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Number 7



THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGIONETTE



Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



Community Service

by Dept. Chairman Mary Jo Stier

When you think of community service, what comes to mind: volunteering at your local school, helping with a food drive, etc.? If so, you are on the right track. Community service is all of those things plus much more. Many of us donated our time, talents and money but do we remember to incorporate the American Legion Auxiliary? What a wonderful opportunity to show people who we are and what we stand for.

The Community Service Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation. By being visible in our localities, the Community Service Program demonstrates who we are, what we do and why we matter.

The first thing to remember is to make yourself visible. While volunteering, wear some form of identification showing you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. You can do this wearing your Auxiliary shirt, a pin, an emblem, etc.

Community service comes in all types and activities. Here are just a few:

- Organizing a food drive
- Volunteering at your local school
- Representing the Auxiliary as a member of local community boards and committees
- Serving on various committees
- Volunteering to deliver meals on wheels
- Attending and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community
- Coordinating a blood drive

Remember to keep track of all of your community service hours and contributions and submit them in your unit report.



A Word from the President

by Melanie Martens, Department President



As I am writing, we have just returned from Midwinter. The weekend was a great success! I was so glad to spend time with so many of you! There were 121 ladies in attendance, what a wonderful turnout!

We had awesome workshops and meetings, and special our guest, Virginia Nelsen, NW Division National President delivered a great message from National President Mary Davis. It was a very inspirational, informative talk and she installed all of us as official members of the" elite" Fat Cat Volunteer society. It was our pleasure to have her with us for the conference. The Fashion Show for our Auxiliary Banquet was a big hit, we had 26+ models dressed in attire from every period in our history! It was fun to see all the different eras and hear about the history of our Auxiliary's accomplishments. Knowing what has been done in the past give us inspiration to celebrate our future. During the Midwinter awards presentation, it was my honor to be able to present the President's "RED" membership award along with Membership Chairman, Barb Vetter, to 25 units who made or exceeded their goal before or by Midwinter! What an awesome achievement, great team work! I can't wait to present more membership awards at State Convention.

I want to thank the Chamberlain Unit #3 for the great job they did setting up the conference. A huge "Thank You" to the workshop presenters, Sue Frantzic, Linda Rae Placek, Barb Vetter and Denise Parker. Thanks Theresa Maeschen for being so willing to help out on such short notice. A special "Thank You" goes to our luncheon speaker, Lisa Shannon, Mrs. South Dakota International 2017. A heartfelt "Thank You" to Sharon Teunissen and the Juniors; they did a fantastic job of decorating and participating throughout the entire conference. Also, I want to thank Micheline Nelson and Sue Frantzic for judging the Senior Poppy Contest and to Rose Kraft, Irene Hovorka, Joyce Smith, Sue Carlson, Judy Lindhorst and Evelyn Huntimer for taking care of the Silent Auction. The auction netted \$1785.00 that will go to my President's project. When Auxiliary ladies work together, wonderful things happen. GO TEAM SOUTH DAKOTA!

March is a very busy month, beginning with the American Legion Birthday on the 15th. Celebrate their success by doing something special; let them know who much we appreciate what they do for our children and youth, our veterans and veterans' families!

Have you selected your Unit Legionette? Nominees are due to District Presidents by March 15th. This is such a special recognition, I hope your unit has taken the time to recognize one of your dedicated, hardworking members with this honor.

I will be attending the Washington, DC Conference February 25th thru March 1st. I am looking forward to gaining lots of information that I can bring back to South Dakota and share with my Auxiliary sisters during the Spring District meetings. The meetings begin March 18th and I am anxious to hear what each Unit and District has accomplished this year and to be able to see many of you again.

We are so excited to announce that Mary Davis, our National President from the state of Washington, will be visiting our state April 23, 24 and 25. She will arrive in Rapid City on the 23rd; we are finalizing details for her visit and will share them with all of you once they are completed. Please start to make plans to attend at least one of these days to meet President Mary and show her a great South Dakota welcome!

Congratulations to Unit #131, Valley Springs, they were featured on page 48 of the February issue of the Auxiliary magazine. Way to go and keep up the great work! Our membership is going strong, as a department we are at 84% of our goal. Every day we are getting closer to a 100% goal department. Thank you everyone for all you do to promote our organization.

We will continue to spotlight the Strategic plan, look for updates as we review and evaluate our goals and initiatives.

