

South Dakota Firefighters Association Fall Fire Conference

**27-29 September 2024
Fort Pierre, SD**

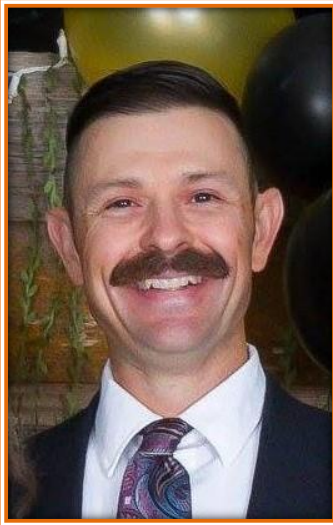


South Dakota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service

**Saturday, 28 September 2024
Capitol Lake Memorial Site
Pierre, SD**



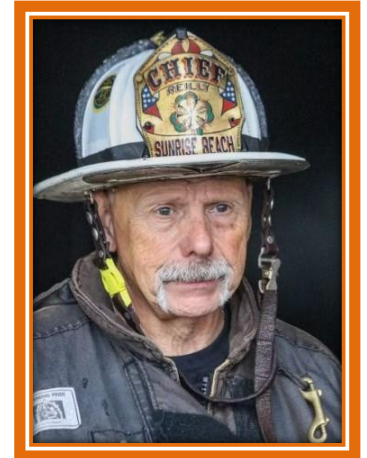
Our Sdfa Fall Conference Speakers



LJay Geist has been in the fire service since 2009. After being a volunteer for a couple years he quickly knew he was ready to go career. LJay holds the rank of driver for the Garden City, KS Fire Department. He is part of their wildland team and has instructed three recruit academies for the department, has presented at the Mid America F.O.O.L.S. Conference, several regional conferences and been a guest on the [National Fire Radio Podcast](#). In his spare time he enjoys time with kids, hunting, golfing, wildland firefighting and speaking at conferences.



Dennis Reilly is a 48-year fire service veteran and retired fire chief and is the owner of The First Line Fire Service Training Company. Reilly served as the fire chief in Pittsburg, KS, and Sunrise Beach, MO, and as an assistant in North Carolina and California and retired as a battalion chief in Cherry Hill, NJ. He was an original member of New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1. Reilly holds a master's degree in public administration from Penn State University and is a CFO. He has spoken at numerous events, including the Command Officer Boot Camp and the Orlando Fire Conference. Reilly is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq during the Operation Desert Storm.



2024 SDFA Fall Fire Conference Schedule

AmericInn Hotel Conference Center

September 27th – 29th, 2024 - Fort Pierre, SD

All times Central Time

Friday 27 September

8:30am–12:00pm SDFa Board of Directors meetings
 1:00pm–3:30pm Joint Council of Emergency Services Mtg @ Conference Center
 5:00pm–7:00pm Registration Desk & Vendors open @ AmericInn Conference Center
 6:00pm–~8:00pm **Meet and Greet** Sponsored Social (hors d'oeuvres & cash bar) at Conference Center



Saturday 28 September BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

7:30am–8:00am Registration Desk Open
 8:00am–9:00am General Membership Meeting & Discussions
 9:00am–12:00pm Conference Speakers/Keynote Sessions
 • **LJay Geist** – **“Tailboard Leadership”**
 12:00pm–1:00pm Noon Meal @ Conference Center – (included with your registration)
 1:00pm–3:30pm Conference Speakers/Keynote Sessions
 • **Dennis Reilly** – **“Firefighting Excellence for ANYTOWN USA”**
 3:30pm Depart to State Capital for Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service
 4:00pm–5:00pm **Annual SD Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service @ Memorial Site** (or inside Capitol Rotunda (weather dependent))
 5:45pm–~8:00pm **Sponsored Conference & Dear Old Timers Social** (hors d'oeuvres & cash bar) @ Conference Center



Sunday 29 September BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

8:00am–11:00am **LJay Geist - “The Impact of One”**
Q&A with LJay & Dennis - Fire Service Leadership Coffee Table
 11:00am thru Completion **SDFa General Membership Meeting & Discussions**

Safe Travels Home!





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sdfirefighters.org

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Welcome to the South Dakota Firefighters Association Fall Conference

The South Dakota Firefighters Association Board of Directors welcome all of you to the SDFFA Fall Fire Conference, General Membership Meetings, and Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.

This year's Fall Conference will have two gentlemen, LJay Geist and David Reilly. They bring their experiences with issues and topics that are faced with any department, volunteer and career. Then pass along ideas we could incorporate into our own situations.

We all know there is no one-size-fits-all solution to these challenges. But with the discussions they will be leading, just maybe, you'll find something that might be a good fit for something at your department.

In an effort to allow attendees to see the event, the Fallen Firefighters Memorial service on Saturday afternoon at 400pm. The short service is to honor all of those who have fallen in the execution of firefighting duties in South Dakota. This year, we honor the addition of Cavour VFD Chief Joshua Kogel to the monument.

The service takes place at the Memorial Site by Capitol Lake. In case of inclement weather, we will have it in the Capitol Building Rotunda.

