



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"

The temperatures are below freezing; the roads are treacherous and every other day there are storm warnings some place in South Dakota. It must mean that it is time for the American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shops!!

Thank you to all the Units for your generous donations and to all the Auxiliary ladies and Legionnaires that have come out to help. I simply love this time of year and I really enjoy the gift shops. It is so rewarding to be able to spend time with our country's real heroes. They always question why we are doing this for them and they never feel like they are worthy – and yet they truly are.

In a few days the Unit Presidents will be receiving the December mailing from Department Headquarters. Presidents, please be sure to share the information with your membership.



Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting Homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SOUTH DAKOTA American Legion Auxiliary
And
Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe

Contribute American Legion Auxiliary "Buddy Basket(s)"

Home-warming Welcome Recipe: Assemble a Laundry Basket/

- Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels – Bathroom Tissue
– Window Cleaner – Scrubbing Cleanser – Rubber Gloves
– Cleaning Sponges – Dust Pan w/Hand Brush – Light Bulbs
– Shower Curtain w/rings – Bath Towels – Laundry Detergent
– Eating Utensils – Dishes – Dish Soap – Dish Towel Set
– Frosted with clear wrap, bow and greeting tag/card

Contribute Single Item(s) of Need

- Bed Sheets (all sizes) – Alarm Clocks – Household Kitchen Items
– Hygiene Products (shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, etc.)
– Sleeping Bags – Buddy Basket Items – Shopping Gift Cards
– Winter Coats – Gloves – Hats (all sizes)

Monetary Donation(s) – Checks payable & mailed to:

SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vet Relief Drive
P.O. Box 1819 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 (Specify Unit #)

SD Operation: Military Kids, Attn: Vet Relief Drive
SDSU West River AG Center 1905 Plaza Blvd. Rapid City, SD 57702

The Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Attn: Vet Relief Drive
P.O. Box 2188 Rapid City, SD 57709

SOUTH DAKOTA DROP-OFF LOCATIONS Through January 10, 2015

- Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk 201 W Cherry St.
– Main Street Center 320 West Main Street
- Sioux Falls - Berakhah House 400 N Western Avenue
- Rapid City - The Cornerstone Rescue Mission 30 Main Street
- Hot Springs, Veterans Town - RadioShack 204 S Chicago St.
- Pierre - Hughes County Courthouse Basement 104 E Capitol Ave.
(Adopted/Supported by Pierre Elks Lodge #1953)
- Additional Locations - Call Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit

Thank you for contributing to
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Centers
to assist our military heroes and their families!



Carol Edwards, SD ALA President proudly supported the Hot Springs High School kicking off the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive at their Veteran's Day Program throughout their school system, supporting the ALA Unit #71 and Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe. The Oelrichs School, ALA Unit # 238 and Vermillion Unit # 134 also joined the kick-off on Veterans Day.

The T.F. Riggs High School participated in the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive, partnering with the ALA Unit #8. ALA President Unit 8, Linda Rae Placek and Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe, joining schools across South Dakota kick-off the relief drive at



Veteran's Day Programs. Any unit or school/youth group participating, please contact Autumn.Simunek@gmail.com for additional information.

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



Backpack Program

Make-a-Difference Day

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. By: Jan Sayler, President



On September 11, 2014, Legion Auxiliary Unit 88 members from White delivered nineteen full-sized quilts plus two lap-size quilts made by Beverly and Janie Bergman to the Sioux Falls VA hospital. Pictured delivering the quilts to VA Volunteer Service Officer Brenda Stevens (center) are Janie Bergman and Beverly Bergman. Not pictured is Deanna Tolrud who helped with the delivery.



Nutcracker Craft' N More Shoppe

This annual event sponsored by the Schmidt-Barnes American Legion Auxiliary of Virgil was held in the New Plains Ballroom in Huron on November 1. Over 30 crafters from around the state invited the community members to get a "head start" on their Christmas shopping. The proceed from the bake sale will send a local junior girl to Girl State next spring.

