



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?"

Hope you are all enjoying the balmy South Dakota weather! It is a brand new year and we have already accomplished so much to improve the lives of our veterans, active duty military and their families and communities.

Mid Winter Conference is fast approaching. We have a busy, exciting weekend planned for all of you. Virginia Nelson, Northwestern Division National Vice President will be our special guest. We look forward to spending time with her and the information she will share with us from National. Plan to attend all four workshops, the chairmen have some great information and fun activities to share with you! I can't wait to see all the Poppy items that have been made for the Senior Poppy contest. Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction. The Auxiliary banquet will be a great time for us to spend together. I am very pleased that the Juniors will be able to join us for our luncheon and banquet.

I have really enjoyed all the workshops the District Presidents have organized. It is wonderful to see Auxiliary sisters working together, having fun for the good of the organization and our programs. The response and attendance has been great; some of the District Presidents are planning spring workshops so be sure to watch for details in their upcoming newsletters.

February is the month of LOVE! One of my favorite love songs is "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News". I think the title says it all!! I know we all have love in our hearts for our veterans. The week of February 14th is another opportunity to say "Thank You" to this special group of men and women in our VA medical centers, assisted living, nursing homes and shelters. Don't forget the members at your posts, they deserve a "Thank You" too. (Cont. page 3)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SOUTH DAKOTA



By Dept. Director/Chairman Cheryl Hovorka

The 71st annual ALA SD Girls State will be May 29 – June 3, 2017 on the campus of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion. Auxiliary Day is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd!

The Journalism City applications were mailed to the units in the December President's packets from Department Headquarters. If you have not contacted your schools please do soon as possible as we are still accepting applications. Besides Journalism City, each girl will also be assigned to a regular city. She will not be able to run for any offices as her primary objective for the week will be to produce the *Sacajawea Scroll*. But, by being part of a regular city and Journalism City, it will give the girls a broader ALA Girls State experience.

There will be a lunch/roundtable discussion for the Journalism City delegates. Tuesday through Friday a different source of the media (radio, TV, newspaper, magazine) will be invited to join the girls for lunch. It will give the girls a chance to network with professional staff in each of those areas.

Pre-registration packets have been mailed to the units. If the unit data sheet was not returned notifying us where the material should be sent, it was automatically sent to the Unit President. Final registration will be done online so be sure to read the instructions closely.

It is the responsibility of each Unit to make the final selection for all ALA SD Girls State Citizens. Units must work with the schools to outline our program including qualifications needed for participation. Ask schools for a list of students fitting our criteria, **but make it clear that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors ALA Girls State and the final selection rests with the Unit.** There is no Unit quota so if you have several delegates that are interested in attending, but you do not have the funding, be sure to ask businesses and organizations in your community if they would be willing to help sponsor or co-sponsor a delegate. Please advise the delegates that no permission will be granted to attend other activities during the session and to receive awards. The **FULL** session must be attended. If a girl chooses not to attend and there is no alternate, the delegate is responsible for reimbursing the Unit for the registration fee.



Music by Dept. Chairman Nancy Wallin

One of our Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens' songs is God Bless America by Lee Greenwood. The song was released in 1984. The tune became a rallying cry during various times of crises in America; after the launch of Operation Desert Storm, during the Gulf War in 1991, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and more. When he wrote this song, Greenwood's focus was "We need to be more united." As events unfurled, the song took different meanings. During the Gulf War, it was a song of the war; after Hurricane Katrina, it was a song of unity and rebuilding.

In Memoriam

Unit 4 Moberge - Alvina Dobler, Dec. 2016; **Unit 7 Huron** - Miriam Hauge, Jan. 2017 – **Past Dept. Pres.**; Ruth Huntington, Dec. 2016; **Unit 12 Yankton** - Joanne Christensen, Jan. 2017; Doris Krenos, Nov. 2016; **Unit 130 Kimball** - Melva Gough, June 2016; Karen Hildebrand, Feb. 2015; Irene Ryan, Oct. 2016; **Unit 142 Tripp** - Norma Konrad Dec. 2016; **Unit 151 Mellette** - Diana Larson, Dec. 2016; **Unit 183 Tabor** - Leona Pechous, Jan. 2017; **Unit 250 Castlewood** - Jida Aaberg, Dec. 2016



