



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?"

Fall greetings everyone!! As this is being written I have just returned from National Convention in Cincinnati. What a great time attending breakout sessions, listening to the National Chairmen reports and meeting new friends. I was amazed by the amount of value our collective volunteer hours amounted to. The value of our members mission service this year was 1.9 billion dollars, yes billion... that's quite an impact!

By now I am sure that most of you have held your first meetings and are beginning to plan your activities for the upcoming year. What an exciting year we have to look forward to serving our veterans and communities. Make sure to check out the new look to our website at www.sdlegionaux.org for information on our programs, awards and much more.

The District meetings have begun and I am excited to share the goals for this year with our members. I have asked the units to double their poppy orders for this year. This program is so important to our veterans and we are one of only a few departments that have ALL our poppies made by veterans.

(Cont. page 4)



Membership *by Barb Vetter, Dept. Chairman*

National Membership Theme:

"Enhancing the Member Experience"

South Dakota Department Membership Theme:

"Embracing Membership - HUGS - Helping Us Grow Together"



Are you excited about our 2016-2017 Auxiliary membership? I hope so!! We need to be excited about membership! Our membership goal for the coming year is based on your ending membership as of June 30, 2016 with a 5% increase for the coming year. I think the membership goals for our state this year are fair and very attainable. We need to keep the passion burning in our hearts for our veterans and their families and our military. Our programs can only be completed if we have members to work them.

Have you ever thought that if just ONE of your unit members signed up a new member how fast our membership could grow?

I want to explain a membership contest that we will be having between the units of our state. The five categories are: 10-25 members; 26-45 members; 46-80 members; 81-120 members; 121 & over. These categories are based on your ending June 30, 2016 membership. A prize of \$100 will be given in each category for the largest percentage of increase on your ending membership June 30, 2016 to your ending membership June 1, 2017. I don't think there is an Auxiliary unit in our state that couldn't use \$100.

Our state is full of hard working, talented Auxiliary members. I believe that when a good idea, thought, or suggestion comes along, we need to share and give all members an opportunity to use it.

Rose Kraft from Britton, who is our District 5 President, had some good advice using the word MEMBERSHIP. She said I could share it with everyone. "Thanks, Rose."

M - Members - those who support our Veterans, their families and our military.

E - Everyone working together to meet your unit goal in membership.

M - Mothers, daughters, wives, sisters, grandmothers, granddaughters, do I need to say more?

B - Bring new members to your meetings, call them, remind them and offer to pick them up and bring them to the meeting. Thank them for what they do.

E - Everywhere, look everywhere for the new members, work, other organizations, church

R - Retain members, **renew** memberships, **rejoin** members - find those who have left our organization and ask them to come back to us. Many just forgot to send in their dues.

S - Service, check with the American Legion to get their list of members, compare your membership list to find out whose wife, daughters, sisters are not members.

H- Have they been asked? I have a theory - when asking, if they immediately say "No," tell them, "Thank you," and move on; if they hesitate - that means ask them again. It is harder to say "No," to your face!

I - Involved - involve all of your members. Allow those who have "done this forever" to continue if they want, but don't be afraid to ask your new members to be part of your FAMILY, include them in your projects.

P - Praise - praise your Auxiliary sisters for all they do for our veterans.

Ladies, remember why you joined the Auxiliary in the first place. Being a member of the Auxiliary is about "Service, not self." It is a commitment to our forefathers' founding principles, Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty. It is service to God and our country, its veterans and their families. It is about patriotism and citizenship. For God and country we advocate for our veterans. I want to thank you for what you are doing and for all that you will be doing in the coming months. With all of us working together, we can continue to retain and rebuild our membership. *Go Team South Dakota!*

October Guide

- Oct. 22 Make a Difference Day

REMEMBER...

