



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Jane Benzel, Department President



"Joining Together for Our Veterans"

Mid Winter Conference is fast approaching. Judy Twete, Northwestern Division National Vice President will be our special guest. We look forward to her bringing information from National. Don't forget to bring your items for the silent auction.

It has been a special time for me of service to our veterans. I have helped with Bingo at the VA last month, helped my local unit put together "Buddy Baskets" after our Unit meeting, but especially the day I helped the residence move into the new State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. The move went very smoothly. The veterans were excited about their new home, and I enjoyed visiting with them as we helped make their beds up and put their belonging away. I also represented the Auxiliary at the meetings concerning the impact the closing of the Hot Springs VA might have on the community. Last month, I highlighted Strategy 2 of the Centennial Strategic Plan. This month is **Goal # 3 Develop Leadership at All Levels.**

STRATEGY # 1 Offer training programs at all levels

INITIATIVE # 1: Invigorate Mid Winter Conference. Have training sessions; make it fun.

INITIATIVE # 2: Provide more basic information Provide 4-5 training programs across the state for units to attend; have trainings programs specific for positions they are in. (Cont. p.3)



National Security *by Dept. Chairman Carol Edwards*

I received very few mid-year reports for National Security this year and one unit actually stated that because they live in rural area National Security is hard program for them to participate in. Translation: I need to do a better job explaining what National Security is all about!!

RED Fridays - "**R**emember **E**veryone **D**eployed" – you can participate in National Security simply by encouraging people in your community or those you work with to wear red on Fridays. This simple act reminds people that we have not forgotten those that will be not be going home tonight to sleep in their own beds.

Many of you just took part in sending Holiday Treats and Mail to those deployed – but where does it say that we can only do this at Christmas time? Valentine's Day is just around the corner – contact your local elementary schools about making Valentine's and then send them overseas; or have the

students write "Thank You" or "Thinking of You" notes at any time throughout the year. If you need an address to send items to PLEASE get in touch with me and I will help you out!

Did you know that Blood Drives are part National Security? Whenever our country has experienced a crisis the call for blood goes out. Sponsoring or donating blood should be part of your National Security year-end report.

Presenting Gold Star and Blue Star Banners to families in your community is also part of National Security. Whether you live in the city, near a Military Base, or in rural South Dakota - **YOU ALL CAN BE PART OF NATIONAL SECURITY.** For more information check out my Plan of Action on our Department Website at www.sdlegionaux.org; look for National Security under Department Programs.

Americanism *by Dept. Chairman Pat Coyle*

In his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln promised, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." These words resonate in the hearts of all Americans. National President Sharon Conatser has appropriately chosen "Keeping the Promise" as her theme. Students have an opportunity to answer the question "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?" and to promote "Joining together for our Veterans" by participating in the essay and poem

contests. Please complete the required information and signatures. Entry deadlines are: March 1, to Unit; March 15 to District President; April 1 to Department Chairman. Increase awareness in our communities with publicity and by inviting students to read their essays at patriotic events.

The security of America lies in a citizenry ingrained with a true understanding and love for the principles upon which our nation was founded. Take an interest in our country's affairs. (Cont. p. 3)

February Guide Americanism

Cash Donations for SHOWERS
Mid-Winter—Huron 2/12—2/14
Valentines Day: February 14 is also
National Membership goal 85%
Americanism Poem & Essay Contest
Pay Past Presidents Parley dues by
March 1

Department Membership Goal: 85%

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1 – Saturday, April 2 – Piedmont Post Home, Joint District Meeting 10:30 a.m., Lunch 11:15 a.m. Meeting 12:30 p.m. Auxiliary will meet at the Piedmont Post Home.

District 2 Sunday, April 3 - Hot Springs Post Home, Social 11:00 a.m., Meeting 12:00 noon, Lunch following the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Hot Springs Post Home.

District 3 – Saturday, April 9 – Fort Pierre – Moose Club (910 Deadwood Ave), Social 1:00 p.m., Meeting 2:00 p.m., Lunch following the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Center (21 East Main) in Fort Pierre. Everyone attend social at Moose Club and will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

District 4 – Friday, April 8 – Bowdle Post Home, Social 5:00 p.m., Meal 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet in the Multi Purpose Room.

District 5 – Sunday, April 17 – New Effington Post Home, Social 1:00 p.m., Meeting 1:30 p.m.. No lunch. Auxiliary will meet at the Post Home.

District 6 - Saturday, April 16 – To be announced.

District 7 – Friday, April 15 – Baltic Post Home, Social 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m., Lunch following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Baltic Lutheran Church (301 Nidares Ave).

