



# 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"*

It is a busy time for the Auxiliary. We had a pre-Centennial Strategic meeting, a Constitution & By-Laws meeting, and a Girls State Corporation Board meeting; my weekends have been full. I was honored to attend the dedication of the Veterans Memorial in Springfield. I also attended the Memorial Program at the Hot Springs VA where they honored all their deceased veterans for this year. There were 217 names read. Just think, this is just one VA, we have three. I want to thank everyone that attended the Centennial Strategic meeting in Mitchell.

So now let the fun begin. I am excited that so many of us will be going to the Mission Training November 7<sup>th</sup>. It should be a great learning experience. As soon as we get back, many of us will have the opportunity of helping the residence of the State Home move to their new facility. If you get to Hot Springs, be sure to stop in and see it. November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Auxiliary's Birthday

(Cont. page 4)



## Education *by Dept. Chairman Carol Harvey*

The purpose of our Education Program is to promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support education beyond high school, especially for military and veteran's children.

### HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THESE GOALS ?

Below are several examples

Promote scholarships during National Education Week, November 16-20, 2015 (Unit Presidents will be receiving scholarship forms in this month's mailing) These scholarships can be found on the Department of South Dakota Auxiliary

Website: [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

On Veterans Day do a Veteran in the classroom presentation

Promote the "Give 10 to Education" Program

Contact local school administrators to find out ways to have a positive impact on their students.

Recognize a teacher during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6, 2016. Re-

quest that teacher's tell us how we can enrich their curriculum during this time. (This is a long way off but plan ahead)

Please remember to wear your auxiliary apparel and badges to be recognized at any event or program.

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### Scholarships at Department Level:

Thelma Foster Scholarship for Junior Members - \$300

Thelma Foster Scholarship for Senior Members - \$300

Senior Member Scholarship - \$400

Scholarship for College/University or Technical School - \$500

### Scholarships at National Level:

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship - \$3,500; \$3,000; and \$2,500 in each division

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship - \$2,000 in each division

Spirit of Youth Scholarship - \$1,250 per year for 4 years (\$5,000) one in each division

# The Grassroots Corner

*Service, Not Self – Districts and Units at Work*

## November Guide

### *“Veterans Day”*

Plan a Veterans Day Program (School, Community, Veterans Facilities)

November 10: Auxiliary Birthday

November 11: Veterans Day

November 11: National Membership Goal - 60%

**November 15: Mid-Year Reports to District Presidents**

November 21: National Family Volunteer Day

<https://www.oneoc.org/volunteers/days-of-service/national-family-volunteer-day> (Blue Star Families)

November 26: Thanksgiving Day



December 1: Cash Donations for Christmas Rehabilitation Fund - \$5 per Veteran, for as many veterans you can serve.

### *Christmas Gift Shops*

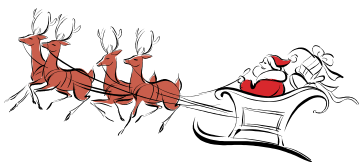
***Ft. Meade*** - November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Volunteers arrive at 9:30 am, 15<sup>th</sup> will be a potluck lunch

