



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards, Department President



National President Janet Jefford's visit to South Dakota was a HUGE success!! We had tremendous participation not only from the Auxiliary but also from the Legion and the Riders. President Janet was able to spend time with the Auxiliary membership, hospitalized Veterans, Homeless Veterans and college Veterans just to name a few. Mt. Rushmore left her speechless!! Thank you to everyone that helped with this event – we truly left an impact on our National President.

At the end of the National President's visit a plaque was presented to Wes Pleinis and The Lodge at Deadwood for their overwhelming support of the SD ALA and our Veterans. Wes Pleinis, General Manager for the casino, donated the cost of Janet Jefford's suite and also paid the charter bus on Thursday.

Spring District meetings are here and in full swing and I look forward to seeing many of you and hearing your reports. Don't forget, your Unit reports are due to the District Presidents by April 15. I know many of you have been very busy this year – now is the time to credit for what you do!! If you need help with a report contact your District President; or reach out to one of our Past Department Presidents for assistance. (Cont. p. 4)



Children & Youth (C&Y) – By Dept. Chairman Melanie Martens

The American Legion Auxiliary emphasizes its commitment to our children by designating April as Children and Youth month. I hope that you have something special planned for the youth in your area. There are so many things that you can do for children such as reading in a classroom, helping out with lunch or after school programs or volunteering at a local Boys & Girls club. Encourage members to use their imagination; I have already received many reports of activities that have been done for our youth.

Please keep sending in your Youth Hero and Good Deed award nominations. The Youth Hero award is for an individual that performs a heroic act of physical valor;

the Good Deed award is for those who do not meet the criteria of the Youth Hero award but have displayed respect, kindness or patriotism by their actions. Have you handed out your Good Deed cards to deserving youth in your area? Please make sure to record and report your activities.

Our children are valuable gifts to the future of our nation, and, as such sowing the seeds of Patriotism and Americanism is at the heart of Children and Youth activities. Patriotism begins at home for all of us. It's a part of who we are, and for many of us, it is how we were raised. Let's continue to spread Patriotism wherever we go!

Washington, D. C. Annual Conference

Dept. President Carol Edwards was one of more than 300 delegates and distinguished guests who attended the American Legion Auxiliary's annual Washington D.C. Conference. This mid-year event provides the opportunity to hear from Washington experts on issues relevant to the Auxiliary's mission and to meet with Congressional representatives on important legislative priorities.

Other events Dept. President Edwards attended were a ceremonial wreath-laying at the World War II Memorial and

the presentation of the American Legion Auxiliary's Public Spirit Award to The Home Depot Foundation for their work improving the homes of U.S. military veterans and their families.

She also attended the joint session with The American Legion. Issues discussed with Senator Thune and Senator Rounds included the continued efforts to reform the VA, the support for a more efficient VA claim system, the protection of the American Flag, and the fate of the VA Hospital in Hot Springs.

The April District Meetings

District 3: Friday, April 10—Kennebec-Reliance Social 6:00 pm; Meeting 7:00 pm; Dinner to follow

District 4: Saturday, April 11—Stratford Soc. 5:00 pm; Meal 6:00 in the Community Center; Meeting at 7:00 pm

District 5: Sunday, April 12—Brookings - Social 1:15 pm; Meeting 2:00 pm Aux. at the VFW on Main Street

District 6: Friday, April 17—Chamberlain AmericInn Soc. 5:00 pm; Buffet 6:00 pm; Meeting 7:00 pm Rooster Rush Room

District 7: Sunday, April 19—Sioux Falls-Social 1:00 pm; Lunch 2:00 pm; Meeting 3:00 pm PAV 209 N. Garfield

District 8: Saturday, April 18—Parker Community Center - Social 4:00 - 6:00 pm; Meal 5:00 pm; Meeting 6:30 pm City Office across the street

National President 's Visit



Wreath-laying at the Ft. Meade Nat. Cemetery—
Nat. Pres. Jefford with Dept. NEC Janet Hurlbert, Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, Dept. NEC Paul Evenson, and Dept. Commander Tim Jurgens



BHSU Veterans Center - National Pres. Janet Jefford meets with veterans to discuss the benefits of their center.

