



# 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"*

On Saturday, October 18 the Executive board held a Special Meeting in Chamberlain, SD. This meeting was requested by a majority of the District Presidents for the purpose of discussing the Department headquarters staff. Contrary to many of the rumors that you may have heard, this meeting was NOT for the purpose of firing the Department secretary but rather to address the ongoing issue that we have regarding our financial statements.

As individuals you all file a yearly tax return, as a nonprofit organization we are also required to file a tax return, referred to as a "990". Our financial year ends on April 30; as of this date we have not filed our "990" for the year ending April 30, 2013 or for the year ending April 30, 2014. The lack of filing is due to the fact our financial statement have not been completed.

Imagine running a business and not knowing what sales and expenses were for two years. How would you know if you could afford to give your employees a raise or to take a vacation? *Continued on page 3)*



## Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation — By Dept. Chairman Becky Hawkins

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families. Being one of the four pillars of the American Legion, VA & R works to provide Auxiliary members opportunities to serve veterans and their families as volunteers at VA health care facilities through the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS). Be sure to track your hours that you do volunteer as a VAVS volunteer. If there isn't a facility around you find ways to volunteer in your area – visit a shut in, bake for a stand down or help a veteran in their home. We all can think of a shut in that would love a visit once in a while.

This year the member approved merge of Field Service and Home Service begins. All hours will be combined under the heading of "Service to Veterans." A new "Service to Veterans" pin has been designed to reflect this change. Please be sure to report all of your members that earned the new Service to Veterans pin.

One of the objectives of the VA & R program this year is to familiarize ourselves with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation for caregivers. ([www.elizabethdolefoundation.org](http://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org)) Some of you may remember hearing Melissa Johnson speak at midwinter conference 2013. Melissa is the fellow for this foundation for the state of South Dakota and does a wonderful job giving people and inside look at taking care of veterans after they have been injured serving our country.

Another objective this year is the Quilts of Valor program. This is an excellent way for you to serve veterans without leaving home. Even if you aren't a quilter you can find someone that is and donate materials or offer to help cut materials for those that do quilting in your unit. You can find more information on this program at [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org)

Again this year we are reminded to raise awareness of the number of homeless veterans, especially women veterans and those with children. The National coalition for Homeless Veterans states that homeless veterans are mostly males with about 8% females. Most are single, and many suffer from mental illness, alcohol and or substance abuse. About 12,700 veterans of the most recent conflicts were homeless in 2014 and the number of younger homeless veterans is increasing. If you have a VA Medical center in your area work with the homeless coordinator to see what kinds of programs they already offer and how you can help. Remember that you can use poppy funds to support the needs of homeless veterans.

I hope that by now you have been able to send a donation for the Christmas gift shops in the state. I am looking forward to helping out at the Christmas Gift Shops at the VA facilities this fall and I hope you are too. It doesn't matter who your unit is "assigned" to your help is always appreciated no matter where you are able to volunteer. If you are able to volunteer be sure to take someone with you – the more the merrier!

# The Grassroots Corner

*Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work*



## Gold Star Mother Day

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39 news honored Lois Pasch on Gold Star Mother Day, September 29. Lois lost her son, Bill, in the Vietnam War. Back row: Tami Zimney, Delores Koll, Lori Oliver, Beulah Hoops, Deb Olson, Marian Raines, Rich Helmer, and Gary Hoops. Front row: Sherry McKiver, Lois Pasch, Don Pasch, and Jan Seibel.



## Education Program

### Dictionaries for 3rd Graders

Miley-Minahan Legion Auxiliary of Lake Andes handed out dictionaries to the Andes Central 3rd graders. A project they do every year and the teachers & students enjoy getting their own dictionary.



## Unit 45 "Pie Break"

The Harrisburg Unit 45 rode in the Homecoming Parade then served various pies. This "Pie Break" has been an over 50 year tradition after the parade and a fundraiser for the unit.



## Legionette Subscriptions

The paper edition of the Legionette is mailed from January through December for the new 2015 subscribers. Emails will be sent out once the information is received from headquarters.

