



# 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?"*

We have just completed our District meetings across the state, it was a great time meeting and greeting Auxiliary members. The District Presidents have workshops planned and I encourage all members to attend one of these sessions. What a wonderful way to learn more about our programs and share time with each other. This is a very busy month for all of us. I am excited that so many of us will be traveling to the Mission

Training in Minneapolis on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The National Chairmen will have lots of information and fun activities for us. November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Auxiliary's birthday, I hope that every unit will plan some type of celebration to show our pride in belonging to the world's largest women's patriotic organization. Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup>, many programs are planned across the state. Make plans to attend them and don't forget to wear your Auxiliary pins or emblem. Assist in any way that you can! Above all, remember our dear veterans on this day with a personal visit, phone call, a card or a special meal. (Cont. page 4)



## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation *by Elvira Moen, Dept. Chairman*

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is the oldest program of the American Legion Auxiliary started in 1919. Since World War I the American Legion Auxiliary has taken an active role in the care and rehabilitation of veteran patients. In 1930 the Veterans Administration program was started to create a formal healthcare program. At the end of World War II they decided to focus their time, skill and effort helping care for a new group of men and women now known as veterans.

There are many ways to help our veterans. You can sew quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. You can crochet stocking hats, scarves or mittens for the homeless veteran. You can also provide food items or volunteer for a local stand-down (next stand-down is in Rapid City on 11/10/16) or helping with Bingo night is always appreciated. And you can do something that doesn't cost anything by cutting up plastic bags to be crocheted into mats for the homeless veterans. Don't forget about the Community Based Outpatient Clinics. You can provide little gifts for the veterans & their families such as art supplies to keep the kids occupied or coffee supplies. The American Legion Auxiliary is a cosponsor of the VA Creative Arts so our participation is important for this program. Find out what the veteran artists project needs might be and donate supplies needed. Every little bit helps and means a lot.

Contact homeless shelters, transitional and permanent housing projects to identify their needs. These settings will benefit greatly from clothing and food drives, hygiene kits, buddy baskets and donations of household items and furniture. And, above all, you can supply moral support. The VA Homeless Programs website is [www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp)

**Because of the vital role each Auxiliary volunteer plays in the successful care and rehabilitation of veterans, the ALA has adopted the Code of Ethics to guide us in our service. Confidentially, professional behavior, and appropriate dress per facility is expected, and most of all those served will, under all conditions and circumstances, be treated with the compassion, dignity and respect they have earned and deserve.**

Don't forget the upcoming Christmas gift shops for the veterans in each facility in November and the Christmas Parties in December. Please bring trial-size personal care items such as toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, etc. to Mid-Winter Conference to given to the VA's. Flip Flops can also be used as shower shoes.



## November Guide

Nov. 5: Mission Training Minneapolis

### REMEMBER...

Send Poppy orders to Headquarters

Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 15 Mid Year Reports Due

Nov. 16: 65% Membership Target

**Nov. 19: District 8 Workshop Tripp Legion Post from 10:00 - 2:00 (Americanism) 605-494-1825**

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Day



Jane Benzel NW Chairman for VA&R at the National VETERANS Creative Arts.

ELAINE HOFHENKE is shown with the sleeping mats and handbags she crochets out of plastic bags for homeless veterans. She is also shown wearing a red, white and blue scarf that she made for the Big Stone Legion Auxiliary members. Elaine started making the sleeping mats just a few years ago, but has been crocheting since 1959.



## Around South Dakota

I received so many great stories, members to remember, district meetings, and articles. Some will be published as space allows, some will be in the email Legionette. Thank you!



Sioux Falls Stand Down on September 23 with Sioux Falls members, Dept. 1st VP Elvira Moen and Dept. President Melanie Martens.



Unit 216 and the Oldham Unit deliver dictionaries to third grade students at Oldham-Ramona School. This is a project that both units do each year for their local school.



Department of South Dakota Honorary Junior President Shanna Clyde talks to the senior members at the District 2 Fall meeting about Junior members and the Patch Program, while Department President Melanie Martens holds Shanna's Patches and Pride Banner.

