



THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGIONETTE

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards, Department President



"Because of the BRAVE"

By now your Unit meetings should be off and running after a busy summer. We have lots going on in the Auxiliary so let's get to it!! Hopefully you have been out shopping for the Christmas Gift Shops held in Sioux Falls, Hot Springs, Yankton and Ft. Meade. Donations and gifts were due October 1; however if you are not done yet don't panic - there is still time. We would appreciate it if you could get your financial donations sent to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. If you have not made a donation in the past please consider doing so this year. This year the Gift Shop Chairmen will need to pay the postage to ship the gifts out of the donations that they receive from the Units. This was a decision made by the Finance Committee at the Budget meeting and then announced at the State Convention. So please be generous.

In addition, Volunteer Services at the Sioux Falls VA has been relocated within the VA Facility and unfortunately they have lost a lot of their storage space. If you are shipping gifts to the Sioux Falls VA we are requesting that you ship them directly to the Gift Shop Chairman Sherry Woltjer at 408 1/2 Washington Avenue N #2, Dell Rapids, SD 57702. Only the gifts should be sent directly to Sherry; financial donations need to be sent directly to Department Headquarters. (Continued on page 4)



Education — By Dept. Chairman Theresa Maeschen

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom", a quote by George Washington Carver. The American Legion Auxiliary believes education is vital to democracy and that investing time and money to educate our youth is literally an investment in America's future.

The purpose of our Education Program is to promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military and veteran's children.

There are many activities that your unit can do to help foster learning for children in your own communities. Some of the most popular include: Give 10 to Education, Dictionary Project, and observing American Education Week, November 17-21, 2014. This is also a great time to promote all the Auxiliary scholarships available, both on the Department and National level.

Educating our communities about the sacrifices of our military members can be accomplished by your unit sponsoring a Veterans in the Classroom event. With Veterans Day approaching, this would be a great activity to participate in. Our Auxiliary units should also be assisting and supporting those veterans that are pursuing vocational or higher education.

Again, reporting your work for the Education Program throughout the year is important. There are several awards available so please, toot your own horn and report all those accomplishments! Please refer to my bulletin included in the October mailing or on the SD Auxiliary website for more details on these activities I have mentioned. As Nelson Mandela once quoted, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

Scholarships

All applications and detailed information are available in the Education bulletin or on the website.

Department Level:

Thelma Foster Scholarship for Junior Members - \$300

Thelma Foster Scholarship for Senior Members - \$300

Senior Member Scholarship - \$400

Scholarship for College/University

or Technical School - \$500

National Level:

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship - \$3,500; \$3,000; and \$2,500 in each division

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship - \$2,000 in each division

Spirit of Youth Scholarship - \$1,250 per year for 4 years (\$5,000) one in each division

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



Membership Appreciation Night

Lamnison Unit 147, Buffalo held a membership appreciation night in September celebrating longevity memberships. Guests were DorisAnn Werlinger—Past Natl. Vice Pres. Northwest Division; Carol Edwards - Dept. President; Cindy Hansen - District 1 President.



Legionette of the Year at the National Convention

Ginger Childers, Unit 164 was honored at the Woman of the Year Luncheon in Charlotte, N.C. Pictured with National President Nancy Brown-Park.

October Guide

"Make a Difference Day"

October 25

Dept. Membership Goal of 55%

Mail in Poppy orders

Pay National Convention Assessment—varies by membership number—check your guide

Pay Convention Proceedings - \$15

Pay Unit Bond - \$6

Cash Donation to Christmas Fund by November 1

Send Legionette subscriptions to
Dept. Headquarters (mail & email)

Begin Mid Year reports due to
District Presidents
by November 15



National Commander Dan Dellinger Visits the Black Hills

Juniors from Spearfish, Unit 164 received the Commander's pin for the help they provided, greeting, selling 50/50 chances for the Commander's Project, and serving desserts after the dinner. Pictured: back Natl. Commander Dan Dellinger; front - Elise Derrek; Kelsie Varner, and Rose Mechaley.

