



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*



Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Melanie Martens, Department President



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?"

It is indeed an honor to serve as your Department President. I am truly humbled and honored by the trust and confidence you have placed in my abilities to lead this wonderful organization for the coming year. As your President, I am looking forward to a very busy and exciting year spending time with as many of you as possible; attending as many events as possible, and working together as "Team South Dakota." If you have a special occasion or event that you would like me to attend please send me an invitation with the information so I can mark it on my calendar.

As Department President I feel that your symbol and theme should portray what is important to you personally. My theme is "Have You Hugged a Veteran Today?" I have used this message over the years as a way to express gratitude to our veterans and how much we appreciate the sacrifices they made for our freedom. A hug can be in many forms, helping a neighbor in need, visiting with a shut in or cooking a meal for someone.

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Congratulations! 2016-2017 SD Dept. Officers

From Left to Right: Junior Past President Jane Benzel; President Melanie Martens, 1st Vice President Elvira Moen, 2nd Vice President Jeannine Loesch, Chaplain Shelley Drago, and Historian Elaine Ekle



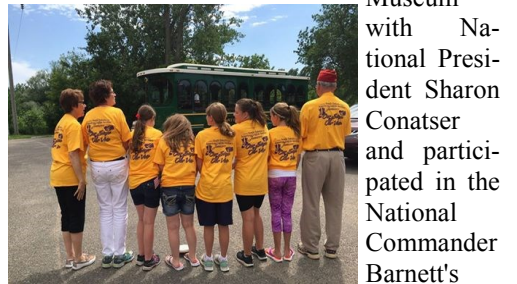
Juniors Program *by Junior Chairman Sharon Teunissen*

At the South Dakota State Department Convention, Juniors had a great time with super friends.

Among those chosen to lead the Juniors forward for 2016 - 2017 year are Shanna Clyde of Hot Springs Unit 71 as Honorary President; Mary Kasten, Hot Springs Unit 71 as Honorary Vice President; Honorary Secretary/Treasurer is Stephanie Gordon of Montrose, Unit 261 of Ethan; Honorary Chaplain is Brianna Gerlach, Stickney, Unit 15 of Sioux Falls; and Casondra Gerlach from Stickney, Unit 15 of Sioux falls is the Honorary Historian/Scrapbook Chairman.

These young ladies were selected by their peers at their meeting on Friday June 17, 2016. They also held a graduation ceremony for those girls that are turning 18. Among those were Lucy Moore, Plankinton and Erin Denning of Mt Vernon. Both girls are members of the Mt Vernon Unit 210.

The Junior Girls toured the Terry Reddlin Museum with National President Sharon Conatser and participated in the National Commander Barnett's



Walk for Veterans. The walk was to bring awareness to Veteran Suicide and PTSD. The Junior girls had T-shirts which they designed with "Our steps 4 our Vets." They presented national Commander Barnett and National President Conatser with their t-shirts.

The American Legion Junior Auxiliary consists of girls, age birth through 17 years of age. They learn patriotism and Americanism through their Patch program where they can do activities and earn a patch for a specific area of volunteering. There are 12 different patches that the girls can earn. Last year a total of 29 patches were given to 10 girls. Stephanie Gordon also earned the President's Award Patch.

Sharon Teunissen, Juniors Dept. Chairman received the Commander's Award for the Auxiliary of South Dakota along with President Jane Benzel's Certificate of Excellence Award.



September Guide

- 9/11: Patriot Day
- 9/16: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9/17: US Constitution Day
- 9/28: Gold Star Mothers' Day

REMEMBER...

Report from your Citizens of Girl State

Plan your Unit program for the year

Launch a membership drive

Make plans to attend District meetings

Organize Junior group/activities

**Send 2017 Legionette subscriptions
to Dept. Headquarters**

**Christmas Gift Shops items
are due by October 1**



(1) Girls State Director Cheryl Hovorka, 2014 Governor Elizabeth Spier, 1994 Governor Emily Firman Pieper, 2015 Governor Ally Monson and ALA SD Department President Jane Benzel. (2) The SD Girls Nation delegates Ashlynn Beninga and Lauren Rink with Natl. Pres. Conatser and Natl Senior Counselor Carol Edwards.



Fall District Meetings

September 17 – (Saturday) District 1 – Box Elder Post 315, social at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 12:00 noon, meeting at 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary will meet in Post Home (Dining Area).

September 18 – (Sunday) District 2 – Hermosa Post 303, social at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 12:00 noon, meeting at 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary meeting location to be announced.

September 23 – (Friday) District 7 - Hartford Post 118, social at 5:00 p.m., meal at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary meets at the Post Home.

September 24 – (Saturday) District 8 – Tyndall 4-H Building, meeting at 1:00 p.m., light lunch/social following the meeting. Auxiliary meeting will be held at the Tyndall Veterans Club.

September 25 – (Sunday) District 3 – Winner Post 169, meeting at 2:00 p.m., lunch and social following the meeting. Auxiliary meets in the courthouse meeting room (across the street).