## In Memoriam

### Unit 2 Tyndall

Irene Herman - October 2016

### Unit 3 Chamberlain

Eva Olinger - October 2016

### Unit 10 Lake Andes

Clara Svatas - September 2016

Ella Varilek - October 2016

### Unit 12 Yankton

Alice Evenson - October 2016

### Unit 16 Gann Valley

Janice Sedgwick - May 2016

Juanita Sinkie - August 2016

### Unit 27 Kadoka

Lillian Carlson - April 2016

Viola Olney - June 2014

Viola Olson - June 2015

Marlene Perault - March 2015

### Unit 36 Bonesteel

Marjorie LaFave - April 2016

Lillian Hebert - October 2016

### Unit 42 Arlington

Betty Rasmussen - September 2016

### Unit 130 Kimball

Melva Goulh - June 2016

Karen Hildebrand - February 2015

### Unit 154 Montrose

Ethel Ackerman - August 2016

### Unit 175 Baltic

Neva Brendsel - July 2016

### Unit 201 Pukwana

Lorraine Plooster - May 2016

### Unit 242 - Brentford

Paula Little - July 2016

Marlene Young - August 2016

### Unit 272 Pollock

Lenora Ryckman - July 2016

# Thank You

"Many thanks" to all ALA Ladies for your cards, phone calls and memorials for Verlyn.

You made a very rough time easier to go through, being a caregiver for almost two years, hospice care for eight days; it went fast.

Thank you again for your love and support. God bless each on e.

*Shirley Baker*





## Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families



Hosted by the  
South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary

in partnership with

Autumn Simunek ~ Miss South Dakota 2015

### Contribute "Buddy Baskets or Buddy Bags"

#### Buddy Basket Home-Warming Welcome Recipe:

Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleansers, Rubber Gloves, Cleaning Sponges, Dust Pan w/Hand Brush, Light Bulbs, Flashlight, Batteries, Alarm Clock, Shower Curtain w/Rings, Bath Towel Set, Bathroom Tissue, Dishes, Eating Utensils, Dish Soap; Dish Towel Set  
- Frosted with clear wrap, bow, and greeting tag

#### Buddy Bag Thank A Hero Recipe:

Assemble a Bag filled with: Personal Hygiene Products, Hand Towel Set, Shower Shoes or Slippers, Socks, Hat Gloves Scarf Set; Shopping or Salon Gift Card  
- Sealed with a note or card of appreciation

#### Substitute, Homemade, or Single Household and Essential Items

Welcome: Bedding, Warm Apparel, Small Appliances, Thermos, Bottled Water, Sun Screen, Lip Balm, Bus Pass; Pre-Paid Phone Card

#### Monetary Donations:

Checks payable & mailed to:  
SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive  
129 North Main Ave. • Hartford, SD 57033

### SD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

November 11, 2016 - January 30, 2017

- Aberdeen - Area Chamber of Commerce • 516 S Main St.
- Sioux Falls - American Legion Post 15 • 1701 West Legion Dr.
- Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk 201 W Cherry St.
- Yankton - Area Chamber of Commerce • 803 E 4th St.
- Huron - Chamber & Visitors Bureau • 1725 Dakota Ave. S
- Mitchell - American Legion Post 18 • 107 N Main St.
- Hot Springs - American Legion Post 71 • 1045 Jennings Ave.
- Rapid City - American Legion Post 22 • 818 E Saint Patrick St.
- Sturgis - Area Chamber of Commerce • 2040 Junction Ave.
- Deadwood - Lawrence County Admin. Bldg. Lobby • 90 Sherman St.
- Spearfish - Area Chamber of Commerce • 106 W Kansas St.
- Black Hills Pioneer • 315 Seaton Circle



Thank you for contributing to  
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Programs!

