



# 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?"*

Greetings to all my Auxiliary sisters; you have all become dear friends over this past year. It doesn't seem possible that a year has gone by since I was elected to serve as your President. As I write my final article for the Legionette, it is amazing to me how much we have "hugged" our veterans. The activities that I have been invited to, the reports that I have received, the warrants that I have signed, the number of service hours reported, and the money that has been donated to our programs and projects make me feel very proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. Way to go TEAM SOUTH DAKOTA!

What a privilege it was to present a check to Special Olympics, and being able to give "high fives" to the participants. Hearing their stories touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes. I will be attending the 71<sup>st</sup> annual ALA South Dakota Girls State, May 29<sup>th</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the University of South Dakota campus. I look forward to spending time with the 412 girls who have registered and watching them grow in strength and character as they step outside their comfort zones.

Membership is always a challenge, especially with the loss of so many of our dedicated members. I thank all of you for your focus on recruiting, retaining and renewing members, as of this article, we are at 93.8% of our goal, in second place in the Northwestern Division and 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation!!! We don't have far to go to be at 100% of our goal. I can't wait to see which units and districts will be receiving awards at State Convention, many of you are just a few members short of achieving your goal. Don't forget to remind those who have not renewed during this year, otherwise, they may have to pay for two years to maintain their continuous membership. (Cont. page 3)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Girls

S T A T E

*ALA SD Girls State Dept. Chairman/Director Cheryl Hovorka*

**2017 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE**

ALA Department President ALA Department Secretary ALA Department Treasurer ALA Girls State Director/Chairman ALA Girls State Asst. Director/Chairman ALA Girls State Registrar/Registration ALA SD Girls State Governor ALA Girls State Dean of Counselors Store Managers	Melanie Martens Laurel Stringer Regina Whipple Cheryl Hovorka Tiffany Newman Irene Hovorka Raina Grimsley Jody Hoiten Laurel Stringer Shirley Baker Melissa Hessman Pat Huls Ethel Cooper Melanie Martens Barb Vetter Ruth Hessman Teresa Huntimer
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Office Manager  
First Aid Assistance  
Chorus Director  
Craft Activity  
ALA Program Fair  
Webpage Editor  
Facebook Editor

Area Judges and attorneys, as well as faculty and staff from the USD Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice and USD School of Law support the judicial branch of ALA SD Girls State.

South Dakota Highway Patrol, Clay County Sheriff's Department, Vermillion and Yankton Police Departments support the Law Enforcement segment of ALA SD Girls State.

Al Neuharth Media Center faculty and staff support the ALA SD Girls State *Sacajawea Scroll* Journalists

**ACTIVE SHOOTER PRESENTATION**

What Would You Do If A Shooter Came To Your Workplace, School, Shopping Center, Airport...? The ALA SD Girls State program is hosting an "Active Shooter Presentation" on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 8:30 AM, Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall on the USD campus in Vermillion. The presenter is Lt. Michael Burgeson from the Yankton Police Department (Army Veteran/Ret'd. Command Sergeant Major SD Army National Guard). The presentation is open to ALA Girls State delegates (not involved in the judicial activities), their family members, The American Legion Family and the General Public. The awards & closing assembly will follow immediately after the presentation.

## In Memoriam

**Unit 4 Mobridge** – Linda Epperly, Mar. 17; **Unit 8 Pierre** – Juanita Kangas, Apr. 17; **Unit 10 Lake Andes** – Josephine Kolecka, Apr. 17; **Unit 22 Rapid City** – Dorothy Zorn, Mar. 17; **Unit 23 Garretson** – Betty M Olson, Apr. 17; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** – Ruth Dankey, Apr. 17; Evelyn Hjelm, Apr. 17; **Unit 43 Centerville** – Genevieve Harmon, May 17; **Unit 47 Artesian** – Dorthy Weinburger, Apr. 17; **Unit 48 Rosholt** – Inez Moore, Mar. 17; **Unit 53 Canton** – Shirley Fox, Apr. 17; Joyce Paulson, Mar. 17; **Unit 58 Columbia** – Lois Davis, Jan.17; Freda Herther, May 17; **Unit 64 Wilmot** – Jean Jones, Apr. 17; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** – Luella Buskerud, Apr. 17; **Unit 74 Brookings** – Thelma Dittman, Mar. 17; Eva Selleck, Apr. 17; **Unit 80 Britton** – Mary Nelson, Mar. 17; **Unit 138 DeSmet** – Dorothy Erickson, Apr. 17; **Unit 172 Edgemont** – Helen Miller, Apr. 17; **Unit 179 Kennebec** – Geraldine Hauchin, Mar. 17; **Unit 216 Ramona** – Thalia Dooley, Apr. 17; **Unit 229 Big Stone** – Virginia Bunting, May 17;



## Special Olympic Games

Spearfish was hosting the Special Olympic Games on May 18-20. SD Dept. President Melanie Martens and SD Legion Commander Charemon Dunham high fived all athletes.



