



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

Mid Winter Convention Speaker

Lori Skallerud

Northwest Division Vice President



Lori is a 45 year member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 158 of Madison, Minnesota. Eligible through her father a World War II veteran, her late husband a Korean Conflict veteran and her brother, a Viet Nam veteran.

Lori has served all offices of her Unit and District. She served as Department President of Minnesota 2005-2006. She has active and has held nearly all chairmanships for her Unit and District, along with several Department chairmanships. On the National Level, she has served as Vice Chairman for Membership, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, National Security, Community Service and Poppy. She has also served as committee member on Americanism and National Security. She served as NEC and Alternate NEC, along with working on the National Strategic Planning committees.

Lori is widowed and has three grown, married children and six grandchildren. Last year Lori started a small business "Snuggable Memory Bears". She makes Teddy Bears from clothing of loved ones who have passed away.

Along with sewing, she enjoys baking, reading, knitting, crocheting, tatting and spending time with her family.



Mid Winter Events & Activities

Program Fair, Friday, February 6

The Program Fair will work a lot like a "Job Fair" – each Department Chairman will have their own station and you will be able to sit and talk one on one with the Department Chairman; ask questions and get ideas on what your Unit can do to support a specific program.

The following Department Chairman plan to attend and participate in the new activity – the whole plan is to get as much information into the hands of the members as possible. So bring your questions and plan to take advantage of this opportunity. The following programs and chairmanship will set-up tables: Americanism; Chaplain; Children & Youth; Constitution & Bylaws; Education; Girls State; Leadership; Legionette; Legislative; National Security; Public Relations; VA & R; and Parliamentarian.

Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, February 7

The theme for the Mid Winter Auxiliary Banquet is "**Wear your favorite HAT!**" *And dress accordingly.* If you would like to wear your cowboy hat with your Levi's and boots – great; a crown with your Homecoming dress or a beach hat and bikini – that's fine to. The whole point of the evening is to let your hair down, have a few laughs and make some memories. So use your imagination and take part – it's all about having some fun!!

From Department First Vice President Becky Hawkins

Please bring flip flops and also any personal hygiene items that people get when staying in motels.

From Department Second Vice President Melanie Martens

I would like to remind the units to continue to send their monies into Dept. Headquarters, the unit with the most monies turned in by Jan. 15, 2015 will receive the gift basket full of items to take back and share with their members.

National Security — By Dept. Chairman Janet Hurlbert

The National Security Program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

You ask what your Unit can do to support active-duty military families and those who may be a military family in need. Our troops need us NOW more than EVER! It's time to rally our Units and help our Nation's heroes. I would like to share with you an ACTION ALERT that I received from the Department of Kansas. Over 500 men and women of the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley were deployed to Iraq. Many of these soldiers are in very remote locations with no contact to receive comfort items, toiletries, and other helpful supplies. (Continued on page 2)

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self

MID WINTER SILENT AUCTION GUIDELINES

After the holidays, many need something to look forward to besides a long cold winter. The Mid Winter Conference will be at the Watertown Event Center February 6-8, 2015. A popular attraction of Mid Winter is the Silent Auction---a great way to show off your creative talents! We ask that every Unit donate a special item; one that you would be willing to bid on and take home. All items should be new and in excellent condition. Be creative and put together a basket with a theme, bundle several handcrafted items, or submit some of your favorite jams or jellies from last summer's bountiful harvest! Please note the following details about donations and bidding:

- Donations will be accepted Friday from 1:00-4:00 PM
- Bids will be accepted Friday, 1:00-5:00 PM and Saturday, 7:30 AM-3:30 PM.
- Bidding will close on Saturday at 3:30 PM.
- Winning bidders must pick up their items by 6:00 PM Saturday.
- Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards the "Audit Bill" for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 financials.

All donations become the property of SD ALA; we so appreciate your generosity! I am new to this chairmanship and am looking for any suggestions on how to keep it as popular as in the past. I will be assisted by a group of ladies who have much experience and insight into making this event successful. Teresa Huntimer, Alice Upshaw, and Sue Christensen have all agreed to help. Please share your ideas with any of these ladies or email me at jean9jilek@yahoo.com. See you at Mid-winter! *Jeannine Jilek, Silent Auction Chairman*

National Security (Janet Hurlbert)

The instructions for this project were as follows:

- Go to the Post Office and get a free Priority Mail Large Rate Box(ex)
- Fill the box to capacity with items from the list below
- The cost to ship each box is \$15.80
- Please include a note card of "Thanks" and identify your ALA Unit and state as the sender
- Take a photo of you/your Unit with your box(es) and send it to me along with a short narrative about your project. This is important for the year-end report.

