



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"

Boy, my year as your president is disappearing. We are finished with the Spring meetings. Congratulations to the District Presidents for a job well done and to the new officers that stepped up to lead their districts! We had great turnouts at all eight meetings. I was so impressed by all you do for our veterans! End of the year reports are in, Girls State delegates are chosen, and teas are being planned across the state. It is an honor to be a part of this great organization.

State Convention is just around the corner. It is in Watertown this year, June 16th through the 19th. I hope to see many of you there. This year we will be doing a Commander's Walk for National Commander Barnett instead of a parade, so wear you walking shoes and join us in supporting the National Commander. Shirts are available for purchase from the Watertown Post if interested for \$15.

Goal 3 of the Centennial Strategic Plan is to develop leadership at all levels. You will see on the agenda for the convention for Thursday evening, the Leadership Course. I figured what an easy fun way to work toward this goal. I will have the PowerPoint up and we can go through the course while we socialize with our Auxiliary sisters, and complete the true/false questions. All the answers are found in the PowerPoint so it should be easy, just like an open book test. Any of you that have completed the course are welcome to come as a refresher. Then South Dakota can send in a bunch of completed leadership courses. Yeah!!! (Cont. page 2)

70th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET: The 2016 American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State is celebrating their 70th anniversary and would like to extend an invitation to the American Legion Family for the inauguration banquet on Friday, June 3rd at 6:10 PM in the Muenster University Center on the campus of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

Immediately following the banquet the ALA SD Girls State Chorus will be presenting a patriotic concert in Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall at 8:00 PM followed by the Inauguration of the 2016 ALA SD Girls State Governor and state officials. Dinner tickets are \$15.00 and payment can be made at the door – please RSVP by Friday, May 27th to gstate@usd.edu or 605-677-5702.

HONORING DARLENE ZWEEP AT THE AUXILIARY BANQUET

During the State American Legion Auxiliary Convention in Watertown the Past President's Parley will be honoring Darlene Zweep as she was the Department President 25 years ago. I would like to invite all members to help honor her. She will be honored during the Auxiliary Banquet on Saturday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m., at the Ramkota Convention Center in Watertown. Please use the ADVANCE TICKET FORM to order your tickets for this banquet. Remember that all tickets must be ordered in advance, there will be NO tickets available at the door. They must be ordered by June 10th.

Since Darlene's symbol during her year was the "mailbox", we would like her to continue receiving mail. We are asking you to bring her greetings that will be collected in a mailbox at the Banquet. If you are unable to attend that day, greetings for her may be sent to me: Janet Hurlbert, 220 1st Ave. West, Clark, South Dakota 57225 and they will be delivered to her at the event. Let's fill up her mailbox. We plan to have a fun-filled evening of sharing happenings during her year.

Plan now to attend and make this a very memorable evening for: DARLENE ZWEEP, Dept. President 1991-1992

CONGRATULATIONS - District Legionette of the Year

District 1 - **Jonna Henwood**,

Spearfish Unit 164

District 2 - **Betty Cook**,

Martin Unit 240

District 3 - **Jeanette Sprengle**,

Winner Unit 169

District 4 - **Katherine Lovo**,

Pollock Unit 272

District 5 - **Bernice Halling**,

Clark Unit 60

District 6 - **Megan Hilderbrand**,

Mitchell Unit 18

District 7 - **Roxanne Whalen**,

Hartford Unit 118

District 8 - **Barbara Kucera**,

Wagner Unit 11

NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District 2: **Carol Harvey**

District 6: **Linda Holmes**

District 4: **Jeannie Jilek**

District 8: **Janice Coleman**

May Guide

Poppy - Mother's Day

Election and Installation of Unit Officers—Send the form to Department Headquarters and District President and you will be able to pick your membership cards during the State Convention.

Conduct Poppy Distribution

Mothers Day and Poppy Day Remit 25% of Poppy Proceeds to Dept. Headquarters by June 10 Elect Delegates to Dept. Convention & remit registration fee

Did you know:

May 5: Holocaust Remembrance Day
 May 5: Cinco de Mayo
 May 5: **National Day of Prayers**
 May 8: Mother's Day
 May 8: **V-E Day (1945)**
 May 21: **Armed Forces Day**
 May 21: Red Cross founded in 1881
 May 30: **Memorial Day** - Flag half-staff until noon

A Word from the President

by Jane Benzel (CONT. FROM P.1)

I am working on a guest speaker to have during our Saturday noon luncheon. Our National President Sharon Conatser will be speaking to us following the lunch. It should be a great convention! May is jam packed with events like May Day, Mother's Day, Graduations and spring outside activities. But I want to remind everyone that May is also Memorial Day. Memorial Day is not just a day for a picnic with your family or a day off at work. I am reminded of the words from my song, Fallen Heroes. It says: *"Our flag still flies for freedom, in this land that we all love. And all our fallen heroes still defend us from above. From the mountains to the valley and from sea to shining sea, our flag still flies for freedom, it flies for you and me."* So remember those fallen heroes, along with your own departed family members. Distribute those poppies, wear them proudly, and remember the sacrifices of those who died serving our country.