February Guide

Sponsor a Legislative Program

February 1: National Security Donations Due & Journalism City Applications Due

February 4 Valentine for Veterans at the Washington Pavilion Sioux Falls 3:00 pm

February 10-12: Midwinter– Oacoma

February 14 - Nat. Membership 85%
Americanism Poems & Essays Contest

Unit Member of the Year

March 1: Past Pres. Parley Dues

District Meetings (Save the Dates)

- District 1: March 18 - Sturgis
- District 2: March 19 - Mission
- District 3: March 24 - Highmore
- District 4: March 25 - Redfield
- District 5: March 26 - Clear Lake
- District 6: April 2 - Kimball
- District 7: April 1 - Canistota
- District 8: March 31 - Parker

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MIDWINTER CONFERENCE - 2017 CHAMBERLAIN, SD

Friday, February 10, 2017

8:30 - 9:30AM Finance Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room
10:00—11:30AM Executive Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room

12:00 (Noon) Registration Desk Opens

1:00-2:30PM Department Chairmen available for Q&A – Registration Area
3:00-4:00PM Assemble Sock of Love & Hygiene Kits - Breakwater Room
6:00 PM No Host Cocktails
7:00 PM Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet- Oacoma-Wheeler

Saturday, February 11, 2017

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens & Junior Fundraiser
Silent Auction Opens Gift Shop Room;
8:00 AM Joint Opening Session – Hale-Oacoma Cedar Shore Conference Center
Presentation of Colors; Remarks by State Commander Charemon Dunham; Auxiliary President Melanie Martens; & SAL Detachment Commander Jeff Shannon

8:25 AM National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt, Remarks
8:40 AM Auxiliary Northwest Division Vice President Virginia Nelsen
8:55 AM Auxiliary VA & R Elvira Moen, 1st Vice President
9:10 AM Auxiliary Children & Youth Jeannine Loesch , 2nd Vice President
9:25 AM Larry Zimmerman—Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs
9:45 AM Youth Trooper Academy, SD Highway Patrol
10:15 AM Auxiliary Session Opens - RiverRun Wetlands Room

Department Report – Melanie Martens, President
Finance Report - Kathy Evenson
Membership - Barb Vetter
Legislative– Jean Hunhoff

11:30 AM Recess – Check on your Silent Auction Items!!!

Noon

1:00 -1:20 Virginia Nelsen – Northwest Division Vice President
1:30-3:30 Break Out Sessions (four half hour sessions)

Membership – Barb Vetter – Breakwater Room
Denise Parker -Writing Resolutions & Amendments – RiverRun
Leadership – Linda Rae Placek – Missouri Winds Room

Poppy – Sue Frantzic - Atrium

3:30 PM Silent Auction CLOSES

3:40 PM Presentation/Awards / Announcement / Drawings / Adjourn
Girl State – Cheryl Hovorka – Public Relations – Deb MacDonald
Awards - Announcements

6:00 PM Auxiliary Banquet “Honoring our Past ... Celebrating our Future”
Fashion Show Begins ... Emcee Lisa Shannon, Mrs. South Dakota

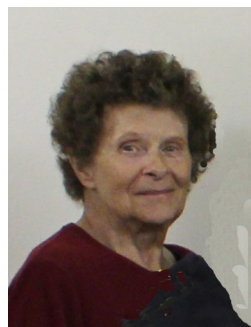
Sunday, February 14, 2016

8:30 AM Non – Denominational Service

10:30 AM Department Finals American Legion High School Oratorical Contest



Just a little **REMINDER** to all units to start sending prayers to Dept. Chaplain Shelley Dragoo at 147 Grand Avenue, Lead, SD 57754 or email them to bsdragoo@lawrence.sd.us Be sure to write them in prayers' form so it can be printed off, include your Unit number and author's name. Chaplain Dragoo is starting the Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens' prayer book.



Our Members to Remember

Donna Ryberg of White River has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for fifty-five years. She currently serves as Otterman Post Unit #94 Secretary and has held that position for a number of years. She also serves as the blood drive coordinator and is our go-to member for history and protocol. Donna is a past District Legionette honoree, Dept. Education Chairman, Unit President and Vice President.



Bryant Unit nominates **Virginia Nupen** as their member to remember. Virginia joined the Hayti unit in 1936 and had her membership transferred to the Bryant Unit when Hayti closed. She was so excited to be honored with her 80 year member certificate.