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION – June 15–18, 2017 Watertown, SD

### Thursday, June 15, 2017

- 12:00 PM Registration Desk Opens
- 1:00-4:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting - Sandy Shores
- 5:00 PM Incoming/Outgoing District Presidents Training - Sandy Shores

### Friday, June 16, 2017

- 7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
- 8:00-10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting—Sandy Shores
- 11:00 AM Juniors Meeting—Harvest Room
- 12:00 PM Executive Committee Luncheon—Kotadome
- 1:00-3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting—Sandy Shores
- 3:00-4:00 PM Chairmen Training—Sandy Shores
- 4:30 PM Joint Convention Memorial Service—Theater
- 6:00 PM No Host Social/Cocktails—Glacier Lakes Ballroom
- 7:00 PM Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet—Glacier Lakes Ballroom

### Saturday, June 17, 2017

- 7:30 AM Registrations Desk Opens
- 8:00 AM Processional Line-Up
- 8:30 AM Auxiliary Convention Convenes
- 11:45 AM Recess
- Noon Auxiliary Luncheon—Kotadome
- 1:15 PM Convention Reconvenes
- 2:45 PM Convention Recesses
- 3:00 PM National Commander’s Walk
- 6:30 PM Auxiliary Banquet— Honors Past Department President LuElla Lehr
- 8:00 PM Legion Foundation Fun Auction—Kotadome

### Sunday, June 18, 2017

- 7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
- 8:00 AM Convention Reconvenes

Post-Convention Executive Committee Meeting—15 minutes following the closing of convention

## National Poppy Day



Friday, May 26, 2017 will mark the first official National Poppy Day. SD Governor Dangaard proclaimed May 26-29 Poppy Days. Hot Springs Legion/Unit 71 had their own Poppy Day recognized by the city mayor.

May we all remember to wear our poppy during Memorial Day weekend!







**A Word from the President (Cont. from p. 1)** Two new units have been chartered this year. What an honor it was to present the charter to the Canistota unit. I am looking forward to presenting the charter to Rosebud yet this spring.

Congratulations to all the District Legionette Member of the Year recipients. Best wishes to you at State Convention. Also, congratulations to the newly elected District Presidents and officers. A special thank you to all the outgoing District Presidents and officers, it has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for sending in your year -end reports, I am truly amazed at all we do for our Veterans, Children and Youth and our Communities! I look forward to seeing everyone at State Convention, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at the Ramkota in Watertown. Many things are planned for you during this weekend. The reports that will be presented will tell us about **all** our accomplishments and the great year the Auxiliary has had. We will be voting on a proposed revision of the current Constitution and Bylaws which has been updated to coincide with the Constitution and Bylaws of our National Organization. I hope that all the units have taken time to read the proposed revisions that were provided in the department mailing. On Saturday, we will have a guest speaker for the luncheon, she has an important message for us that you will not want to miss. On Sunday, we will have election of officers and our NW Division Vice President.

Do you all have your poppy crafts ready to bring with you to State Convention? It will be very exciting to see our “South Dakota Flanders Field of Poppies” displayed. Don’t forget to bring yours!!!

This has been a very remarkable year for me and I thank all of you for your support and encouragement. I will close this issue by thanking all the Department Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputy Hospital Representatives, Gift Shop Chairmen, Christmas Party Chairmen and Department Officers for all your help throughout this past year. You all did a fantastic job, and I commend you for all that you have done to “hug” our veterans this year.

Melanie Martens, Department President

### June Guide

- ALA Girls State Week: May 29th— June 3rd—Vermillion
- June 6: D Day—WWII
- June 15-18: State Convention in Watertown
- June 14: Flag Day Program
- June 15: Send 2017-2018 Unit Officers and Chairmen to Headquarters and District Presidents
- June 18: Fathers Day
- June 20: Summer Solstice (Longest Day of the Year)
- Send Dept. Convention Delegates and registration fees—with an early convention, June 10th is recommended
- Remit 25 % of Poppy proceeds to Dept. Headquarters no later than June 10**

### ALA National President Mary Davis Visits South Dakota



National President Mary Davis enjoying some of the scenery in the Black Hills and visiting Mt. Rushmore. Her visit took her to the Black Hills National Cemetery and the VA facilities. (Additional pictures in the emailed Legionette)

### Children & Youth - Holiday Relief for Homeless Veterans



The Ipswich School District took 1st place in donations collected for this project.

