make a difference to people!!

LEFSE- - this is the month!!!

We will be making lefse to sell Oct and Nov. Please contact Shari Sorenson at 201-4106 to place your orders. The first batch of lefse hit the griddle on **Sat Oct 17**. November date will be set next meeting.

Working on securing a location to promote Buddy Poppies during the month of November. If you are available to work the table, please contact me.

Membership is at 82.64%... We only went up .64 percent this month. Please work on new members.

Please make sure you record all your volunteer hours. Submit monthly to Connie Christensen.

Next meeting is **Nov 4 at 7 pm** at the Armory, 1700 W Russell. See you there!!!

Kim Vennard

Auxiliary President



Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

Good Of The Order



2019-20 All-American
Commander

**Nathan
Beningen**

Congratulation to our former commander Nathan Beningen and Post 628 for reaching ALL-American status for 2019-20. The Post achieved 114% membership along with completing all state and national objectives.

Cootie Corner

Listen Cooties,

I would like to say that just because of the barriers in place from the virus we shouldn't forget why we are here.

We just need to be creative in how we can support the veterans in our VA and community.

If you have not been to a Scratch in a while, we would definitely like to see you there.

Our VFW post has officially moved so our monthly Scratch will be in the Alliance building at 7pm Nov 11.

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

LOTCS

Nathan Beningen

Seam Squirrel 2020-21

Big Sioux Ticks

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. David Meyer—Surgeon

Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

"The next meeting for the Cootie Auxiliary will be Nov 10 at 7 PM at the Alliance building.

We are on hold right now for visiting our Veterans at the hospital.

While COVID has put a hold on our bake sales, we are still in need of fundraising to support our Hospitalized Veterans Programs.

We will be having a "Bake-less Bake Sale" from Oct 25 through Nov 25. Please consider sending a Bake-less Bake Sale Donation to: Betty Hahn, Cootie Treasurer, 1400 S Larkspur Trl, Sioux Falls SD 57106.

Now is a great time to start building our membership to the Cootie Auxiliary. If you are Member in Good Standing of the VFW Auxiliary, we would welcome you to help us "Keep Them Smiling in Beds of White". Please contact Kim Vennard, Membership Chair for information on joining. Active members need to return their renewal applications to Betty Hahn at the address above.

Kay Anderson

M.O.C Gun Raffle



Big Sioux Ticks Pup Tent 1

Proceeds to Help Hospitalized Veteran
\$5/Ticket or 5 for \$20-(Total tickets 1000)

Grand Prize: Henry Lever Action Octagon Frontier

Drawing Veterans Day Nov, 11 2020

Still time to get a ticket contact Nate at
bigsiouxticks@gmail.com

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

In March 2020 the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office shut down due to COVID-19. The staff from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs was sent to work from home. When Governor Noem opened back up state government, the Regional Office was undergoing major construction, so we put off going back to our offices until mid-July. Federal guidelines require the VA to remain closed until there is a downward trend of new COVID-19 cases for fourteen days. Unfortunately, Minnehaha county has not come close to that happening. Our department has done well to assist our veterans, family members, and County and Tribal Service Officers electronically, but some need to have that face-to-face interaction and know that someone is on their side. SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard and Program Manager Erin Brown having offices located in the Military Heritage Alliance building, asked if there would be room to temporarily have a VSO available to meet with veterans in need of assistance. They did not hesitate to agree. We have been staffing one VSO each weekday from 9am to 4pm to assist in answering questions and filing claims for healthcare, burial, VA and state benefits. The Regional Office has plans to open partially by the end of October. We will continue seeing veterans at both locations until we can fully open back up our regular office. If you have any questions, please stop in or call us at 605-333-6869.

We are happy to help!

Bliss Bugle

Dec. 2020 will be the last membership mailed Bugle. We will be going completely digital. Jan 1, 2021. The Bugle is on our website vfw628.org. It is also emailed to members who have provided emails. Hard copies will be available at the post. If you wish to be on the mailing list email: cmd@vfw628.org. If you still want the Bugle mailed, please send \$5.00 to the post with your current address.

Giving Hope Bingo

Every Tuesday Night We will be playing Bingo with a percent of all sales going to support the VFW Post 628 in Sioux Falls. Progressive Jackpot starting at \$350. Doors open at 4:30pm Happy Hour 5:45 pm. Regular Session starts at 7:05 pm.

Website givinghopebingo.com/

1605 W Burnside St, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) broke ground for the first-ever South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery on September 9, 2019. The cemetery is located just North of the I-229/I-90 Interchange off Slip Up Creek Road and 477th Ave.

This grant funded construction of 610 pre-placed crypts, 999 cremains gravesites, 660 columbarium niches, 50 memorial wall markers, a main entrance, an avenue of flags, an administration building, a maintenance facility, a assembly area, a committal shelter, a scatter garden, a memorial walkway, landscaping, and supporting infrastructure.

- Burial is open to eligible veterans discharged from active military service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Spouses, minor children, and under certain conditions; unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried even if they predecease the veteran.
- Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service; or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.
- Burial is provided to eligible veterans at no cost. The fees for a spouse or eligible dependent are the same as the burial payment rates/fees established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (currently \$796). Fees for dependents cannot be paid in advance and are subject to change.
- The burial options: casket, cremation (in-ground) cremation (columbarium) and scattering garden.
- Along with a gravesite or columbarium niche; a pre-placed graveliner, a headstone, or niche cover and perpetual care are also provided.
- The cemetery will be able to perform up to seven committal services a day beginning on the hour from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with the 3 p.m. service limited to cremation remains services. Each committal service is limited to 20 minutes.
- Military Honors can be arranged, which include rifle salute, taps, flag folding and presentation. The family or a representative of the family are responsible for choosing clergy for the service.

Pre-registration is available and can help to expedite the process when loved ones pass away. Pre-registration does not reserve a certain gravesite or columbarium niche. Application forms can be downloaded on the SDDVA website. Click on pre-registration tab under the Veterans Cemetery tab on the grey menu at vetaffairs.sd.gov.

Contact Aaron Pollard (605-360-4173) for information about the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, eligibility, and interment options.