In Memoriam

Unit 3 Chamberlain

Marjorie Miller – August 2014

Unit 15 Sioux Falls

Phyllis Jarding – August 2014

Unit 43 Centerville

Lois Stevens – August 2014

Unit 56 Geddes

Alice Kolecka – May 2014

Unit 61 Canova

Irma Duck – August 2014

Unit 148 Conde

Margaret Holmquist – August 2014

Unit 153 Carpenter

Margaret Opsahl – August 2014

Unit 159 Hoven

LaVonne Schumacher – August 2014

Willa Krogman – September 2014

Unit 175 Baltic

Mae Gunderson – December 2013

Hazel Hegge – February 2014

Joyce Olofson – April 2013

Blanche Peterson – April 2014

Unit 240 Martin

Vesta Soderlin – August 2014

Unit 259 Roscoe

Renetta Himmerich – May 2014





2014 Christmas Gift Shop

Hot Springs State Home Nov 16-18, 2014

Ft. Meade Nov 18-20, 2014

Hot Springs VA Nov 19-21, 2014

Human Services Center December 1, 2014

Sioux Falls VA Dec 1-3, 2014

Christmas Party

Hot Springs State Home December 6, 2014

Hot Springs VA December 7, 2014

Ft. Meade December 8, 2014

Human Service Center, December 10, 2014

Sioux Falls VA December 11, 2014

Secretary Headquarters *By Dept. Secretary Dianne Hudson*

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your cards and emails I received in the death of my father. Your support was overwhelming. Thank you. But back to business, I am starting to receive membership for the 2015 Auxiliary year. This is very exciting! I still have a hard time believing that summer is over and we are getting ready for the VA gift shops. I hope the weather cooperates with us this year. It is an exciting time helping at these events. Remember to send your money to Department Headquarters (PO Box 1819, Sioux Falls, SD 57101) and please earmark which VA facility you want your money to go too. If you want to send gifts, those go directly to the VA facility your unit supports. I hope that you have all checked out the new and improved website. All of the forms that you could ever need are on there. If for some reason you are not able to print them, or do not have computer access please let me know and I will send you some. Please notice that the price of the small poppies has increased for this year. Please do not use the old form. I am available if you need anything.

Membership

by Dept. Chairman Jane Benzel

We really need to get our Willy's jeeps in gear and head to the top of the summit. At this time, SD has not turned in any memberships. So please get going. If you read my blog on the website, I encouraged you to bring any memberships to the Fall District Meetings to turn into President Carol. You should get all your PUFL memberships in right away. Your membership chairman should have their membership cards by now. Be sure the Unit name is correct on your cards. There were a few problems. Remember, the memberships actually need to be turned in to the Department secretary. National has really challenged us by setting a high goal. If you were not able to get on the website to find out your goal, get in touch with me. I will let you know what your goal is. It is a challenge, but I know we can do it! I would like to see every unit reach the summit. If I can help you in any way, please contact me.

Our Juniors' Corner

By Dept. Junior Activities Chairman Michelle Stuck

Junior members please check out <http://www.legion-aux.org/Programs/Junior-Member-Activities/> to learn more about the patch program. I want to challenge every junior member to complete the requirements for one patch this year. I am always happy to help girls get started with the patch program. Junior members that are not part of an active juniors unit can use the patch program as way to stay involved and participate. Another way to be active is to help with Department President Carol's scrapbook. She gave the juniors this fun project to complete this year. I can mail out items to you so you can make a couple pages to get back to me. Please contact me anytime with questions or ideas!

Two Junior Members were honored at the District IV Fall Meeting held



in Doland, SD on September 13, 2014 with Jackie Omland District President and Carol Edwards, Department President presenting new ideas for the coming year.

Pictured left to right: Beth Vanderwal, Jayden Mielke, Brooklyn Halverson, and Carol Edwards.

October Prayer
By Teresa Huntimer -
Dept. Chaplain

The Families of Our Military

Father in the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray to You for the families of our military. We pray that the gospel will extend to them, that they might know Him and the power of His resurrection. Father we desire that these families might be a prayer force for our nation and our military. May they be well provided for and well taken care of. Father, give them the courage of warriors. May the peace that passes understanding substation them in the season of separation. Comfort them with your word that they might have faith to see their sons, and daughters, husbands and wives return to them and wholeness and safety.

