



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"

We had an awesome Midwinter Conference. I want to thank all the ladies who so graciously helped, whether it was in the organization, presenters, chairmen working the program fair, silent auction workers and contributors help with the banquet and luncheon, or in any other way. It all went towards making it a successful conference. The Silent Auction brought in a little over \$1000, which will go toward the PUFL loan. The National Vice Commander and his wife, a former Marine, gave me \$60 to go toward my president's project. They were very impressed with South Dakota. National Vice President Judy Twete gave us very inspirational and informational messages. It was great to have her as our special guest. Your generosity in donating items for the hygiene bags and onesies for your expecting female veterans was amazing.

Spring meetings are fast approaching. Please try to attend. Find out what is happening in your neighboring units. The even number Districts will be electing new officers. Information on voting process was sent out in the February mailing. Be sure your Unit President shares the information with you. There will be minutes from the Midwinter Executive Board meeting. Don't forget to send in your Legionette of the Year nominee to your District President by March 1st. March 15th is the Legion's Birthday Observance. Do something special for your Post.

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Midwinter Convention 2016—Huron

Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel, NW Division Vice-Pres. Judy Twete, and Dept. NEC Carol Edwards

National Executive Committee

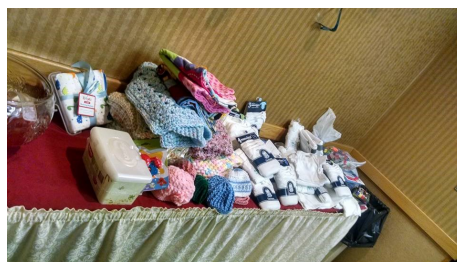
During the executive board meeting, changes to the elected NEC position were approved. This year will be our first year to elect an NEC. This position is open to all ALA members in good standing and is not limited to just Past Department Presidents. A clarification of this has been received from National that all elected positions are open to all members to run for any office. For more information on the duties of the National Executive Committee Woman, contact a Past President as they all fulfilled that position through 2016.

Junior Members

The Saturday banquet was organized by our Juniors and Junior Chairman Sharon Teunissen. With the help of Erika Adams who collected toiletries, socks, towels and washcloth from the Salvation Army, members and juniors put together around 500 hygiene kits for veterans and decorated around 200 "onesies" for our new female veterans' babies.

Finance Committee

Two positions on the Department Finance committee will be open this June and all interested members are encouraged to apply. Applications and resumes for the Finance Committee need to be received by Department Headquarters by May 1st. If you have any questions about the application or resume process please contact Dept. Secretary Laurel Stringer at Department Headquarters.



March Guide Community Service

Cash Donations for SHOWERS—\$.15 per member (goal #)

Send in your Unit Legionette to District Presidents ; the Guide says by March 15; the form says by March 1—check with your District President

Americanism Poem & Essay Contest Unit winners to District Presidents by March 15

Registrations for Girls State due no later than April 1

Pay Past Presidents Parley dues by March 1

Legion Birthday: March 15

Plan upcoming community events to support local veterans

Saint Patrick 's Day, Easter, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day



SD ALA Johnson/Peterson Unit #179 in Kennebec/Reliance hosted our 3rd Annual Pancake Brunch Fundraiser on Sunday, Nov 8, 2015, serving 300 community members with an all-you-can-eat breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits and sausage gravy, sausage patties, and pancakes. The breakfast is freshly made. This is a free-will offering event. This is our major fund raising effort each year and allows us to meet all our obligations and make additional donations within our community. The women in our auxiliary also help out the men who put on this breakfast 10 months of the year. These breakfasts are held the second Sunday in the month for 11 months of the year.(from left to right from top row first) Sharon Oliveira, Tiarra Bowar, Dana Bowar Mehrer, Susan Hamer, Gayle Mohr, Marilyn Walling, Carol Sundall, Adella Mohr, Karon Bishop and Gloria Bowar.