In Memoriam

Unit 47 Jackson-Hall, Artesian

Joyce Bechen – October 2014

Unit 59 Wolsey

Mavis Price – July 2014

Unit 140 Salem

Geraldine Scharffenberg – October 14

Unit 143 Midland

Alice Stoppel - July 2014

Unit 171 Strandburg

Marie Andersen – September 2014

Unit 194 Parkston

Delores Pries – 2013

Unit 262 Claremont

Katheryn Cutler – June 2014

Nnea Stanley - May 2014

Unit 276 Long Lake

Marlene Gohl – October 2014



December Guide

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day

District Oratorical Contest

January 11, 2015 –

Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8

January 18 Storm Day

January 18, 2015 – District 5

January 25 Storm Day

Dist. 1 – Sturgis Veterans Club at 2:00

Dist. 2 – RC Post 22 at 2:00

Dist. 3 – Pierre, Faith Lutheran Church at 2:00

Dist. 4 – Aberdeen Post 24 Eagles Bldg. at 5:00

Dist. 5 – Watertown Post 17 at 2:00

Dist. 6 – Wolsey Elementary at 2:00

Dist. 7 – Humboldt Post 62 at 2:00

Dist. 8 – Gayville Com. Center at 1:30

THANK YOU

My family and I wish to thank all who remembered us in any way during the final illness and passing of my husband Patrick (PJ) Coyle. As I once wrote of the American Legion Family, "We laugh together, we cry together, we pray together and for each other." Please know that your prayers and words of comfort made this difficult time easier to bear. God bless the American Legion Family.

Pat Coyle, Past Department Secretary

Membership

by Dept. Chairman Jane Benzel

Membership is climbing the summit. We are in 34th place but less than half a percent behind three other states. We have 49% of membership in so are nearly half way to the top of that summit. We didn't make the 60% Veterans Day goal but we can shoot for the Valentine's Day goal.

Also, remember, President Carol will reward the district that has the highest membership at Mid-Winter on her birthday. Don't forget to check out my blog on the website. I will try to keep you updated weekly.

ADVANCE TICKET FORM

American Legion Auxiliary – Saturday, February 7, 2015

Deadline to order tickets is JANUARY 15, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, February 7, 2015 – NOON

Menu: DELI BUFFET – Sliced Roast Beef, Turkey & Ham, sliced American & Swiss Cheeses, Soup of the Day, Chef's Choice of two Salads, lettuce, tomato & pickles, assorted condiments and breads.

Number of tickets _____ x \$13.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, February 7, 2015 – 6:30 PM

Menu: Crispy Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Bread. Served as a Buffet

Number of tickets _____ x \$16.00 per ticket = \$ _____

TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Luncheon and/or Auxiliary Banquet \$ _____

() Check box for special dietary needs

Make checks payable to: Codington County ALA Unit #17

Send To: Julie Michel

NO TICKETS WILL BE

P.O. Bo x 1432, Watertown, SD 57201 AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!!!

2014 Christmas Parties

Hot Springs Christmas Parties at the State Veterans Home will be Saturday, **December 6th at 1:00** and the Hot Springs VA's party will be **December 7th at 1:30**. It is rewarding to share some time with our veterans and help them celebrate the Holidays. There will be entertainment by the Hot Springs High School show choir and refreshments along with fellowship with the residents at both parties. All are welcome. We hope some of you can attend.

Ft. Meade December 8, 2014

Human Service Center, December 10, 2014

Sioux Falls VA December 11, 2014

Check your guide for facility representatives' information

2015 Mid Winter Conference Joint Banquet

Watertown Event Center

February 6, 2015

Hosted by Codington County American Legion Post # 17 – Watertown

Deadline to order tickets is JANUARY 15, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

MENU: Bacon wrapped Pork Chops, Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread, Coffee & Water

Number of tickets _____ x \$25.00 per ticket = \$ _____

SEND TO: Codington Post 17

Box 292

Watertown, SD 57201

**NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!**



Poppy

By Dept. Poppy Chairman Dorothy Richards

Just a little **REMINDER** to submit your poppy orders. The Vets in the Hot Springs VA are working enthusiastically to get 'er done! I have inserted a letter in each box with suggestions on what to do with your poppies and what to do with the monies raised. Good luck and let's see those orders!

**Merry
Christmas**

December Prayer

By Teresa Huntimer -Dept. Chaplain
Silent Night
Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, All is Bright

These words from this favorite Christmas Carol of mine has made me think of the first Christmas. How silent it was with just the sounds Mother Nature. How bright with no electricity. There was that star!

This Christmas let us try to have a (silent: no TV, phones, and Electric devices) and (bright: Christmas lights and candles).

Please light that candle for our troops that won't be home for Christmas. The best gifts to them are Prayers.

Lord, send your angels to protect our men and women in the Armed Forces, their families, and all our Veterans. May they experience the meaning of PEACE on EARTH. In the Name of the Holy One - Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

Merry Christmas to you and your Families



Piedmont Valley Auxiliary Unit 311 members interacting with 2nd graders at the Piedmont Valley Elementary School as the ALA members explained the history of the Pledge of Allegiance and distributed Pledge of Allegiance magnets and coloring sheets to the 2nd graders on Veterans Day.

A Poem by Jon M Nelson...

The soldier gives the right to bear arms,
 By carrying a weapon of his own in War.
 The soldier keeps us all safe from harm,
 By defending us on a foreign shore.

The soldier gives the right to protest,
 By standing up against what is wrong.
 The soldier keeps us safe as we rest,
 By defending through the nights so long.

