



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"

We had a great three weeks of Fall District Meetings. It was good to see so many of you again! What an exciting year we have to look forward to serving our veterans and community.

We will be having a Centennial Strategic Plan Workshop on October 24th at Mitchell in the AmericInn. Phone 605 996-9700 if you need a room. As I stated in the District meetings, this is not just for District officers or chairmen. The Strategic Plan starts and depends on the Unit members gaining knowledge and getting involved with this. I hope many of you plan on attending.

I also want to encourage everyone to sign up for the Mission Training in Bloomington, Minneapolis November 7th. Mission Training 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 in your community. Although programs remain the same, the content is refreshed and the training has been condensed to one day, one in each ALA national division, making it more accessible to more people. (Cont. page 4)



Membership *by Dept. Chairman Carol Edwards*

Helen Keller once said *"Alone we do so little; together we do so much!"* As the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, our strength and influence are derived from our membership. However, statistics show that less and less people are joining community organizations and they are more selective about how they are going to spend their free time.

What does this mean for the American Legion Auxiliary? We need to show why membership is so important in our organization – we need to focus on our mission of "Service not Self" and make impossible for people to say "no" when they are asked to join. So how do we do this?

We need to be more visible in our communities by increasing our involvement, volunteering at schools, giving flag demonstrations, and serving as mentors in your community while focusing on the military children and families as they are faced with deployment challenges.

Welcome new members to your Unit – take time to learn about them and what

they might be interested in helping with. As a Unit, pay for their first year's subscription to the Legionette so that they come become inspired by what others are doing.

But most of all.....WEAR THE AUXILIARY LOGO!!! Make sure that people know who you are when you are volunteering. Don't forget to be assertive – promote membership in our organization, most people do not know that they are eligible for membership.

Our membership goals are HUGE – but the key is not to give up.

Did you know...

You can now renew your ALA membership online – quick, easy, secure! It's time to renew your American Legion Auxiliary membership for the 2016 membership year. Haven't paid yet? We are proud to announce that you can now pay your dues online! How? Simply go to www.ALAforVeterans.org and log in to the "Members Only" section. (You'll need to create your free login if you haven't already done so; it takes only a few seconds). Once in the Members Only section, click the "Pay Dues..."

The Grassroots Corner

Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work

October Guide

- 10/12: Columbus Day - Native American Day
- 10/24: Make-a-Difference Day
- 10/19 - 10/26: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Remember...

Send **Poppy Orders** to Dept. Headquarters

Pay National Convention Assessment (25 cents per member based on membership at the end of last year)

Pay Convention Proceedings - \$15

Pay Unit Bond - \$6

Department Membership Goal: 55%

Plan to send reminders to the family of your juniors - National is not sending renew forms to junior members

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

Cash Donations to Christmas Fund Due by November 1

In Memoriam

Unit 8 Platte

Rita Hoekman - April 2015

Unit 9 Milbank

Betty Cardwell – July 2015

Unit 18 Mitchell

Veronica M. Woodruff – August 2015

Unit 50 Sisseton

Donna Cordie – September 2015

Unit 56 Geddes

Phyllis Beeson – February 2015

Unit 61 Canova

Connie Koepsell – June 2015

Unit 67 Ipswich

Norma Jameson - June 2015

Shirley Raethz - August 2015

Unit 76 Veblen

Elda Vig – June 2015

Unit 106 Faith

Edna Jones – 2015

Unit 122 Trent

Shirley Dezotell – July 2015

Unit 138 DeSmet

Margaret Schultz – August 2015

Unit 143 Midland

Arline Petoske – May 2015

Unit 151 Mellette

Violet Robertson – April 2014

Unit 171 Worthing

Marlys Johnson – July 2015

Unit 179 Kennebec-Reliance

Hazel Fuegen – June 2015

Josephine Schoenfelder – July 2015

Unit 199 Garden City

Treva Headley - August 2015

Unit 250 – Castlewood

Geraldine Leemhuis – Aug 2015

Unit 259 Roscoe

Elizabeth Preszler – Aug 2015



Patriot Day Program at the Sturgis Community Preschool with Helen Riedlinger, Piedmont Unit 311 and Micheline Nelson, Spearfish Unit 164.

DAV Van Project

The Webster Unit #40 learned that the local Veteran's Service Officer needed to raise funds to purchase a new DAV van for Day County. The group held a soup and dessert luncheon and raised **\$5400** for the cause. Pictured is President Charlotte Hovorstadt presenting a check to Mike Wiley, Day County Veteran's Service Officer. The American Legion, VFW and VFW Auxiliary also assisted with this project.





CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP & PROGRAMS

Ft. Meade VA:

JoanAnn Goeringer 605-717-6900
joanangoeringer@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

National Convention – Baltimore

South Dakota delegates attended the State Dinner in Baltimore during the National Convention. Including NEC Carol Edwards, Dept. President Jane Benzel, Dept. Secretary Laurel Stringer and department chairmen attending the convention.