Let us always be mindful of the sacrifices of our veterans and active duty. Supporting them in every way we can, is what we strive to do best every single day, as member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Until next month.....Melanie

March Guide

3/12: Daylight Savings

3/15: 98th American Legion Birthday

3/17: St. Patrick's Day

3/19: Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF began - 2003)

3/20: Spring begins

3/29: Vietnam Veterans Day

REMEMBER...

Legionette—Member of the Year to District President by MARCH 15

Girls State Registration Due April 1

Launch a membership drive

Make plans to attend District meetings

QUARTERS - \$.25 per member to Dept. Headquarters

Send Prayers to Dept. Chaplain Shelley Dragoo (147 Grand Ave, Lead, SD 57754) or

sdragoo@lawrence.sd.us



Send Pictures to Scrapbook Chairman Judy Lindhorst (15241 357th Ave., Wecota, SD 57438) or

lindjudy@yahoo.com



National American Legion Auxiliary Appointment

National American Legion Auxiliary President Mary Davis has appointed Helen Riedlinger, member of Piedmont Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 311, Piedmont, SD, to the National American Legion Auxiliary Finance Committee. During the 2017 Washington DC Conference, Helen's appointment is set to be ratified by the Helen is scheduled to attend the National Finance Committee Meeting in Washington, DC, on February 24, 2017, and will attend the National Convention in Reno in August as a member of the National Finance Committee.

Midwinter Convention

NW Div. National Vice President Virginia Nelsen (left) with SD Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens, Mrs. South Dakota Lisa Shannon, Dept. Membership Chairman Barb Vetter, Dept. Secretary Laurel Stringer, and one of the juniors promoting the national challenge "Hearts for Our Veterans Day" for Valentine's Day.

SD 2nd Vice Pres. Jeannine Loesch and SD Honorary Junior Pres. Shanna Clyde sorting supplies for the "Socks of Love" project.





Girls State in Pierre

Girls State Director Cheryl Hovorka, 2016 SD Girls State Governor Raina Grimsley, SD Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens, and Irene Hovorka, registrar during the legislature.



In Memoriam

Unit 1 Vermillion – Edis J Anderson, Feb 17; Unit 7 Huron - Joy Friese, Jan 17; Unit 8 Pierre – Margaret Gibson, Dec 16; Deb Haka, Dec 16; Unit 9 Milbank - Arlys Helmbreech, Jan 17; Unit 14 Wessington Springs – Louise Strehle, Jan 17; Unit 15 Sioux Falls -Carol Hiepler, Jan 17; Unit 33 Sturgis – Hannah Peterson, Feb 17; Unit **37 Bryant** – Jeannine Buck, Feb 17; Unit 39 Groton – Fern Kersting, Jan 17; Hazel McKittrick, Dec 16; Unit 59 Wolsey – Iris Brown, Dec 16; Peggy Lindblad Mueller, Jan 17; Sylvia Struck, Nov 16; Unit 65 Dell Rapids – Ruth Hansen, Jan 17; Unit 68 Hecla - Florence Peterson, Dec 16; Unit 69 Doland - Lorene Fortin, Oct 16; Unit 71 Hot Springs – Helen Curtis, Nov 14; Unit 74 Brookings – Susan Harbison, Jan 17; Unit 81 Toronto – Gladys Falken, Feb 17; Unit **88 White** – Phyllus Pomrenke, Jan 17; Unit 105 Nunda – Shirley Thoreson, Jan 17; Unit 110 Wessington - Betty McBride, Aug. 16; Unit 118 Hartford – Mary Mcahon, Jan 17; Ruth Stowsand, Jan 17; Unit 120 Isabel - Sarah Lofgren, Jul 16; Unit 173 Phillip – Phyllis Hajek, Jan 17; Unit 146 Colome – Alice Berens, Oct 16; Francis Jorgensen, Jan 17; **Unit 179 Kennebec-Reliance** – Marie Houchin, Jan 17; Dorothy Stewart, Jan 17; Unit 193 Irene – Helen Johnson, Jan 17; Unit 213 Cresbard Gladys Gjernes, Jan 17; Unit 229 Big Stone City – Dorothy Brown, Feb 17; Beverly Kaufman, Jan 17; Unit **261 Ethan** – Helen Bame, Jan 17: Unit 274 Corsica - Linda B. Bordewyk, Jan 17; Unit 280 Iroquois – Marcella Rounds, Dec 16





Spring District Meetings

District 1: Sat. March 18 - Sturgis Post 33, Social hour at 11:00 MST at 868 Main Street in Sturgis. Meal at noon and meeting at 1:00 PM MST, Auxiliary meets upstairs.