VA&R Project: The VA Facilities Need Toiletries & More



What do these items have in common? They are used by those at the VA facilities across SD and the facilities are in need. The next time you are shopping and see flip flops on clearance this time of year pick up a pair or two. Also, any size toiletry items are needed all year long. If you are at the dentist ask him for a few extra toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste! Any and all are always needed and appreciated. Thank you for all you do! Becky Hawkins VA&R Chairman - 1st Vice President

“Because of the Brave” Continued from page 1.

In regards to this new location at the Sioux Falls VA, we all know how important the volunteers are to the Veterans. However, Volunteer Services will now be located in the northwest corner of the basement of the Mental Health building; there is no outside access to this location. This location puts our volunteers in a location that is literally “Out of Sight and Out of Mind”. Based on the information that I have this is not a temporary move due to construction but rather a permanent move. Personally I do not feel that this is in the best interest of our volunteers and those that service our Veterans. I will be sending Director Darwin Goodspeed a letter expressing my concern and I encourage all the members of the Auxiliary to do the same. Letters can be sent to: Sioux Falls VA Hospital ATTN: Director Darwin Goodspeed PO Box 5046 Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

One of my favorite events is this month – “*Make a Difference Day!*” – Saturday, October 25th. On this one day millions of people across the nation will unite with a common mission - to improve the lives of others. It doesn't need to be GRAND gesture – it can do something as baking a plate of cookies for someone. But if you are able to work together with others and do something over the top then DO IT!!

In the Spirit of Goodwill.....Carol

Stay Informed

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National President's Award for Excellence

Spearfish, Unit 164

The Award for Excellence is given to five units out of 9,000 in the nation. It requires to show evidence that the unit meets the objectives of the national strategic plan in three or more auxiliary programs. The unit sent narratives with five pieces of evidence for four programs: VA&R, Americanism, Community Service, and Leadership. The application is online-only.

If you have projects, events or stories to share, send pictures and articles by the 18th of each month .



Pic-Natl.

Nancy Brown-Park, SD Dept. Pres. Janet Hurlbert and Unit 164 Pres. Micheline Nelson

tured: Pres.

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National Convention - Charlotte, N.C.

August 23-28, 2014



SD Department President Janet Hurlbert with her National Pages: Theresa Maeschen and Deb MacDonald

Special Events at the National Convention



State Dinner: Hollywood Theme

Pictured above: Deb MacDonald, Ramona Ketterling, Janet Hurlbert, and Barb Vetter