— In Memoriam —

Unit 3 Chamberlain

Gloria Schaefer – February 2015

Unit 9 Milbank

Shirley Joachim – January 2015

Kay Redmond – February 2015

Unit 21 Hurley

Agatha Sedelmeier – January 2015

Unit 23 Garretson

Anna Doty – February 2015

Unit 35 Highmore

Janet Kusser – September 2014

Cynthia Volek – February 2015

Unit 40 Webster

Lona Kuecker – December 2014

Unit 42 Arlington

Peryl Beckman – February 2015

Mildred Severson – June 2014

Unit 47 Artesian

Joyce Bechen – October 2014

Geneva Spelbring – January 2015

Unit 79 Onida

Linda Carter – October 2014

Unit 137 Warner

Elaine Bueckler – January 2015

Joyce Shilman – February 2015

Unit 140 Salem

Rose Mary Heumiller – January 2015

Loretta Kirby – February 2015

Unit 146 Colombe

Mildred Kaiser – February 2015

Unit 186 Eureka

Etheline Fisher – November 2014

Verna Schock – December 2014

Unit 193 Irene

Delilah Lien – December 2014

Unit 209 Raymond

Valois J. Danekas – October 2014

Unit 220 Herrick

Elva Nicolaus – February 2015

Unit 246 Wall

Grace Roberts – February 2015

Unit 267 Grenville

Bernice Snaza – May 2014

Unit 292 Tulare

Mildred Tubandt – February 2015

Correction

Unit 235 Marion

Joyce Yopp – July 2014



National President Jefford with Hot Springs Unit 71 Miss Poppy Senior and Junior during her visit at the Hot Springs VA and the Hot Springs State Home.

Additional pictures of National President Janet Jefford in the e-Legionette

Membership

By Membership Chairman Jane Benzel

Well, those District Presidents have their jeeps in 4-wheel-drive and are getting closer to the summit each month. Congratulations to Lead, Mitchell, and Grenville for achieving goal since last month!!! Unfortunately there are many units who haven't turned in any yet this month. I do have to apologize though. When I made last month's report, I accidentally used a goal instead of the actual membership turned in on one unit in District 1 so their percentage was higher than it should have been. But they really went to work and got so many memberships this month, they are still in first place at 84.8%. Way to go! In second place is District 5 at 80.7% but District 8 has almost brought her jeep up alongside, as they are 80.5%. In 4th place is District 4 with 78% and 5th place is District 6 with 77%. District 7 is in 6th place with 75.2% and District 3 in 7th with 72.4%. Although in last place, District 2 has brought their membership up 3% to 66.3%. South Dakota has also moved up in the ranking setting at 10th place in the Rejoin, Renew Goal Report and is in 27th place on the Numeric Goal Report. Thank you for all your hard work. Keep your jeeps gassed up. Don't give up. Just ask. I have 3 new members myself this week by doing just that. We are heading for the finish. The summit is in sight. We can do it!

April Guide

April 1: Girls State Registration Due

April 15: Purple up for Military Kids

April 15: Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 12-18: National Volunteer Week

District Members of the Year due to Past President Parley Barb Vetter by April 15

DIME SHOWERS: 15 Cents per Member to Dept. Headquarters

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



Mitchell Auxiliary St. Patrick's Dinner

Unit 229 of Big Stone City was presented a gift basket and Unit President Gloria received a necklace from the Children & Youth Dept. Chairman Melanie Martens for their fundraising of \$150 in the Teddy Bear bank for homeless children in Rapid City. Pictured are back to front L-R: Faye Athey, Doris Scheff, Sharon Smith, Janice Hinders, Phyllis Lieb, Gloria Arndt, Joanne Rose 2015 Officers



Endorsed Candidate for Department Officer

Homestake Unit 31 of the American Legion Auxiliary in Lead is pleased and proud to endorse Melanie Beckman Martens for the office of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department 1st Vice President. It is evident from her service to the Auxiliary in the office of 2nd Vice President, several Department Chairmanships and offices held on the district and unit levels, that she is imminently qualified for the office of Department 1st Vice President.

SD ALA Sturgis Unit 33 at their Girls State fundraiser and Poppy distribution -Viola, LaVera, Ruth and Sue with assistance from Unit 311 member Helen.



This mural was made by Unit 198 of Elkton for Veterans Day. The white stripes of the flag have the names of the veterans who are and have served in the military.

