



Bliss Bugle



Words from the Commander



The merry month of May is upon us, with all its springtime busyness. Our first event of the month is the Loyalty Day dinner on Tuesday, May 1. Our kitchen is serving a pasta buffet for \$10, beginning at 6:30, following a 6 pm social. I encourage our members to support this event and congratulate the twelve community awardees we'll be honoring

that evening. (See page 2 for the list.) Mayor Huether expects to join us.

Thursday morning, Diana Wells and I will attend the Rise and Shine Benefit breakfast, where we'll present two \$1000 checks to the Barakhah House. The VFW Foundation gave the Post and Auxiliary each a \$1000 grant for that purpose.

The first Monday in May is the annual Kiwanis fundraiser, which is a moneymaking event for our Post. We will modify our monthly stag to incorporate this event. Because the fundraiser is using both the bingo room and the dance floor, the Post and Auxiliary members will meet in the West room. We'll go through the Kiwanis line, pay \$10 for the meal, and return to the West room to eat. There's no need to call in for reservations, as we won't be serving a catered meal. So come on down and join your comrades for some socializing.

Judging for All-State will be held at our Post on May 9. Post 628 needs 105 additional members, new or renewed, by May 7 to make All-State. Are we going to do it again? Let's make All-State two years in a row!

The Auxiliary is organizing the installation ceremony for new Post and Auxiliary officers on Wednesday, May 9, to be followed by the annual memorial service. Between the two, there will be a presentation of commemorative coins to all World War II veterans who are present.

This month we honor our active duty military on Armed Forces Day (May 19) and those who died in military service on Memorial Day (May 28). Ceremonies for both occasions will be held on the grounds of the VA Medical Center.

Diane Diekman

VFW Auxiliary President



I would like to congratulate "All" of our Auxiliary Officers:

President Kim Vennard
Senior Vice Marla Edman
Junior Vice Marie Nessiom
Treasurer Cathy Jo Tooley
Chaplain Diana Wells
Conductress Betty Hodge
Guard Judy Evink

Thanks to those who donated items in April for the Barakhah House.

Department President Carrie Alm is giving us a message: Membership, Membership, Membership! We need membership to keep our Auxiliary going. We also need those who have not paid their dues to do so. Cathy Jo sent out reminders again. If dues are not paid by the end of May, you will NO Longer be a member of our Auxiliary.

Tuesday, May 1 is our Loyalty Day banquet. Please support this event to honor our awardees. You'll also have a delicious pasta buffet.

Reservations aren't needed for this month's stag on Monday, May 7. We'll be purchasing the \$10 meals at the Kiwanis fundraiser and eating in the west room. We'll play bingo there also at 7 pm.

Keep in mind our State Convention is coming June 14-16. I hope to see our Auxiliary there.

Mary Kirkvold

The money bowl was won at our April Auxiliary dinner. We still have a money bowl, as we add every dinner. We will have our drawings. Thanks to everyone for the assortment of food and help where we need it, as I'm getting slower. Wishing everyone good health so you will attend our dinner on May 7.

Judy Evink, Chairwoman – Stag/Bingo

Member Spotlight — Douglas Perret Starr

“By age 92, I have done a lot,” says **Doug Starr**. New Orleans born and raised, he enlisted in the Navy in 1943, when he was 17. He served 21 months in the South Pacific as a sonarman second class on USS Nicholas (DD 449). His destroyer sank two Japanese submarines, shot down several kamikaze bombers, and was involved in 28 island bombardments and battles and countless air raids from the Marshall Islands to Philippines. The lead ship into Tokyo Bay, USS Nicholas was present for the surrender ceremony and also freed 250 POWs. After the war, Doug earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism, before being recalled to duty on USS Walke (DD 723) off North Korea. That destroyer was involved in five bombardments and battles. Doug returned home again, to spend 20 years as a reporter in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida. He joined the Coast Guard Reserve as a lieutenant (j.g.) and retired as a commander with 33 years’ service in the Coast Guard and Navy. In 1968, he returned to college. With PhD in hand, he taught journalism and public relations in two Texas universities for 33 years. In 2004, he lost his wife of 52 years, when Millie Emory died. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter. In 2008, Doug married Carolyn Scanlon, who died in 2013. He moved to Sioux Falls in 2014 to live with his daughter, Associate Professor Tricia Cole of the University of Sioux Falls, and her family. His children thought he needed someone to care for him because he was twice widowed. Retired and with nothing to do, he joined VFW Post 628 as a Life Member at age 89. He found quite a bit to do, becoming the public affairs officer, serving on the Executive Committee, and doing whatever else is needed. “I found 628 to be a great place for sea stories and a great place to help needy veterans and their families,” Doug says.