Please, stop by for the social events at the conference. We truly appreciate the sponsorships from the companies that make these available. Relaxing and socializing can be equally educational, entertaining, and memorable.



I consider it a privilege to have met the people I have come to know through my time in the fire service. As my fire family continues to grow across our state and the country, I am thankful for the opportunities, friendships, and memories it has provided for my family and me.

Stay safe, and God Bless,
Charlie Kludt
SDFFA President
Viborg VFD



South Dakota Firefighters Association Officers & Board of Directors



Charlie Kludt
President & NVFC Rep.
Viborg
Term expires 2026



Don Ward
Vice-President
Belle Fourche
Term expires 2027



Jeremy Walla – NVFC Rep.
Whispering Pines, Rapid City



Samara Erickson
Secretary
Pierre



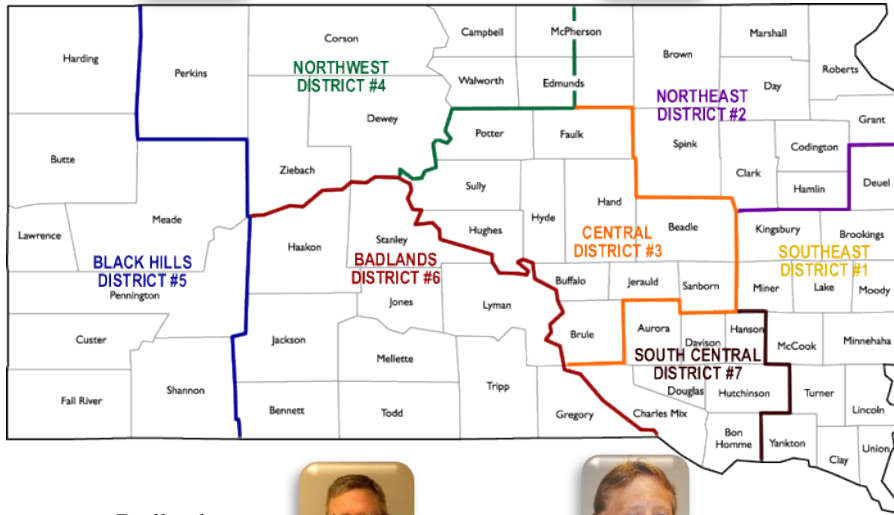
Dennis Gorton – Treasurer &
Past-President
North Haines, Rapid City



Northwest
Chad Baumgarten
Lemmon
2027



Northeast
Mark Stoks
Aberdeen Rural
2025



Black Hills
2027



Central
Rick George
Woonsocket
2025

Badlands
Jason Mosterd
Burke
2024



South Central
Rick Gustad
Platte
2026



Southeast
Dave Jorgenson
Colton
2026



SD Firefighters Association Membership

100% Department Membership - \$25.00 per member, per calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Please include a complete list of department members, their e-mail and mailing addresses with your application for 100% membership.

Department Only Membership - \$100.00 / year

Individual Only Membership– \$50.00 /year

Contact: South Dakota Firefighters Assn.
Samara Erickson, Secretary
Sec@sdfirefighters.org



100% Department Membership provides the following:

- \$25.00 Per Rostered Firefighter
- SD Firefighter newspaper e-mailed monthly to each registered member
- Voting Privileges at SDFA Membership meetings and elections
- Basic \$10,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. 24 hrs/day
- \$10K of Line of Duty Health and fire related health incidents, i.e. heart attack, stroke, others
- Purchase up to \$250,000 additional AD&D for \$45 per \$50,000
- *Discount registration to State Fire School*

DEPARTMENT ONLY

- \$100.00 per department
- No Voting
- Allows individuals to purchase an individual membership and get basic insurance coverages

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$50.00 per individual
- 1 copy of the SD Firefighter newspaper e-mailed to the individual monthly
- No Voting
- Insurance eligibility (if department is SDFA Department Only members)



SD Firefighter Newspaper

- We e-publish a monthly newspaper which keeps our 100% membership up-to-date on fire events throughout the State. The newspaper is sent to all State legislators, the congressional delegation, Governor, Secretary of Public Safety, and Secretary of Agriculture.

See the SDFA website at www.sdfirefighters.org for the latest information



South Dakota Firefighters Lifetime Membership

Firefighter and Year the year their Lifetime Membership was Granted

Art Summer—1968 *
Joseph Egger—1988 *
Squire Broel—1990
Patrick Smith—1996
Dale Hartmann—2005
LeRoy Koopman - 2010
Jesse Luce – 2011
Duane Hofer - 2018
Glenn Sealey - 2022

Gerald A. Brinkman—1987
Richard "Bud" Gould—1989
James E. Tish—1993
Orlen Norgaard—1996
Don Opie – 2005
Chuck Jarding – 2011
Paul Smith – 2015*
Dennis Gorton - 2018
Reuben Vollmer – 2022

A.E. "Murph" Anthony—1988 *
Lloyd Erickson—1990
Gail Johnson—1993
Oliver "Ole" Olson—1996
Russ Hendrix – 2008
Ben Huber – 2011
Mike Ball - 2017
Tarzan Mullinix - 2021
Harvey Jongeling – 2024



*indicates awarded posthumously

See the SDFA website at www.sdfirefighters.org for nomination information

South Dakota State Fire Auxiliary Board Members



Secretary Cheryl Anderson, Belle Fourche

President Toni Schmidt, Tea

Director Holly Bauer, Whitewood

Director Amy Horn, Brandon

Treasurer, Courtney Walker, Sturgis

Vice-President Jessica Carmichael, Belle Fourche

The purpose of the South Dakota Firefighter Auxiliary shall be to promote friendship among the members of the South Dakota Firefighters, to counsel local auxiliaries and to cooperate with the South Dakota Firefighters Association and Annual State Fire School.