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 he 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 – Wessington Springs Post Home. Meal 12:00, Social 1:00, Meeting 2:00 pm. Auxiliary will meet in the Community Room in the Courthouse

District 7 – Friday, April 15 – Baltic Post Home, Social 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m., Lunch following the meeting. In the new High School (**note change of location**)

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)

In Memoriam



Unit 8 Pierre – Darlene Harris, January 2016; Delores Melvin, January 2016; **Unit 11 Wagner** – Lorene Gullikson, January 2016; **Unit 12 Yankton** – Patricia A. Hanson, January 2016; Karen K Toupal, December 2015; **Unit 14 Wessington Springs** – Margaret Lee, January 2016; **Unit 17 Watertown** – Darlene Adolphsen, February 2016; Delores Roberts, January 2016; **Unit 21 Geddes** – Elaine Haines, January 2016; **Unit 41 Alexandria** – Kathleen Roster, February 2016; **Unit 50 Sisseton** – Pearl Kallstrom, January 2016; Dorothy Waletich, December 2015; **Unit 56 Geddes** – Mary Ann Floret, December 2015; **Unit 59 Wolsey** – Malinda Lenz, December 2015; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** – Joyce Phillips, January 2016; **Unit 74 Brookings** – Shannon Christopherson, January 2016; **Unit 116 Alpena** – Betty Burnison, February 2016; **Unit 146 Colome** – Dorothy Rohde, January 2016; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Gwen Britton, June 2015; **Unit 169 Winner** – Nancy Gunner, February 2016; **Unit 240 Martin** – Dorothy Luck, December 2015; Lily White, January 2016



1. Unit 4 is giving valentine favors to the residents at Prairie Sunset Village, Assisted Living Center, Mobridge SD. In the photo is Jan Wales, our unit treasurer, giving valentine treat bags to a local veteran and a couple of our auxiliary members who are all residents of the center. All the residents enjoyed the treats and appreciated the auxiliary's thoughtfulness. - 2. For several years, the Smith Wright Post 120 ALA made Valentines for their local Veterans and the Veterans at Ft. Meade.

3. Miss Poppy, Shiann Moir of Unit 71 joining Hot Springs title holders as special guest at the State Homes Valentine's Dance.





SD ALA Unit 311 sponsored a presentation by the American Red Cross to students of the 5th Grade at Piedmont Valley Elementary School. Presentation was on preparation for emergencies at home including exit routes, safe spots, smoke alarms, using color to handle emotions, and types of emergencies (fire, flood, tornado). Each student was given a pillowcase, which they decorated, and a workbook which included a list of items to include in the pillowcase in preparation for an emergency (like flashlights, batteries, snack bar, water and a comfort item like a stuffed animal). Students provided lots of input and really enjoyed the presentation. Thanks to the American Red Cross for the presentation and to Piedmont Valley Elementary School for allowing us to bring this presentation to the students.



Jr Auxiliary members from Brentford & Cresbard put together baby bootie snack cups. Pictured here are Joclyn Haven, Brooklinn Halvorson, Jayden Mielke, Ella Haven, Ashley Haven, & Taylor Vetter.



Emily Foiles, a Junior member of the Raymond Baker Unit 209, decorated her homeroom door at the Doland School for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Each turkey feather had a name of a Veteran that she knew and what branch of service they served in.



A Word from the President

by Jane Benzel, Department President (Cont. from p.1)

"Joining Together for Our Veterans"

Annual reports are fast approaching—April 15th. It would be a good idea to start working on these so you just need to tweak them next month. Don't forget to check out the new registration process for GIRLS STATE.

Goal 4 Strengthening Departments and Units

STRATEGY # 1 Create a user friendly "Department of South Dakota Member Guide".

INITIATIVE # 1: Make available to all members. Units have guide available for use of all members

INITIATIVE # 2: Commit to keeping current to all changes. Make members aware of new resolutions, policies or any changes taking place at Department level that effects them.

STRATEGY # 2 Excel at Communication

INITIATIVE # 1: Make District Newsletter available to all interested District members Make copies of newsletters available to all members. Make a handout as to where our money goes. Mail members the meeting agenda. Call members to remind them of the meeting. INITIATIVE #2: Provide members with the tools to improve reporting. Improve mentorship to improve reports. Work on the reports in teams.

STRATEGY # 3 Think "outside the box" for Unit & Department meetings

INITIATIVE # 1: Bring in outside speakers Have speakers from town or other organizations from different services speak about community services; work together with community organizations to promote our mission. Make meeting worth members' time. INITIATIVE # 2: Streamline Business meetings Provide an agenda ahead of time to members to get the business issues finished earlier so time is available for programs/speakers so meetings don't go too long.