Send Poppy orders to Headquarters
Pay National Convention Assessment
15 cents per member based on membership at end of previous year

Pay Convention Proceedings—\$15

Pay Unit Bond—\$6

Cash Donation for Christmas Party
Fund by November 1

Natl. Membership Goal: %55

Start working on Mid Year Reports

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

**Christmas Gift Shops items
are due by **October 31****



National Convention: Carol Edwards, Natl. Community Chairman; Susie Clyde, SD Natl. Executive Chairman; Melanie Martens 2016-2017 SD Dept. President; Jane Benzel, 2015-2016 SD Dept. President. Below: SD Delegation



Around South Dakota



At the July meeting of the Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229, Jessica Chand and daughters Arianna (7) and Mikayla (5) received a check from Jessica's grandmother Faye Athey of Big Stone City for fuel to return to Fort Collins, CO. Jessica's husband, SSG Avinesh Chand has been in Afghanistan for a year. During the summer Jessica and her daughters spent with her parents David and Barbara VanHout of Milbanks. Jessica was a SPC when she retired 7 years ago. The unit has been sending care packages to her husband.



Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens attended the ALA Girls State dinner in Pierre.



Patriot Day - Welcome Home



Sunday, 9/11 the Britton American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary recognized their veterans and local first responders. There were about 250 people present in the park to help thank all of them for their service. A special Welcome Home was given to the Vietnam Veterans. There were 26 registered Vietnam Veterans and 23 other veterans who have done service for our country during a different era. There were 25 first responders registered.

Preparing the meal were Lori Buntrock, Karen DeVine, Lona Battie, Ginny Anderson and Sheri Menning. *Submitted by Rose Eich-Kraft.*

In Memoriam

Unit 6 Gregory

Ruth Vavra – July 2016

Unit 15 Sioux Falls

Margaret Mairose – August 2016

Cheryl Etta Wenzlaff – June 2016

Unit 170 Herreid

Arlouene Rossow – August 2016





CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPS

**Money Due October 1;
Gifts Due October 31**

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



Christmas Gift Shops

Hot Springs State Veterans Home Gift Shop Hours

Dates: Nov. 13th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 14th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 15th 8am to 2 pm

Items Needed

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L or XL); gloves – men or women, youth; hats – men or women, youth; games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants – (L or XL); pajama pants – (L or XL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights

Sioux Falls VA Gift Shop Hours

Dates: Nov. 27th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 28th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 29th 8am to 2 pm

Items Needed

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L or XL); gloves – men or women, youth; hats – men or women, youth; games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants – (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; fleece blankets

Fort Meade VA Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 13th 1pm to 5pm (and potluck); Nov. 14th 9:30am to 4pm; Nov. 15th 9:30am to 2 pm

Items Needed

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L or XL); gloves – men or women, youth; hats – men or women, youth; games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants – (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; T-shirts with designs and pockets or buttons (L, XL or XXL); handkerchiefs

Hot Springs VA Gift Shop Hours

Dates: Nov. 16th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 17th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 18th 8am to 2 pm

Items Needed

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L, XL or XXL); Gloves – men or women, Youth; Games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants or sweatshirts – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants - (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; T-shirts with designs for youth



Members to Remember

Celebrating 648 year of ALA membership!

Wessington's Watson Krauter American Legion Auxiliary Unit recognized members who donate 648 collective years of volunteer service to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Pictured are M. Major (55), T. Harvey (53), M. Hill (56), G. DeVore (53), L. Kleinsasser (52), N. DeHaven (64), A. Matthews (70). E. Wuestewald (60), D. Swartz (71), D. Buckland (60), not pictured K. Splichal (54). *Submitted by Rita Matthews*



October Prayer
By Shelley Dragoo
Dept. Chaplain

My Trust is Unending

Dearest loving God, when the road of life seems difficult, I remain centered, calm and poised in Your loving presence.

I turn to You, and find peace of mind instantly, and the concern over the shadows of challenges fades away.

I feel Your very present light, love and assurance of help and direction in my life and am ever thankful. My trust is unending.

In Jesus Christ's name, Amen

Thought for the day

Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.

Golda Meir



**2016-2017 National President of the
American Legion Auxiliary**

Mary E. Davis, of Lacey, Wash., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization's 96th National Convention in Cincinnati, held Aug. 26-Sept. 1.

