



THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGIONETTE

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

National President in South Dakota

Janet Jefford



Janet Jefford, of Manchester, Conn., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 94th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 22-28.

Jefford joined the American Legion Auxiliary through her father William Lucas, a WWII Army veteran. She is also eligible through her son, Jeff, a Desert Storm Army veteran. Jefford is a member of Goodale-Rameker Unit 56.

Jefford is the first Connecticut resident to represent the American Legion Auxiliary as national president since Helen Lee Gilbert during the 1944-1945 administrative year. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district and department levels, including eight national program chairmanships. She currently serves on the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Planning leadership team.

Jefford recently retired as vice president of institutional effectiveness at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Conn. She served as a commissioner on an agency that accredits schools and colleges, and as president and chairman of the Board of Connecticut Training Center, a community-based non-profit training center.

Jefford has two children and two grandchildren. All are members of The American Legion Family.



Community Service *by Dept. Beth Vander Wal—Chairman*

As per National's Plan of Action (POA), I quote; "The Community Service Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation. By being a brand advocate with the Community Service Program, our members demonstrate who we are, what we do, and why we matter." In essence, by being visible in our activities around our communities, we are promoting volunteerism. Volunteering is the backbone of any community and ALA must be included in that support. Our veterans also depend upon that volunteerism each and every day. Please be sure to report any activities that you do in your community. They are very important.

The five different awards for Community Service are as follows: Unit Community Service Award, "Share What You've Been Doing" Award, Million Members Award, Community Service Senior Member Volunteer Award and Community Service Junior Member Volunteer Award. Please refer to my POA for details.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I am unable to finish my chairmanship this year for Community Service. I apologize to each and every member for this inconvenience. Unless you are told differently at a later date, please submit your award applications and year-end reports to President Carol Edwards. Due dates remain the same. Thank you.

Legislative — *By Dept. Chairman Jeannine Loesch*

January is the month Auxiliary members concentrate on National Security and with Legislative Programs. As the SD Department Legislative Chairman I would like to keep you informed on the Legislation in South Dakota. American Legion Department of SD is watching 13 Bills that deal with Veterans or Veterans issues during the South Dakota Legislative Session in Pierre. Some have already passed and the rest are in the process. Recently I attended the Legislative Reception held in Pierre at the Post 8 American Legion Cabin. It is a time to meet and greet the Legislator's and get information on the Bills that are coming up and how they affect the Veterans.

Some things we can all do: Encourage others to be informed, to participate, to register and to vote. In 2015 we have one new Sen-

ator Michael Rounds, and he joins Senator John Thune and Representative Kristi Noem.

I handed out "Advocacy Guides" at Mid-Winter Conference and if you don't receive one you can request one from the Department Secretary. It is a great resource to refer to and to keep year after year. The National American Legion Vice Commander encourages us to contact our Representatives in Washington, DC, to support the Flag Amendment.

Keep track of phone calls you make and letters you write along with the response's and report them to your District President so she can report them to me on the Year-End Reports. Together we all make a difference supporting our Veterans' issues this year and always.

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self

The March District Meetings

District 1: Saturday 3/28/15 Spearfish Post 164 (Spearfish VFW, 3102 East Fair-ground Loop, Spearfish SD)
11 am Registration; (Silent Auction)
11:30 am Joint Meeting;
12 pm Lunch; (Freewill Donation)
1 pm Auxiliary Meeting at Spearfish VFW.

District 2: Sunday 3/29/15 Hot Springs Post 71, Hot Springs, SD:
3 pm Social;
4 pm Auxiliary Meeting at Post 71;
6 pm Dinner.

Mid-Winter, Watertown

Additional pictures in the e-Legionette



Wear your Favorite Hat— Auxiliary Banquet; Lori Skallerud, Northwest Div. VP and Dept. NEC Janet Hurbert



The Program Fair - Department Chairmen were able to showcase, share, inform, and give information, flyers, and sometimes gifts to participating members. The Legion enjoyed browsing the fair too!