### Flag Etiquette



Piedmont Unit 311 and Spearfish Unit 164 held programs for the Boy Scouts and First Graders.



### Membership

Mrs. Velma Wagner, Alexandria, was honored for 68 continuous years in the American Legion Auxiliary. She is a Gold Star Mother.



*June Prayer**By Shelley Dragoo**Department Chaplain***A Prayer of Gratitude**

Loving Lord,

As I express my gratitude to you in prayer, may it be a pleasing, joyful sound to you.

Thank you, Lord, for your love. It brings me acceptance and significance.

Thank you, Lord, for your truth. It brings me guidance and direction. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. It brings me help and comfort.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness. It brings me stability and strength.

Thank you, Lord, for your kindness. It brings me daily provision and sustenance.

Thank you, Lord, for your beauty displayed on this earth. It brings me joy and delight.

Thank you, Lord, for your way of redemption - the cross. It brings me salvation and regeneration.

Amen

**Thought for the day:**

*Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.*  
*Buddha*

**American Legion Shooting Sport**

Patsy Madsen-President Pierre Unit 8 presenting Pierre Jr. Shooters a check for \$501. This is what we raised at the Silent Auction with proceeds of this to go to these young children, we held at our Ladies Luncheon on May 13th.

It's BB Gun day in Britton ...8th annual. American Legion Tournament ...good luck to all of those traveling and competing ....Believe, Trust, and Confidence

**Past President Parley Chairman Carol Edwards**

At the Department convention we will be honoring Past Department President Luella Lehr (1992-1993). Luella's symbol from her year as President was a "rose". I am requesting that anyone that plans to attend the convention or banquet to please bring a "rose" – real or artificial. Thank you.

**Endorsements**

Unit 17 of Watertown endorses **Elvira Moen** for South Dakota Department President for the 2017-2018 term.

Stanley Unit 20 endorses **Jeannine Loesch** as a candidate for South Dakota Department First Vice President for the 2017-2018 term.

Unit 65 in Dell Rapids, endorses **Teresa Huntimer** for the South Dakota Department Second Vice President for the 2017-2018 term.

Greer Unit #11 of Wagner endorses **Kathy Geiman** for the office of Chaplain, Department of South Dakota for the 2017-2018 term

Post 9 Auxiliary of Milbank are pleased to endorse **Karen Layher** for South Dakota Department Chaplain for the 2017-2018 term.

Ethan Unit 261 endorses **Bonnie McBryer** as a candidate for South Dakota Department Historian for the 2017-2018 term.

Hot Springs Unit #71 endorses **Jane Benzel** for 2018-2019 Northwest Division National Vice President.

Hunt-Newell Unit #213 endorses **Barb Vetter** for the 2018-2019 Northwest Division National Vice President.

Martin Unit # 240 endorses **Regina Whipple** or the 2018-2019 Northwest Division National Vice-President.

**Contact Information**

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Visit the SD ALA Website at [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

**Membership**

*by Dept. Chairman Barb Vetter*

The membership report this month has me almost standing on my head!!!! South Dakota is doing a wonderful job on membership. Look at your numbers ladies, we could become a goal department 😊. Who will be the first goal district? P.S. In order for the units to be in the running for the \$100 membership prize in the five categories, I will be taking their membership total as of June 1.

District 1 85%  
District 2 93%  
District 3 95.3%  
District 4 96%  
District 5 97%  
District 6 90%  
District 7 95.1%  
District 8 89%

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### ALA National President Mary Davis in the Black Hills



From a welcoming start at the Rapid City airport to a craft evening at Post/Unit 22 to sew Prayer Pillows, National President Mary Davis had a busy start of her visit to South Dakota. On Day 2, she went to the Black Hills National Cemetery to lay a wreath, distributed Prayer Pillows at the Ft. Meade VA Hospital; had lunch at Hot Springs and a visit at the new State Home. She enjoyed a tour of Mount Rushmore and an evening banquet at the Hermosa Post.







Veteran Denise Parker, member of Home-  
stead Unit 31, Lead laid a wreath at Nor-  
mandy on behalf of Post and Unit 31, Lead.



Watertown, Unit 17 had a Poppy craft day  
with Dept. President Melanie Martens and  
Dept. 1st Vice President Elvira Moen. They  
will be displayed at the State Convention to  
create the South Dakota Flanders Field.



Unit 65, Dell Rapids display a Poppy  
awareness table to inform the community  
of the National Poppy Day, share Poppy  
contest entries, and Poppy crafts.



Dept. Poppy Chairman Sue Frantzick with  
Rapid City Unit 22 President Terry Curry  
and Little Miss Poppy are offering poppies  
in the community.

# MEMORIAL DAY



4<sup>th</sup> July  
Happy  
Independence Day