



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Carol Edwards, Department President



It felt SO GOOD to sleep in my own bed last night – as much as I enjoyed the District Meetings it is always nice to get home. The hospitality that was extended by the hosting Units, the reports from all of the members and oh my gosh the food – everything was truly wonderful!!! Congratulations to all of the ladies that have been selected to represent there District as Member of the Year and to everyone that has been elected to serve as a District officer.

As I mentioned in my message at the District meeting the Department Convention is definitely going to have some excitement in store this year. There are going to be some serious discussions. One of the biggest topics is regarding the VA & R Chairmanship; but it became clear to me during my travels that there has been a lot of misinformation distributed about this proposed change. Let me emphasize that what we are going to be discussing at the Executive Meeting on Friday, June 26 is a **proposal** – no decisions have been made and all options as to how to make the VA & R Program better and stronger for ALL of our veterans will be discussed and debated.

Everyone needs to be willing to participate in open discussions and to listen to everyone's concerns on both sides of the issue – most importantly we need come up with a solution.

If you come to convention with your mind already made up, then you are acting prematurely – we truly need to work together for a solution and that will involve discussions and debates at the Executive Meeting.

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore." Andre Gide



Carter's "Thank our Veterans' Project"

Have you ever met a 10 year old student who is so involved in the legacy of our veterans that he would interview and then write a report on each and every veteran that he meets and greets, all this after he has first thanked them and welcomed them home?

Well, there is just this type of a young man, so involved in the lives of our veterans that he has interviewed and written the interviews into reports for 39 veterans as to date.

Some of his favorites are, the older veterans from WWII. His most memorable moment was seeing the harbor Lights of New York as they pulled into the dock on their final trip home. Another was the Air Force veteran who trained the service dogs. His Quote was, "Sometimes it was easier to work with the dogs than the people." One gentleman was wearing a Purple Heart hat when Carter first saw him. Carter was very interested in knowing the meaning of the Purple Heart. The Army soldier explained that he had been wounded in Vietnam, therefore received the Purple Heart Medal. All of the Veterans agreed that once in the military, your buddies were buddies for life. As one said "They had your back, and you had theirs."

Sharon and Ken Teunissen were in Plankinton, South Dakota for their grandchildren's Christmas concert, when they first met 10 year old Carter Davis. He is a fourth grader in Plankinton School. He has found a new passion. A passion that

involves our veterans.

You see his Grandpa Joe is a veteran and Grandma Sherry does her part by taking pictures after the interview, along with mom and dad's help on the computer.

Amazing how this young student interviews these veterans and then puts the interviews into a booklet. Carter often helps with the, veterans local pancake supper. Teunissens presented Carter with a copy of the book that is read in Sioux Falls schools, "AMERICA'S WHITE TABLE." Carter is thinking about possibly doing the White Table ceremony on Memorial Day at the Veterans" program.

Carter also received copies of other books such as "My Grandpa's War," and "Our Veterans Our Heroes."



Sharon Teunissen and Roberta Olson presented Carter with the GOOD DEED AWARD and a certificate.



The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self

In Memoriam

Unit 7 Huron

Mabel Jensen – March 2015

Unit 13 Wakonda

Carol Walz – February 2015

Unit 18 – Mitchell

Kay Bade – March 2015

Elaine Cobb – December 2014

Hazel B. Creech – March 2015

Lorraine H. Pipes – February 2015

Unit 47 Artesian

Joyce Bechen – October 2014

Geneva Spelbring – January 2015

Unit 71 Hot Springs

Flora A. Foster – February 2014

Marjorie Knisley – July 2014

Unit 81 Toronto

Delaine Nelson – January 2015

Unit 96 White Lake

Janet Glissendorf – March 2015

Unit 115 Platte

Lillian Gukeisen – January 2015

Leatrice Johnson – December 2014

Unit 133 Sinai

Audrey Tvedt – February 2015

Unit 135 Gettysburg

Alma Heier – January 2015

Avis Iversen – October 2014

Unit 177 Worthing

Marjorie Lounsbery – January 2015

Unit 191 Eagle Butte

Gladys Jochim – December 2014

Kristen M. Watt - 2014

Unit 240 Martin

Dorothy Wheeler – February 2015

Unit 242 Brentford

Charlene Gant – February 2015

Unit 266 Tea

Anne Wittrock – April 2015



Groton American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39 chose their essay and poem winners for 2015. The 6th graders wrote poems titled, "Because of the Brave." The 7th and 8th graders wrote essays titled, "What Freedom Means To My Family." Diane Kurtz is the English teacher for grades 6th - 8th, and submitted their work. Winners Left to Right: 1st place - 8th grade: AnneMarie Smith; 2nd place - 8th grade: Tylan Glover; 1st place - 7th grade: Payton Colestock 2nd place - 7th grade: Kaycie Hawkins 1st place - 6th grade: Erin Unzen; 2nd place - 6th grade: Tanae Lipp



Poppy Days

Poppy Days have become a familiar tradition in almost every American community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Connecting the visual image of the poppy with the sacrifice of service made by our veterans has been an important goal of the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program since its inception in 1921. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, millions of red crepe paper poppies—all handmade by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation—are distributed across the country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans in our communities.