Attention: World War II Veterans



The Governor of South Dakota is issuing commemorative coins to all living World War II veterans. The front side says, “South Dakota Thanks the Greatest Generation.” Thomas Sparrow, the Turner County Veterans Service Officer, will be at our installation/memorial service event on May 9 to present coins on behalf of the Governor. Please email commander@vfw628.com or call Post 628 at 338-0869 to reserve your

Good Of The Order

Honor Guard

From mid-March through mid-April, the VFW Honor Guard provided military honors for four veterans—one Army (Patrick McDonald), one Air Force (Walter Mueller), one Coast Guard (Elizabeth “Bette” Battista), and one Navy (Donald Gilbert). Two were members of our post.

We welcome two additions to our Honor Guard family, Bret LaCroix and Brian Ledebor. We say farewell and thanks to long-time member Larry Schmidt, who is leaving due to personal issues. We will miss his loyal participation.

We still need Post members to join our Honor Guard family. Even if you can only participate on weekends or holidays, you are needed.

If you are willing to assist by joining our Honor Guard team, please contact our office at 605-338-0869.

David Parr, Honor Guard Commander

Taps

Post: Max Pasley 5/11/17, Francis Maierhauser 3/16/18, Robert Jonas 4/2, James Westby 4/14, Eugene Nash 4/16, Donald Kilpatrick 4/17

Auxiliary: Ona Anderson 3/24, Betty Olson 3/25, Mildred Moen 4/1, Darlene Milton 4/7, Verna Miller 4/11

Welcome to New Post 628 Member: Gerald LaQua

Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

Greetings, ladies, hope you all are feeling well so you can come to our meeting. We missed a lot of you last month. The men are having their Grand at Yankton on May 11. We can attend. Our Five-State will be at Arnold, Missouri. We’ll discuss that at our meeting.

“Keep ‘em smiling in Beds of White”

Judy Evink, President

VFW Post 628 — May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VFW Bingo Loyalty Day dinner 6:30 pm (social 6pm) Pasta buffet—\$10	2 General Meeting/ Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	3 VFW Bingo	4	5 Dance—First Name Basis (southern rock & country) 8pm-12am
6 POST CLOSED	7 Kiwanis fundraiser meal \$10 Member stag and Auxiliary dinner 6:30 pm	8 VFW Bingo Burger Night 5-8 pm Marine Officers 7 pm	9 Installation of officers 7 pm Memorial service 8 pm	10 VFW Bingo	11	12
13 POST CLOSED Pancake breakfast 8:30am-12:30	14	15 MOAA luncheon 12 pm VFW Bingo Burger Night 5-8 pm	16 Chislic Night 5-7 pm Cooties/ MOCA Meetings 7 pm	17 VFW Bingo Veterans' Council 7pm	18	19 Past Presidents 9am
20 POST CLOSED	21	22 VFW Bingo Burger Night 5-8 pm WoVets 5:30 pm Marine Corps League 7 pm	23	24 VFW Bingo	25	26
27 POST CLOSED	28 POST CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	29 VFW Bingo Burger Night 5-8 pm	30	31 VFW Bingo Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm		

Loyalty Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 9

Social hour: 6 pm
Dinner: 6:30 pm

Pasta buffet
\$10

Public is invited

Loyalty Day, as stated in this year's Presidential proclamation, is a way to recognize and reaffirm our allegiance to the principles upon which America was built, and to express pride in those ideals.