***Hot Springs VA*** - November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Volunteer times TBD

***Hot Springs State Veterans Home*** – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Volunteer times TBD

***Human Services Center*** – November 30<sup>th</sup> Volunteers arrive at 8:30 am

***Sioux Falls VA*** - November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteers arrive at 9:00 am



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

## *In Memoriam*

### **Unit 2 Tyndall**

Becky Elsberry – May 2015

### **Unit 4 Mobridge**

Dorothy Klaudt – September 2013

Alice Kundert – September 2013

Emma Lutz September 2013

Mary Wiest August 2015

### **Unit 9 Milbank**

Janet Van Sambeek – 2015

### **Unit 17 Watertown**

Mildred Brower – Reported 2015

Betty Bryant – Reported 2015

### **Unit 22 Rapid City**

Shirley I. Edwards – June 2015

Martha M. Halvorson – June 2015

Shirley J. Haxby – June 2015

Marilyn Holmes – March 2014

Dicy D. Horstman – September 2015

### **Unit 23 Garretson**

Margaret Larsen – August 2015

### **Unit 31 Lead**

Eva Palmer – July 2015

### **Unit 50 Sisseton**

Dorothy Ziebarth – September 2015

Unit 56 Geddes

Leone Sejnoha – July 2015

### **Unit 60 Clark**

Shirley Hess – August 2015

Shirley Larson – June 2015

Lois Riehm – July 2015

### **Unit 81 Toronto**

Nancy Bergjord – July 2015

Presley Nielsen – July 2015

Ardyth Showers – February 2015

### **Unit 92 Redfield**

Nancy Beardemhl – October 2014

Mavis Rose – March 2015

Helen Welke – August 2015

### **Unit 105 Nunda**

Louina Eppard – March 2015

### **Unit 109 Gary**

Lois Fitzpatrick – Reported 2015

Lola Ouverson – Reported 2015

### **Unit 120 Isabel**

Lorraine Collman – July 9, 2015

Glenna Reich – July 2015 Navy WWII

### **Unit 129 Waubay**

Bernice Hopkins – August 2015

### **Unit 150 Avon**

Erma Ruth Dykstra – May 2015

May Oorlog – 2015

Clarice Reiff – 2014

Eileen Skelton – November 14

Polly Sternhagen – January 2015

### **Unit 154 Montrose**

Betty Jean Garrett – January 2015

Leona Vogel – October 2014

### **Unit 169 Winner**

Betty Sinkler Reported 2015

Unit 179 Kennebec-Reliance

Hazel Fuegen – June 2015

Donna Peterson – April 2015

Josephine Schoenfelder – July 2015

### **Unit 183 Tabor**

Florence Koupal – August 2015

Ruth A. Velleck – September 2015

### **Unit 229 Big Stone City**

Isabel Kraemer – August 2015

### **Unit 278 Colman**

Laura C. Groo – December 2013

Mary Ann Schultz – January 2014

**Correction:** Donna Cordie reported the deceased member for Unit 50.

### "Joining Together for Our Veterans"

Cont. from page 1.

Do something special for those older Auxiliary members that don't get out much. Maybe you could take them a birthday cupcake.

The next day is Veterans Day. There are many programs throughout the state. Be sure to attend, and don't forget to wear the Auxiliary emblem. This is a good time to go into the school and read to students. There are many good books being written to help children understand what veterans and their families deal with. I am going to read Klinger - A Story of Honor and Hope. November 21<sup>st</sup> is National Family Volunteer Day. Use this opportunity to teach your family the satisfaction of volunteering, either for our veterans or in the community.

By now you should have all sent your items for Gift Shop. Thank you for your generosity to our Veterans. I am so looking forward to attending all of the Gift Shops. It is a wonderful time to visit with our veterans. They have wonderful stories to tell and are very appreciative.

Then of course, there is Thanksgiving. This is a wonderful time to spend with friends and family, but don't forget there are many veterans that have no family near, or none at all. Consider inviting them in to spend Thanksgiving with you and your family. Holidays are very hard for those veterans.

I hope you have been keeping track of what you do. Remember Mid Year Reports are do to District Presidents by November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is especially important to turn in very complete VA&R and Children and Youth reports, as reports on these are given at Mid-Winter Conference at the joint meeting and Melanie and Elvira need your information for their reports. If you compile your activities monthly, it makes the job easy.

*In a Culture of Good Will*

Jane Benzel

## Operation Warm Hugs for Christmas



The Box Elder Unit 315 is seeking Christmas cheers for our South Dakota troops.

They are organizing a collection of holiday treats (Please specify if it contains nuts) and PILLOW CASES. Make or decorate your own pillow case for a service member to rest his/her head on, after a long day. Have fun with it!

### Deadline: November 16, 2015

Drop off boxes of goodies and pillow cases to the Box Elder American Legion Post 315 OR ship to **Erika Adams**, 4029 Sand Creek Lane - Rapid City, SD 57703. For more information call Erika (520) 236-3002



Members of Unit 164 display the 36 pillow cases collected for Operation Warm Hugs for Christmas.

Unit 23 mailed a box of handmade pillow cases for the deployed airmen.



## Upcoming VA&R Events for November

This month there are many activities taking place to honor our veterans. November 10<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm at the Rapid City Civic Center a stand down is being held to assist our homeless veterans with their needs. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day; does your unit or community have plans for this very special day? The Gift shops start November 15<sup>th</sup>; please plan to assist at a VA that is closest to you. The veterans are very excited to share their shopping time and conversation with you! Please remember to proudly wear your American Legion Auxiliary logo, this shows our commitment and support of these events. If you need additional information for any of these activities please contact Melanie Martens at 605-484-6728.