The Poppy Program raises community awareness and respect for our veterans by educating Auxiliary members and the public about the symbol of the poppy, taken from a line in the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Lt. Col. John McCrae, M.D.

In Flanders Fields

"In Flanders Fields" is a war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician and Lt. Col. John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died during the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—Lt. Col. John McCrae

"From <https://www.alaforveterans.org/poppy/>"

ADVANCE TICKET FORM

American Legion Department Convention – June 26 & 27, 2015

Deadline to order tickets is June 12, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Friday, June 26 – NOON

Menu: TACO BUFFET with the JUNIORS!!! ADULT \$14.00 / CHILDREN 6-12 \$7.50

Number of ADULT tickets _____ x \$14.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Number CHILDREN of tickets _____ x \$7.50 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, June 27 – NOON

Menu: Plated Croissant Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Chips & Apple Crisp

Number of tickets _____ x \$14.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Evening BUFFET, Saturday, June 27 – 6:30 PM

Menu: Chicken Divan, Butter Parsley Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Lettuce Salad plus two other salads

Number of tickets _____ x \$20.00 per ticket = \$ _____

TOTAL amount enclose for Auxiliary Meals \$ _____

() Check box for special dietary needs

Make checks payable to: Huron Unit 7

Send To: Jeanette Johnson
360 20th St SE
Huron, SD 57350NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!!!!**JOINT BANQUET – DINNER BUFFET, FRIDAY, JUNE 26 @ 6:00 pm**

Menu: Roast Beef, Chicken Divan with Broccoli Cream Sauce over Rice, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad, Macaroni Salad with Peas, Cookies & Cream Salad, Assorted Jell-O Cheesecake

Number of tickets _____ x \$27.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: American Legion, Post #7

Mail To: Jerry Mencke
1829 Dexter Ct.
Huron, SD 57350NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!!!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

State Convention Silent Auction Guidelines

Anyone may donate to the silent auction. All items should be new or in excellent condition. Be creative and have fun with your items. It's our hope that all units throughout the state will donate an item. Please note the following details about donation and bidding:

- Donations will be accepted Thursday June 25th from 3:00pm -5:00 pm and Friday June 26th from 8:00am-10:30 am and 1:00pm - 3:00 pm
- Bids will be accepted starting Thursday at 3:00 pm
- Bids will close at 4:00 pm
- Winning bidders must pick up their items between 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Saturday, June 27, 2015

All donations become the property of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for your generosity. Proceeds of the sale of the silent auction will go towards the South Dakota ALA Permanent Membership.

Lynn Pohlman / Teresa Huntimer, Co - Chairmen

If you have any questions please call or e-mail them at : thuntimer@gmail.com – 605-351-8470 for Teresa; pohlman.lynn@gmail.com – 605-578-1673 for Lynn

May Guide**May 1:** Chairmen Reports Due**May 7:** National Day of Prayer**May 8:** Military Spouse Day**May 8:** V.E. Victory in Europe**May 10:** Mother's Day**May 16:** Armed Forces Day**May 25:** Memorial Day

Election & Installations of Unit Officers**Plan Poppy Day for distribution****Send 25% of Poppy proceeds to Dept. Headquarters****Elect delegates to Dept. Convention % remit registration (forms were mailed to each unit president)****Girls State orientations****Submit Prayers to Dept. Chaplain for President's Prayer Book****Endorsed Candidates for Department Chaplain & Historian**

Coacher-Goetsch Unit 18 proudly endorses Sharon Broghammer as Department of South Dakota Chaplain for 2015-2016. She has served as the unit chaplain for the last three years and attended mid-winter and state conventions during that time. — Linda M. Holmes, Unit President & Karen Prickett, Unit Secretary

Springfield Dwight Wood Unit 132 American Legion Auxiliary nominates Kathy Hornstra to be elected as Department Historian. Kathy is the present Unit #132 President. She was District President for four years. She held the office of secretary for fourteen years for the Dwight Wood #132 Unit, Springfield. She would be deserving of being selected as Department Historian. — Kathy Ramsdell, Unit Vice-President & Alice F. Petrik, Unit Secretary.

May Prayer

By Teresa Huntimer -
Dept. Chaplain

In Loving Memory

Every soldier's tombstone should be a message of honor, respect and love:

"In Loving Memory of one who love their country, who fought against evil to preserve what is right and true and good.

In Loving Memory of one who is a cut above the rest of us, who had the surpassing courage, the uncommon strength, to do whatever had to be done, pressing through hardship and pain.

In Loving Memory one who was brave enough to give their life, they're all so that those they cared about what you remain safe and free.

