



# 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 hope you had a blessed Christmas season and I wish you an awesome new year. We had great Gifts Shops and Christmas Parties. The chairmen did a wonderful job. It is so rewarding. It is also fun to see how each facility does things—how they are the same, but very different in many ways.

I am sorry the scholarship applications did not get in the October mailing. You should have received them by now and should be on the website. Please excuse us, as we are still trying to get things cleaned up after we lost so much on the computers last year. I am working on the Unit prayer book and history guidelines. These were not sent out the last few years. I will get them to the District Presidents so they can include them in their newsletters. I hope many units get involved in these again. It is a way to hopefully revitalize some of the units. This is a good way to get more people involved at the Unit level.

Each month I want to inform you on what the Centennial Strategic Committee came up with for the next four years. Our task at this meeting was to come up with ideas at the Unit level to meet our goals.  
(Cont. page 3)



## Mid-Winter Convention Speaker Judy Twete Northwest Division Vice President

Northwestern Division Vice President Judy Twete is from the Department of North Dakota, Unit 135 McVile and is eligible through husband Curtis Twete; son Darin Twete; and brother Tom Patterson. Judy Twete held several offices and chairmanships at unit, district, and department levels. National: involvement as NEC; Member of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Junior Activities.



She is a housewife and mother to four adult children. She worked in hospital dietary, is a member of McVile Lutheran Church; and loves to quilt and make banners for her church. Judy Twete is also the secretary of the city's centennial committee, and volunteers at school, library and church activities. She served a Welcome Wagon Lady; Mrs. Claus and is a church council member and a ladies group president. Judy Twete is a life member of Ole Semling Unit 135.



## Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

*Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families*

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
and  
Autumn Simunek ~ Miss South Dakota

### Contribute "Buddy Basket(s)"

**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 - Shower Curtain wrings - Bath Towel Set - Bathroom Tissue - Dishes - Eating Utensils - Dish Soap - Dish Towel Set - *Prosted with clear wrap/bow and greeting tag/card*

### Substitute or Single Household and Essential Items Welcome

Bed Sheets, Pillows, Blankets, and Sleeping Bags (all sizes) - Small Appliances, Alarm Clocks, etc. -

Hygiene Products - Warm Apparel and Socks (all sizes) - Shopping Gift Cards

**Monetary Donations:** Checks payable & mailed to:  
SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive  
129 North Main Avenue • Hartford, SD 57033



### SOUTH DAKOTA DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

November 11, 2015 - January 15, 2016

- \*Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk • 201 W Cherry Str.; Main Street Center • 320 West Main Str.
- \*Sioux Falls - American Legion Post 15 • 1701 W Legion Drive; Berakhah House • 400 N Western Ave.
- \*Mitchell - American Legion Post 18 • 107 N Main Street
- \*Hot Springs - American Legion Post 71 • 1045 Jennings Avenue
- \*Rapid City - American Legion Post 22 • 818 E St. Patrick Str.; The Cornerstone Rescue Mission • 30 Main Str.
- \*Sturgis - Chamber of Commerce • 2040 Junction Avenue
- \*Deadwood - Chamber of Commerce • 767 Main Street; Lawrence County Admin. Bldg. Lobby • 90 Sherman Str.;
- \*Spearfish - Area Chamber of Commerce • 106 W Kansas Str.; Black Hills Pioneer • 315 Seaton Circle  
Black Hills State University • School of Education - Jonas 203A

*Thank you for contributing to South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Centers to assist our military heroes and their families!*  
Additional Information: Autumn.Simunek@misssd.org 605.890.3903