Pictured below: Carol Edwards and Teresa Huntimer



Woman of the Year Luncheon

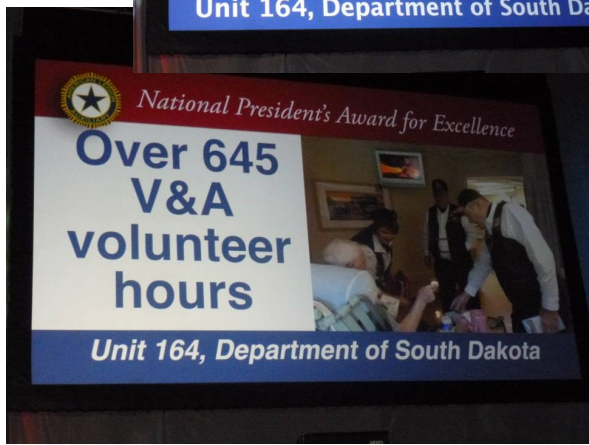
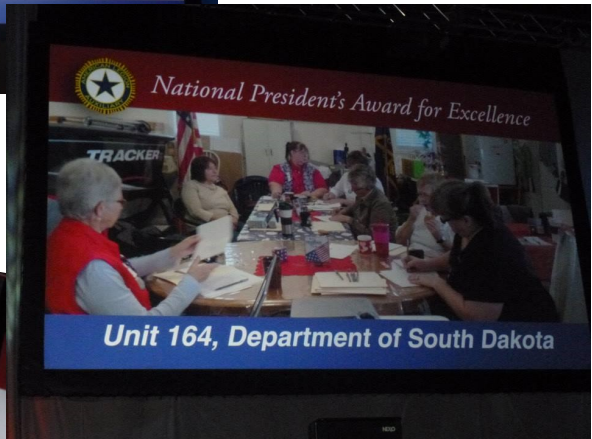
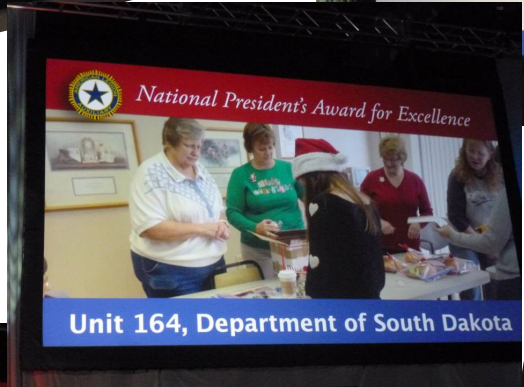
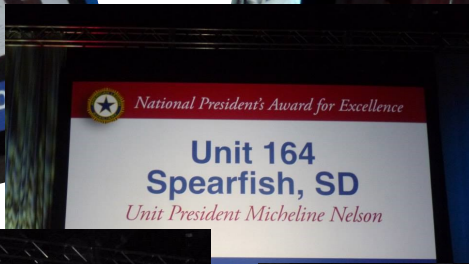
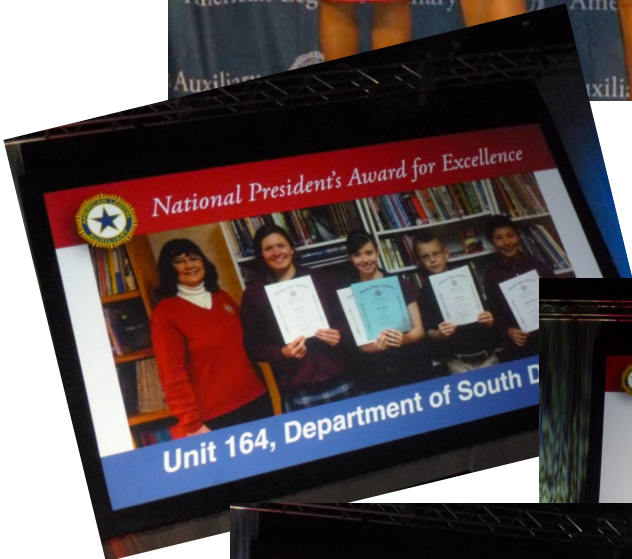
Ginger Childers, the SD Legionette is honored by National President Nancy Brown-Park



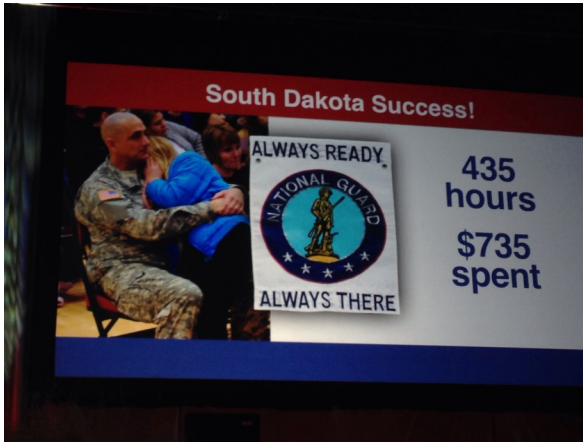
National President's Award for Excellence



Pictured: SD Dept. President 2013-2014 Janet Hurlbert; National President Nancy Brown-Park, Unit 164 President Micheline Nelson, and SD Dept. President 2014-2015 Carol Edwards



Sioux Falls Recognized in One of the National Reports



SD Dept. President 2014-2015, Carol Edwards was installed at the National Convention

