



# Bliss Bugle



## Words from the Commander Mark Winter

We begin February with a lot on our plate. Starting with our monthly Post and Auxiliary meeting to be held February 4 at 7PM. We will be looking into what we are going to do with our budget for the next year. Part of what we need numbers for is Youth Programs, Scouting, Lincoln and Roosevelt JROTC as well as the Sea Cadets and Civil Air Patrol.

Coming up is pancake feed on February 15 and we always could use some some help during set-up and clean-up. It all runs smother with just 30 minutes of your time. I will be greatly appreciated.

That very same evening our 105th year of John M Bliss Post 628. Social Hour will begin at 5PM and we will begin to serve dinner at 6PM. Door prizes and a 50/50 will be held. We will be giving three Awards this year. Golden Spatula, Post Volunteer of the Year and Auxiliary Volunteer of the year. Butch is setting up a game for the evening. He wants to test everyone's memory about "the good ol' days". Its time to have some fun and enjoy each others company.

In March, the post will be nominating for the 2026-2027 year. If you would like to take a officer position, let the adjutant know and we will get you a nomination. Lets put together a great team as we always have and make 2026-2027 a great year.

March brings us St Patrick's Day. April will be a busy month with Post final nominations and elections. Post elections will cover Commander, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, Quartermaster and One (1) three year trustee. These elections will be held at the April 1 Post meting. HMM, that happens to be April Fools Day.

April 5 is Easter Sunday. The weather will be changing and warmth will come our way. Get out the gardening tools, get the lawn mowers ready and fire up the grills and smokers. Looking ahead 6 months, Id like to see a post picnic. This will give us a summer activity to have some fun and games. Such activities can be members only but, inviting other organizations can lead to more opportunities.

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## VFW Auxiliary President Deb Felton

Greetings and welcome to 2026!

Hard to believe January is already behind us. Looking ahead, we would love to see more of you attending the meetings that are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Armory, 1700 W Russell, Sioux Falls. This month our meeting is February 4<sup>th</sup>. We have nearly met our membership numbers, we are at 98%, but would love to see that number increase to 110%. Look around you to see if you know any others that are eligible to join us.

We will be having our monthly "work night" on February 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be working on bags again to make more sleeping mats for the homeless veterans here in Sioux Falls. If you have not done this before, it's a great opportunity to participate. We cut/tie plastic grocery bags and then they are put on a loom, to weave the bags together, making the sleeping mats. So bring any plastic grocery bags (Fareway/HyVee/Lewis/Target etc.) that you have. We will meet at the armory at 6pm, and are usually done around 8:30. This month there will be Pancakes on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to noon. Auxiliary Bakesale at the same time, in the Alliance. Our bake sale is one of our only fundraisers, so if you are able to contribute, great, if not, please come and enjoy a breakfast out and see what delicious baked goods our members have donated.

That same evening will be the JM BLISS Post 628 Birthday party. 5pm Social and 6pm dinner, awards and door prizes after. You should have already received your invitation. If not, you can call the VFW office at 605-338-0869, to reserve your spot. Menu will be Tri-tip steak and Chicken Supreme (bacon wrapped chicken breast), au gratin potatoes, cheesy green beans, dinner salad and dessert. Sign up soon!!

If you are receiving this by mail and have an email address we could use, please let us know.

Please email us at [VFW628aux@gmail.com](mailto:VFW628aux@gmail.com)

This will save the VFW a lot of money in postage that can be used towards veteran programs.



**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

# Bliss Bugle



**8:30 am—12 Noon**

**\$8 Adults | \$2 Children 10 & under**

**This event supports our Veteran/Community Service Projects and the Lincoln High School Marine Corps J.R.O.T.C**

*JM Bliss VFW Post 628 & Auxiliary thank you for your support.*



## Upcoming Events

### February

Feb 4-Post/Auxiliary Meeting

Feb 15-Pancake Breakfast

8:30am-Noon

Feb 17-Post Birthday

Social @ 5PM

Dinner @ 6PM

Feb 16-Presidents Day

Feb 18-Ash Wednesday

Feb 23-Past Presidents Meeting

Feb 25-Executive Comm Meeting

### March

March 4-Post/Aux Meeting

Mar 8-Daylight Savings Time Begins

Mar 15-Pancake Breakfast

8:30am-Noon

Mar 15-Cooties Chislic 3-6PM

Mar 17-St Patrick's Day

Mar 25-Executive Comm Meeting

Mar 30-Past Presidents Meeting

### April

April 1-Post/Aux Meeting

April 19-Pancake Breakfast

8:30-Noon

April 19-Cooties Chislic 3-6PM



## Chili Cookoff and Oysters

The results are in. The 2026 Chili Cookoff was a success. Participation was a bit less, with only 5 entries this year, all the chefs did a fabulous job. What a great way to stay warm on a cold January day in Sioux Falls.

Fan Favorite and Hottest Chilli was determined by vote from the official taste testers. Fan Favorite was won by Pat Sueltz. A sweet spin on flavor and a creative use of spices. The hottest award went to Tadd Goehring.

It was the HEAT. Great job by Pat and Tadd.



We also had the category of Best Rolls/Buns. It was unanimous that the best went to Barb Hays. She makes some fantastic caramel rolls that melt in your mouth.

Congratulations to this year's winners. We look forward to next year and hope we will get more participation. Put it on your calendar for the last Saturday of January 2027. See you then.