The soldier gives the right to free speech,
 By speaking out what is on his mind.
 The soldier keeps our safety in reach,
 By leaving his family and home behind.

The soldier gives the right to free press,
 By the stories he will have to tell.
 The soldier keeps us safe from distress,
 By putting himself through a living hell.

The soldier gives the right to religious freedom,
 By taking a moment to stop and pray.
 The soldier keeps us safe from things to come,
 By being on the frontline every day.

The soldier gives the right to protest,
 By standing up against what is wrong.
 The soldier keeps us safe as we rest,
 By defending through the nights so long.

"Because of the Brave"

Continued from page 1.

Enclosed you will find the schedule of events for the Mid-Winter Conference scheduled for February 6-8, 2015 in Watertown, SD. Also, in this edition of the Legionette you will find the order forms for the Joint Banquet and for the Auxiliary Banquet – please note that the deadline for tickets is mid-January. All tickets need to be ordered in advance – no tickets will be available at the conference. We have made some great headway regarding our financial statements and hopefully by the time you receive this publication our IRS 990 will be filed for 2012-2013!!! That is truly great news. Please keep checking out the Department website for updates from our Department Chairman and on events happening within our Department.

Stay warm and travel safe!

Carol Edwards, Department 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

The 2015 Legionette

The January issue will be the first one of the 2015 subscriptions. In order to receive yours, make sure to send your money directly to Headquarters PO Box 1819, Sioux Falls SD 57101. Checks coming in with the editor's name cannot be cashed. Headquarters verifies the payment and forwards the list of subscribers to me.

Next month, if you did not receive your January 2015 issue, contact me by email at Micheline.Nelson@live.com or call me at 605-645-1346. Thank you for your understanding! Micheline Nelson

Gift Shops and Christmas Parties will be featured in the January Legionette.

Want to see more pictures?

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.

Veterans Day Programs

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



Olivia Breen, winner of the Unit 11 American Legion Auxiliary essay Contest, read her essay at the Veterans Day Program at the Wagner School.

Greer Post Commander Mark Wiechmann and VFW Commander Tony Krcil were presented sand from Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, to be displayed at the Post.



On November 8, the Deadwood Business Association with the leadership of Department President Carol Edwards, organized its second annual Veterans Salute, open to all veterans, their families and the community. Veterans from each war were honored during the program: pictured are Duane Riedlinger, Mel Carlson, ALA Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, Nile Harris and Art Nelson. To start the program, the Lead High School Band provided a patriotic entertainment to include the Star Spangled Banner. The Black Hills Chapter of The American Legion Riders did the POW/MIA white table ceremony. The silent auction raised money for the ALA President's Propjet and the Avenue of Flags the Black Hills National Cemetery. A free dinner concluded the evening.



Veterans Day Programs

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



Ft. Meade VA, Sturgis



On November 10, The Spearfish Senior Line Dancers and members of Spearfish Unit 164 braved the sub-zero temperatures and high winds to perform and share refreshments with the long term care veterans at Ft. Meade VA. This was the second annual veterans Day program at Ft. Meade VA.

Above right, Lynn Pohlman serving punch to the veterans; next Micheline Nelson preparing the punch and Ginger Childers leading the Spearfish Senior Line Dancers to the tunes of Sinatra and patriotic songs.



Spearfish Veterans Day Dinner

This Veterans joint event is sponsored by the Legion Post 164 and the VFW. A free dinner with a light program is provided every year to over 250 people. The auxiliary members decorated the hall. Pictured are Charlene Kain, Lynn Pohlman, Micheline Nelson and Sandra Dean.



National Education Week

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



Piedmont Valley Unit 311 delivered sweetbreads to all teachers and staff at the Piedmont elementary school during National Education Week. Members bake over 30 breads the night before and sliced them up in the morning before delivering them for staff and students to enjoy this homemade snack.

Members shown in the pictures are Golda Galyen, Mary Wranek, Kim Anderson and Elsie Dieken.

The Grassroots Corner cont.

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work

The Star Spangled Kid Project

Hermosa Unit 303 and Lead Unit 31 collaborated to prepare educational kits for children in the school district who will learn about the history of the U.S.A. from the aspect of patriotism and the Constitution. Some of the members pictured are Melanie Martens, Marcella Ann Root, Pat Adams, Deb MacDonald, and Shelley Drago.



Supporting our VA Facilities

Becky Hawkins 1st Vice Pres. and VA&R Chairman asked her dentist Dr. Merxbauer for supplies for the VA facilities in SD. There were 250 toothbrushes and dental floss waiting to be delivered. The power of asking!

Membership Celebration

Dell Rapid Unit 65, celebrated its members' membership longevity from 1 year to 65 years at a luncheon.

