



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards,
Department President

This will be the last Legionette until Fall and my last article as Department President! It has been a fabulous year, but it is not over yet.

I am so pleased to announce that Laurel Stringer has been hired as the Department Secretary for the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary!! Laurel is a member of Sioux Falls Unit 15 and resides in Hartford, SD. She is eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through her husband Ed and her son Robert Dickerson. Laurel's professional background includes 34 years of accounting and finance.

With the hiring of Laurel also comes a Department Headquarters Office!! Our new office is located at 129 North Main Street in Hartford, SD. The SD ALA moved into their new office on Friday, May 15th – which means on Monday, May 18th it opened for business. The SD ALA now has a place of business that we can be proud of, along with a storage room and a conference room. This is extremely exciting for our organization.

The Executive Board will be making a decision regarding the Department Treasurer at the Department Convention in Huron, SD on June 26, 2015. The Hiring Board was deadlocked between candidates so now the Executive Board will be making the final selection.

Department Convention is just a few days away....have you made your room reservations? Have you ordered your banquet tickets? AND don't forget to pack your PURPLE shirts!! On Friday let's **Remember Everyone Deployed** by wearing some form of **RED**. This can be a red shirt or a red poppy, use your imagination. On Sunday I am encouraging everyone to wear their Purple Auxiliary shirts or some other purple. We have worked very hard on branding our organization this year and especially branding our Department with the purple shirts – it has been so cool to see all the purple shirts as I have traveled the state.

Before I close, THANK YOU to everyone for all your support and encouragements this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention.

In the Spirit of Goodwill - Carol



2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan

“The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary's strategic plan. With an eye on the future, this written “document of agreements” defines our mission focus – who we are, what we do, and why we do what we do – and tells us what to do next to ensure we meet with success. This look ahead three and five years out helps us set our priorities and establish action steps. We then communicate these to our units, departments, boards, and leadership teams and monitor progress made in meeting our goals. The hard work of planning is well worth the time and effort because it means we will be able to serve

more veterans, members of the military and their families.”

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/Centennial-Strategic-Plan/>

Goal 1: Attain a Million Member

Goal 2: Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill

Goal 3: Develop Leadership at All Levels

Goal 4: Strengthen Departments and Units

Goal 5: With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty

Legion Band Seeks Musicians

The SD American Legion Band is in the process of forming for the upcoming Department Convention. We would like to extend an invitation to Auxiliary members to join our group. The band will meet for a rehearsal on Friday afternoon, June 26, and then play for various events during the convention. Due to limited rehearsal time, we do ask that you deem yourself to have good sight reading skills! Other than that, the only requirement necessary for membership is a love of music and a love of playing your band instrument! We are in particular need of percussionists, flutes and lead trumpets this year, although all instrumentalists are welcome. Please contact Marla Mosiman if you are interested or have any questions. Call her at 605-222-3313 or email: mmosiman@venturecomm.net.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – 2015
HURON, SD

Thursday, June 25, 2015

- 12:00 (Noon) Registration Desk Opens
Silent Auction
- 1:00 PM “NEWBIES TRAINING” for New Members and Unit Officers
- 3:00 PM Interviews for Finance Committee
- 7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT – “**Taking Chance**” starring Kevin Bacon
Based on real-life events, Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, a volunteer military escort officer, accompanies the body of 19-year-old Marine Chance Phelps back to his hometown of Dubois, Wyoming.

Friday, June 26, 2015

- 7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
Silent Auction Opens
- 8:00 AM Finance Meeting
- 11:00 AM Juniors Meeting
- Noon Juniors / Auxiliary Luncheon – **Mexican Fiesta!!**
- 1:00 PM Executive Meeting
- 4:30 pm Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Memorial Service
- 6:00 PM Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Reception
- 7:00 PM Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

Saturday, June 27, 2015

- 7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
Silent Auction Opens
- 8:00 AM Processional Line-Up
- 8:30 AM Auxiliary Convention Convenes
- 11:30 AM Recess
- Noon Auxiliary Luncheon – **Recognition of our VA Volunteers**
- 1:15 or 1:30 PM Convention reconvenes
- 4:00 PM Silent Auction CLOSES
Fun Auction
- 6:30 PM Auxiliary Banquet

Sunday, June 28, 2015

- 7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
- 8:00 AM Convention reconvenes