## Corrections in the Guide

National Family Volunteer Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving: November 21, 2015

State Convention in Huron is June 17-19, 2016

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

**November Prayer**  
*By Sharon Broghammer -*  
*Dept. Chaplain*

*“There’s no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

November is Veterans’ Day and Thanksgiving Day. Let’s pray for all military men and women who have sacrificed their life and time for our freedom. As Units, let’s unite as one, to make Veterans’ Day extra special; show them the love and appreciation they so deserve. As families let’s get together celebrating Thanksgiving Day; thank everyone in our lives for what they have done to help us out. We honor our Veterans in Jesus name; we thank You as we thank them for their service. We ask You to return to them the favor of Your blessings. We ask You to give our veterans peace they fought to secure, a peace in their hearts, wrapped in the joy of a life touched by Your strong hand. In Jesus, we pray.

**Gold Star Mother’s Day**

September 27 was “Gold Star Mother’s Day.” The Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229 from Big Stone City, recognized their Gold Star Mother, Ruth Hansen.

Presenting Ruth Hansen with a gift: Gloria Arndt, Faye Athey, Sharon Smith, and Carol Rabe. Not pictured, Sue Christensen. Ruth was awarded the Gold Star in memory of her son Pete, killed in action.



**Stocking Caps for Homeless Veterans**

Jonna Henwood, a quiet member of Spearfish Unit 164, who cannot make meetings, donates her time everyday as she crochets and knits. She donated 51 stocking caps for the Cornerstone Mission in Rapid City. Each cap is added to a Buddy Care Bag. There are 38 homeless male veterans to-date and a couple of families in the housing..



**MEMBERSHIP PROMISE for NOVEMBER: I promise to thank a veteran for their service to our country. Honor Their Service Through Membership:** Wearing an Honor Their Service button is a great way to recognize the veteran through whom you are eligible. Orders yours today! Order forms are available at [www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org) Membership Award: Veterans Day Award - November 11, 2015. **Promise Date: Veterans Day, November 11, 2015 – 45%.**

**Jane’s Scrapbook**

Anyone that has pictures for Jane’s scrapbook please put names or towns and Units on them. Send them to Elda Hoffer P.O. Box 312 Roscoe, S.D. 57471 .



**Need Information?**

Department Headquarters, 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) - 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



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## Family Assistance



### What Is Family Assistance?

Family Assistance provides a focal point of information through Six Essential Services. Family Assistance Centers are critical in providing help to all military families. This holds especially true for geographically dispersed families who are unable to access services at a local base, installation, or fort. In other words, Family Assistance personnel are the "Easy Button" for assistance and referral for families.

### The Six Essential Services:

#### **Crisis Intervention and Referral**

- Provide assistance with the following:

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Child Abuse/Neglect
3. Danger to Self and/or Others
4. Abuse/Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

#### **Legal Resource and Referral**

1. Assistance with Power of Attorney/ Wills
2. Information and assistance with Service Members Civil Relief Act
3. Assistance with referral for ESGR

#### **Financial Resource and Referral**

1. Understanding Military Pay
2. Assistance with financial assistance and loan applications through the American Red Cross
3. Referral to the availability of outside grants
4. Provide referrals for budgeting classes

#### **TRICARE Resource and Referral**

1. Provide general information on insurance benefits
2. Assist with TRICARE Medical and Dental applications
3. Assist with finding local participating providers
4. Assist with writing letters to challenge claim denials

#### **ID Cards and DEERS**

1. Provide information on DEERS Rapids Centers
2. Assist with obtaining an ID card

#### **Community Information and Outreach**

- Provide a list of local Community resources, including but not limited to the following:

1. Assist with Child Care resource and referral
2. Assist with referral to local financial resources
3. Assist with finding a local FRG to assist with Family Readiness

**1.800.658.3930**

#### **Kim Chase**

Brookings

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Please take a few minutes and complete our survey at: <http://go.usa.gov/3WEsQ>



**American Education Week: November 16-20, 2015**

Elkton Unit gathered supplies for the “Give Ten to Education” Did you plan your education week project?

Helen Riedlinger and Mary Wranek received a citation from the American Legion National Commander for hosting Department legion members during the Sturgis Rally. They provided lodging and food for over a week during the membership drive. Legion representative SD Membership Chairman Ken Teunissen introduced the award during the District One meeting in Little Eagle.



Did you order your poppies? The veterans in Hot Springs were busy making thousands of poppies.

Sharon Teunissen, Dept. Junior Chairman conducted meetings at each Fall District meeting.



Miss Poppy from Hot Springs decided to spend her birthday with local veterans at the State Home.

