



# 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?"*

Happy New Year to all my Auxiliary Sisters! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family. A special **Thank You** to all of the Gift Shop and Christmas Party Chairmen and volunteers for all their hard work. You did a wonderful job. It is so rewarding to see the beautiful gifts, the delicious treats and the great programs that are put together to make Christmas extra special for our veterans.

Thank you to all the units that have placed their poppy orders, we have orders for over 93,000 poppies! Way to go team South Dakota.

Midwinter Conference will be here before you know it. The dates are February 10, 11 and 12 in Oacoma, South Dakota at Cedar Shores. Plan now to attend, we have an exciting weekend planned. The focus of Midwinter is learning. Encourage your members to come, get involved, and make new Auxiliary friends. There are four workshops scheduled for Saturday, make plans to attend all four of them. The Chairmen will have new information to share with you and some fun activities for you to participate in.

We will also recognize goal units during Midwinter, your unit membership needs to be received at Headquarters by January 27<sup>th</sup> to receive the award. How close are you? Can you make a few phone calls or send a couple emails to reach your goals? We hope to have many units to recognize. (Cont. page 3)



## Midwinter Convention Speaker **Virginia Nelsen** Northwest Division Vice President

Virginia Nelsen of Valentine was installed as 2016 – 2017 Northwestern Division National Vice President in Cincinnati Ohio at the American Legion and Auxiliary National Convention. Nelsen has served on all levels in the American Legion Auxiliary: Unit 90 President for eleven years; District One President; President of the Department of Nebraska, National Public Relations Chairman and was also elected as National Historian in 2007/2008. Her service to the national organization spans fourteen years.



Responsibilities of divisional vice president include promoting the ALA mission: "...the spirit of service not self for Veterans, God and Country." It includes representing National President Mary Davis when needed; facilitating leadership, and enlisting membership for a strong voice in Washington DC. Nelsen is a life member of both the ALA and the VFW.

She is eligible for membership through her grandfather WWI Naval veteran William Houwen, her father Army Air Corps Flying Tigers Warren Walker, husband 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne veteran Donald Nelsen, and son Air Force Master Sergeant Bill Nelsen. Her family has served their country in every war since and including the Revolutionary War.

## *Americanism by Dept. Chairman Jacqueline (Jacki) Omland*

**What can you do?** 1. Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods; and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information. Go into the classroom and teach our next generation about the flag. One of the best sources for flag etiquette is <http://www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html>. Work with your Legion to put on Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs. Have a float in parades. Sponsor a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. 2. Encourage members to vote and to support the amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration. The amendment currently reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Help drive people to the polling places. Help with voter registration and help at the polls on Election Day. 3. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?" 4. Increase participation in the SD Americanism Poetry Contest. This is only a South Dakota Competition so there are no National Awards. This year's title is "Have you Hugged A veteran Today?" Poems and Essays are due: March 1, 2017: to units from the schools. Local awards are at the discretion of the Unit; March 15, 2017: to District Presidents from the Units. Units please only send your first place entry to the District President. District awards are at the discretion of the Districts; April 1, 2017: To the Department Chairman. District Presidents, please send only your first place entry in each category to the Department Chairman. 5. Participate in the promotion of American Legion Americanism programs such as Legion Baseball and their Oratorical Contest. 6. Remember to report everything your unit does on the year-end report which is due to your District President by April 15, 2017.

## In Memoriam

### Unit 18 Mitchell

Phyllis Delancety, November 2016

### Unit 47 Artesian

Leona Klinkner, November 2016

### Unit 91 Dallas

Theresa Broski, March 2016

Elsie Sinkular, May 2016

### Unit 135 Gettysburg

Marla Lesmeister, November 2016

### Unit 169 Winner

Marie Holub, November 2016

### Unit 209 Raymond

Dorothy Hinman, October 2016



## January Guide

Sponsor a Legislative Program

Plan Poppy Contest & Miss Poppy

January 7: District 8 Workshop; Tripp

January 14: District 2 Workshop

January 15: 2nd Renewal Notices for Membership Mailed

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 30: Veterans' Holiday Relief final drive

February 1: National Security Donations Due

February 1: Journalism City Applications Due

February 3: Advance Meal Tickets Due

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MIDWINTER CONFERENCE - 2017 CHAMBERLAIN, SD

### Friday, February 10, 2017

8:30 - 9:30AM Finance Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room  
10:00—11:30AM Executive Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room

12:00 (Noon) Registration Desk Opens

1:00-2:30PM Department Chairmen available for Q&A – Registration Area

3:00-4:00PM Assemble Sock of Love & Hygiene Kits - Breakwater Room

6:00 PM No Host Cocktails

7:00 PM Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet- Oacoma-Wheeler

### Saturday, February 11, 2017

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens & Junior Fundraiser  
Silent Auction Opens Gift Shop Room;