— In Memoriam —

Unit 1 Vermillion

Lucinda Dittmer – June 2014

Unit 9 Milbank

Merle Gulck – January 2015
Marjorie Price – January 2015

Unit 14 Wessington Springs

Dora Burt – November 2014
Joy Belle Burt – February 2015
Janice Schwartz – December 2014

Unit 15 Sioux Falls

Doris Knutson – October 2014

Unit 27 Kadoka

Eileen Heinsohn – January 2015
Florence Hogen – January 2015
Valene Perault – December 2014

Unit 29 Woonsocket

Dorothy Dankey – November 2014
Dolores Steicken – December 2014

Unit 32 Belle Fourche

Beverly Burke – November 2014
Gladys Jeitz – October 2014

Unit 59 Wolsey

Frances Mutchelknaus – Jan. 2015
Mavis Price – July 2014

Unit 60 Clark

Mary Jane Gerhardt – January 2015

Unit 74 Brookings

Louie Lee Koerlin – January 2015

Unit 80 Britton

Helen Grimli – August 2013

Unit 88 White

Marsha Schauer – January 2015

Unit 92 Redfield

Nancy Beardemphl – October 2014
Irene Ell – October 2014

Unit 96 White Lake

Ruth Reuland – January 2015

Unit 100 Selby

Elva Aman Baumann – Jan. 2015
Norma E. Hettich - January 2015

Unit 114 Volga

Betty Wood – January 2015

Unit 131

Josephine Burkman – January 2015

Unit 140 Salem

Geraldine Scharffenberg – Oct.2014

Unit 150 Avon

Clarice Reiff – November 2014
Eileen Skelton – November 2013
Polly Sternhagen – January 2015

Unit 164 Spearfish

Elissa Willuweit – January 2015

Unit 173 Philip

Marguerite Drabek – January 2015
Peggy Drury – January 2015

Unit 235 Marion

Jean Graber – August 2014
Phyllis Luke – August 2014
Phyllis Yopp – July 2014

Unit 250 Castlewood

Eileen Bohls – January 2015
Delma Rasmussen – January 2015
Rachael Westgaurd – January 2015

Unit 315 Box Elder

Jackie Grebe – December 2014

Valentines for the National Salute to our Veterans' Week



Unit 15, Sioux Falls

Patty and Angie Vognild, mother and daughter, came to decorate because they wanted to give back since their husband and dad is retiring after 20+ year of military service to Our Country. Valentines were sent to a company that will be stateside in a short time. They will be returning from the Middle East to Fort Riley, Kansas.

Other boxes of Valentines were given

to Sioux Falls VA Hospital, DAV, and Purple Heart organizations, here in Sioux Falls. They were made by students of John Harris Elementary of Sioux Falls. (Additional pictures in the e-Legionette - It is not too late to send your request for the emailed Legionette with all the pictures of Unit, Department, and National events)



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
National President Janet Jefford
March 17 - 19, 2015**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

8:30 AM Ft. Meade VA Hospital
10:00 AM Old Fort Meade Museum
12:30 PM Lunch at Box Elder, Unit 315 (Freewill Donation)
1:30 PM Ellsworth Air Force Base, Home of the 28th Bomb Wing
5:00 PM Reception & Dinner at Piedmont, Unit 311 (Fee for the meal)

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

9:45 AM Hot Springs National Cemetery—Lay Wreath
10:00 AM Hot Springs VA Hospital Tour & Lunch with Veterans
12:30 PM State Veterans Home Tour followed by Pie & Ice Cream with the Residents
6:00 PM “Burger Night” at the Deadwood VFW (Fee for meal)

Thursday, March 19, 2015

8:30 AM Black Hills State University Veterans Center
10:00 AM Black Hills National Cemetery—Lay Wreath & Tour
11:30 AM Mount Rushmore National Memorial—Tour & Lunch
2:00 PM Crazy Horse Memorial—Tour
4:00 PM Cornerstone Rescue Mission—Homeless Shelter in Rapid City
5:00 PM Reception & Dinner at Unit 22, Rapid City (Fee for the meal)

All Members of the American Legion Family are invited to attend all or any portion of the tour.