District 8 – Sunday, April 10 – Menno Post Home, Social 1:00 p.m., Meeting at 2:00 p.m., Meal after the Meeting. Auxiliary will meet at the Senior Citizens Center (across the street from the Post Home)



Operation Warm Hearts

“Are you ladies ready for this!!!! 13 boxes, to two branches army and air force, reaching over 600 airmen and soldiers, over 120 pillow cases, 11 types of cookies, school notes from kids, 301 #misssouthdakota Christmas cards, and some Christmas cheer! From over 10 Auxiliary's across the state!!!! You guys are wonderful!!! And this is just a glimpse!” Erika Adams, Box Elder Unit 315

Valentines for
Veterans



In Memoriam



Unit 14 Wessington Springs, Jessie Brodkork – November 2015, Gertrude Schramm – October 2015; **Unit 18 Mitchell**, Vi Crago – December 2015; **Unit 20 Ft. Pierre**, Lucille Stoesser – November 2015; **Unit 22 Rapid City**, Margaret Bradford – December 2015; **Unit 40 Webster**, Majorie Jensen - January 2016; **Unit 58 Columbia**, Arlyce DeHoet - November 2015; **Unit 59 Wolsey**, Johnne Waldner – September 2015; **Unit 64 Wilmont**, Doris Cameron – November 2015; **Unit 66 Lemmon**, Penny Gilpin – December 2015; **Unit 80 Britton**, Viola Chapin – November 2015; **Unit 100 Selby**, Alice Ford – November 2015, Louise Lemburg – October 2015, Margaret Powel – December 2015; **Unit 113 Willow Lake**, Elsie Hanson – November 2015, Alnma Melsby – November 2015, Ruth Seefeldt – November 2015; **Unit 128 Hudson**, Janette Sogn – April 2015; **Unit 130 Kimball**, Maxine Konechne – December 2015; **Unit 137 Warner**, Joyce I. Rogers – November 2015; **Unit 142 Tripp**, Mary J. Heinrich – October 2015, Mabel Heisinger – January 2016; **Unit 146 Winner**, Edith V. Maier – February 2015, Mavis O'Bryan – November 2015; **Unit 147 Buffalo**, Frances Latham – November 2015, Jacqueline Rosummy – November 2015; **Unit 170 Herreid**, Mary Wiest – August 2015; **Unit 184 Estelline**, Barbara Behrend – November 2015; **Unit 240 Martin**, Verlene Simmons – December 2015



Nunda American Legion Auxiliary members, also members of Thrivent applied for a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant to support the Women's Clinic at the Veteran's (VA) Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD. The clinic opened in 2015 and provides specific services for women veterans. While no babies are born at the VA, the clinic welcomes each woman veteran's new baby with a gift basket. Once Thrivent funding was approved, the Nunda American Legion Auxiliary purchased items for the gift baskets. The blankets and bibs were washed and wrapped in ribbons and bows to make them cuddly soft and welcoming to a new mom and her baby. This heartwarming project, reaching out to women veterans who are also new mothers, was completed by the Nunda Auxiliary Unit and was made possible through the generosity of Thrivent Financial.



Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive items received at the drop off point in the Lawrence County Building. BR: Pat Adams--Unit 31 Secretary, Tom Adams--Post 31, Terry Weisenberg-Lawrence County Commissioner, Randy McGruder--Post 31, Joanann Goeringer--Unit 31 2nd VP, FR: Shelley Dragoo--Unit 31 President, Jane Benzel - ALA Dept. President, Autumn Simunek-Miss South Dakota



A Word from the President

by Jane Benzel, Department President (Cont. from p.1)
"Joining Together for Our Veterans"

STRATEGY # 2 Create a Mentoring Program

INITIATIVE # 1: Recognize energetic members as potential leaders. Have someone who has already had a position be able to train new leaders coming in; have awards for leaders that stand out or do a great job.

INITIATIVE # 2: Utilize available resources i.e. Brochures, National and Department Websites. Have informational resources on leadership available by mail or email.

STRATEGY #3 Empower Departments

INITIATIVE # 1: Create Program Committees; Each chairman can form a committee of three volunteers to help her; Have a funeral committee for members that pass on. Play games to empower departments.

INITIATIVE # 2: Enhance & Update Department Website; Have volunteers to help Public Relations chairman to keep the state website updated. Make sure all information is sent out in mailings.

February 14 is National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Day. February is also Four Chaplains and Americanism month. Be sure to check out the Americanism Plan of Action on the webpage, or in the October mailings or contact Pat Coyle, Americanism Chairman if you have any questions.