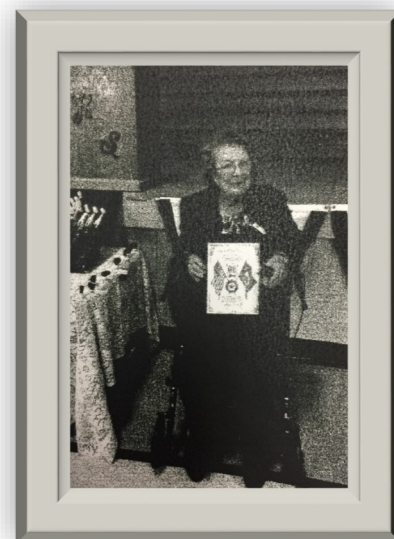
Strategic Plan Goal 4: Strengthen Department and Units

Strategy 1: Increase Attendance at Fall and Spring District Meetings; Initiative: Provide financial incentive to the District with largest % of attendance. This initial initiative evolved in providing incentives for membership to build member capacity and strengthen the department.

Strategy 2: Invest in Training; Our department emphasizes on training following the initial initiative: Junior meetings at all district and state meetings. Since the plan was developed, District Presidents offered workshops, the Dept. President developed District Presidents' orientation handbooks, training guides for dept. chairmen, and conducts monthly conference calls with District Pres. and officers. She encourages email distribution lists for sharing information and build a learning community as a resource. Strengthening and remodeling the department website provides current information for our membership.

Strategy 3: Create "Plan of Actions" at the Unit Level; Initiative: Provide department mailings and information on a timely schedule. Encourage District Presidents to be the liaison between the department and the units.

Goal 4 will be the focus in 2017-2018. As a department, new initiatives are helping members to work towards these initial strategies. Moving forward, new ideas and strategies will evolve in response to the voice of the units to strengthen our department.



"Have you Hugged a Veteran Today?"

Cont. from page 1.

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is February 14th, check with a facility near you to see what you or your unit can do to assist.

Applications for Education scholarships are due to Education chairman, Dee Preston by March 1st. Check the Auxiliary website at

sdlegionaux.org for the forms or contact Dee if you have questions or need assistance.

Girls State Journalism applications are due by February 1st to Girls State Registrar, Irene Hovorka.

Americanism Poems and Essays are due back to units from the schools by March 1st.

Congratulations to "Team South Dakota", we are in second place nationally with our membership as of the last update. We are at 79.5% as a Department to our goal for this year!! Good job everyone.

This month we will highlight goal # 4 of the Strategic Plan, Strengthen Departments and Units. What has your team done to support this goal? Do you have ideas to share with other units? Together we can accomplish great things.

Look forward to seeing and visiting with you at Mid Winter.

Until next month.... Melanie



Poppy Contest Categories: Centerpieces, Tray Favors, Corsages, etc.

1. A senior member may enter any or all of the categories
2. All entries must use the ALA Poppy, large small or a combination
3. The white label of the small poppy must be removed
4. Accessories, greenery, and filler may be used but the Poppy must be predominant
5. Each entry must have the following information attached behind or under the arrangement hidden from the view of the judges: (a) the member's name and auxiliary number, (b) the name and number of the member's unit, (c) the category of the entry
6. All work must be done by the unit member entering the contest
7. Entries will be judged at midwinter and should be checked in by 8:00 am on Saturday, February 11, 2017
8. Entries will be judge (a) labeling, proper material, following the contest directions, (b) predominance of the Poppy, (c) design and creativity

February Prayer
 By *Shelley Dragoo*
 Department Chaplain
 Our Offering of Praise

For the love you have shown us since the moment of our birth; the path you open up for us to be your servants here on earth; for the footsteps that we follow, and your words that we shall say; for the seed that we shall scatter as we walk your narrow way; and the harvest you shall gather on that great and glorious day. O Lord to you we raise, this our offering of praise.

Amen

Thought for the Day

Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.
 (by Paul Ryan)



Holiday Relief New Year Kick-Off

Jacqueline Omland, Unit 24 President from Aberdeen, at the Chamber collecting Buddy Baskets and individual items for homeless or at-risk veterans. Aberdeen donated two baskets to Rapid City families.