Endorsements

Members of the Piedmont Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit #311 are proud to endorse **Laura 'Susie' Clyde** as a candidate for the newly created elected office of National Executive Committeewoman for the August 2016 to August 2018 term. She is a proven liaison between National, our Department, and our members.

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.

We the members of Stanley American Legion Unit 20 is proud to endorse **Jeanine Loesch** as candidate for Department of SD 2nd Vice President for the 2016-2017 year. Jeannine cares about the future of the organization.

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.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 128 of Hudson.SD Would like to endorse **Elaine Ekle** for the term 2016-2017 as Historian.

March Prayer
By Sharon Broghammer -
Dept. Chaplain

Psalm 108 VS 1-5

“My heart O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.”

I will praise you, Lord among the nations; I will sing of You among the people. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. God bless all units, veterans, families, and children as they do amazing things to raise money for the veterans. Every year units put on St. Patrick's Day luncheon and events. All money goes back to helping veterans. It also helps our units bring in potential auxiliary ladies as new members. May God direct your units this month to bring in new members! Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all across the state.

Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive Appreciation By Autumn Simunek

Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 President, Maureen Sunderland, Shirley Thelen, Karen Prickett and their Post family for all their organized work on the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive project. I'm impressed with their journal report of tracking over \$3,500 in donations from the Mitchell area, which benefited all ages in need through the Family Assistance Center and Veteran Service Office.

It's been a joy working with Linda Rae Placek, President and Shelia Carpenter of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 8, the T.F. Riggs School, and Pierre community. Linda and Shelia manned the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive collection at the T.F. Riggs Veterans Day program. The Pierre area's generous contributions are allowing their unit to build 88 quart relief item totes for emergency aid to Veterans and their families.

I am also very grateful to the Homestake Post and Auxiliary Unit 31, the Lawrence County Administration, the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce, and the community of Deadwood for their participation with the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive. A special thank you to Shelley Dragoo for stepping up to manage this new drop-off location and to everyone who delivered the donations to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission's Veterans homeless center.



MEMBERSHIP PROMISE for MARCH:

I promise to breathe life into our organization
Membership for Helping Members Spring is in the air! And so are spring storms! The American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund offers assistance to members whose lives are affected by natural disasters. Donate today to help fellow auxiliary members in need!

Promise Date: Legion Birthday, March 15, 2016 – 80%



The Gertje-VanLith American Legion Auxiliary 229 of Big Stone City donated the book "The Story of Our Flag" to the Big Stone City Branch Public Library. On the left Janelle Kelly, the librarian with Janice Hinders, Americanism Chairperson of Unit 229.



A collage of the name cards that were made at the Service to Veterans class! Over 100 cards were made they will be placed in placards on the dining tables at Fort Meade to brighten up their dinner time.

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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Midwinter Convention - Huron 2016



Left top/down & Right top/down
 Teresa Huntimer displays her Prayer Soldiers. During the Program Fair, she encouraged members to keep a soldier close by as a reminder to do a daily prayer for the safe return of all our deployed active duty.



We all know the POW/MIA Table of Remembrance, but who knows the Military Child's Table? Ask schools, libraries or events to display the Military Child's Table for the young ones whose parents are deployed.



The head table during the conference with Dpt. NEC Carol Edwards, NW Div. Vice-Pres. Judy Twete, and Dpt. Pres. Jane Benzel at the podium.



Jrs' Chairman Sharon Teunissen conducting business with our juniors.



Senior Poppy contest displayed at the Program Fair.



Members browse the booths at the Program Fair on Friday afternoon.

Jeanine Loesch receiving the District Membership Award.



Midwinter Convention - Huron 2016



The Midwinter Convention was a learning experience providing information from the Paws program training service dogs, Leadership by Jeanine Loesch - Chairman; the Department Strategic Plan by Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel; and the Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) by Melanie Martens 1st VP & Chairman. Also pictured is Dept. Sec. Laurel Stringer demonstrating how to recycle jeans to make walker bags.



The Saturday auxiliary banquet was organized by the juniors and chairman. Two projects engaged the members after a little fun: Guess whose baby pictures! One of the project was to decorate "onesies" for baby baskets to be delivered at the Sioux Falls female veterans' hospital. The second activity allowed for making individual personal bags for homeless or veterans in need across the state.