In Memoriam

- Unit 6 Gregory**
Kay Karl – March 2015
Ada Sattler – March 2015
- Unit 8 Pierre**
Eunice Cary – March 2015
- Unit 15 Sioux Falls**
Jan Knutson – April 2015
- Unit 18 Mitchell**
Lorraine Christiansen – Dec. 2012
Lavera Harris – April 2015
Doris Hildebrand – May 2015
Sara Wipf – March 2015
- Unit 22 Rapid City**
Leona Jakeway – March 2015
Delores Johnson – July 2014
- Unit 25 Madison**
Ruby Oosterhuis – October 2014
- Unit 31 Lead**
Mary Perceovich – May 2015
- Unit 37 Bryant**
Carol Rasmussen – March 2015
- Unit 42 Arlington**
Bonnie Madsen – April 2015
- Unit 43 Centerville**
Minnie Merritt – April 2015
- Unit 50 Sisseton**
Marcella Rinas – April 2015
- Unit 63 Lake Preston**
Beverly Stevens – April 2015
- Unit 65 Dell Rapids**
Velma Schwebach – April 2015
- Unit 72 Beresford**
Elizabeth Ulmann - 2014
- Unit 74 Brookings**
Clarice Aulner – April 2015
- Unit 80 Britton**
Margaret Burger – April 2015
- Unit 93 Letcher**
Evelyn McEntyre – May 2015
- Unit 103 Astoria**
Helen Overby – March 2015
- Unit 138 DeSmet**
Caryl Poppen – April 2015
Vonnysa Vincent – April 2015
- Unit 152 Menno**
Joyce Heirigs – January 2015
Ruth Simonsen – March 2015
- Unit 186 Eureka**
Edna Chase – March 2015
- Unit 213 Cresbard**
Marjorie Everson-Bisbee – Dec 2014
- Unit 261 Ethan**
Eileen Huffman – June 2014
- Unit 264 Bowdle**
Hulda Erlenbusch - April 2015
- Unit 311 Piedmont**
Lenora Alverson – March 2015
Pauline Messeraul – December 2014



ADVANCE TICKET FORM

American Legion Department Convention – June 26 & 27, 2015

Deadline to order tickets is June 12, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Friday, June 26 – NOON

Menu: TACO BUFFET with the JUNIORS!!! ADULT \$14.00 / CHILDREN 6-12 \$7.50

Number of ADULT tickets _____ x \$14.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Number CHILDREN of tickets _____ x \$7.50 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, June 27 – NOON

Menu: Plated Croissant Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Chips & Apple Crisp

Number of tickets _____ x \$14.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Evening BUFFET, Saturday, June 27 – 6:30 PM

Menu: Chicken Divan, Butter Parsley Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Lettuce Salad plus two other salads

Number of tickets _____ x \$20.00 per ticket = \$ _____

TOTAL amount enclose for Auxiliary Meals \$ _____

() Check box for special dietary needs

Make checks payable to: Huron Unit 7

Send To: Jeanette Johnson
360 20th St SE
Huron, SD 57350NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!!!!**JOINT BANQUET – DINNER BUFFET, FRIDAY, JUNE 26 @ 6:00 pm**

Menu: Roast Beef, Chicken Divan with Broccoli Cream Sauce over Rice, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad, Macaroni Salad with Peas, Cookies & Cream Salad, Assorted Jell-O Cheesecake

Number of tickets _____ x \$27.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: American Legion , Post #7

Mail To: Jerry Mencke
1829 Dexter Ct.
Huron, SD 57350NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!!!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

State Convention Silent Auction Guidelines

Anyone may donate to the silent auction. All items should be new or in excellent condition. Be creative and have fun with your items. It's our hope that all units throughout the state will donate an item. Please note the following details about donation and bidding:

- Donations will be accepted Thursday June 25th from 3:00pm -5:00 pm and Friday June 26th from 8:00am-10:30 am and 1:00pm - 3:00 pm
- Bids will be accepted starting Thursday at 3:00 pm
- Bids will close at 4:00 pm
- Winning bidders must pick up their items between 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Saturday, June 27, 2015

All donations become the property of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for your generosity. Proceeds of the sale of the silent auction will go towards the South Dakota ALA Permanent Membership.