The Spearfish Unit 164 assembled 10 Buddy Pillowcases, "Honoring our Heroes" with donations from its members. Each pillowcase had a travel-size pillow, two pairs of socks, hat, gloves, toiletries, gift card to McDonald, hand towel, washcloths, and a hand made thank you card created by prospective new junior Callan Adams. The project excited our little junior and two memberships are pending.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Midwinter Silent Auction: Rules

Donations are accepted on Friday ONLY from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – late drop offs are at the discretion of the Chairman. Items must be in almost new or new condition. Bidding starts on Friday at 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM but not during the Joint Banquet. The Silent Auction reopens on Saturday at 7:30 AM, closing at 3:30 PM. **Picked up items on SATURDAY by 6:00 PM**, unless special arrangements are made with the Chairman. The Silent Auction is set up in the "old" Gift Shop area. Monies raised at the auction go towards the President's Project at Hot Springs State Veterans Home. *All donations made to Silent Auction become the property of the SD ALA. Thank you for your generosity.*

Contact 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

Endorsements 2017-2018

We, the members of Codington County American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 of Watertown, SD proudly endorse **Elvira Moen** for South Dakota Department President for the 2017-2018 term.

The George A. Fitzgerald Unit 65 in Dell Rapids, South Dakota, proudly endorse **Teresa Huntimer** for the South Dakota Department Office of Second Vice President.

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

Endorsements 2018-2019

Martin Unit # 240 endorses **Regina Whipple** as a candidate for the 2018-2019 Northwest Division Vice-President.

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

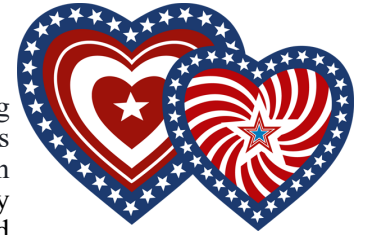
Membership Standings

	Goal	January	%
District 1	1022	644	.63
District 2	858	635	.74
District 3	1578	1246	.79
District 4	1501	1321	.88
District 5	2366	1987	.84
District 6	1960	1489	.76
District 7	1503	1142	.76
District 8	1320	1056	.80
Totals	12,108	9,565	.79

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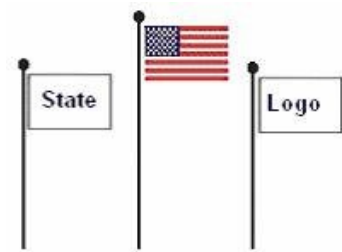
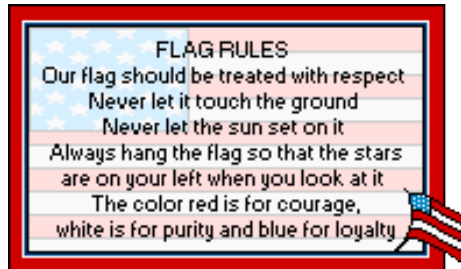
District Workshops



The District 2 workshop focused on making **Prayers Pillow** for comforting the veterans hurting whether from being hospitalized, in long-term care, or grieving. The pillow may be any shape, but try to keep it simple and smaller. They must be made of soft, washable material such as flannel or fleece. Dept. Chaplain Shelley Dragoo made some out of old flannel shirts. The pocket must be the size of (at least) a business card and must be well sewn on and the stuffing must be washable—preferably a synthetic-type. The “prayers” should be short and uplifting. Keep it ecumenical in nature and focus on positive thoughts. You can do up to 5 cards with sayings on front and back. The font needs to be easy to read and a larger type—some of the folks receiving these have very challenging eyesight.



The District 8 workshop highlighted one of the **Americanism** programs, flag etiquette, rules, and code. Participants also practiced the flag folding ceremony, and made patriotic gift bags.



The **Box Elder Coats for Vets** drive led by the newly formed American Legion Riders and the help of Unit 315 President Erika Adams collected and donated over 300 jackets and cold weather gear for the veterans in town. It was a great experience to be apart of! It just shows the kindness in people's hearts for our veterans.





Unit 20, Ft Pierre held their Christmas Party and invited Dept. President Melanie Martens.

Elkton ALA Unit 198 and the students and staff of the Elkton School enjoyed remembering veterans with their version of Department President Melanie's theme "Have You Hugged a Veteran Today?" The Wall of Honor graced a wall in the main hallway of the school. The handprints included names of about 400 veterans. The Elkton American Legion Auxiliary also trimmed a tree for the Elkton Community Center for the Festival of Trees. The Elkton American Legion Auxiliary won 1st place in the contest. How awesome is this. Thanks to all members who helped with the decorating!!!

What a special day! Sharon and Ken Teunissen attended a Yellow Ribbon Day for the soldiers of the 196th Brigade and their families. Ken handed out the special ink pens to the returned soldiers and Sharon had the honor of giving gift bags for the new mom. Candice is a volunteer for 7 years and has been employed for 10 years with the Family Readiness group. She is in charge of the Children and Youth part of the program. What an inspiring young lady and so dedicated.

