



Bliss Bugle



Words from the Commander | Hosea Bennett



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Now that 2020 is in the past, we can look forward to Bright Future in 2021 and beyond for Post 628.

I took a call the other day from a Veteran reaching out for help. He is a Desert Storm and Iraq Veteran and is suffering from PTSD. He was struggling and needed someone to talk to. Without going into details we were able to get the necessary info to the Veteran to get him future help.

I share this with you Comrades simply because this. This Veteran hurdled their first step of asking for help. With all that has happened in 2020 with Covid, and if you are struggling please reach out for help. This is one of the core missions of the VFW and we are here to help.

In Dec it was my pleasure to present a \$1000 check to the Berakhah House on behalf of the Post. Those funds were earmarked for their Veterans Closet.

Reminder that we will be bringing back the Pancake Breakfast Feb 21st. We will also be recognizing our 100 year during the Breakfast. If you want to volunteer to help let us know.

We have postponed our 100 year celebration due to Covid. As soon as we have a new date we will let everyone know.

VFW Auxiliary President | Kim Vennard



Well - - 2020 is FINALLY over. Let's hope for a better 2021. Hopefully, you were able to get to the Alliance to view the Christmas tree set up by the different service organizations. The Post/Auxiliary tree had 39 flags, 100 Suicide Awareness Keychains and 492 Buddy Poppies on the tree.

The Post and Auxiliary participated in the Flag Raising ceremony at the Armory and Veterans Day Program at the Alliance. There was a great turnout for the first program at the Alliance. It's always great to see everyone together under one roof.

On November 12, President Kim accompanied State Junior Vice Patti Mitchell to the VOA Berakhah House to present them with a monetary donation from the Madison VFW Auxiliary and a number of face masks and coats donated by John M Bliss Auxiliary. We continued on to the VSO and donated 250 face masks from Post 628 Auxiliary and 10 sleeping mats made from grocery bags from the Sisseton Auxiliary. It was quite moving to see how these organizations assist our Veterans. The Auxiliary gathered to put together First Aid Kits for the Homeless Veterans, these will be donated to the VSO.

There will NOT be the combined Auxiliary Stag with the American Legion for the month of January. The Legion Auxiliary has asked if we would alternate months for setting up the Stag. We will have the odd months - - so think of menus and group activities for these events. Mark your calendar for the February 23rd Stag - - let's make this work!!

Membership is at 100.78% as I write this. ... we have 395 members!!

The Post has adopted the 196th MEB Guard Unit that is deployed to Africa. The Post and Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Winter Wonderland Holiday Event for the family members that are left home. This will take place on Jan 16. Volunteers are needed - please contact Shari Sorenson at 201-4106 if you can assist.

I have been trying to send out email communications to keep members updated on last minute events/happenings. If you have not been receiving them, please make sure you double check your email junk folder. Please email me at auxiliary@vfw628.org with your updated email if you are not receiving them, I will verify we have the correct email address on file.

Please make sure you record all your volunteer hours. Submit monthly to Connie Christensen at conniechristensensdpoa@gmail.com.

Next meeting is **Jan 5 at 7 pm** and then **Feb 3** at the Post.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

Good Of The Order

Cootie Corner

Wow 2020 is finally over! As we move into the new year I hope everyone is doing well and here's hoping 2021 will be better.

Unfortunately we are unable to go to the VA to visit with the veterans who are unable to be home for Christmas. We were able to make up a few gift bags to be handed out by the VA.

I have canceled the January Scatch. So hopefully we can have one in February.

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

LOTCS

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

LOTCS

Nathan Beiningen

Seam Squirrel 2020-21

Big Sioux Ticks

Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

It has been a stressful year for everyone and here is hoping 2021 will be much better.

The Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary, Pup Tent #1 of Sioux Falls is excited to welcome four new members to our organization. They are:

Shari Sorenson | Hazen Vennard

Rudi Vennard | Malinda Word

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Alliance, 1600 West Russell. We wear masks and practice social distancing.

This year our Christmas donation was made to homeless veterans for them to be able to get meat/protein products for their meals. The VAVS informed us that this is a big issue for these vets and we are glad to help out.

Stay safe and healthy and have a great holiday season.

Kay Anderson

President MOCA

Bliss Bugle

The Bliss Bugle has gone digital. 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.

Pancake Breakfast

We will be having our Pancake Breakfast again starting on Feb 21st.* It will be served next door at the Alliance.

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Adults \$6 Children Under 10 \$2

We will also be recognizing our 100 year anniversary during the breakfast.

Veterans Affairs Covid update | Surgeon Dave Meyer

- Veterans living in our long-term care facilities, **and**
- VA health care personnel. Vaccinating our VA health care personnel helps us continue providing care for Veterans.

We've provided **9,752** vaccines as of December 18, 2020, and continue to offer more each day. This is a first crucial step in getting the COVID-19 pandemic under control.

We'll have a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccines during this time. We'll continue to follow our phased plan for providing vaccines. Our goal is to do the most good for the most people. After the first 2 groups, we'll begin to offer vaccines to more Veterans who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

If you're eligible to get a vaccine, your VA health care team will contact you. You don't need to come to a VA facility to request or receive a vaccine until we contact you. Our staff can't provide vaccines to anyone who isn't eligible at this time.

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

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



Volunteers of America Dakotas now has a office located at the South Dakota Military Alliance.

Kathryn Beddow | Employment Specialist HVRP

605-961-7059 | k.beddow@voa-dakotas.org

My name is Kathryn Beddow. Employment Specialist with Volunteers of America Dakotas. I am an Army Veteran and spouse. I have a background in counseling and have been with Volunteers of America (VOA) since October of 2020. VOA offers many services from counseling to housing and employment. I am part of the employment team aimed at supporting Veterans at risk of homelessness. While my primary function is to assist Veterans facing homelessness in obtaining competitive employment, I am to assist all Veterans (and family members). The team I am part of operates out of an outreach office near 14th and Cliff, the Berakhah House and the Alliance Center.

Many of the staff are Veterans themselves, or military affiliated, and each of us are resources and connected to the community and other agencies. Again, while employment is our primary focus, we do work to assist Veterans with obtaining state licenses, their DD214, birth certificates, education documents and more, along with developing resumes and cover letters. We also provide aid related to food, clothing, transportation and phones. In the sense of true comradery, we will meet you where you are; work to help you identify and achieve goals; hold you accountable and have your six.

Post Officers|Appointees 2020-21

John M Bliss VFW Post 628
1700 W Russell St
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



John M. Bliss Post 628

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

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

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



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

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: MaML Hallsrom, Darrell Kryger, John R Hanson, Elmer J Hofer, Elton Budahl, Donald J Freeze, Bryan L Engel, Keith A Derverson Sr, Bernard Friessen, and Marvin H Tiggelaar

Auxiliary: Arlene Hoek, Dee Westley, Shirley Potratz, Phyliss Hubert and Joyce Van Dyke.

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Reker—Army Vietnam - Life Transfer
Christopher Reiser— Army Desert Storm— New Life
Danielle Konechne—Air Force—Afghanistan—New Life

Meeting Dates

1-6 7 pm Post/Auxiliary Meeting - Post
1-12 7 pm Marine Corps Offices Meeting –Alliance
1-13 5 pm Women’s Veteran Group—Alliance
1-16 3:30 pm Vietnam Vet/Legacy Vets Alliance
1-16 196th MEB FRG party

1-19 7 pm Vietnam Vets Alliance
1-21 7 pm Veteran's Council Alliance
1-23 10 Rolling Thunder Armory
1-27 Women’s Veteran Group—Alliance