District 2: Sun. March 19 – Mission Post 287, 11:00 a.m. social at Prairie Hills Restaurant in Mission, noon meal, 1 pm meeting at Prairie Hills, Mission, SD.

District 3: Fri. March 24- Highmore Post 35, social hour and sandwiches at 6 pm, meeting will be at 7 pm; auxiliary meets in west wing auditorium.

District 4: Sat. March 25 - Redfield Post 92, social hour at 11 am, lunch at noon with the meeting at 1 pm. The Auxiliary will be at 1 pm in the United Methodist Church.

District 5: Sun. March 26 - Clear Lake Post 49, 1:00 p.m. meal (\$10 roast beef hot meal), meeting at 2 pm in community center large meeting hall with Auxiliary meeting in small room in front of community center, social hour following the meeting at 4 pm with coffee and

District 6: Sun, April 2 – Kimball Post 130, Social hour at 1:30 pm with a light lunch. Meeting will at 3 pm in Kimball Legion Hall. Auxiliary meets in the Auxiliary Room in the hall District 7: Sat. April 1 - Canistota Post 162, social hour at 2 pm, meeting at 3 pm with a light supper to follow meeting. Auxiliary meeting

District 8: Fri. March 31 -Parker Post 30, Parker Community Center, Social from 5 p.m., Meal (catered \$12/plate) at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m. Auxiliary meets at the City Office (across the street).

location TBA.

Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive Spreads "Hugs of Giving" by Autumn Simunek



Yankton: The Roy Anderson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12 of Yankton and the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce joined as first-time partners this year. Together, their efforts made a new community union with the donations benefiting the Yankton Homeless Shelter, caring for veterans. Pictured under the leadership of Betty Adam, ALA President, delivering donations: Marlyss List, Bingo Chairman, Sandy Johnson, Joyce List, Vice-President, and Jesse Bailey of the Yankton Homeless Shelter.



Sioux Falls: In partnership with Auxiliary Unit 15 President, Marva Petit, the SD Legion Post 15 Commander Larry Panning and Autumn Simunek, delivered American Legion Post 15 drop-off location donations to the Sioux Falls VA during National Salute to Veteran Patients week and the Berakhah House. Sharon Teunissen, Junior Chairman, delivered Sully Buttes School donations from Mary Jo Stier, District 3 President to the Berakhah House and also personally assisted a family in need.



Pierre: Patsty Madsen, President, Lori Niehoff and Linda Rae Placek of the Pierre Unit 8 went shopping again this year to build three more of the 90-quart totes filled with necessities to move veterans and their families from homeless to apartment homes, in partnership with the Veterans Service Office at the Hughes County Courthouse.





Mitchell: Maureen Sunderland, Unit 18 President managed the American Legion Post 18 drop-off center. Their relief drive work began at their Post

18 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL Membership Feed. Maureen and Shirley Thelen, spent approximately 25 hours on the project, donating to veterans in their unit area.

Hot Springs: Battle Mountain Unit 71 gathered after assembling Buddy Baskets. The Legion Post 71 drop-off location included donations from the Edgemont Auxiliary Unit 172, and the Hot Springs Elementary 2nd grade students. The Post 71 Family, including the Post 71 Legion Riders delivered donations locally to the BHHCS VA, a ministerial association, a food pantry, youth, and directly to veterans. (Sid Hussey; Ferne Cornell, Jennie Harper, Pres.; Jane Benzel, NW Div. VA&R Chair., SD JR. Past Pres. SD Dept. Natl. Sec. & SD Dept. Deputy Hosp. Rep.; Carol Harvey District 2 Pres. & Barbara Wal-



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.

We, the members of Stanley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20 are proud to endorse Jeannine Loesch as a candidate for South Dakota Department First Vice 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.

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

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

The members of the Ethan American Legion Auxiliary Unit 261 are proud to endorse **Bonnie McBrayer** as a candidate for South Dakota Department Historian for the 2017-2018 term.

Endorsements 2018-2019

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

Hunt-Newell Unit #213 proudly announces their endorsement of Barb Vetter as a candidate for the 2018-2019 Northwest Division National Vice President.