## In Memoriam

### Unit 7 Huron

Marian Van Poll – November 2015

### Unit 12 Yankton

Roseline Wudel – November 2015

### Unit 15 Sioux Falls

Arlene Propst – November 2015

Bonnie M. Wilhite – Not Available

### Unit 22 Rapid City

Eileen M. Rivers – November 2015

Darlene Williams – May 2015

### Unit 31 Lead

Dorothy Keil – October 2015

Maxine Wright – October 2015

### Unit 39 Groton

Laverna Houdek – November 2015

### Unit 74 Brookings

Hazelle M. Little – December 2015

### Unit 84 Hitchcock

Berniece Anderson – November 2015

### Unit 102 Faulkton

Patrica Brewer – December 2015

### Unit 115 Platte

Bessie Warejcka – October 2015

### Unit 135 Gettysburg

Jeanne Heath – September 2015

### Unit 150 Avon

Louise Van Gerpen – November 2015

Sharon Yost – September 2015

### Unit 152 Menno

Mary Gunderson – September 2015

Alitha Quast – October 2015

### Unit 153 Carpenter

Lorraine Beutner – August 2015

### Unit 169 Winner

Bev Biggens – November 2015

### Unit 209 Raymond

Eralis Kennealley – December 2015

### Unit 220 Herrick

Karon Hoffman – November 2015

### Unit 235 Marion

Agnes McKenzie – October 2015

### Unit 230 Aurora

Virginia A. Wright – November 2015

### Unit 263 Hetland

Ruth Olson – November 2015

### Unit 303 Hermosa

Roseada Rasmussen – October 2015



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MIDWINTER CONFERENCE - 2016 HURON, SD

### Friday, February 12, 2016

12:00 (Noon)	Registration Desk Opens Silent Auction
1:00 PM	PROGRAM FAIR
2:30-4:00	BREAK –OUT SESSIONS (Three Half hour sessions) Service for Veterans; Leadership; Centennial Strategic Plan Unit Level
6:00 PM	No Host Cocktails
7:00 PM	Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

### Saturday, February 13, 2016

7:30 AM	Registration Desk Opens Silent Auction Opens
8:00 AM	Joint Opening Session
8:30 AM	National Vice Commander Alan Davis
8:55 AM	Auxiliary VA & R Briefing – Melanie Martins, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
9:10 AM	Auxiliary Children & Youth – Elvira Moen, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
9:25 AM	Darwin Goodspeed—Director of Sioux Falls VA Medical Center
9:45 AM	Larry Zimmerman—Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs
10:15 AM	Auxiliary Session Opens Department Report – Jane Benzel, President Legislative-- Jean Hunhoff Membership – Carol Edwards
11:30 AM	Recess – Check on your Silent Auction Items!!!
Noon	Lunch
1:00 -1:30	Judy Twete – Northwest Division Vice President
1:30-2:30	Big Paws Presentation
2:30-2:40	Short recess
2:40-3:30	Juniors: Sharon Teunissen Girls State: Cheryl Hovorka
3:30 PM	Silent Auction CLOSES
4:00 PM	Awards / Announcement / Drawings / Adjourn
6:00 PM	No Host Cocktail
6:30 PM	Auxiliary “Informal” Banquet -

*“Baby Shower” Bring a :Onesie” to decorate and be given  
at the VA Women’s Wing at the VA Hospital*

### Sunday, February 14, 2016

8:30 AM	Non – Denominational Service
10:30 AM	Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Contest



Ramona Unit 216 Junior Auxiliary members: Rylan and Kailey Pearson, Alivia Spilde and Kylee Misar joined the local 4-H group to sing Christmas carols, visit with residents and hand out a Christmas card to residents at the local Assisted Living.



Just a little **REMINDER** to all units to start sending prayers to Dept. Chaplain Sharon Broghammer at 101 McCabe St Mitchell, SD 57301 or email them to [brog\\_sab43@mitchelltelecom.net](mailto:brog_sab43@mitchelltelecom.net) Be sure to write it in prayer’s form so I can print it off, include your Unit number and author’s name. Chaplain Broghammer is starting the Jane Benzel’s prayer book.



Autumn Simunek, Miss South visits the Spearfish American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164, assisting them and their Junior members assemble Buddy Bags for the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive. The next visit, promoting the American Legion Auxiliary and the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive can was the KSFY TV interview on "Giving Tuesday".