Natl. President Janet Jefford will arrive in Rapid City on Monday, March 16, 2015 and leave on Friday, March 20, 2015. She will stay in Deadwood at the LODGE AT DEADWOOD. Her escorts are SD Dept. NEC Janet Hurlbert and Dept. President Carol Edwards

On Thursday, March 19 of the National President’s visit, a bus will depart from THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD with the National President and members of the Legion Family. Our schedule for the day includes Black Hills State University, Black Hills National Cemetery, Piedmont Post for additional riders, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Cornerstone Mission, Post 22 in Rapid City and then back to THE LODGE. We will depart at 8:00 AM and return around 8:00 PM. If you are interested in spending the day with National President on her tour of the Black Hills please contact Helen Riedlinger to “save” your spot at drriedlinger@rap.midco.net. The bus has been graciously donated by The Lodge at Deadwood so there is NO CHARGE to ride along.

Coordinator of the National President’s visit is Helen Riedlinger, Department Public Relations Chairman.

Endorsed Candidate for Department Officer

Because of the recent events at Mid-Winter Conference, with Becky Hawkins no longer wanting to be nominated as Department President, 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. Jane is currently serving as Department Membership Chairman and has worked hand-in-hand with National on South Dakota’s membership. She has gained invaluable knowledge from this chairmanship and of the vital importance of membership to this organization.

Jane has also been elected as Department Chaplain and Historian. She has served several Department chairmanships, including Education for two years, Jr’s for two years, and Music. At the District level, she has served all offices and has been District President for four years. She has served all chairmanships and has been President of Unit 71 for 4 years. She is currently Unit Membership Chairman and Treasurer. It is with pride that we endorse Jane Benzel as a candidate for President of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. We feel she would be an outstanding choice for Department President. Thank you.
Nancy Keith, Unit #71 President

March Guide

March 15: American Legion Birthday

March 15: Legionette Nominees Due to District Presidents

March 15: Send Unit Poem and Essay Winners to District Presidents

DIME SHOWERS: 15 Cents per Member to Dept. Headquarters

Submit Prayers to Dept. Chaplain for President’s Prayer Book

Start Collecting Tracking Forms for the Year-End Reports

Send Girls State Registrations by April 1



Girls State Pins & Certificates

Please hold all orders for Girls State pins and certificates until March 15, 2015. Unit Presidents, inform your Girls State Chairman of this request. Orders received before this date will be on hold. Thank you, Mary Jane Scherschligt
Girls State Secretary/Treasurer



2014 Girls and Boys State Governors 2014 at the Legislature session 2015 with Governor Dugaard.

March Prayer

By Teresa Huntimer -
Dept. Chaplain

A Prayer for Luck

If you think you can't, you really must... In God and our soldiers, please keep the trust to keep us safe day and night, to stand in front and faithfully fight.

In the name of freedom and even love, I pray for Grace from the stars above, that soon one day, we can live in peace, when who are subside world war will cease.

With hope shining from my eyes, I ask for gifts with the bright sunrise.

May luck and joy be with all who know that what you reap, is what you sow.

Irish Blessing

May your day be touched by a bit of Irish luck brighten by a song in your heart and warmed by the smiles of the people you love.

Sioux Falls Elementary Schools Receive Patriotic Books

Pictured: Gene Murphy and Sharon Teunissen.

Sharon is receiving 36 books titled "My Grandpa's War". Sharon has distributed them to all of the Elementary schools in Sioux Falls.

The DAV donated the books to Sharon, a member of Unit 15 to give to all the schools along with books donated by Miller -Boom Funeral Home of Sioux Falls. They donated 35 books "America's White Table," one for every elementary school. Sharon has been invited into many of the schools to read the book "America's White Table." The students help to place the appropriate item on the table at the specific time.

**A Word from the President**

by Carol Edwards, Dept. President

"Because of the Brave"

As I write this article I am able to look out my window and see the Washington Memorial in Washington, DC!!! The 2015 Washington DC Conference has been an amazing experience – something that I wish everyone would attend!!! Right now my head is spinning with information on Fiduciary Stewardship, Civic Health, Family Readiness, Leadership and Caring for Caregivers – and that is just to name a few of the topics covered. I cannot wait to share more with the membership of South Dakota!!

At the Mid Winter Conference Becky Hawkins tendered her resignation as 1st Vice President and VA & R Chairman. The Executive Committee held a meeting and accepted Becky's resignation with regrets. Janet Hurlbert was appointed VA & R Chairman and will complete the year-end reports for this program.