September 30 – (Friday) District 6 – DeSmet Post 138, social at 5:30, p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., meal following the meeting. Auxiliary to be announced.

October 1 – (Saturday) District 5 – Milbank Post 9, (Pizza Ranch Building), social at 1:00 p.m. in Legion Club Bar (downstairs of the Pizza Hut), meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the basement of the Pizza Ranch, freewill light lunch served in upper meeting room following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet in back room of the Pizza Ranch. A 50/50 raffle will be held.

October 2 – (Sunday) District 4 – Cresbard Post 213, social at 12:00 noon, lunch at 1:00 p.m., meeting at 2:00 p.m. Auxiliary meets in the Lutheran Church.



In Memoriam



Unit 3 Chamberlain - Jean Cozine July 2016; Nettie Millage March 2016;
Unit 7 Huron - Matilda Pembroke June 2016; **Unit 10 Lake Anders** - Laura Reeves July 2016; **Unit 12 Tabor** - Josephine Barger June 2016; Betty Jensen July 2016; **Unit 14 Wessington Springs** - Donna Knippling June 2016; Jessie Speck June 2016; **Unit 18 Mitchell** - Betty Hainy June 2016; Sophie VanHyft July 2016; **Unit 23 Garretson** - Janie Ellefson Hendrix July 2016; Mary Ann Franka June 2016; Phyllis Wiekping June 2016; **Unit 35 Highmore** - Rosella Olsen April 2016; Priscilla Paynter April 2016; Reta Rodman April 2016; Phyllis Scott January 2016; **Unit 62 Humboldt** - Dorothy Hartle July 2016; Arlis Hentges August 2016; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** - Allison Swan May 2016; **Unit 80 Britton** - Karyl Card May 2016; **Unit 92 Redfield** - Ruby Tjarks April 2016; **Unit 133 Sinai** - Naomi Nelson May 2016; **Unit 135 Gettysburg** - Beryl Clark May 2016; Jane Rausch July 2016; **Unit 138 DeSmet** - Joyce Borgstadt June 2016; **Unit 146 Colome** - Lucy Kryumpus June 2016; **Unit 152 Menno** - Connie Knodel November 2015; Delores Schoppert March 2016; **Unit 157 Vivian** - Carolyn Aske May 2016; **Unit 169 Winner** - Eileen Albione July 2016; Libbie Hecht June 2016; Moyra Martin June 2016; Hazel Sondergard July 2016; **Unit 179 Kennebec-Reliance** - Doreine Andersen July 2016; Donna Kentch March 2016; **Unit 186 Eureka** - Diane Weisser January 2016; Unit 193 Irene Gwen Rye March 2016; **Unit 210 Mt Vernon** - Veronica Walz May 2016; **Unit 240 Martin** - Dorothy McMillin July 2016; Deloris Nelson July 2016; **Unit 241 Erwin** - Lois Penn June 2016; **Unit 260 Badger** - Janice Andersen June 2016; **Unit 276 long Lake** - Edna Dais August 2016



CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Due October 1

Ft. Meade VA Medical Center:

Attn: JoanAnn Goeringer (ALA Gift Shop)
113 Comanche Road,
Fort Meade - Sturgis, SD 57741

Hot Springs VA Medical Center:

Attn: Susie Clyde (ALA Gift Shop)
500 N. 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Hot Springs State Home:

Attn: Diane Simunek (ALA Gift Shop)
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center:

Attn: Teresa Huntimer (ALA Gift Shop)
2501 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Human Service Center:

Attn: Cheryl Hovorka (ALA Gift Shop)
816 park Street
Yankton, SD 57078



Membership *by Barb Vetter, Dept. Chairman*

“Embracing Membership. . .Helping Us Grow Stronger (HUGS)”

The Department membership theme for 2016-2017 fits perfectly with our National theme *“Embrace the Member Experience.”*

I want to congratulate the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary on the hard work that was done this past year on membership. It takes every Auxiliary member to support and encourage membership. We have a great product that we need to promote. Membership is the foundation on which the program of the American Legion Auxiliary is built, and the success or failure of this organization depends largely on how well the foundation is laid.

I hope each unit has had a chance to look at their membership goal for 2016-2017. Your membership goal is only a 5% increase over last year’s!!! Melanie and I both feel that our state’s goal is very attainable for the coming year, and hopefully will put membership as a positive in your unit.

With that being said, our state lost 295 members last year, and we have 103 Junior members that we need to make sure to move to Senior member status. And, I would suggest that we work diligently on retaining our current members.

Department has created several membership awards which are listed in the program guide. There will also be monetary awards given to units. These will be explained at our District meetings. I ask that you take time to read my “Membership Bulletin” either on our website or in the mailing from Department.

Remember, success in membership will not be achieved in one day. Also, remember, when you joined the American Legion Auxiliary, you chose to stand strong for veterans, the military, their families and our communities. Let’s start building the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary through our membership.