**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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## New Business

### 2026/2027 Budget to be Discussed

- Budget is being set for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. Budget items will be discussed at the February meeting
- Some of those items to consider are the JROTC (for Lincoln and Roosevelt)
- Budget for youth programs (Embee and youth sports)
- Suggested increase in payout for Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy
- All budget matters will be discussed at the February Meeting

- A line item will be set for special events, i.e. speakers of interest to veterans.

It would be advantageous to attend the February meeting to get your voice heard on budgetary issues.

- State Convention planning is in progress. Convention will be held in Mitchell. More details in the next news letter and February meeting
- New lock has been installed on the conference room door. \$145 was allocated, purchase came in for \$99. Saving of \$50

## Good Of The Order

### In Honor

#### Post

Richard Fonder—79—Navy  
Dale Williamson—96—Navy  
Leonard Webber—104—Army  
Gary Voight—79—Navy

#### Auxiliary

GAYLE LAMBERT, RUTH MALLOY, GLADYS WALKER, DORIS KONO, SHARON WOLD, MAXINE WILLIAMSON, ANNA MARIE KNOPF, ROCHELLE STRUM

### Up For Discussion

There are several events coming in the next few months. Some are still in the planning phase. Getting the information out in a timely manner help us plan for what Post 628 can assist with or have a mini event in coordination with these major events.

On June 11-14th, a replica of the Vietnam Wall will be in Brookings more information to follow.

The Sioux Falls Air Show will be held July 11-14, 2026. The Air Show will feature the Air Force Thunderbirds.

In the past, Post 628 has held a display/recruiting event at the air show. We need volunteers to man the tent at the air show and the Vietnam Wall display.

Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

#### Welcome to New Post 628 Members

None to announce

Inputs for the March newsletter are due to the office by February 20.

Email to [Office@vfw628.org](mailto:Office@vfw628.org). Articles,



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## VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present Continuing Education Scholarships to assist members or their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school.

### Eligibility:

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse, son and/or daughter of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.

Awards are available from the Department and Nationally four (4) \$1,250 scholarships will be awarded

## John M Bliss Post 628 invites you to our 105th Birthday Celebration



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SUNDAY FEB 15, 2026

5:00PM SOCIAL

6:00 PM MEAL

POST/AUXILIARY MEMBERS & GUEST  
\$20 PRE PAY; \$25 AT DOOR PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTER BY FEB 5, 2026  
ONLINE AT [VFW628.ORG](http://VFW628.ORG)  
OR VFW OFFICE 605-338-0869

THE ALLIANCE  
1700 W RUSSELL ST  
SIOUX FALLS SD





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## Honoring Our Veterans

**REAL LAMB**

*Chislic*

IT'S A COOTIES THING!



March 15, 2026 3PM-6PM

\$8 for Chislic

\$9 Chislic/Fries

Support our VFW Post 628 by coming by and enjoying Chislic with us.

## To Veterans with Love

Love for our Soldiers

On Valentines day, we honor all

Those that answered the call

Soldiers old, and soldiers young

Fought for our freedoms, strong and bold

Some lived and some have died

They deserve our pride, all the soldiers

Who always think of the Red, White and Blue

They fought for us, and our rights

Each and every day and all through the night

## Valentines Day

February 14, 2026

Listen Up Cooties,

Due to the importance of this Special Order, it will be in Straight Talk.

**Supreme Seam Squirrel / Supreme Blanket Bum offices:** At 0944 hrs. (CST) on Monday, 19 January 2026, I received a phone call from Dept of Michigan stating that Supreme Seam Squirrel Eric Bell had passed away. Per Section 528 of the Supreme Bylaws, I have assumed the office and duties of Supreme Seam Squirrel and Ronnie Steele officially assumed the office and duties of Supreme Blanket Bum.

**Supreme Hide Gimlet Election:** As for the office of Supreme Hide Gimlet (Supreme Junior Vice Commander), all cooties interested in this position for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Commander year, need to make their intentions known NLT 1200 hrs. (CST) on 18 February 2026. This must be done via email to Supreme Adjutant Ken Eggers and myself at the addresses below.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livonia-mi/eric-bell-12713982>

Ken Eggers  
Woodman  
Supreme Adjutant  
Seam Squirrel/Commander  
Cootie #192 PT-14 of Virginia  
PT-21 of Wisconsin  
mocsupremeadjutant@gmail.com  
MOC108thSSTracyMLWoodman@gmail.com

Tracy M. L.  
Supreme  
Cootie #98

# John M. Bliss VFW Post 628



REMINDER!! If you are moving, please call our office at 338-0869 and let us know your new address! Thanks!!

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SIOUX FALLS, SD  
PERMIT NO 345

1700 W Russell Street  
Sioux Falls SD 57104

605-338-0869  
[vfw628.org](http://vfw628.org)



Come Celebrate Unity and Self-Sacrifice  
As Veterans Observe The

## Four Chaplains Memorial Service

To be held at the

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 15**

**1700 West Russell Street – north parking / door**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

**Sunday February 1, 2026**

**at 2:00 PM**

**PUBLIC IS INVITED!**

**Sponsored by**

**American Legion Post 15  
and Singing Legionnaires**



*Women*  
**VETSCONNECT**

A Wellness Retreat for  
Women Veterans & Military Spouses

# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 11, 2026

9am-2pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
Sioux Falls