Endorsements

We, the members of Homestake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 of Lead, SD are proud to endorse **Melanie Martens** for South Dakota Department President for the 2016-2017 term. Melanie's proven leadership will be a true asset to the members of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary and the women who serve in its capacity.

Members of the Homestake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 would also like to endorse **Shelley Dragoo** as a candidate for South Dakota Department Chaplain for the 2016-2017 term. Shelley's love of the written and spoken Word will be a consolation for all who may be in need.

Americanism by Pat Coyle Dept. Chairman (Cont. p. 1)

Vote intelligently after careful study of candidates and issues. Fly your flag proudly and participate in patriotic events. Inspire children and young people to develop high ideals and a sincere appreciation of our heritage. Present Americanism programs, flags and awards in schools, and encourage the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited daily.

In our preamble, we pledge "----to participate in, and contribute to, the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion." By working side by side as an American Legion Family, we will be able to meet our objectives of "Keeping the Promise."

February Prayer
*By Sharon Broghammer -
Dept. Chaplain*

Psalm 107: Versus 28-32
"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. Lord stilled the storm to whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his un-failing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."

The Lord loves all veterans, families, and volunteers. His love comes in purest form. It comes through children when they come home with projects for the parents. It comes from organizations, The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. May the Lord help the units holding fundraising events for veterans. In return veterans send thank you notes of appreciation. Keep on showing love through events supporting our veterans and service members, it'll come back to the units in various ways. Happy Valentine's Day to all the units in South Dakota. Take time to express love and gratitude amongst each other. Looking forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter Conference in Huron.



A Christmas Tree Helps Send Lip Balms to Troops

The Gertje-Van Lith Unit 229 from Big Stone City participated in the "Festival of Trees." Their tree theme was "Our Military—Our Shining Stars" Star ornaments and star garlands were made by the unit members. The unit collected lip balms for overseas military. Their tree won second place.

Grant Money to Benefit Golden Living Center Residents

Members of Unit 140 from Salem helped the local dental office receive a grant for a dental chair. This will help the residents of Golden Living receive dental service. The goal was to enhance health and provide safety for all veterans and residents in the care of the Golden Living Center. The dentist and hygienist can help residents and community members.

Submitted by Pat Huls

Legionette Note: This is the first mailing of the 2016 subscriptions. You will receive the Legionette until January 2017. Pass the word to your members if they did not renew yet. Thank you!



Donation to the Lord's Cupboard (food pantry) in Lead with Shelley Drago, Unit 31 President.



Give 10 program with our newest Junior member at Hayward Elementary; with Sharon Teunissen, Juniors Chairman

MEMBERSHIP PROMISE for February:

I promise to show my love for our veterans

Membership for Life: Show your love for our veterans for life. Get your Paid Up for Life (PUFL) Membership today! **Membership Awards Deadlines:** 85% Renew/Rejoin Achievement Award by February 14, 2016



Need Information?

Department Headquarters, Secretary: Laurel Stringer 129 North Main, Hartford, SD 57033 Phone: 605-461-3389 or email at southdakotaala@gmail.com

Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org - for questions or to send information for the website including "Thinking of You" - contact Alice Upshaw by phone at 605-553-4452 or email her at pr.sdala@gmail.com

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National Security Programs



One of the objectives of National Security is to RED on Friday "Remember Everyone Deployed" - Thank you to Carol Edwards co-workers at THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD for their participation

Wagner Legion Auxiliary for National Security project sponsored a fun day for the families of the National Guards 155th unit who are deployed to the Middle East.



Ellsworth Air Force Base, Box Elder: The Welcome Home ceremony for over 350 deployed service members. National Security chairman, Carol Edwards provided 200 flags for the families waiting for their loved one. The plane was scheduled for 2:30 am and landed at 3:45. Pictured left corner is Erika Adams, dual members Post & Unit 315 reunited with her husband. "We are complete again" Adams said.





Dell Rapids Unit 65 with Teresa Huntimer were busy preparing Valentine cards for veterans in the local nursing homes.



Autumn Simunek, Miss South Dakota and sponsor of the Veterans Holiday Relief Drive reported on the final days of the drive.



Pictures below—right: Huge thank you to the Sioux Falls Post 15 American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for taking collections from the Sioux Falls and surrounding area communities for the Veterans Holiday Relief Drive. Today we were able to deliver over \$3,200 worth of items to in need military members and families in the local area.

Look at these Buddy Baskets! Sending hugs and thanks to my hometown community and American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Family Post 71 for all your contributions and support to the Veterans Holiday Relief Drive