Pictures from left to right is: Deanna Lundgren, Mary Ann Stuefen, Marsha Timm, Kelly

Neill, Judy Kampmann, Mary Lynn, and Beth Frederiksen, in front is Junior member Khloe Neill



March Prayer

By Teresa Huntimer -
Dept. Chaplain

Teach Me to Love

Teach me to love, just like a child.
Remind me every day to smile,
To trust You as I take each step,
Erase old wounds and past regrets.
Teach me to swallow pride and greed,
And trust You'll supply all my needs.
Show me how to schedule my day,
To learn from You and always pray.
For mercy and grace our gifts we receive,
If we only open our hearts and believe.
Childlike faith will grow and become....
A reflection of Jesus, my Savior,
God's son.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God;
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:8-9

Alleluia! Alleluia! He's Alive



Unit 229 from Big Stone City celebrated the 96th Legion's Birthday by organizing a potluck meal for the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.



On February 6, 2015, the Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229 sponsored a chicken and fish fry benefit for Suzann Harnening who has health issues. Pictured are Gloria Arndt, Unit President and Suzann Harnening, Unit member.



A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards, Dept. President

"Because of the Brave"

The April mailing has a lot of information regarding State Convention. This information is sent to the Unit President only, so Unit President PLEASE be sure to share this information with your members. We have lots of events planned for State Convention so be sure to check out the April Mailing or the Website for details.



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

90 Year Membership!



Shirley Barnes from the Goeres-Doering Unit 96 in White Lake received a Christmas present as she celebrated her 90 year membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Her father active in the Legion, signed her up at an early age. She is now residing at the Firesteel Health Center.

Want to see more pictures from the National President Janet Jefford's visit to South Dakota? Subscribe to the email Legionette

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.

National President Janet Jefford's Visit to the Black

Monday, March 16, 2015 National President Janet Jefford's arrival
Department President Carol Edwards and Department NEC Janet Hurlbert traveled with
the National President during her visit.

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
- 1:30 PM Ellsworth Air Force Base, Home of the 28th Bomb Wing
- 5:00 PM Reception and Dinner at Piedmont, Unit 311



Left: Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, Nat. Pres. Janet Jefford, and Dept. NEC Janet Hurlbert at Ft. Meade Museum

Below: Nat. Pres. Janet Jefford under a B-1 bomber at Ellsworth Air Force Base

Right: Lunch at Box Elder with Unit 315

Bottom Left: A very large crowd for the reception and dinner at the Piedmont Post with a St. Patrick's traditional meal prepared by members of Unit 311



National President Janet Jefford's Visit to the Black Hills

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

- 9:45 AM Hot Springs State Veterans Cemetery - Lay Wreath
- 10:00 AM Hot Springs VA Hospital Tour & Lunch with Veterans
- 12:30 PM State Veterans Home Tour; Poe & Ice Cream with Residents
- 6:00 PM "Burger Night" At the Deadwood VFW, hosted by ALA Unit 31



Top picture: Chapter 71 American Legion Riders escorting the National President in the Southern Hills

Nat. Pres. Jefford laying a wreath at the Hot Springs State Veteran Cemetery

Right: Touring the new State Home in Hot Springs: Dept. Adj. Denny Brenden; Dept. NEC Paul Evenson; Nat. Pres. Janet Jefford; Dept. Com. Tim Jurgens; Dept. Com.'s Wife Donna Jurgens; Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards; and Dept. NEC Janet Hurlbert



Below: Reception "Burger Night" with host Unit 31 in Deadwood; pictured: Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards; Nat. Pres. Janet Jefford; Dept. 2nd Vice Pres. Melanie Martens; Unit member Pat Adams; Unit Pres. Shelley Dragoo; Dept. NEC Janet Hurlbert; and Unit member Joanann Goeringer - right: Melanie Martens, Janet Jefford, and Janet Hurlbert



National President Janet Jefford's Visit to the Black Hills

Thursday, March 19, 2015

- 8:30 AM Black Hills State University Veterans Center & Unit 164
- 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 and Dinner at Rapid City, Unit 22



Top two pictures: The BHSU Veterans Center and The Black Hills National Cemetery with a flag line by the Black Hills Chapter of the American Legion Riders for the wreath-laying.



Left: Piedmont Unit 311 provide a Buddy Basket for Pres. Janet Jefford's visit at the Cornerstone

Below: Reception and dinner at Post 22 in Rapid City. Pictured are the Hot Springs Miss Poppies, and one side of the head table with Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards and Dept. Sec. Laurel Stringer



*National President Janet Jefford's Visit to the Black Hills
First Time in God's Country..*



Left: Crazy Horse Memorial

Below: Pactola Reservoir

Right: Janet Jefford by the Connecticut Flag

Bottom: Mount Rushmore National Park



A Special Thank You to Helen Riedlinger, National President's Visit Coordinator