The needs list includes: dry drink mix packets, chewing gum, beef jerky, crackers, assorted chips/pretzels/Doritos, chocolate, peanuts/assorted nuts, hard candy, sunflower seeds, cough drops, trail mix, granola bars, toiletries, hygiene supplies, hand sanitizer, and tea bags are a few of the items listed. In order to send the box, you will need to contact me by phone at 605-233-1232 or by email at cifarmer@itctel.com for the private APO address. The Sergeant who will be distributing the boxes to the troops in Iraq has requested his address NOT be posted on social media. Please DO NOT use his address on a flier to distribute to your members. It is very important that you tell your

Post Office that this is a NEW ZIP CODE and the package is deliverable.

Now let's move on to Year-End Reports – as the Department National Security Chairman, I am required to submit a narrative report by May 15, 2015. These reports are due to me by May 1st from each District President. Without your Unit reports, your Department Chairman cannot generate her report. This is the only way that the Department of South Dakota can tell others what is happening here.

There are also several Department awards that your Units can apply for. Each award application must include a cover sheet. They include:

The Department National Security Program

Award – presented to 1 department in each division. This would be the Northwest Division for South Dakota.

Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT)

Plaque – presented to one department.

There are also Unit Awards. These include:

Military Support Unit Award—one Unit Chairman in each division

Million Member Award – One Unit Chairman in each division

Be sure to include all projects in your narrative along with pictures, news articles and a complete description of what your Unit has done.

Please keep all of the service men and women in your prayers.

In Memoriam

Unit 11 Wagner

Beverly Gau – November 2014

Unit 24 Aberdeen

Doris Ergel – April 2014

Carol Hayes – October 2014

Unit 25 Madison

Nettie Heilman – July 2014

Ann Holter – October 2014

Betty Lowe – June 2014

Sherrie Schnell – March 2014

Barbara Turner – September 2014

Unit 48 Rosholt

Viola Wieser – November 2014

Unit 56 Geddes

Darlene Raysby – November 2014

Unit 65 Dell Rapids

Fern Nemmers – November 2014

Unit 80 Britton

Doris Freiss – October 2014

Carol Kurth – November 2014

Unit 88 White

Gladys Raine – October 2014

Unit 100 Selby

Darlene Moak – May 2014

Unit 110 Wessington

(Marvis) Jean Hohm – November 2014

Unit 118 Hartford

Rudell Pierson – March 2014

Unit 143 Midland

Alice Stoppel – July 2014

Unit 166 Emery

Joan Berg – November 2014

Unit 171 Strandburg

Marie Andersen – September 2014

Unit 175 Baltic

Fern Keizer – November 2014

Unit 183 Tabor

Mary Hovorka – July 2014

Betty Kocer – May 2014

Marjorie Scherschligt – November 2014

Evelyn Stibral – October 2014





**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE – 2015
WATERTOWN, SD**

Friday, February 6, 2015

12:00 (Noon) Registration Desk Opens
Silent Auction

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM **PROGRAM FAIR**

6:00 PM No Host Cocktails
7:00 PM Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

Saturday, February 7, 2015

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
Silent Auction Opens

8:00 AM Joint Opening Session
8:30 AM **National Vice-Commander Paul Sanford**
8:55 AM Auxiliary VA & R Briefing – Becky Hawkins, 1st Vice President
9:10 AM Auxiliary Children & Youth – Melanie Martens, 2nd Vice President
9:25 AM **Larry Zimmerman, Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs**
9:45 AM **Charles Schmidt – Candidate for National Commander**

10:00 AM Auxiliary Session Opens
Department Report – Carol Edwards, President
Constitution & Bylaws – Cindy Hanson
Membership – Jane Benzel
11:30 AM Recess – Check on your Silent Auction Items!!!

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM **Lori Skallerud – Northwest Division Vice President**
Girls State – Cheryl Hovorka
Juniors – Michelle Stuck
Year End Reports – Carol Edwards, President
3:30 PM Silent Auction CLOSES
4:00 PM Awards / Announcement / Drawings / Adjourn

6:00 PM No Host Cocktail
6:30 PM **Auxiliary Banquet - “Wear Your Favorite Hat”**
Entertainment by Lonnie Carpenter

Sunday, February 8, 2015

8:30 AM Non – Denominational Service
10:30 AM Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

January Guide

Happy New Year 2015

January 15: Banquet Tickets for Mid Winter Due

January 15: Veterans Holiday Relief Project Concludes - Send Information to Autumn Simunek

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 1: Girls State Journalism - Applications Due

February 1: National Security Donations

February 6-8: Department Mid Winter Convention in Watertown, SD

Applications are due for those who wish to serve on national committees

Ready for the Christmas Parties

This was the Mitchell Legion Auxiliary unit Mt Vernon who decorated at the VA hospital in Sioux Falls



Christmas Parties!