At this time we do not have a leading candidate for Department President. This situation will make our convention unique and exciting. Our elections, to say the least, will be historical!! Therefore I encourage you to send representation from your Unit to be part of this process. Remember you need to have at least one member present to vote your delegates.

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

Membership

By Membership Chairman Jane Benzel

The trail is getting harder to navigate, but the Districts jeeps are still pushing towards the summit. District 1 is in the lead with 85.5% of their goal. Second place is almost a dead heat between District 5 with 78.6% and District 8 with 78.5%. District 4 has 74.6%, District 6 with 74.6%, District 7 with 71.6%, District 3 with 70%, and pushing hard at 63.8%. I want to congratulate Hetland for reaching goal since Mid-Winter Conference! It is getting harder to get those memberships in. Now is the time to make those personal contacts to remind unpaid members to renew.

Right now, South Dakota is in 7th place at 79.3% in the Renew/Rejoin Goal and 24th place in the Numeric Goal Report at 75.2%. I checked the pending memberships waiting confirmation by National and there are 33 memberships there. So if your progress chart doesn't quite agree with your count that might be the reason. Don't give up! Remember, we can do it!

Want to see more pictures from Mid-Winter, Valentine and Veteran Relief Project? Subscribe to the email Legionette

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Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive 2014-2015
Autumn Simunek, Miss Oahe 2015 's Project



Top: Linda Rae Placek and Helen delivered Buddy Baskets to the Hughes County Courthouse. Next is a picture of the fifth grade classes from Pinedale elementary in Rapid City who participated in the project. Top right are the students of Team 8.4 at the Patrick Henry Middle School in Sioux Falls.

Left: Nancy Keith, Unit 71 President with Martha Stave, and Miss Poppy Junior and Senior Shiann Moir and Montana Harper delivering nearly \$1,800 of donations to the VA Black Hills Health Care System. The donations will be distributed to the Hot Springs Veterans Service Office.

Below: Twenty-three Jefferson Elementary 3rd graders from Pierre, proudly displaying some of the items they collected. Their hard work will benefit the veterans who gave all and lost their belonging in the Pierre Capital Inn fire.



*Mid-Winter Convention - Watertown 2015**The Program Fair*

On Friday Department Chairmen had an opportunity to display their programs, engage members in activities and answer questions. The Program Fair was a new addition to the Mid-Winter Convention. It was well received by our auxiliary and visited by Legion members as well. The feedback from participants was positive!

Mid-Winter Convention - Watertown 2015

Photo Gallery: Meetings & Banquet



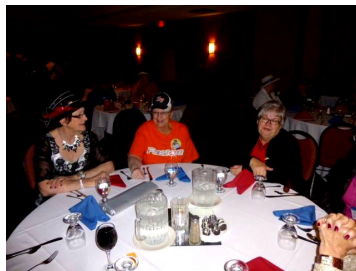
Mid-Winter head table: Melanie Martens, Dept. 2nd Vice; Carol Edwards, Dept. President; Becky Hawkins, Dept. 1st Vice; front Lori Skallerud, Northwest Div. VP and Dept. NEC



Dept. Membership Chairman Jane Benzel gave a certificate for reaching 150% membership to the Spearfish Unit 164. Pictured with Micheline Nelson Unit President, Lynn Pohlman, Unit 1st Vice, and Pam Englund, Unit 2nd Vice.



Elvira Moen and Charlotte Johnson Hoverstadt— Charlotte sold her cookbooks as a fundraiser for Elvira who lost everything in a recent fire.



Valentine for our Veterans
Cards, Valentine Gifts, & Crafts, Dinner and Programs



Spearfish Unit 164 made 80 gift bags to distribute at Ft. Meade VA and the Dorsett Healthcare.



Dell Rapids Unit members were busy making cards for veterans and had a Valentine spaghetti dinner for local veterans.

Homestake Unit 31 of Lead made these crafty angels for the veterans at Ft. Meade VA.



The Spearfish Senior Center Line Dancers performed for 57 residents and family in attendance. Unit 164 visited 19 rooms of veterans to give them a Valentine gift bag.



Sioux Falls Unit 15 made Valentine cards and held a dinner for veterans and their families.