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



Membership



District 1	68%
District 2	80%
District 3	87%
District 4	91%
District 5	89%
District 6	82%
District 7	83%
District 8	84%
State	84%

National Salute to Veteran Patients

"The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and The purpose become involved

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes" http://www.volunteer.va.gov/NationalSaluteVeteranPatients.asp

Pictured: Homestake, Lead Unit 31 - Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens and Pat Adams with homemade Valentine cards.

The Black Hills Chapter of the American Legion Riders and the Spearfish Unit 164 made 60 gift bags and visited the patients at the Ft. Meade VA.





March Prayer

By Shelley Dragoo Dept. Chaplain

When a story gets us all thinking about life and the actions we take, and evolves to an invocation.

Peanut Butter Fudge

During Mid-Winter Conference this year, I got to talking to an old friend of mine. We talked about our loves, life, and of course the Legion family.

During our conversation, somehow we ended up talking about peanut butter fudge. He explained that he had a loved-one who sent him fudge in the mail and that he couldn't figure out why sometimes it would come and be this perfect, soft, creamy fudge and how other times it would come and be grainy and hard. I exclaimed, "She stirred the pot." With that statement, I then went on to explain that when making candy, you cannot stir it while it is cooking or it will sugar. The women around me agreed and my friend smiled and filed that information away, stating, "Well, I would never tell her she shouldn't stir the pot." I also agreed and we parted ways.

One of the women sitting, listening to our conversation then said with a grin, "You know, there's a life lesson in every new thing you learn." I smiled and nodded and went on my way. After a few minutes I really began thinking about the whole conversation, and how the woman was right. I began looking at my dealings and meetings and analyzing everything I had been involved in the last month or so. Had I done everything I could to make sure those things turned out for the right reasons, or had I stirred the pot, and left things upturned?

How about you? Have you stirred the pot?

Highest Good Dear God,

Bless me with right answers and inspire me to take proper action.

I will only use the wisdom I receive from you in ways that are beneficial to others and myself.

The way to my highest good is made clear by your perfect love. With abiding faith, I pray, Divine love instills wisdom within me. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen

Member to Remember

Darleen Haselhorst received her 2017 membership card of Mansfield Legion Auxiliary #289. Unit President Bonnie



Brick and member Shirley Dayton also visited Darleen. While there, they noticed on her membership card that it was her 60th year in the American Auxiliary. Darleen pays for her daughter and 3 granddaughters' memberships. The unit pays dues for active members over 80 years old, which includes Darleen. Darleen supports her unit by helping with poppy distribution on Memorial Day in Northville SD and judging posters and essays from Northwestern School in Mellette SD if needed. Pictured is Darleen Haselhorst member for 60 years and Membership Chairman, Secretary/ Treasurer, LeAnn Conn.

Need 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

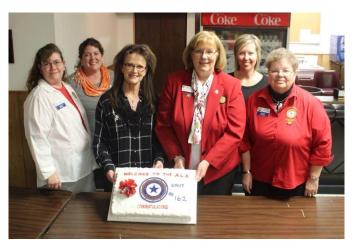
Subscribe to the Legionette to stay up-todate with District and Department information. Send your news and pictures to the editor at Micheline.Nelson@live.com or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, email or call headquarters first. Thank you!

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South Pakota Units and Pistricts at Work







Congratulations to the New Unit 162 - Canistota

Department Pres. Melanie Martens, and District Pres. Teresa Huntimer Presenting the Charter in the middle to Unit President Nina Lambertz.

Alice UpShaw District 7 Vice President, Melissa Weber New Unit Secretary, Nina Lambertz New Unit President, Melanie Martens, SD ALA Department President, Jenny Hucheson New Unit Treasurer, Teresa Huntimer District 7 President .

Membership Drive

The Pierre Unit 8 membership drive during Crazy Days over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. They spent 4 days with a booth space at the local mall, talking about the ALA organization, signing up new members, refreshing friendships with current members, and of course, grabbing a picture or two of members hugging those veterans for whom are so thankful! 7 new members were signed up during the campaign and another 7 renewals were sent in the week following!