As a member of the ALA for 40 years, Davis has chosen to highlight ALA Member Pride for her term as national president. "Each and every day as we work our programs, serve our veterans, help our military families, or make a difference in the life of a child, we swell with pride because of the difference we make," Davis said during her inaugural speech. "I call that ALA Member Pride. Pride in one's accomplishments, pride in making a difference in another's life, and pride in belonging to an organization that embodies the mission work of the American Legion Auxiliary."

On average, each year, we...

Help nearly 3 million veterans

Contribute \$36 million toward veterans and military families

Volunteer 9.3 million hours to support veterans programs

Contribute more than \$2 million to programs benefitting children and youth

Volunteer 630,000 hours for active-duty military



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?" Cont. from page 1.

The President's Project this year is at the Hot Springs State Veterans Home. They are in need of a new portable PA system. The one that they currently use is very old and setup on a wheelchair to be pushed around. I hope that I can count on your support of this project request, the PA system is used for bingo, birthday parties and many more activities.

We have a new form to use when creating our mid-year and year-end reports. It will be discussed at the District meetings, please make sure to contact your District President if you have any questions or need to have a copy of the form. Just a reminder that mid-year reports are due to the District Presidents by November 15th.

I hope that many of you have signed up for our Mission Training November 5th in Minneapolis. This is a one-day training session that will provide a fun and interactive way for you to learn how to be more effective in working our mission. Encourage your juniors to attend, this will be their National meeting.

Halloween is right around the corner, please plan a fun and safe activity for the youth in your community.

The deadlines for sending monetary donations or gifts to gift shop are fast approaching. Monetary donations are due by October 1st, gifts are due by October 31st. This allows the chairmen enough time to plan and shop for needed items.

Until next month.....

Melanie

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Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

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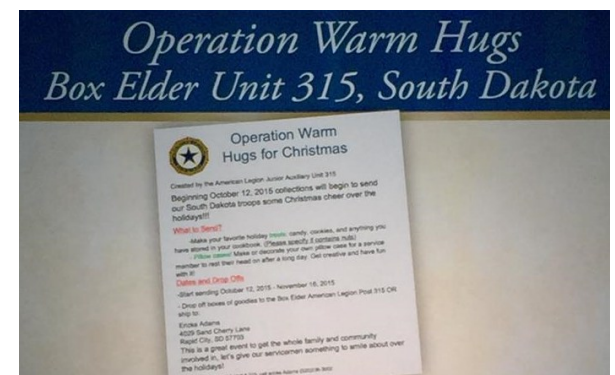
Watertown Unit 17—HUG a HERO

CORRECTION: September Legionette Officers pictured on page 1 should read "right to left." The email subscription will be corrected. Thank you!

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Memories of the 96th National Convention



Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel and her national pages Teresa Huntimer and Cheryl Hovorka - Commander's Banquet entertainer the Gatlin Brothers - Children & Youth Chairman Elvira Moen received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Children Welfare Foundation presented to the Dept. of South Dakota -

2016-2017 Installation of Dept. President Melanie Martens.

Screens highlighting various programs from South Dakota!



Embracing the ALA Mission Across South Dakota



Left: Two South Dakota pageant winners and members of the American Legion Auxiliary use their platforms to raise awareness about veterans and the Auxiliary. They also share how all ALA members can spread the word. Read more in the latest issue of Auxiliary magazine: [http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/...](http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/)

Left Middle: Britton Unit celebrating 9/11 welcome back program.



Right: AL Boys & ALA Girls State picnic and awards hosted by the Spearfish Post and Unit 164. Pictured are Ginger Childers and Cathy Inghram Sec/Treas. Serving the meal. Chaplain Sandra Dean leading the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.



Junior Auxiliary member, Alivia Spilde received her patches at the Ramona Auxiliary meeting. Your hard work paid off. Alivia received awards for her Poppy presentation, Community Service and Physical Fitness!



Below: (1) Spearfish Creekside Elementary students observed National POW/MIA Day of Remembrance. (2) The beautiful cake for the ALA Girls State Dinner in Pierre.