**The Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive** is well underway across South Dakota, in the press and televised media. Has your unit joined the "Buddy" challenge? You are invited to partake, creating New Year's Buddy basket(s), filled with essential household items, personal care items, and/or non-perishable food through Jan. 15, 2016. Please submit a brief report including: Unit No., contact name, address, volunteer hours, est. contribution value, and a "Buddy" photo to [Autumn.Simunek@misssd.org](mailto:Autumn.Simunek@misssd.org) or call 605.890.3093 prior to Jan. 30, 2016. *Distribution of your donations to Veterans and military families in need are determined by your unit to help support your local area need, i.e., Veterans Outreach Centers, National Guards, college military dependents, military women and men shelters – the need is endless.* Thank you! Autumn Simunek

## Christmas Gift Shops & Christmas Parties



From Hot Springs, to Sioux Falls, Ft. Meade to Yankton, the gift shops served hundreds of veterans' families, and the Christmas parties brought joy and cheers to our residential veterans across the state.



Buddy baskets for the Cornerstone's veterans, from Black Hawk school. Miss South Dakota with Dept. President Jane Benzel.

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

This year's Goal 2 is to **Create an Internal Culture of Good Will** Strategy 1: Lead by example—Initiative 1 Improve courtesy; Initiative 2 Bring in older generations with the younger members. Make cards, serve meals together etc. Strategy 2: In the Spirit of Good Will adopt a Code of Ethics—Initiative 1 Create a unit code of ethics and have it available to ALL members. Strategy 3: Remember who we are!: Initiative 1 Say the Preamble at all meetings; be sure to have a copy for members to follow. Initiative 2 Start thinking of the veterans and what THEY need; help at a VA facility or other places where veterans are, visit with them; volunteer at schools and other programs.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Mid-Winter conference. This is a learning time, so if you have new members, please encourage them to come and get involved. Don't forget that we will be doing our "Baby Shower" informal banquet on Saturday evening. Try to bring a plain "onesie" to decorate for babies of the expecting mothers being seen in the women's wing of the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls. We will also put gift bags together for them following the meal. It should be a lot of fun.

*In a Culture of Good Will*

Jane Benzel

## ALA SD Girls State 70th Anniversary

**Dedication** by Cheryl Hovorka, Director/Chairman

The 2016 American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State session will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To commemorate this milestone we are dedicating the week to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota Past Department Presidents. We will be collecting photos of these special ladies to be placed on an honor board which will be on display during the session. We are asking all members to assist in providing the photos so we can properly give recognition to these amazing leaders of our organization. If possible, we would like the photo of the year they served as President but any photo will be accepted. We would like to have the photos by April 1, 2016.

The photo(s) can be mailed directly to me (photo(s) will be scanned and returned) or email to [gstate@usd.edu](mailto:gstate@usd.edu) or [Cheryl.Hovorka@usd.edu](mailto:Cheryl.Hovorka@usd.edu).

To date we have photos for Helen Vlasak, Helen Johns, Helen Gottleben, Edith Dailey, Ethel Bainbridge, Norma Miller as well as all the Past Presidents from 2001-2002 to the present.

### January Prayer

By Sharon Broghammer -  
Dept. Chaplain

Isaiah Verse 40:31 *For those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Our country is about to accept new leadership; we ask that you help and guide our government to serve faithfully, honestly, and with the best interest for you and our country, in their hearts, minds and actions. We pray that veterans feel your peace and grace upon them. Let us be to our soldiers, our veterans, and their families what you are to us- the rock that can be leaned upon for support and love. Walk with veterans each day, so that units members can walk with them in service. We ask this in Jesus name and pray. Amen



On November 17, at the Women Connection evening gathering, Sue Christensen, member of the Gertje-VanLith American Legion Auxiliary in Big Stone City, presented Lori Skallerud, National Poppy Chairman with a thank you card made by the Wednesday school students. Below, Gloria Arndt, Unit 229 President, presented a donation to the Mid-West Director of Operations of the Big Paws Canine Foundation.