A Valentine Day to Remember

In December, the 2nd grade students at Pinedale elementary in Rapid City colored and wrote Christmas cards for the Veterans hospital in Hot Springs. The Veterans were so touched by their efforts, that they took up a collection to give back to these kids. On Valentine's Day, during the Week of Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, all 3 classes of the 2nd grade were treated to a pizza party courtesy of the Veterans. The weather was unseasonably warm and they had a great party outside. What an inspiring story of a "full circle" of respect and love.







South Pakota Midwinter Convention 2017 Workshops











The South Dakota Midwinter Convention was packed with information and ideas for members to take back to their units. There were many interactive workshops and projects. The resolution workshop reviewed the differences between a motion and a resolution; the membership workshop engaged the participants in skits with props to mimic possible situations; leadership focused not only on where to find information but gave a great idea to promote civility. Do you have three pennies? Have them ready in your left pocket; every time you say a kind work, do or help someone without any solicitation, move the penny to the right pocket. By the end of the day, the goal is to move all pennies. The Juniors provided the military children's table ceremony to remember those who don't have a parent in their life because of deployment. Socks of Love were assembled with school supplies, toiletries, or snack to give school children in need of some basic items. And who wants to give a prayer pillow to the veterans at the VA or in local nursing and healthcare facilities? Check the website for instructions under the Chaplain link.











South Pakota Midwinter Convention 2017







A few pictures of the convention.: the Juniors were instrumental with their creative ways to decorate and making each member welcome; membership awards for goal units with 100% membership and sometimes more; our oldest auxiliary member in attendance, a WWII veteran who embraced the activities; group pictures of members sending a heart for Valentine, a national challenge, and the fun fashion show taking all the members across the history of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Northwest Division National Vice President Virginia Nelsen participated in all events!













South Dakota Midwinter Convention 2017 Poppy Workshop & Senior Contest







There were many great ideas and projects for the senior poppy contest! Thank you to all who participated. There was a record number of entries. Sue Frantzick, Poppy Chairman was grateful to see 29 entries!

During the Poppy workshop, participant created poppy fields. The Northwest Division National Vice President took part of the activity too. Junior and senior members alike shared their creative talents.

Encourage the juniors to create poppy projects for the State Convention in Watertown, June 2017 and encourage your schools to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest.

Poppy Poster Requirements: Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles "a", "and," "an", "the" are not to be counted as words. The words "buddy" and "buy" cannot be used.

The words "American Legion Auxiliary" must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.

Each poster must include a picture of the red Flanders Field poppy. The unit shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. Entries submitted to department must be postmarked on or before April 22, 2017. The poster shall be on 11x14" poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted). The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.

Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts ink or textures, acrylics, pencils and markers



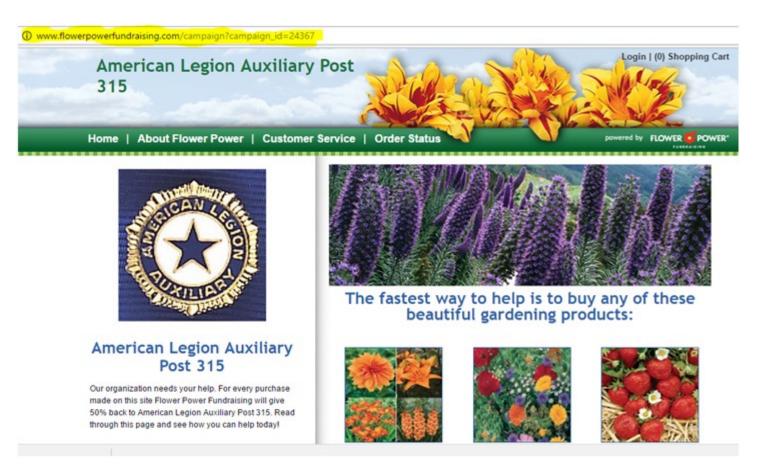
The South Dakota ALA Members' Space

The following pages are complementary pages for units and districts to share their events, projects, meetings, or needs.

If you have a project, workshop, idea, or information to share, remember to send it to include in the emailed Legionette. This is your platform.

Information needs to be emailed in time to be included in the newsletter.

The information should be related to the American Legion Family.



Contact person at the Box Elder Unit 315: Deanna Holst

email: dee holst@hotmail.com

Plan to attend the American Legion Birthday Ball the evening of District 1; you may reserve your tickets or call Jim & Ginger Childers at 605-717-0101 (Credit card payment available) The proceeds of the silent auction will help the Spearfish Boys & Girls State Program.