Lynn Pohlman / Teresa Huntimer, Co - Chairmen

If you have any questions please call or e-mail them at : thuntimer@gmail.com – 605-351-8470 for Teresa; pohlman.lynn@gmail.com – 605-578-1673 for Lynn

Summer Guide**June 1-6:** SD Girls State, Vermillion**June 6:** D-Day Anniversary**June 14:** Flag Day**June 25-28:** SD ALA Convention, Huron**June 27:** PTSD Awareness Day**July 4:** Independence Day**July 18-25:** ALA Girls Nation**Aug. 28 - Sept. 2:** ALA National

Convention - Baltimore

June: Installations of Unit Officers**Report names of new officers & chairmen to Dept. Headquarters by July 1****Send 25% of Poppy proceeds to Dept. Headquarters****Submit Prayers to Dept. Chaplain for President's Prayer Book by June 10****Endorsed Candidates for Department Officers 2015-2016**

Unit 71 would like to withdraw its endorsement of **Jane Benzel** as Second Vice President, and is now proud to endorse Jane Benzel of Hot Springs Battle Mountain Unit #71 for Department President for the 2015-2016 year.

Homestake Unit 31 of the American Legion Auxiliary in Lead is pleased and proud to endorse **Melanie Beckman Martens** for the office of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department 1st Vice President.

Coacher-Goetsch Unit 18 proudly endorses **Sharon Broghammer** as Department of South Dakota Chaplain.

Springfield Dwight Wood Unit 132 American Legion Auxiliary nominates **Kathy Hornstra** to be elected as Department Historian.

May Prayer

By Teresa Huntimer -
Dept. Chaplain

A Moment to Pause

Try getting up before daybreak. See the dawn emerge like a chorus in the morning twilight. You'll hear it whisper, Today is a gift to you. As you watch for that soaring burst of sun, let the serene beauty of that simple moment be stored in your soul.

The sun has been called the "eye of heaven" and its rising each day proclaims the glory of creation and symbolizes new life. Each time the sun peeks above the horizon, it brings a fresh promise- the gift of a new day. A day of hope of peace on earth.

We pray for those who serve our Country; that they may return to their loved ones safely. In Your name we pray. Amen

Department Secretary**Laurel Stringer**

Welcome to our new South Dakota Department Secretary Laurel Stringer, Unit 15 - Sioux Falls. We look forward to visit with you at conventions, on the phone, by emails, or mail.

**Homestake Unit 31 at the Black Hills National Cemetery for Memorial Day**

Joanann Goeringer; Delain Johnson; Past Dept. President & NEC chairman Janet Hurlbert; Christine Bestgen, Gold Star Mother wearing white at Memorial events; and Melanie Martens, Dept. 2nd Vice Pres. & Children & Youth Chairman displaying the wreaths for Memorial Day Ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Three Generations of Girls State

Jacob D. Schmidt Unit 235 of Marion, SD is happy to claim a 3-generation family of Girls State. Delegate Aleesha Anderson has been a junior member of this unit since her birth and will be a third generation family member to attend Girls State. She will represent American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91 of Austin, MN at the 2015 Minnesota Girls State. Her mother, Teresa Nelson Anderson attended SD Girls State in 1989, and her grandmother Carol Tschetter Nelson attended SD Girls State in 1966. This is quite a feat for Unit 235! By Carol Nelson, Unit 235 2015-2016 President.



New email: southdakotaala@gmail.com

Visit us on our website: www.sdlegionaux.org

New phone number: 605-461-3389

Find us on Facebook: South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary



TWO BIG STONE CITY SCHOOL STUDENTS will have their Poppy Posters submitted to the State American Legion Auxiliary for competition.

**Membership**—by Jane Benzel, Dept. Chairman

Congratulations to Montrose, Buffalo, and Webster units for making goal! District 1 has almost reached the summit with their Willy's Jeep. They are 96% of goal! The next five Districts are all within one point of each other—District 5 at 84.7, District 8 at 83.8, District 6 at 82.6 and District 5 at 80.4%. The bottom two districts are District 3 at 75.7% and District 2 at 73.5%. South Dakota has dropped to 29th place. I would really like to be in the top half. Don't give up. Keep working to rejoin, renew, and get those members. This will be the last Legionette until next fall so look for updates on the membership blog on the website. I look forward to seeing you at State Convention.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGIONETTE
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Poppy Programs

Service, Not Self



Past Dept. Pres. Joan Spears from Martin prepares the Memorial Day dinner with distribution of poppies.