## In Memoriam

### Unit 2 Tyndall

Delores Vellek – September 2014

### Unit 7 Huron

Alice Holm – August 2014

### Unit 14 Wessington Springs

Lucille Frank – August 2014

### Unit 23 Garretson

Theresa Bruggeman – February 2013

Patricia A. Frerichs – December 2013

### Unit 35 Highmore

Janet Kusser – September 2014

### Unit 56 Geddes

Alice Kolecka – May 2014

### Unit 59 Wolsey

Mavis Price – July 2014

### Unit 65 Dell Rapids

Darlene Thompson Lodmell – August 14

### Unit 71 Hot Springs

Beverly Bauer – January 2013

Darla Popkes – July 2014

Josephine Schmitt – August 2014

Nina Wynia – August 2014

### Unit 74 Brookings

Gloria Davis – June 2014

Emma Dimit – September 2014

### Unit 102 Faulkton Focannon

Dorothy Kalkman – June 2014

Brenda Thakes – August 2014

Lucille Thakes – September 2014

### Unit 110 Wessington

Faith Cahalan – November 2013

Berniece Clarke – October 2013

### Unit 140 Salem

Geraldine Scharffenberg – October 2014

### Unit 148 Conde

Margaret Holmquist – August 2014

### Unit 157 Vivian

Carolyn Smith – June 2014

### Unit 184 Estelline

Geneva Archer – August 2014

Ruth Ebbers – August 2014

### Unit 210 Mt. Vernon

Mildred Jorgensen – January 2014

Marie Long – March 2014

### Unit 246 Wall

Lois Bordeaux – August 2014

### Unit 259 Roscoe

Renetta Himmerich – May 2014

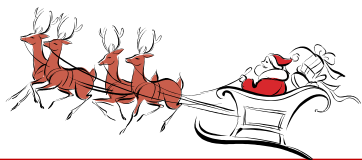
Adeline Krebs – June 2012

Ann Prisbe – March 2014

### Unit 301 Draper

Margaret L. Rankin – July 2014





## 2014 Christmas Gift Shop

Call Facility Representatives for Hours

**Hot Springs State Home Nov 16-18, 2014**

Diane Simunek 605-890-3093

**Ft. Meade Nov 18-20, 2014 - JoanAnn**

Goeringer 605-717-6900

**Hot Springs VA Nov 19-21, 2014 - Susie**

Clyde 605-890-1854

**Human Services Center December 1, 2014**

Cheryl & Irene Hovorka 605-665-5635

**Sioux Falls VA Dec 1-3, 2014 - Sherry**

Woljer 605-201-2361

## Christmas Party

**Hot Springs State Home December 6, 2014**

Nancy Keith 605-745-3850

**Hot Springs VA December 7, 2014 - Susie**

Clyde 605-890-1854

**Ft. Meade December 8, 2014 - Alice Hol-**

comb 605-375-3459

**Human Service Center, December 10,**

2014 - Cheryl Hovorka 605-665-5635

**Sioux Falls VA December 11, 2014 - Alice**

Upshaw 605-553-4452

## 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.

## "Because of the Brave" Continued from page 1.

As an organization our mission is the Veterans – but in order to work our programs, provide shower items to the VA's, and support our Veterans in the many ways that we do with monetary donations we need to know where our money is. That is why these financial statements are so important.

Also, as a nonprofit we have an obligation to file our 990 with the IRS by the due dates specified – and we have not done that.

In order to address these concerns the Executive Board passed four Resolutions on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a summary of those Resolutions:

**Resolution 2014-001:** *Department Secretary and Department Treasurer are suspended with full pay and benefits, until such time as the Executive Committee resolves the outstanding issues and so long as they comply with all requests to turn over records and property of the organization.*

**Resolution 2014-002:** *Department President shall appoint a committee under the authority of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota By Laws, Article II. to carry out the business of the Department with minimal interruption.*

**Resolution 2014-003:** *Department Finance Chairperson is instructed and authorized to immediately collect and take custody of all financial and other records of the Department currently in the possession of the Department Secretary and/or Treasurer.*

**Resolution 2014-004:** *Department President is authorized to contract with a reputable accounting firm to conduct an audit of the Department's accounts, monies, warrants and any other financial matters*

*The action of the Executive Committee in no way conveys or denotes that the Executive Committee has found any wrong doing on the part of the Department Secretary or Department Treasurer, but rather that it is exercising its legal and fiduciary obligations to the corporation as corporate officers.*

For every Auxiliary member that supports this move there is one that does not. This has been a very difficult decision for many of us, and definitely not an easy one, or one that was made without legal advice. People will be critical of these decisions; stating it was not necessary. Others will crucify us for not doing something sooner and wanting to know why it was let to go on this long. And many people will not take the time to read this entire article in order to become informed. Pardon my French "But damned if you do and damn if you don't."

Our focus is Veterans, Active Duty Military and Military Families – but in order to carry out the mission of our organization we must have our affairs in order.

Carol Edwards, Department President

## Our Juniors' Corner



*The future of Canova American Legion Auxiliary # 61 - The four juniors are Katelyn Haufman, Abigail Walter, Adeline Miles in the back and Violet Miles in front.*

*Right: Elise Derrek is making gifts for the long-term care veterans at Ft. Meade VA for Make-a-Difference Day - Spearfish Unit 164.*



**November Prayer**  
By *Teresa Huntimer* -  
Dept. Chaplain

Thanksgiving Prayer for Our Soldiers

Today we gather around the dinner table and family and friends to share good food, warm laughter and happy memories of Thanksgivings past. But for many families whose loved ones serve in the Armed Forces, this year's Thanksgiving celebration will not be complete. So those of us who are blessed to be with our families celebrate and give thanks, let us remember in our prayers the homes that have empty chairs at the table and offer a special prayer of thanksgiving and ask God's blessing for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, whose service and sacrifice make the world a better and safer place.