### Christmas Spirit

Mitchell Auxiliary Ladies getting Christmas gifts ready for veterans in nursing homes in Mitchell with Juniors getting stockings ready for veterans in Sioux falls VA Hospital



### January Guide

Sponsor a Legislative Program  
Plan Poppy Contest & Miss Poppy

January 15: Veterans' Holiday Relief final drive

January 15: 2nd Renewal Notices for Membership Mailed

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 29: Mid-Winter Meal Tickets Due

February 1: National Security Donation Due

February 1: Journalism City Applications due



### Endorsement

Members of the Piedmont Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit #311 are proud to endorse **Laura 'Susie' Clyde** as a candidate for the newly created elected office of National Executive Committeewoman for the August 2016 to August 2018 term. She is a proven liaison between National, our Department, and our members.

**MEMBERSHIP PROMISE for JANUARY: I promise to celebrate new and renewed members. Ring in the New Year with Membership:** Personal contact is so important. Call those members who have not renewed and call the family of new Post members. Invite them to join. Use the initiation ceremony. It is wonderful! Remind all members of the benefits we have and how their dues support our mission.  
**January 15, 2016** – 2nd 2016 Renewal Notice mailed.

### 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)

### Mid-Winter Luncheon

#### Advanced Tickets

**Please change the mailed tickets with the correct luncheon price of \$15.00 instead of \$11:00.**



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# Gift Shops 2015



Left: Getting ready to wrap the presents at the gift shop at the Ft. Meade VA.

Checking the list twice at the Hot Springs State Home.

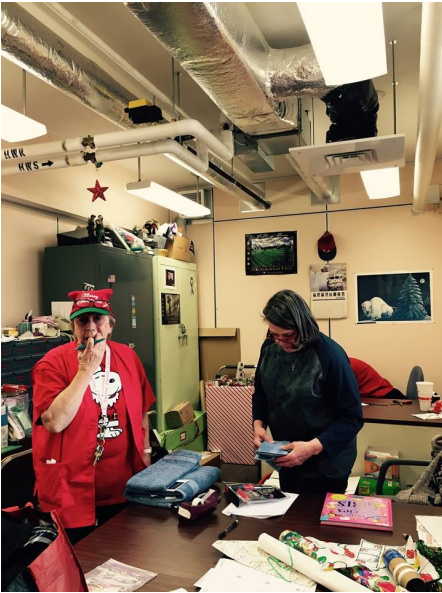
Making sure addresses, labels and packages are ready at the Sioux Falls VA.

Right: Helping a veteran through the many choices at the Human Service Center in Yankton.

Below: Our helping hands at the Human Service Center in Yankton



**Gift Shops 2015**



Top: Susie Clyde “Did I forget someone? Let me think...” “Wrapping and helping a veteran shop for his family at the Hot Springs VA.

Middle: “Which Barbie doll?” At the Sioux Falls VA with Sharon Teunissen; Dept. President Jane Benzel helping a bedridden veteran to select some presents for Christmas at the Ft. Meade VA.

Below: Sioux Falls gift wrappers Sandy Frentz, Kathy Geraets, and Deb Lyle Christofferson.



# Christmas Parties 2015



Many auxiliary members, Dept. President Jane Benzel and Dept. Commander Terry Hanson attended the Christmas Party at the Ft. Meade VA. They enjoyed the program by the Spearfish Senior Center line dancers. Right: Carolers provided a cheerful program at the Hot Springs VA.

Below: Jane Benzel and Terry Hanson helping deliver presents at the Sioux Falls VA. Serving warm soups for the Christmas party in Sioux Falls with the help of Dept. Secretary Laurel Stringer, Dept. 2nd VP Elvira Moen, Dept. 1st VP Melanie Martens and Dept. President Jane Benzel.





# Christmas Programs 2015



There will be additional pictures of unit programs and projects in the February Legionette.



Dept. President Jane Benzel's new hat! A Christmas poinsettia for her unit Christmas party!

Martin Unit 240 met and put together Christmas gift bags for the local senior veterans!

Ramona Unit 216 Junior Auxiliary members: Rylan and Kailey Pearson, Alivia Spilde and Kylee Misar joined the local 4-H group to sing Christmas carols, visit with residents and hand out a Christmas card to residents at the local Assisted Living.



Box Elder Unit 315 gathered Christmas presents and food to deliver to the families in the community.



*Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016