DONATING THE BOOK "THE POPPY LADY" to the Big Stone City School and the Big Stone City Library was the Gertje-Van Lith American Legion Auxiliary. "The Poppy Lady" is written about the life of Moina Belle Michael, who established the red poppy as a tribute to all Veterans.

Hot Springs member Nancy Keith and Miss Senior Poppy Montana harper are giving poppies at the Memorial Day program at the State Home.

Display for the Memorial weekend Poppy Day, set-up by Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards for her unit at Perkins in Spearfish.

Taylor and Past Dept. Pres. Barb Vetter distributing poppies for Memorial Day.



Memorial Day

Service, Not Self



Left (1) Post #39 Honor Guard getting ready to fire their rifles for the annual Memorial Day Services held at Groton, S.D.

Union Cemetery on 5-26-2015. Their commander pictured at the right is Robert Wegner.

Left (2) Post 71 Commander Bud Jennings and Unit 71 President MaryAnn Ackerman laying the wreaths at the State Home

Left (3) Wagner Unit preparing Memorial Day

Bottom (1) Dept. President Carol Edwards and Donna Jurgens wife of the Dept. Commander attending a rainy Memorial Day ceremony at Black Hills National Cemetery.

Bottom (2) Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards and Helen Riedlinger helping hoisting all new flags at the Black Hills National Cemetery in preparation of Memorial Day.



Our Units at work

Service, Not Self



Unit President Teresa Huntimer presenting Legion Member Rob Everist (Rob's wife Joette who is a dual member of our unit) a Blue Star Banner. Their daughter JJ who graduated from the Navy Academy in on active duty.



At the March Community Fair in Mobridge. This event was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, more than 25 local non-profit organizations were represented including American Legion Auxiliary of Mobridge, Unit #4.

The unit displayed several ALA brochures, articles & photos of their activities. The ALA members manning the booth, gave out rulers which displayed flags, Pledge of Allegiance and on the back photos & names of all the US Presidents. They also visited w/ several women attending the fair, we are hoping to gain additional members w/ this membership as well as a public relations event.



The Members of Mobridge Unit #4 participated in the local backpack program and "made a difference" by bringing individual serving size non-perishable food to our meeting, several boxes & bags of food were donated to this very worthy project in Mobridge.



"Jane Benzel (R), an inspiring teacher and American Legion Auxiliary leader who welcomed me into her classroom to read to her students and educate on the poppy program, joined my Purple Up! For Military Kids mission in her classroom, and assisted me in my personal, patriotic endeavors since childhood, including Girls State. Recently, I was awarded two Jane Bartel for Military Awareness Miss America Scholarships. I sincerely thank you, Jane for your many scholarship reference letters and for being an inspiration in my life." by Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe



National Commander Michael Helm visits South Dakota

Left corner: Nat. Com. Michael Helm with SD Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards; and SD Dept. Commander Tim Jurgens.

Left: The Sioux Falls Unit 15 decorated the American Legion Post for the national Commander's reception.



Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive Project: Flag and Award Ceremony

Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe; speaks during the Flag ceremony and gave awards. Unit 71 of Hot Springs had the largest contribution to her project. Pictured right: The Color Guard 71, Irene Sears District 2 President; Ed Thomson District 2 Commander; Carol Edwards SD Dept. President; Larry Zimmerman Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe at the podium.



I wish to extend my appreciation and gratitude to the South Dakota Department of the American Legion Auxiliary for your partnership in the 3rd annual Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive project. I would especially like to thank Carol Edwards, SD Dept. President for her continued support on this project for nearly nine months in 2014 and 2015. Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members and the sixteen ALA Units that were involved with the project and to the American Legion Family that may have contributed or assisted in some manner in the past three years. Special thanks to the Pierre Unit 8, Pukwana Unit 201, Sturgis Unit 33, Rapid City Unit 22, Hot Springs Unit 71, Piedmont Unit 311, Spearfish Unit 164, Wallace Unit 1, Unit 86 of Hawarden, Unit 229, Harrisburg A Dempewolf 45, Oelrichs Unit 238, Sioux Falls Unit 15, Codington County Unit, the Edgemont Unit, and each unit that I may not have been brought to my attention. Autumn Simunek

Note from the South Dakota Legionette Editor: The next issue will be for your September meeting. This is the last one during Dept. President Carol Edwards' tenure.

It has been my great pleasure to document our department story for 2014-2015. Thank you! Micheline Nelson

NO JULY AND AUGUST ISSUES