And a very special prayer dear God for those homes that have an empty chair that will forever remain vacant, may their sacrifice have not been in vain.

May God Bless Our Troops abroad and at home. Amen

Happy Thanksgiving!

## November Guide

### "Veterans Day"

Plan a Veterans Day Program (School, Community, Veterans Facilities)

November 1: Mail in Poppy Orders

November 10: Auxiliary Birthday

November 11: National Membership Goal - 60%

November 15: Mid-Year Reports to District Presidents

November 16: National Family Volunteer Day

November 25: Thanksgiving Day

December 1: Cash Donations for Christmas Rehabilitation Fund - \$5 per Veteran, for as many veterans you can serve.



## The President's Project Receives \$1000

The staff and management of Madame Peacock's Beer and Bling in Deadwood decided to put the needs of veterans before their own.



Tips that were collected have been selflessly donated by the staff towards President Carol Edwards' project to establish Wi-Fi service at Ft. Meade VA Hospital on the Hospice Wing.



## Children & Youth Department Chairman at the National Conference in Indianapolis

Melanie Martens, Department First-Vice President and Children & Youth chairman brought back great ideas from the conference. Do you know a child who did something special, ask her about the Good Deeds cards!

## Stay Informed

New email: [southdakotaala@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaala@gmail.com)

Visit us on our website: [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

New phone number: 605-461-3389

Find us on Facebook: South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary

### GIRLS STATE REMINDER

Please return the Unit Chairman mailing data form that was in the October mailing to me by December 1, 2014. All Girls State information and mailings will be sent directly to the units – the schools will **NOT** be receiving any information. If the form is not returned, the material will automatically be sent to the Unit President. If you need a form, you can contact me or the form can be found on the department's website (<http://www.sdlegionaux.org>) under Department Plans of Action.

Also in the October mailing was a "Mark Your Calendar" postcard promoting the dates, location and deadlines for the 2015 Boys & Girls State sessions. This card was mailed to all public, private and BIA schools in the state.

Cheryl Hovorka

Girls State Director/Chairman

Want to see more pictures from the District meetings and unit projects?

Subscribe to the email Legionette - in color with more pages!

THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
**LEGIONETTE**  
Official Publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota –  
Published monthly except July and August at Spearfish, SD from September 2014, forward. Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701-2917. Subscription rate: \$3.00 per year. Dates from January through December. All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of each month preceding current issues. We do not pay for the postage cost of address changes.



## Pictures from the Fall District Meetings

### District 1 - Lemmon



ND ALA Department President Arla Roth was the guest of honor at the District 1 fall meeting. Pictured are ND ALA President, SD ALA President Carol Edwards and 2nd Vice-President Melanie Martens.

The Spearfish Unit 164 received two national awards. The first award is for the Northwestern Division Outstanding Community program award and the second one is a national citation for leadership. This citation recognizes the unit in the Northwest Division who had the highest percentage of members taking the leadership training.

President Carol Edwards received a plaque for the National best VA&R Department Program.



### District 2 - Hermosa



### District 3 - Gettysburg



### District 4 - Doland



At the District 4, juniors were honored for the patches program. Pictured left to right: Beth Vanderwal, Jayden Mielke, Brooklin Halverson, and Carol Edwards.

Below, Jayden Mielke from Unit 151 receives the Americanism Essay Contest Award for the Best Essay in the Northwestern Division Class 1. She is pictured with Dept. President Carol Edwards, Dept. Americanism Chairman and Dept. Past-President Janet Hurlbert. Below Jayden is surrounded by her family: her grandmother, great aunt, and mother Mary Hagen-Mielke.

The theme of the essay was: "How can I show my pride in being an American?"





### District 5– Big Stone City



### District 6 - Mitchell

District 6 Fall meeting was held September 28th at Mitchell, SD at the post home. Roll call was answered by 46 auxiliary members and many guests. Dept. President Carol Edwards presented her program for the year and along with the Membership chairman Jane Benzel entertained the group with a

“Jeep ride” demonstrating how to get to the top of the summit. Department chairmen talked about their programs. Door prizes of “jar cookies” were awarded. The meeting adjourned and an evening meal was served. Thank you Mitchell Unit #18! By Judy Winegar, District 6 President.



Roberta Olsen from the Mt. Vernon Unit received the National Citation for the Unit Community Service.



Pictured from left to right: Theresa Huntimer, Dept. Chaplain; Carol Edwards, Dept. President; Pat Coyle, past Dept. Secretary; Regina Whipple, Past Dept. President; & Jane Benzel, Dept. Membership Chairman.

**District 7 - Garretson**



**District 8 - Centerville**



Jane Benzel, Dept. Membership Chairman shows her graphic with little jeeps to ride to the top. Below: Dept. President Carol Edwards entertains the auxiliary members with her program.