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities  
Additional Information: Veterans HRD@gmail.com; 605.890.3093



## Christmas Gift Shops

### Fort Meade VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

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

JoanAnn Goeringer Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-717-6900

113 Comanche Road,

Fort Meade - Sturgis, SD 57741

### Hot Springs State Veterans Home - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 8am to 4pm; Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 8am to 2 pm

Diane Simunek Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-890-3093

2500 Minnekahta Avenue

Hot Springs, SD 57747

### Hot Springs VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 8am to 4pm; Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 8am to 2 pm

Susie Clyde Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-890-1854

500 N. 5th Street

Hot Springs, SD 57747

### Sioux Falls VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 8am to 4pm; Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 8am to 2 pm

Teresa Huntimer - Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-351-8470

2501 W. 22nd Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

### Human Service Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 28 Volunteers arrive at 8:30 am

Irene & Cheryl Hovorka Christmas

Gift Shop Chairmen

605-665-5635

816 park Street

Yankton, SD 57078



## Members to Remember

Pictured are Jan Peterson (L) and Rosemary (Rosie) Hoffman of Lemmon Post #66. Both ladies are the first to step up to plan, help in the kitchen, clean, serve, assist with Bingo, or wherever they are needed, above and beyond "the call of duty." Rosie is a 10 year member and Jan has been a member for 6 years.

Meet Maxine White from Unit 213 of Cresbard. Maxine is 87 years old and has been our unit membership chairman for over 30 years. Maxine makes personal contact with members to make sure their dues are paid for the year. She is a very dedicated Auxiliary member who drives 20 miles one way to attend our monthly meetings.



**Veterans Day Prayer**  
*By Shelley Dragoo*  
 Dept. Chaplain

Dear Lord,  
 Today we honor our veterans,  
 worthy men and women who gave  
 their best when they were called  
 upon to serve and protect their  
 country.

We pray that you will bless them,  
 Lord, for their unselfish service.  
 Bless them abundantly for the hard-  
 ships they faced and for the sacrific-  
 es they made.

We respect them, we thank them,  
 we honor them, and we pray that  
 you will watch over these special  
 people and bless them with peace  
 and happiness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Thought for the Day**

*For anything worth having, one  
 must pay the price; and the price is  
 always work, patience, love, self-  
 sacrifice - no paper currency, no  
 promises to pay, but the gold  
 of real service. (John Burroughs)*

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**“Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?”**

Cont. from page 1.

Don't forget to include your Junior mem-  
 bers in your activities.

American Education week is November  
 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, this a good way to recognize the  
 teachers in your community. It is important

that our members are visible in the schools, it helps the children  
 to become familiar with the Auxiliary and the work that we do.

**Reports are due to your District President by November  
 15<sup>th</sup>**, please use the new spreadsheet and narrative forms that we  
 discussed during the District meetings and workshops. Since the  
 new forms are much easier, we are expecting to have many re-  
 ports turned in! The forms are available on our website at  
[www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org) for you to print and use. Contact your  
 District President if you have any questions.

By now the units should have sent in their monetary donations  
 or items for Gift Shop. Thank you for caring for our veterans,  
 they look forward to this time with us every year. They love  
 sharing their stories and spending time looking for gifts for their  
 family members. All members are welcome to visit any of the  
 VA's during Gift Shop, it is a very enjoyable rewarding time  
 with our veterans and I highly encourage you to take the time to  
 come to one. I am so looking forward to attending all of the  
 Gift Shops!

Enjoy your Thanksgiving, take time on this day to make some  
 wonderful memories with friends and family. Please remember  
 our veterans who do not have family near, or none at all. Con-  
 sider helping serve a meal at a local homeless shelter or invite a  
 veteran to spend Thanksgiving with you and your family. The  
 holidays are very hard for those who are alone. What better time  
 to give them a hug than on Thanksgiving Day!

Until next month.....Melanie Martens, Department President

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

Visit the SD ALA Website at [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

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 and Department information. Send your news and pictures to  
 the editor at [Micheline.Nelson@live.com](mailto: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! New subscription year starts with JANUARY.**

Membership Standings			
	Goal	Octo-ber	%
District 1	1022	348	.34
District 2	858	276	.31
District 3	1578	743	.47
District 4	1501	728	.48
District 5	2366	964	.41
District 6	1960	1085	.55
District 7	1503	599	.39
District 8	1320	546	.41
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>5,280</b>	<b>.43</b>

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