Auxiliary members are composed of all or any persons affiliated, associated or involved with active, retired or deceased firefighters.



Dear Old Timers (DOTs) is a gathering of firefighters, husbands and wives, and families and friends of the fire service. Some with a few weeks, to over 50 years!

The DOTs Social will be held at the conference center Saturday evening after the Memorial Service.



Everyone is invited. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Come and enjoy new acquaintances, longtime friendships and reminisce at Dear Old Timers.

If you wish to be an official member or donate, \$10.00 Membership dues to DOT are used to assist funding the annual scholarship given to a high school senior.





SOUTH DAKOTA FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Posting of Flags: Honor Guard and Pipes & Drums

Opening Prayer

Welcome: SDFFA President

Remarks: SD Fire Marshal

Memorial Message

Roll of Honor and Placing of Roses

Moment of Silence in Respect and Honor

Reading of Firefighters Prayer

Benediction

Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty God, wherever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life,
Whatever be their age.

Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.

And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life,
Please, bless with your protecting hand those who meant the
most to me, in my earthly life.

Amen



South Dakota Fallen Firefighters Memorial



Honor Roll of Those Who Have Made the Supreme Sacrifice



Paul Babue — Rapid City Fire Department
Jim Thompson — Rapid City Fire Department
Ervin Voegle — Civilian Conservation Corp.
Alex Kiesz — Bowdle Volunteer Fire Department
William Earl Burd — Martin Volunteer Fire Department
Ellsworth Gussler — Miller Volunteer Fire Department
Seigfried Hoogestraat — Miller Volunteer Fire Department
Merle Juhl — Miller Volunteer Fire Department
Lyle Haigh — Miller Volunteer Fire Department
Ernest Watson — McIntosh Volunteer Fire Department
Tom C. Masters — Sioux Falls Fire Department

Oscar Pearson — Brandon Volunteer Fire Department
John J. Korpi — Lead Fire Department
Charles E. Larson — Sioux Falls Fire Department
Leonard Evans — Rapid City Fire Department
Elmer Pontius — Deadwood Volunteer Fire Department
Robert Stephens — Rapid City Fire Department
George Carter — Rapid City Fire Department
George Sumners — Rapid City Fire Department
Henry Tank — Rapid City Fire Department
William H. Walker — State Fire Marshal



South Dakota Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Donald Marso — Pierre Volunteer Fire Department
Marvin Willey — Rapid City Fire Department
Richard McDonald — Rapid City Fire Department
Wayne Schlosser — Timber Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Curtis Dean Mikkelsen — Hurley Volunteer Fire Department
Robert Buhler — Delmont Volunteer Fire Department
Dave Martin — Opal Volunteer Fire Department
Roger McMillin — Martin Volunteer Fire Department
Nathan Hamro — Renner Volunteer Fire Department
Donald E. DeVries — Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department



Gerald “Jerry” Martinez — US Forest Service
Thomas “Emmett” Kuehl — Elkton Volunteer Fire Department
Leon James Lehmen — Cleghorn Volunteer Fire Department
Trampus Haskvitz – Hot Springs – SD Wildland Fire Suppression
William Waldner – Sunset Hutterite Colony
Jacob Waldner – Sunset Hutterite Colony
Lt Col Paul Mikreal – North Carolina Air National Guard
Major Joseph McCormick – North Carolina Air National Guard
Major Ryan Davis – North Carolina Air National Guard
SMSgt Robert Cannon - North Carolina Air National Guard



Dale Englund – Stockholm Volunteer Fire Department
Steven Ackerman – Valley Springs Volunteer Fire Department
David Ruhl – US Forest Service – Rapid City
Donny Manger – Presho Volunteer Fire Department
David Fischer – Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department
Dwain Hudson – Argyle Volunteer Fire Department
Archie Murphy – Civilian Conservation Corps
Fred Fedeler – Chester Volunteer Fire Department
Josh Kogel – Cavour Volunteer Fire Department



The South Dakota Fallen Firefighter Memorial was designed, built, and funded entirely through the donations of individual supporters and agencies of the fire service. If you or your department would like to contribute to the memorial fund, contact the SDFA.

FUTURE FIRE SCHOOLS

The South Dakota Firefighters Association & Auxiliary
Watertown Convention & Visitors Bureau
and Lake Area Technical College
look forward to South Dakota State Fire School

in

Watertown, SD
June 12-14, 2025



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