8:00 AM Joint Opening Session – Hale-Oacoma Cedar Shore Conference Center  
Presentation of Colors; Remarks by State Commander Charemon Dunham; Auxiliary President Melanie Martens; & SAL Detachment Commander Jeff Shannon

8:25 AM National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt, Remarks

8:40 AM Auxiliary Northwest Division Vice President Virginia Nelsen

8:55 AM Auxiliary VA & R Elvira Moen, 1st Vice President

9:10 AM Auxiliary Children & Youth Jeannine Loesch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

9:25 AM Larry Zimmerman—Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs

9:45 AM Youth Trooper Academy, SD Highway Patrol

10:15 AM Auxiliary Session Opens - RiverRun Wetlands Room

Department Report – Melanie Martens, President

Finance Report - Kathy Evenson

Membership - Barb Vetter

Legislative— Jean Hunhoff

11:30 AM Recess – Check on your Silent Auction Items!!!

Noon Lunch

1:00 -1:20 Virginia Nelsen – Northwest Division Vice President

1:30-3:30 Break Out Sessions (four half hour sessions)

Membership – Barb Vetter – Breakwater Room

Denise Parker -Writing Resolutions & Amendments – RiverRun

Leadership – Linda Rae Placek – Missouri Winds Room

Poppy – Sue Frantzic - Atrium

3:30 PM Silent Auction CLOSES

3:40 PM Presentation/Awards / Announcement / Drawings / Adjourn

Girl State – Cheryl Hovorka – Public Relations – Deb MacDonald

Awards - Announcements

6:00 PM Auxiliary Banquet “Honoring our Past ... Celebrating our Future”

Fashion Show Begins ... Emcee Lisa Shannon, Mrs. South Dakota

### Sunday, February 14, 2016

8:30 AM Non – Denominational Service

10:30 AM Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Contest



Just a little **REMINDER** to all units to start sending prayers to Dept. Chaplain Shelley Dragoo at 147 Grand Avenue, Lead, SD 57754 or email them to [bsdragoo@lawrence.sd.us](mailto:bsdragoo@lawrence.sd.us) Be sure to write them in prayers' form so it can be printed off, include your Unit number and author's name. Chaplain Dragoo is starting the Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens' prayer book.

**ADVANCE TICKET FORM—Deadline February 3, 2017**

American Legion Auxiliary – Saturday, February 11, 2017

**NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, February 11, 2017 – noon**

Menu President's Choice: Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup and Sandwich of Turkey and Cheese on 7 grain Bread and Condiments and Coffee.

Gluten free bread will be available on request.

**Number of tickets requested @ \$10.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_**

**check box for special dietary needs and list need with your check**

**Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, February 11, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.**

Menu: House Salad with Peppercorn Dressing, 8 oz. Chicken Breast with a sauce of mushrooms, Baked Potato with Sour Cream, Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Carrot Medley Vegetable, Dinner Roll and Coffee (Gluten free bread will be available on request.)

**Number of tickets requested @ \$22.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_**

**check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check**

**TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday luncheon and/or Auxiliary Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3—Send to: Lila Speckels**

34465 249<sup>th</sup> St, Chamberlain, SD 57325 -

For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548

**ADVANCE TICKETS JOINT BANQUET****Midwinter Convention****Chamberlain****Friday, February 10, 2017**

Tickets for the Midwinter Conference Joint Banquet will be by advance sale only. The Joint Banquet will be held Friday, February 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Shores Resort & Convention Center, Oacoma, SD. The event will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour commencing at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of 6 oz. steak and 4 oz. walleye, baked potato, honey buttered dill baby carrots, sherbet dessert, coffee and ice water. Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by sending \$30.00 per ticket requested to John Payer, 25120 344th Ave, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

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

A Silent Auction will be held, with the proceeds being used for the President's Project at the Hot Springs State Veterans Home. There will also be a Poppy Contest including Poppy Centerpiece, Poppy Corsage and Poppy Photo. I can't wait to see all your beautiful poppy creations! The Juniors are planning a very unique fundraiser, watch for details in Sharon Teunissen's letter.

The Auxiliary banquet theme is "Honoring our Past...Celebrating our Future!" Our first National Convention was held in 1921, choose a time in the Auxiliary history from 1921 to current, dress for that period, wear some jewelry, or a hat and have fun with it! A short fashion show is planned, come and have a good time. There are lots of pictures and information about our history on the National website for your reference. It will be fun to see what period of history you choose to represent! Feel free to bring fun interesting facts to share.

We are very excited to have Northwest Division National Vice President Virginia Nelsen attend our Midwinter. She is a very dynamic and knowledgeable leader, we look forward to her message.

