



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"

I am excited and honored to be your leader this year! I look forward to a great year. What a great time we had kicking it off at my Homecoming. With so many new members throughout the state, I hope to make it an educational year, letting them know what this great organization is all about. We will soon be leaving for Baltimore for the National Convention. I hope to learn lots, and hopefully bring back honors for South Dakota.

September is truly an Americanism month. September 11th is Patriot Day, where we honor those who lost their lives on the day the World Trade Center was attacked. Remember their sacrifices. The first responders ran into the buildings as most people were trying to escape. Remember their heroism. September 14th is the 201st anniversary of the end of the War of 1812 and the writing of a poem by Francis Scott Key which later became our National Anthem. We are most familiar with the first verse, but take time to read and promote the next three verses. (Cont. page 4)



Congratulations! 2015-2016 SD Dept. Officers

Elvira Moen—2nd Vice President; Melanie Martens - 1st Vice President; Jane Benzel - Dept. President; Carol Edwards – National Executive Committeewoman; Sharon Broghammer - Chaplain; and Kathy Hornstra - Historian.

Juniors Program *by Junior Chairman Sharon Teunissen*

I am so honored to be the new Juniors Department Chairman. This is going to be an exciting and a fulfilling year for our Juniors. With all of your help, I really feel we can get these young ladies up and running, all while having fun and most importantly helping our veterans.

These young ladies met at the State Convention and what a great time we had just getting to know each other. Officers were elected, they are as follows:

President: Joclyn Hoven
Vice President: Shania Clyde
Secretary: Ella Hoven
Treasurer: Lucy Moore
Sergeant At Arms: Jayden Meilke
Assistant Sergeant at Arms: Rachel Bruntz
Historian: Stephanie Gordon
Chaplain: Mary Karsten

Thank you girls for volunteering I know each of you will do a great job.



Every two or three months, we will do a project for our veterans to earn our patches.

Your District President should have all received a letter from me with our plan for the year.

As the letter stated, the Juniors will organize in small groups in their area. It does not need to be just their unit or district. It can be even a group from school or church. We just want the girls to be able to get together and do their work for the veterans. They are a vital part of your Auxiliary units and we must utilize them.

I will be attending each and every District meeting and will be meeting with the Juniors at that time. I will need your help to find us a small space in which to meet and please encourage the girls to come. We will be doing a small project at that time also. This year we are collecting items for our female veterans at the new female portion of the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls. Any type of personal items that will make our female veterans feel special are welcome. From finger nail polish to curling irons to bath robes, all are great ideas.

"Keeping the Promise"

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work



SD Girls Nation

WASHINGTON D.C. — July 29, 2015 ,
Congresswoman Kristi Noem met our two
South Dakota delegates to Girls Nation,
Jane Poss and Virginia Johnson.

Flag Program

The Junior girls met on June 11 to make a craft item to help the Ramona Assisted Living remember Flag Day. We attached a picture with the girls and the red, white and blue flower pot which decorated the residents' tables to help them remember Flag Day. We also added a couple flags to each pot. They may be used to hold napkins or however the Assisted Living chooses to have them decorate the tables. After presenting them with the pot we recited a poem and visited with the residents. There are four Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 members residing in this Assisted Living in Ramona.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the support and words of encouragement this past year as Department President. When I was elected in June 2014, I had certain goals in mind and I am very proud of the achievements that were made by our organization. As challenges were identified this last year, MANY people stepped up and offered assistance - to all of you I am eternally grateful!!

I was presented with many gifts this last year and I apologize - I have been TERRIBLE about getting Thank You notes out, please know that I appreciate them all. I have many of them on display in my office at work where I can enjoy them all day long.