In the Spirit of a Culture of Good Will



Poppy Program

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. 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 veterans in our communities.

How did the Poppy Program impact a junior when she volunteered for the first time last year. *"I am one of the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, named the American Legion Auxiliary... We do various fundraisers and volunteer projects throughout the year to better serve our community and our local veterans. One way we do this is through the Poppy flower distribution that takes place during Memorial Day weekend every year. The Poppy Flowers are assembled by disabled veterans in VA hospitals. Volunteers throughout the country stand outside of local businesses handing out flowers to anyone willing to make a donation of any size... I myself have volunteered to help with the Poppy distribution, along with my grandmother, who is also a member. ..It was an eye opener for me because I got to see how much the veterans really appreciated our effort. During the time we were there, many veterans thanked us for what my grandmother and I were doing. My local unit specifically uses a certain amount of the donated money to be put towards Christmas presents for local veterans. We later make and distribute the presents to veterans in assisted living facilities in my hometown...As we handed the gifts to the veterans, we told them Merry Christmas, thank you for your service, and assured them that they have not been forgotten. It was really cool to see their faces light up with joy when they were given their presents. Being able to give them that joy was an experience I will never forget..."* Jelsie Dean - Spearfish Unit 164



Recognizing Vietnam War Veterans

The auxiliary Unit 22, chaired the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition and lunch on Saturday, April 9. Olivia Smalley, Unit 22 little Miss Poppy, helped with the event. The event was all about Vietnam Veterans. The unit members served sandwiches, chips, cake and punch. The 50th Anniversary was attended by 150. Sec. of the Dept. of Veteran A Larry Zimmerman gave a wonderful talk, mayoral representative, Ritchie Nordstrom gave introductions and homage, Mr. Steve Mind-er, Navy veteran, led the national anthem, and the Vietnam Veterans Association presented the POW/ MIA ceremo-



In Memoriam

Unit 15 Sioux Falls – Charline Smith, January 2016;

Unit 18 Mitchell – Mary Willems, March 2016;

Unit 21 Hurley – Ardell Ryan, April 2016;

Unit 25 Madison – Janet Hofeman, March 2016;

Unit 35 Highmore – Lyla Busse, April 2016;

Unit 37 Bryant – Melvina Grasse, April 2016;

Unit 62 Humboldt – Carol Lee, February 2016;

Unit 81 Toronto – Mavis Quail, March 2016;

Unit 89 Presho – June Moeller, February 2016;

Unit 96 White Lake – Shirley Barns, March 2016;

Unit 135 Gettysburg – Eileen Heherle, March 2016; Violet Schekel, March 2016;

Unit 141 Langford – Janice Anderson, February 2016;

Unit 161 Wentworth – Doris H Moose, March 2016;

Unit 169 Winner – Dorothy Martensen, March 2016; Lois Sachtjin, April 2016;

Unit 183 Tabor – Melva Sutera, March 2016;

Unit 261 Ethan – Mary Muth, April 2016;

Unit 255 Bison – Mary Clark, March 2016

Corrections from March: Elaine Hayes belongs to Unit 21, Hurley ; Name change: Mary Ann Florey from Unit 56, Geddes



Memorial Day
*Never Forget
Ever Honor*

ADVANCE TICKET FORM

American Legion Auxiliary – June 17th & 18th
Deadline to order tickets is June 10, 2016

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Friday, June 17, 2016 – Noon
Menu: Buttery Croissant filled with Creamy Almond Chicken Salad, Fresh Fruit, Coffee or Tea.

Number of tickets _____ x\$15.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, June 18, 2016 – Noon
Menu: Deli Buffet: Sliced Roast Beef, Turkey & Ham, sliced American & Swiss Cheeses, Kettle Chips, Choice of two Salads, lettuce, tomato & pickles, assorted condiments and breads.

Number of tickets _____ x\$15.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, June 18, 2016 – 6:30 PM
Menu: Bacon wrapped Montreal Pork Chop, fresh mushroom white wine demi sauce, Potatoes, Vegetable, House Breads & Coffee or Iced Tea.