Loyalty Day Award Winners

Voice of Democracy 1st - Phillip Travers Jr
Voice of Democracy 2nd – Micah Vander Stouwe
Voice of Democracy 3rd - Isabella Osorio
Patriot's Pen 1st - Andrea Engels
Patriot's Pen 2nd – Ava Madsen
Patriot's Pen 3rd – Anne Sprecher
Teacher of the Year -Sarah Gohman
Teacher of the Year—Robert Wilber
Scout of the Year - Rilyn Fox
Public Servant Firefighter –Troy Scandin
Public Servant EMT – Patrick Duffy
Public Servant Law Enforcement – Officer Tony Buss

Help us honor our award winners from throughout the community.

Attention Auxiliary Mem-

bers: Did you join Post 628 VFW Auxiliary in 1973 or before? If you've been a continuous member (Life or Annual), we'd like to invite you to the Gold Star Luncheon that honors members of 45+ years at our State Convention, which is being held in Sioux Falls this year. This will be at the Ramkota Hotel (Lincoln Room) from 12-1:30 pm on Friday, June 15.

If you're interested in attending, please call Betty Hahn at 361-8708 before May 9 for details and to confirm reservations.

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SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT NO 345

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!!

3601 S. Minnesota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Post Officers 2017-2018

Commander—————Diane Diekman
Senior Vice Commander——Nathan Beiningen
Junior Vice Commander——Ryan Killion
Quartermaster—————Rodney Polhamus
Judge Advocate—————Harry Engberg
Surgeon—————Jim Wainscoat
Trustee—————David Parr
Trustee—————Randy Kirkvold
Trustee—————Harry Engberg
Adjutant—————Rick Barg
Service Officer—————David Parr
Chaplain—————Scott Bakken

Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

President—————Mary Kirkvold
Sr. Vice President——Marla Edman
Jr. Vice President——Lauretta Petersen
Secretary—————Kim Vennard
Treasurer—————Cathy Jo Tooley
Chaplain—————Diana Wells
Conductress—————Betty Hodge
Assistant Conductress——Connie Foss
Guard—————Don Christensen

Office: 605-338-0869
Lounge: 605-338-9421
Honor Guard: 605-338-0869
Service Officer: 605-333-6869
Office email: jmlbliss628@aol.com

Manager: manager@vfw628.com
Commander: commander@vfw628.com
Post Web Site: www.vfw628.com
Facebook: VFW Post 628
State VFW Office: 605-332-7441

Military Order of the Cootie

As all Cooties in South Dakota have been notified by letter, due to the weekend snowstorm, we were forced to reschedule the Grand Scratch.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be able to hold the Grand Scratch at the VFW in Sioux Falls. The Grand Scratch will be held at VFW Post 791 in Yankton, SD.

The Grand Scratch will be May 11-12, 2018. Our Supreme Commander, Don Kramer, will be in attendance to address us. If any of our less active Cooties would like to join us for this event, we would certainly like to see you in Yankton.

Vern Anderson
Seam Squirrel, Pup Tent #1
Grand Surgeon, State of SD

Congratulations
to newly elected Post 628 officers for 2018-19

Commander Nate Beiningen
Senior Vice Ryan Killion
Junior Vice Dan Ridgway
Quartermaster Rodney Polhamus
Chaplain Scott Bakken
Executive Committee (2 years) Don Altman
Executive Committee (3 years) Tom Henle
Trustee (1 year) Randy Kirkvold
Trustee (3 years) Harry Engberg

Post 628 Installation Ceremony and Memorial Service

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

7 pm—Installation of Post and Auxiliary Officers

8 pm— Annual Memorial Service

Presentation of World War II coins

Lunch served by Post 628 Auxiliary

Free—Public Welcome