To keep you updated on the Strategic Plan starting with this issue, we will highlight one of the goals. This month we will highlight goal #3, Develop Leadership/Mentor Members. What is your unit doing to support goal #3? Look forward to seeing many of you at Midwinter.

Until next month.... Melanie

**Department Strategic Plan: Goal 3****Strategy # 1 Offer training programs at all levels**

(1) Our Department continues to invigorate Mid Winter Conference providing workshops, fairs, and reports.  
(2) This year a special effort focused on district-level workshops/trainings for units to attend.

**Strategy # 2 Create a Mentoring Program** (1) Special members are recognized in the department newsletter. (2) District workshops utilize available resources .i.e. Brochures, National and Department Websites

**Strategy#3 Empower Departments** (2) Enhance the Department website

We have done a great job of promoting Goal #3!! District Presidents have held workshops, chairmen have attended District Meetings, and all have provided information to units and members. A District President Orientation Guide, Department Chairmen Training Guide and the Department Website have all been enhanced to help members understand more about our organization and have reference materials readily available for their use. Conference calls are being used as another way to communicate and mentor members.



*January Prayer  
By Shelley Dragoo  
Department Chaplain  
Guide Us Lord*

Precious Lord, we look to you as we enter into another year. Our expectations are positive and joyful and good. Remind us every day that you are with us,

By guiding our path with the light that comes from love.

Love of God, love of life and love of others. Help us to serve others in everything we do and say this year Lord, and place in us the will to always do what is right—even if it is difficult.

We thank you for your guidance and look forward to newfound opportunities

To serve our families, communities, veterans and you in the coming year. In Christ's name, Amen.

*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness and faithfulness.*



The Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive will kick off the 2017 New Year, continuing to collecting Buddy Baskets, Buddy Bags, or single items of essential household and personal care products and monetary donations through January 30 to benefit homeless and at-risk veterans and military families in communities across South Dakota. All participating units, please submit by Feb. 10, 2017: A brief report including: Unit no., contact name, and address; est. volunteer hours and contribution value; unit photo(s) of project work to Autumn Simunek at [VeteransHRD@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransHRD@gmail.com).



**Education Week**



Piedmont Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 311

participation in National Education Week by presenting sweetbreads to Piedmont Valley Elementary School and Black Hawk Elementary School with Mary Wranek and Kim Anderson.

Unit 229 Big Stone City, Gloria Arndt, Sue Christensen, Faye Athey (pictured) and Doris Scheff serving a meal on November 8 at the school during conferences.



**Midwinter Convention POPPY**

**Contest:** Senior members and units may enter the poppy corsage, pictures, and wreaths contest at Midwinter. The theme for the corsages is inspired by the Department President motto "Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?"



**Endorsement 2018-2019**

The American Legion Auxiliary Martin Unit # 240 endorse **Regina Whipple** as a candidate for the 2018-2019 **Northwest Division Vice-President** at their regular meeting held on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71 is proud to announce their endorsement of **Jane Benzel** for 2018-2019 Northwest Division Vice President.

**Contact Information**

**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)

Membership Standings			
	Goal	December	%
District 1	1022	542	.53
District 2	858	575	.67
District 3	1578	1183	.75
District 4	1501	1246	.83
District 5	2366	1893	.80
District 6	1960	1450	.74
District 7	1503	1052	.70
District 8	1320	910	.69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>8,851</b>	<b>.73</b>

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## Across South Dakota

Unit 96, White Lake held a Mother's Day visit at the nursing home. Standing R to L: Ramona Thiry and Mary Peters; seated R to L: Lucille Mohnen, Betty Schoenfelder, Trudie Boedeker, Caryl Schone, and Margaret Hagerty.

On election day, several Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary participated in the election process.; in Big Stone City, Faye Athey (Orange T-shirt) and to her right Vicky Torgerson were on duty when Doris Scheff assisted at Ortonville, MN; and Sue Christensen worked in Milbank.

Piedmont Valley Unit 311 Junior Allie B (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and some of her classmates presented hats they sewed to the Cancer Care Center in Rapid City. The hats were for the patients. Their presentation was covered by the Rapid City TV stations.

Lila Speckles presented a patriotic quilt.

During the Veterans' Day Program organized by Wolf-Nelson Unit 216 of Ramona, Rylan Pearson gave veteran Larry Wolf a big hug.

The Onida Unit distributed dictionaries to all third graders.

Patsy Madsen- Pierre Unit 8 president and Jalaine Fette were Greeters at the South Dakota Capitol Christmas trees in Pierre SD. We greeted approximately five times wearing our Auxiliary emblems.

On December 3rd, we were honored to have our picture taken with the South Dakota Governor Daugaard.



# Christmas Parties



Ft. Meade VA



Hot Springs VA



Yankton Human Services Center



Sioux Falls VA



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