Dealing Cards in South Dakota



Department of South Dakota was recognized at the Baltimore ALA Convention for 2014-15 - Children and Youth Department Chairman Melanie Marten's "Good Deed Cards."

Department Commander Terry Hanson and Department President Jane Benzel during the Sunday Parade in Baltimore.



Corrections in the Guide

Treasurer's name is **Regina** not Ragina

Legionette: paper or mailed subscription is **\$5.00** not \$4.00

Teresa Huntimer's email was left off under District President and Sioux Falls VA Christmas Gift Shop Chairman: **thuntimer@gmail.com** and her phone number is 605-351-8470

Dime Showers (April) - **25 cents** per member not 15 cents

Alice Upshaw, Public Relations Dept. Chairman new email: pr.sdala@gmail.com

Poppy Chairman Dorothy Richards correct email has an underscore instead of a hyphen: **dor_rwr@goldenwest.net**

Please let Dept. Headquarters know if you find any additional omissions or changes in emails or addresses and errors.

October Prayer
By Sharon Broghammer -
Dept. Chaplain

Heavenly Father, as the leaves turn to their fall colors, and temperatures cool down, give our veterans and their families strength, love, and kindness. Protect those who serve our country. For the families of veterans abroad, give them faith, love, and support, while they wait for their loved ones to come home. Let the children open their hearts to bring happiness and joy to their local communities.

Psalm 145 Verse 15: *"The lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does."* May October bring fruitful harvest around our wonderful state of South Dakota. May our auxiliary units and legion posts work together to help increase membership and serve our veterans. In Jesus' name Amen.



Donna Deinert from District 5 is the South Dakota Member of the Year who was recognized at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention in Baltimore. Pictured with Carol Edwards, Dept. National Executive Committee Woman & Past Dept. President 2014-2015 and Dept. President 2015-2016 Jane Benzel.

The 130th celebration of Big Stone City on July 12, featured the Unit Member of the Year Phyllis Lieb. Participating on the parade float are L-R Faye Athey, Janice Hinders, Phyllis Lieb, Carol Rabe, & Gloria Arndt. Also, Big Stone Unit 229 sponsored a blood drive on July 8th. L-R Janice Hinders, Marie Brown coordinator, Faye Athey, Arville Bergaeth, Sandy Rice.



"Joining Together for Our Veterans"

Cont. from page 1.

I encourage everyone to consider attending. Please consider bringing your Juniors.

These 5 Mission Trainings will be like mini National Jr. Conventions for the Juniors. Register at : <http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-2016-mission-training-conference-and-division-junior-meeting/event-summary05892ef5a33e4659879fd206c974a363.aspx?ang=en&sms=1&cn=cX06371CdUiEQnYCMYoWnw>

Please let me know if you register so transportation can be arranged.

With Halloween just around the corner, consider a fun safe Halloween activity for the youth of your community. Don't forget the deadlines for getting contributions in for Christmas gift shops. They will be here before we know it.

"Create an Internal Culture of Good Will".

Jane Benzel

MEMBERSHIP PROMISE for OCTOBER: I promise to explore new ways of signing up members. Honor Your Service Through Membership: The national organization is waiving the national portion of 2016 dues (\$9.00) for every new 2016 female veteran member through the "Honor Our Female Veterans" program. Contact your department for more information. **Promise Date: Columbus Day, October 12, 2015 – 35%.**

Need Information?

Department Headquarters, 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 pr.sdala@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 Michelle.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!



**Have a Safe
Halloween!**

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American Legion Auxiliary National Convention 2015



Above: Past Dept. President & NEC Carol Edwards who is the SD Dept. President coordinating the 2015 National Convention for South Dakota is pictured with her pages Lynn Pohlman and Cheryl Hovorka.

Left: Picture of the South Dakota delegation at the National Convention. 2015

Group picture of some members of the South Dakota delegation at the State Dinner: back row Dept. Pres. Jane Benzel, Lynn Pohlman, NEC & Past Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards, front Teresa Huntimer, Cheryl Hovorka, Dept. Secretary Laurel Stringer.

Past Dept. President 2015-2015 & NEC Carol Edwards with the SD Legionette Donna Deinert and SD Dept. President Jane Benzel.

Past Pres. Janet Hurlbert, Cheryl Hovorka, District 1 VP (first convention) Ericka Adams with NEC - Past Dept. Pres. Carol Edwards



Our Juniors Activities - District Pictures Next Month

Right: The Hartford Jr. Auxiliary girls are collecting household items to donate to our Veterans that are setting up new homes. If you'd like to donate, donation boxes will be at the businesses throughout Hartford including the American Legion. We are also accepting donations via mail: PO Box 3, Hartford, SD 57033.



Below: Melanie Martens, Dept. 1st Vice Pres. Is presenting the Good Deed Award to Aimee Tschetter during the Spearfish Boys & Girls State picnic - Aimee Tschetter and Junior Elise Derrek served cake during the event.

Left: Sioux Falls Juniors made crafts for veterans with Miss South Dakota's Teen.