Additional pictures in the emailed Legionette



Dept. President Carol Edwards as Mrs. Claus and Dept. Commander Tim Jurgens traveled around the state to participate in all the Christmas parties and visited with veterans as carols were sung, cookies shared under Christmas lights and cheers.

Pictured: Rod Martens, Melanie Martens, Nancy Keith, Denny Brenden, Carol Edwards, Russ Edwards, Tim Jurgens, Donna Jurgens, Duane Riedlinger, Helen Riedlinger, Jane Benzel at the State Home in Hot Springs.

January Prayer
 By *Teresa Huntimer -*
Dept. Chaplain

Heaven's Stairs

Prayer is the staircase to heaven, climb that leads to the treasures of God's mercies and blessings. Your prayers link you to God and allow you to sense his presence and get to know him intimately.

When you speak honestly in your own personality, holding nothing back, God becomes your trusted friend. You love and enjoy him because he is there with you. Pray with a believing heart, and your relationship with God will deepen and mature. Your spirit will be at peace. Praying soul are confident and peaceful.

The greatest gift to our military, their families, and our veterans is Prayer !

Celebrating Christmas



Unit 45 from Harrisburg celebrated Christmas with a potluck that was well attended!



Gifts to the Local Food Pantry & Blankets for Ft. Meade VA

Unit 66 from Lemmon - Christmas Party



A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards, Department President



"Because of the Brave"

This article will be short, as I know there is a lot of information regarding the Mid Winter Conference that needs to be published. I am so excited to announce that on December 9, 2014 the IRS 990 for 2012-2013 was filed!!! This is AWESOME news! We have submitted an extension for the IRS 990 2013-2014, it is now due on February 15, 2015. At an Executive Meeting held on December 13, 2013 Laurel Stinger was appointed as the Temporary Secretary and Regina Whipple was appointed the Temporary Treasurer for the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. Be sure to make your plans to attend Mid Winter!! In the Spirit of Goodwill.....Carol

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

President's Project

A check for \$2,000 was presented to the SD American Legion Auxiliary members during the Deadwood Business annual holiday mixer. Accepting the check is Carol Edwards, SD American Legion Auxiliary President. Carol's Presidents Project is to establish Wi-Fi "hot spots" in the hospice wing in the Ft. Meade VA Long Term Care unit. Availability of this service will have a profound impact on both Veterans and their families utilizing the services of this unit. The DBC sent many thanks to Carol and her dedication to the needs of local Veterans and their families. They wish her the best in her year as SD Auxiliary President and they are proud to be able to dedicate these funds to her President's Project.



Want to see more pictures from the Christmas Parties and Veteran Relief Project? 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.

*Christmas for our Veterans
Gift Shops 2014*



Another successful year serving our veterans and their families as gifts are picked, lists are checked, presents wrapped and mailed out.

Pictures from top to bottom:

Sioux Falls VA and Ft. Meade VA

Hot Springs Veterans State Home

Human Services in Yankton

Hot Springs VA



Christmas for our Veterans
Christmas Parties 2014



Department President Carol Edwards with Commander Tim Jurgens and his wife Donna walked the halls of Ft. Meade VA with the carolers from Buffalo to distribute Christmas gifts. Melanie Martens, Dept. 2nd Vice President with State Vice Commander Phil Pearson and Alice Holcomb Christmas Party Chairman helped give out presents.

On the left, the volunteers at the Hot Springs VA Christmas party including American Legion Riders Post 71.

Christmas for our Veterans
Christmas Parties 2014



Christmas parties at the Sioux Falls VA; Human Services in Yankton; and the Veterans State Home in Hot Springs had many volunteers! To name some pictured: Pat Huls, Carol Edwards, Tim Jurgens, Donna Jurgens, Denny Brenden, Paul Evenson, Terry Hanson, MaryAnn Ackerman, Jane Benzel, Nancy Keith, Helen Riedlinger, Cheryl Hovorka, and Don Ackerman giving Mrs. Claus a ride to the State Home in Hot Springs.



Christmas for our Veterans



Unit 164, Spearfish made 52 Christmas plates and distributed them in seven nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Spearfish.

Mr. & Mrs. Claus (Russ and Carol Edwards) spent Christmas day giving presents to veterans at the State Home in Hot Springs.



Unit 311, Piedmont and Unit 164 participated in the Veterans Holiday Relief Project spearheaded by Autumn Simunek. Baskets and quilts were donated to the homeless veterans at the Cornerstone in Rapid City. There are 41 homeless veterans helped as of Christmas 2014. Pictured: Helen Riedlinger, Lynn Pohlman, Golda Galyen, Cindy Hansen, Carol Edwards, and Micheline Nelson

Honoring of the Lakota Code Talkers by the American Legion at the Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City Civic Center. Legionnaires, auxiliary, riders and sons were present. Presenting the award are Ed Thompson District 2 Commander and Royce Loesch State Vice Commander