My memories of the last year will stay with me forever. Again, Thank You.
Carol Edwards, Past Department President 2014-2015

September Guide

- 9/11: Patriot Day
- 9/17: US Constitution Day
- 9/18: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9/27: 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

Pay National Convention Assessment

**Send 2016 Legionette subscriptions
to Dept. Headquarters [\$5 mailed;
\$2 email]**

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

In Memoriam

Unit 7 Huron

Thelma Arwood - May 2015

Unit 14 Wessington Springs

Doris Roduner - May 2015

Unit 16 Gann Valley

Bertha Knight - May 2015

Unit 18 Mitchell

Frances Prickett - May 2015

Unit 31 Lead

Mary Perceovich - May 2015

Unit 43 Centerville

Katherine Lilly - May 2015

Carol Neuroth - July 2015

Unit 76 Veblen

Elda Vig - June 2015

Unit 80 Britton

Bonnie Olson - April 2015

Unit 88 White

Helen Graslie - May 2015

Unit 96 White Lake

Susan Reinesch - May 2015

Unit 128 Hudson

Janette Sogn - April 2015

Unit 129 Waubay

Angela Lee - April 2015

Unit 135 Gettysburg

Mary Williams - April 2015

Unit 139 McIntosh

Gladys Brooks - January 2014

Vivian Gannon - September 2014

Unit 140 Salem

Mildred Larson - May 2015

Audrey Lubinus - July 2015

Unit 201 Pukwana

Shirley McGhee - June 2015

Unit 229 Big Stone City

Alice Howland - April 2015

Unit 239 Little Eagle

Imogene Taken Alive - November 2014

Unit 280 Iroquois

Delia Dunham - March 2015

Unit 303 Hermosa

Georgiamae Krossschell - April 2015

Unit 500

Rose Richards - December 2014



CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Due October 1

Ft. Meade VA:

JoanAnn Goeringer 605-717-6900

joananngoeringer@gmail.com

Hot Springs VA:

Susie Clyde 605-890-1854

hsvagiftshop@gmail.com

Hot Springs State Home:

Diane Simunek 605-890-3093

Diane_simunek@hotmail.com

Sioux Falls VA:

Teresa Huntimer 605-351-8470

thuntimer@gmail.com

Human Service Center:

Cheryl & Irene Hovorka 605-665-5635

cheryl.hovorka@usd.edu



Christmas Gift Shops

Ft. Meade - November 15th, 16th and 17th
Volunteers arrive at 9:30 am, 15th will be
a potluck lunch

Hot Springs VA - November 18th, 19th and
20th Volunteer times TBD

Hot Springs State Veterans Home – No-
vember 15th, 16th and 17th Volunteer
times TBD

Human Services Center – November 30th
Volunteers arrive at 8:30 am

Sioux Falls VA - November 30th, Decem-
ber 1st and December 2nd Volunteers ar-
rive at 9:00 am

Christmas Parties

Ft. Meade VA – December 8th 1 pm

Hot Springs State Veterans Home - De-
cember 5th 1 pm

Hot Springs VA - December 6th 1 pm

Human Services Center – December 9th
5 pm

Sioux Falls VA December 10th 2 pm

*Please come and share your Christmas spirit
with our veterans,
they love to see you!!*

Melanie Martens, VA&R Chairman

Fall District Meetings

September 11- District 3 - Friday: Miller American Legion - Social at 6:00 pm;
Meeting at 7:00 pm; Cake & Cookies following the meeting. Auxiliary will meet
at the Post Home.

September 12 - District 4 - Saturday: Groton American Legion - Social at 5:00
pm; Meal at 6:00 pm; Meeting at 6:30 pm. Auxiliary will meet at the Communi-
ty Center.

September 13 - District 5 - Sunday: White American Legion - Social at 1:00
pm; Meeting at 1:30 pm. Auxiliary will meet at the Post Home.

September 18 - District 8 - Friday: Tabor American Legion - Social at 6:30 pm;
Meeting at 7:30 pm; Meal to follow. Auxiliary will meet at the Kostel Funeral
Home (Next to the Post Home.)

September 19 - District 7 - Saturday: Dell Rapids American Legion - Social at
1:00 pm; Meeting at 2:00 pm; Meal to follow. Auxiliary will meet at the Meth-
odist Church.