In Loving Memory of a unique and treasured soldier who will never be forgotten."

The greatest gift to our military abroad and at home is prayer.

Department Finance Committee Application

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary is looking for members interested in serving on the **Department Finance Committee**.

The duties of the Finance Committee are to oversee the general financial policy of the organization and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures.

Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume by **June 1, 2015** to Department Headquarters at P.O. Box 1819 Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, June 25, 2015 prior to the Department Convention in Huron, SD.



Membership - By Jane Benzel, Dept. Chairman

We are getting to the final push. Reach for the summit! I know you can do it! I enjoyed being able to report to many of you during the Spring District meetings.

Here is the current standings:

1st place District 1 at 94.8%. Way to go!!
2nd place District 5 at 85%,
3rd place District 7 at 83.3%,
4th place District 4 at 83.3%,
5th place District 6 at 79.3%,
6th place District 7 at 78.3%,
7th place District 3 at 75.4%
8th place District 2 at 73.9%.

This is the first month that South Dakota hasn't met its monthly goal. Keep working. I know we can get out there and get the members. Just remember to ask. Congratulations go to Units 11 Wagner, 13 Wakonda, 149 Buffalo, 71 Hot Springs, 4, Mobridge, 154 Montrose, 12 Yankton for making goal! I hope you remembered to send in your "One in a Million" verifications to receive your buttons. I look forward to reading your end of the year reports.

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 American Legion National Commander Visited South Dakota



The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and Dakota's Regional Office were honored to have American Legion National Commander Mike Helm and area American Legion and Auxiliary leadership visit the facilities.—with Dept. Commander Tim Jurgens and Dept. President Carol Edwards.

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District 1 & 2 Spring Meetings



District 1 newly elected officers: Donna Erhart, 2nd VP/Chaplain from Lemmon; Erika Adams, 1st VP/Secretary from Box Elder; and Cindy Hansen, District President from Piedmont

District 1 Unit Member of the Year—District 1 Member of the Year second from left Erika Adams, Unit 315 Box Elder

Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards received a crystal eagle at the District 2 meeting—presented by Past-Pres. Sereta Douthit

District 2 American Legion Commander Thompson presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Senior Miss Poppy Montana Harper from Unit 71 Hot Springs, with Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards



District 3 & 4 Spring Meetings

Service, Not Self



Pictured from top to bottom:

District 3 Spring Meeting-Unit Member of the Year Karon Bishop from Kennebec-Reliance Unit (center) with SD ALA President Carol Edwards and District 3 President Jeannine Loesch

District 3 Spring Meeting - Elected officers 2nd VP Leanne Loesch, Pres Jeannine Loesch, 1st VP Mary Jo Stier

District 4 Spring Meeting -Memorial Service



District 4 Spring Meeting-Announcement by District President Jacki Omland of Unit Member of the Year Jan Seibel, Groton with Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, District Secretary Jeannine Brown Jilek and District Pres. Jacki Omland

District 4 Unit reports



District 5 & 6 Spring Meetings

Service, Not Self



Pictured from top to bottom:

District 5 Spring Meeting - Newly elected District officers 2nd VP Mary Jo Bonar, Castlewood and District President Rose Kraft, Britton, Not pictured Rhonda Baxter, 1st VP, Gary

District 5 Spring Meeting - Unit Member of the Year Phyllis Lieb, Big Stone City (c) with District President Elvira Moen (r) and Department President Carol Edwards (l)

District 5 Spring Meeting - Special program-Big Paws Canine Academy-service dogs and owners

District 6 Spring Meeting - District 6 Legionette Donna Deinert, Mt Vernon Unit 211 (c) with Department President Carol Edwards (l) and District President Judy Winegar

District 6 Spring Meeting - Good Deed award presentation by Department 2nd VP N Melanie Martens District 6 Spring Meeting-Good Deed award presentation by Department 2nd VP & Children & Youth Chairman Melanie Martens

District 7 & 8 Spring Meetings

Service, Not Self



Top two pictures:

District 7 Spring Meeting - New Officers: 2nd VP Sherry Woltjer (l), 1st VP Alice Upshaw (c), Dist. Pres. Teresa Huntimer (r)

District 7 Spring Meeting - Unit Member of the Year Marva Petit, Unit 15 Sioux Falls (c) with Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards (l) and Dist. 7 Pres. Sherry Woltjer (r)

Left two pictures:

District 7 Spring Meeting - Good Deed Awards with Dept. 1st VP & Children & Youth Chairman Melanie Martens and Sharon Teunissen



District 8 Spring Meeting – Nat. Commander Mike Helm, Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, Dept. Commander Tim Jurgens

Bottom two pictures:

District 8 Spring Meeting-District 8 Member of the Year Heidi Morgan, Chancellor Unit 283 (c) with Dist. Pres. Kathy Geiman (l) and Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards ®

District 8 Spring Meeting - Social hour with the American Legion