Number of tickets _____ x\$23.00 per ticket = \$ _____

TOTAL amount enclosed for Friday, Saturday Luncheon and /or Auxiliary Banquet
\$ _____

() Check box for special dietary needs

Make checks payable to ALA Unit # 17

Send to: PO Box 1432
Watertown SD 57201

NO TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

2016 State Convention Joint Banquet
Watertown Event Center
June 17, 2016

Hosted by Codington County American Legion Post #17 – Watertown
Deadline to order ticket is **Friday, June 10, 2016**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

MENU: Florentine Chicken Breast, Salad, Vegetable

Number of tickets _____ @ \$30.00 per ticket = \$ _____

SEND TO: Watertown Legion Post 17
PO Box 292
Watertown, SD 57201

Endorsements

Laura 'Susie' Clyde for the office of National Executive Committee-woman .

Melanie Martens for South Dakota Department President.

Elvira Moen for Department of South Dakota 1st Vice President.

Jeannine Loesch for Department of South Dakota 2nd Vice President.

Shelley Dragoo for Department of South Dakota Chaplain.

Elaine Ekle for Department of South Dakota Historian.

Sharon Broghammer for Department of South Dakota Historian

May Prayer
By Sharon Broghammer -
Dept. Chaplain

Psalm 68 VS 32-35

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the Earth, Sing praise to the Lord, to Him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens, who thunders with mighty voice. Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is the heavens.

You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God. May Almighty Father bless all our veterans, active serviceman and their families. May he bring peace and contentment in their time of need. May he continue to strengthen our units as we serve our serviceman and their families.

ALA National President Sharon Conaster Visits the Sioux Falls VA Hospital



Dept. President Jane Benzel was proud to be able to tour the Sioux Fall VA Hospital with National President Sharon Conaster, Minnesota Department President Sandra Fredrickson, VA&R representatives from Iowa, and other Iowa dignitaries, and SD members District 7 President and hospital volunteer, Teresa Huntimer, Hospital Rep. Donna Beck, and Department Secretary Laurel Stringer. Sioux Fall Director Goodspeed spoke to us and then we visited all areas of the hospital by Brenda Stevens, finishing off with a great lunch.

“Walk for Veterans”

T-Shirt Order Form

\$15.00 Each

SIZES (Please Check)

Small _____ # Ordered _____

Medium _____ # Ordered _____

Large _____ # Ordered _____

X-Large _____ # Ordered _____

2X-Large _____ # Ordered _____

3X-Large _____ # Ordered _____

Mail to: Watertown Legion Post 17
PO Box 292
Watertown, SD 57201

May: **I promise to continue to support our military**

Family Membership: Family is important to the American Legion Auxiliary; do you have family members who are eligible to join The American Legion or Sons of the American Legion? Auxiliary units and any combination of associated Legion Post, SAL Squadron and Legion Rider Chapter that hit 100% membership are eligible for the American Legion Family Award. **Promise Date:** *Armed Forces Day, May 21, 2016 – 90*

Membership Awards Deadlines: Rejoin 1, Recruit 1, Recruit 10 and Silver Brigade must be received at National Headquarters by May 1 in order to qualify. Armed Forces Day Award due May 22, 2016

Did you remember to send a prayer to Dept. Chaplain Sharon Broghammer for the President's Prayers' Book? Do you have pictures for "Jane's Scrapbook?"

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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ing current issues. We do
not pay for the postage cost
of address changes.

District Spring Meetings



District 1 Chaplain Donna Erhart during the memorial.



Right: District 2 outgoing District President Irene Sears and incoming District President Carol Harvey with Dept. President Jane Benzel.

Below District 3 memorial ceremony and District Legionette, Jeanette Sprengle with Jeanine Loesh, District President and Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel.



District 4 Legionette Katherine Lovo with Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel and newly elected officers with District 4 President Jeannie Jilek



District Spring Meetings



Top 2: District 5 Officers and memorial ceremony with Dept. 1st VP Melanie Martens and Dept. 2nd VP Elvira Moen.

Left and right 2nd row: District 6 newly elected officers District 6, DeLores Royal 1st VP, Linda Holmes Pres & Ellen Speck 2nd VP. DeLores Royal during the memorial ceremony.



3rd row: District 7 with District Legionette Roxanne Whalen between Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel and District 7 Pres. Teresa Huntimer.

Below: District 8 officers checking the agenda. District 8 Legionette Barbara Kucera between Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel and District 8 Pres. Kathleen Geiman.