September 20 - District 6 - Sunday: Iroquois American Legion - Social at 1:00
pm; Meeting at 2:00 pm; Cake & Cookies to follow. Auxiliary will meet at the
Fire Hall.

September 26 - District 1 - Saturday: Little Eagle American Legion - Social at
11:00 am CT; Meal at noon CT; Meeting at 1:00 pm CT. Auxiliary will meet at
the Post Home.

September 27 - District 2 - Sunday: Rapid City Post 22 American Legion—
Social at 10:00 am; Lunch at 11:30 am; Meeting at 12:30 pm. Auxiliary will
meet at the Post.

Membership *by Carol Edwards, Dept. Chairman*

Membership Packet Update:

First of all: We currently have 71 Units in the Department of South Dako-
ta that have NOT certified their 2015-2016 Officers - meaning Department
Headquarters has not received a new list. Until the 2015-2016 Officers
are certified your Unit will NOT receive their membership packet.

Second: Membership Packets will be distributed at the FALL DISTRICT
MEETINGS by Department Secretary Laurel Stringer. Those that do not
send a representative to a Fall Meeting will receive them via "snail" mail
IF their 2015-2016 Officers have been certified.

If you have any questions regarding this contact Laurel Stringer at Depart-
ment Headquarters at 605-461-3389.

Unit Membership Chairmen:

Please handle the membership cards with great care making sure to follow
instructions on the sheet in the packet.

1. Members receive membership cards.
2. Unit sends a copy of the white roster; check off names of the mem-
bers submitting dues, or submit alternative membership transmittal.
3. Unit keeps a copy for your Unit records.

September Prayer

**By Sharon Broghammer -
Dept. Chaplain**

*"The heart of the discerning
acquires knowledge, for the
ears of the wise seek it out."*

Proverbs 18:15

Dear Lord as our auxiliary members start a new year, embrace them with the wisdom and knowledge to help veterans, families, children, and in particular our deployed service men and women.

Give our organization encouragement to look for ways to increase its membership.

Let us come together as units, districts, and state. May officers help each other as we all support our organization.

Poppy Programs & Memorial Day

Wagner Unit honored all branches of our military and our POW/MIA during their Memorial Day ceremony.



Hot Springs Unit 71 Aux member Nancy Keith and Miss Senior Poppy Montana Harper giving poppies at the Memorial day program at the State Veterans Home.



Spearfish Unit 164, displays poppy wreath and decorations during their Poppy Day on Memorial weekend. Three local retailers and restaurant allow the Unit to spend a morning

"Joining Together for Our Veterans" Cont. from page 1.

You can go to the schools in your area and ask if you can do a simple program during morning announcements. This could be playing the National Anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or replacing a worn flag with a new one in a school assembly.

A few days later, September 17th, is Constitution Day. On this day, we commemorate the hard and difficult work of the Founding Fathers who created a living, breathing document that more than 200 years later still governs this great country. Our Founding Fathers foresaw change and created the Bill of Rights which spelled out in black and white the rights and responsibilities of an individual citizen of our country. Auxiliary members could furnish schools with copies of the Constitution for the library or for teacher resources. Many times, you can contact your local United States senator or congressman (woman) for copies at no charge.

The final special day in September commemorates stories of sadness. On POW/MIA Day, we need to rededicate ourselves to a renewed effort to bring all of our servicemen and women home to their loved ones. There are 73,515 still missing from World War II, 7,852 from Korea, 1,627 from Vietnam, and 126 from the Cold War (source: U.S. Department of Defense, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency). On this solemn day, you can place articles in local newspapers and hold an observance in your post home. Perform the "Empty Table" Ceremony as a way to remind everyone that "WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conferences. There is a schedule of them if you go to the website, (sdlegionaux.org) under calendar of events. I hope to truly "Create an Internal Culture of Good Will". *Jane Benzel*

Need Information?

Department 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
alicemae.71@gmail.com

"Like" the SD ALA Facebook

Subscribe to the Legionette to stay up-to-date with District and Department information. The mailed copy is \$5.00 for 2016 and the colored emailed one is \$2.00 with additional pages including pictures and stories from our units, districts, and department. 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!