Go team South Dakota!!

Barb Vetter

Department Membership Chairman



Music *by Nancy Wallin, Dept. Chairman*

Patriotic music has been a part of American History since the founding of the United States in the 18th century. Drummer and Fifers were used in battle to signal the soldiers to fire. In the hazy fog of battle visual command was impossible and musical instruments were the only way to convey orders. By the time of the Civil War each company had its own field musician’s, one drummer and one fifer to provide daily signals telling soldiers when to wake up, eat and go to bed. A third instrument was added in the 19th century; the military bugle, introduced to the US during the War of 1812.

Operation Encore, a veteran music project brought veteran singers and song writers together to put their military experiences to song and verse.

Each branch of our military service has its own official song. It’s part of their heritage; Coast Guard – “Simpere Paratus” (Always Ready), Air Force – “Off we go into the Wild Blue Yonder”, Navy – “Anchors Away”, Marine Corp – “Marines Hymn”, Army – “The Army Goes Rolling Away”.

My goal is to make sure music is used whenever possible in our meetings and get together. I ask that the units use the songs our Department President Melanie Martens has picked out for this year.

September Prayer
By Shelley Dragoo
Dept. Chaplain
New Beginnings

Dear God, I pray today that You will help empower my perception so that I no longer focus on the faults and shortcomings in others.

Help me, God, to see others the way that You view others -- looking for and finding the best in everyone.

I ask for this perspective today, tomorrow, and for the future of my blessed life.

In Jesus Christ's name ... Amen

*Coming together is a beginning;
 keeping together is progress;
 working together is success.*
Henry Ford



South Dakota Winners of National Scholarships

SD ALA Unit 31, Piedmont, congratulates **Kirsten Anderson** of Sturgis on winning the National American Legion Auxiliary President's Scholarship for Children of Warriors-2nd Place Award. Kirsten received a \$3,000 scholarship. She is going to use it when she starts school this fall at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. (2) **Shelby Riggs** received \$5,000 for the American Legion Auxiliary Spirit of the Youth Scholarship. Pictured with High Holmes.



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?"

Cont. from page 1.

My pin has hands hugging a heart of gold to represent the heart of gold that our veterans have. My dad had a heart of gold and was very proud of his service to our country. My pin is dedicated to his memory.

I have selected the colors of the flag, **red, white and blue** as my colors. I hope you will all join me in wearing these colors to celebrate our membership in the World's Largest Women's Patriotic Organization.

My flowers are the Poppy which represents the blood shed by our fallen soldiers, the Shasta Daisy which is a symbol of purity and innocence and the Blue Cornflower which represents tenderness and tradition.

My songs are Amazing Grace, This Land is Your Land, and God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood. These songs are some of our most beloved music and we DO need God to Bless and watch over The USA every day! I encourage the Units to use these songs at their monthly meetings.

This year the President's project will be at the Hot Springs State Veterans home. The facility is in need of a portable PA system for the new auditorium to use for Bingo and other activities. The current system is very old and unreliable; it is setup on an old wheelchair and pushed around from area to area. I am asking for your help to raise funds for this very worthwhile project. My homecoming was held July 23rd at the Christian Ministry Center in Lead. It was an amazing day for me, so glad that so many of my family, friends and The American Legion family could be there to help me celebrate. It was a day that I will remember forever.

As I write this article, September will soon be here and Unit and District meetings will be underway. One of our first priorities is membership. Membership is our key to the future, we need to continue the focus on recruiting and retaining members to ensure that our organization will be here to serve all veterans.

Need Information?

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

Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

Subscribe to the Legionette to stay up-to-date with District and Department information. Send your news and pictures to the editor at Micheline.Nelson@live.com or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, email or call headquarters first. Thank you!

One of our first priorities is membership. Membership is our key to the future, we need to continue the focus on recruiting and retaining members to ensure that our organization will be here to serve all veterans. My membership theme is "Embracing Membership.....thru (HUGS) Helping Us Grow Stronger. Every opportunity that we have, we need to keep getting out into our communities and continue promoting who we are and what we do.

I hope to see many of you at the District Meetings as we share information and discuss our plans and goals for the upcoming year.

Until Next month ... *Melanie Martens,*
Department President

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The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Summer 1016



Elkton Memorial Day: Juniors paying respect to the Unknown Soldier.



Dept. 1st Vice President, Elvira Moen; Dept. President Melanie Martens; Sharon Broghammer, Mitchell; Dept. Juniors Chairman Sharon Teunissen, and juniors at the Mitchell Corn Palace Rodeo and Parade.

Ladies from Canastota starting a new unit charter pictured with District 7 President Teresa Huntimer.

Dept. Convention: National President Sharon Conatser with the Juniors and chairman Sharon Teunissen at the Reddlin Museum.



Natl. Pres Sharon Conatser and 2016-2017 1st Vice President Elvira Moen at the Watertown Veterans Memorial.



Department President Melanie Martens
Homecoming, Lead—SD