**Keep our deployed
service members in
your thoughts and
prayers!**

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South Dakota Girls State & Nation 2015



From registration, morning flag raising, to assemblies, it takes many volunteers to provide our Girls State/Nation delegates with a great week building character and civism.

Below - Girl State Governors (left to right) Beth Mayrose-2011, Madison Mead-2013, Lizzie Spier-2014, and our 2015 Allyson Monson.

.Lower left - Carol Moeller Edwards, 2014-2015 Dept. President; Lizzie Spier; Madison Mead; Beth Mayrose; Emily Firman ; and Cheryl Hovorka, Girls State Director.



Standing by our Troops!



The 155th Engineer Company, a South Dakota Army National Guard arrived recently to Fort Bliss to begin training in advance of their deployment to the Middle East.

Helen Riedlinger, left, representing the Piedmont American Legion Auxiliary Unit 311, presented a prayer square to teacher Cooper Stanforth during the Piedmont school assembly. "This is small and something you can keep folded and close to you," she said. Riedlinger then read the message on the square: "We love and appreciate you. As you carry this prayer square may you be reminded that you are never alone. We pray for your protection and that God's love gives you peace and brings you safely home."

Lower left -The 155th, headquartered in Rapid City with a detachment in Wagner, consists of carpenters, plumbers, electricians, masons and other engineering and construction specialists. They report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training before going overseas to support Operation Enduring Freedom, Spartan Shield. This is the second Kuwait mobilization for the 155th, which first deployed there in 2002-2003.

Lower right – Greer Unit 11 supported the service members and their family during the Wagner 155th Engineering Company of the South Dakota National Guard activation ceremony at the Wagner Community School Gymnasium on Tuesday afternoon in Wagner. (Picture: Matt Gade/Republic)



South Dakota State Convention 2015



Sharon Teunissen at the registration table for the Juniors.

A fun junior luncheon fiesta with piñata and candy bar allowed the Juniors to mingle with Senior auxiliary sisters.

2014-2015 Department President Carol Edwards installed the new SD officers of the Juniors - Treasurer: Lucy Moore; Sergeant At Arms: Jayden Meilke; Assistant Sergeant at Arms: Rachel Bruntz; Historian: Stephanie Gordon; and Chaplain: Mary Karsten.



The 2015-2016 South Dakota newly elected and installed Department Officers:

2nd Vice President : Elvira Moen
 1st Vice President: Melanie Martens
 Department President: Jane Benzel
 National Executive Committeewoman:
 Carol Edwards
 Department Chaplain: Sharon Broghammer
 Department Historian: Kathy Hornstra

2015-2016 Department President Jane Benzel's Homecoming



The American Legion Riders Chapter 71 lead the parade



Four Generations!



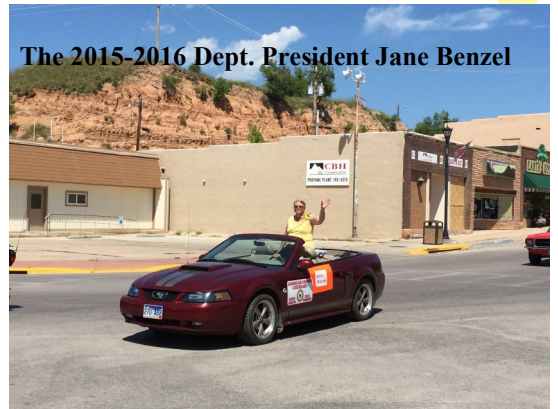
SD Department President Jane Benzel had a large crowd at her Homecoming Reception.



SD Dept. President Jane Benzel receiving The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary banner from Past-President— NEC Carol Edwards.



The 2015-2016 Dept. Commander Terry Hanson



The 2015-2016 Dept. President Jane Benzel



Homecoming cake table with some of Dept. President Jane Benzel's jigsaw puzzles



Auxiliary members watching the parade