



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## A Word from the President

by Melanie Martens,  
Department President

I hope you all are enjoying the weather; Spring is almost here! The District meetings have just begun. I always enjoy hearing about all the wonderful accomplishments from the units. Election of officers is being held in odd numbered Districts, announcement and recognition of the District Legionette of the Year is also taking place. I hope you made plans to attend a meeting in your area.

April is Children and Youth month. Let us remember the children in our families, those in your Auxiliary unit and in our communities. Perhaps your unit could plan a special event including the Junior members or youth in your area during this time. Remember, the youth are our future.

I attended the DC conference February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a wonderful conference, we learned that the American Legion Auxiliary members are “doers”. We are the ones that the military men and women go to for help and we make it “happen” for them. We had some great speakers during the conference, one of the presentations was Caring for Caregivers. Every year 9% of our population serves as caregivers to someone close to them. The speakers talked about the fact that most caregivers do not recognize themselves as caregivers and most likely they suffer from some sort of depression. It was pointed out that a lot of grief is also associated with caregiving, this too goes unrecognized. We were provided with a website that gives tons of information for us to use to assist the caregivers in our communities, [www.milvetcaregivernetwork.org](http://www.milvetcaregivernetwork.org)

I was **VERY** excited to hear that the American Legion is presenting a proposal to Congress; the Friday before Memorial Day will be called “National Poppy Day” to recognize those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. Isn’t that just wonderful?

The ALA 101 online, self-paced course should be available shortly on the national website. Watch for announcements in your email, our website and Facebook page to let you know when it is released. I hope all of you will take the time to use this new user-friendly tool; it is a great way to learn more about our organization.

## Children & Youth

by Jeannine Loesch Department Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary is committed to Children and designated April as “Children and Youth” month. I hope you plan on doing something special for the Youth in your community. There are many things to do, volunteering in schools and at the Boys and Girls Club.

Teddy bear banks are being used again this year for “Angels and Doves” and “Child Welfare”. Let’s fill those banks and fatten the bears! Angels and Doves is an Anti-Bullying Program that I am supporting. We did the “Socks of Love” at the Midwinter Conference. We had a lot of fun with the help of the Juniors. They are our future.

Mark your calendar for April 15. Yes, it is Tax Day, but it is also Purple Up! day. So, as the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization, show your support for the children and youth of our military and wear **PURPLE**. Purple Up! day was started in 2011.

Why purple? It’s the color symbolizing all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy blue.

The goal of Purple Up! is for military youth to SEE the support in their school, youth groups, and the community!

Another program is GI Josh. Josh dogs are given to deployed kids to help with the separation of the loved on that is away serving in the Military. Sons of the American Legion in Arizona is going to be offering them for sale for \$26.00 and that includes shipping. What a great gift for a child. Anyone can give Josh dogs.

Please keep sending the Good Deed and Youth Hero Award nominations in. Youth Hero award is a Heroic act of physical valor: The Good Deed award is for youth that display respect, kindness or patriotism by their actions. Have you hand out your good deed cards to deserving youth in you communities.

Children are valuable gifts to the future of our nation. Patriotism and Americanism begins at home for all of us. Spread Patriotism wherever we go. This can be done with the “Star Spangled Kids” program.

As you compile your year-end reports include any monetary donations to the Children’s Miracle Network, Ronald Mc Donald and Special Olympics. Did you host a Safe Halloween event like “Trick or Treat” or Military kids event or nominate a Good Deed or Youth Hero? If you believe your Unit conducted an outstanding program promoting Children and Youth I encourage you to write a narrative for the National Outstanding Promotion Supporting Activities-Unit Award. Please record and report your activities.



## Recruit One

On March 9th, 2017, June Kasyoki, President of the American Legion Auxiliary #50 in Sisseton, presented the Recruit One Button to Judy Myrum at our regular Auxiliary Meeting. Judy has worked hard for our unit recruiting several new members and in several other capacities.



## April Guide

Organize a Children and Youth Program, Recognize Good Deed/Youth Hero Recipients

April 1: Girls State Registration Due

April 15th—Legionette Nominees Due to Past President's Parley

April 15th—Annual Reports Due to District Presidents

April 16th—Easter

April 22nd—Deadline for Poppy Poster Contest

April 23rd– 25th Natl Pres. Mary Davis Visits South Dakota

### REMEMBER...

Send Prayers to Dept. Chaplain  
Shelley Dragoo (147 Grand Ave,  
Lead, SD 57754) or  
[sdragoo@lawrence.sd.us](mailto:sdragoo@lawrence.sd.us)



Send Pictures to Scrapbook Chairman  
Judy Lindhorst (15241 357th  
Ave., Wecota, SD 57438) or  
[lindjudy@yahoo.com](mailto:lindjudy@yahoo.com)



### School Supplies to Wagner Children

Juanita Stone, Linda Youngbluth, Barbara Wiechmann, and Janice Coleman, Greer Unit #11, Wagner SD members delivered colors, pencils, notebooks, etc. to Boys and Girls Club director Patrick Breen and students on Tuesday March 21st.



### ALA SD GIRLS STATE UPDATE

Cheryl Hovorka

ALA GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR/CHAIRMAN

At the 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Midwinter Conference the Finance Committee and the Executive Board unanimously voted to dissolve the ALA SD Girls State Corporation and Board of Directors. Even though at this time, the National organization is not requiring the Departments to dissolve the ALA Girls State Corporations/Board of Directors, it was strongly advised that the Departments take it under consideration.

There will be no changes to the program itself except the administrative duties will now be handled by the ALA Department Secretary and ALA Department Treasurer.

The registration fee paid by the Units for their ALA Girls State delegates remains the same and it should be sent to the ALA Girls State Registrar along with the pre-registration forms. The ALA Girls State Registrar will forward checks to the ALA Department Headquarters on a weekly basis.

The ALA SD Girls State Director/Chairman will be one person and the addition of an Assistant ALA SD Girls State Director/Chairman has been created. The requirements for these two positions shall be:

- 1) must be members of the American Legion Auxiliary,
- 2) must be past ALA Girls State delegates, and
- 3) must have extensive knowledge and experience in planning and facilitating the program.

The Director/Chairman will be appointed by the incoming ALA Department President and following the ALA Department's Strategic Plan, the Director/Chairman will appoint the Assistant Director/Chairman and the ALA Girls State Committee.

The format used will follow that of the ALA Girls Nation Committee and only the committee will spend the week at the session but all members are welcome to come for a day and volunteer in the store. ALA Day will be Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and reservations may be made for the banquet by contacting the ALA SD Girls State Director.

## In Memoriam

**Unit 13 Wakonda** – Rula Hatch, Jan 17; **Unit 22 Rapid City** – Lois Bennett, Jan 17; Shirley Lannen, Feb 17; **Unit 25 Madison** – Elaine Cundy, Feb 17; **Unit 35 Highmore** – Ellen Wheelhouse, Feb 17; **Unit 37 Bryant** – Katherine Medeiros, Feb 17; **Unit 43 Centerville** – Ruth Buckneberg, Feb 17; **Unit 48 Rosholt** – Sharon Cornelius, Jan 17; **Unit 60 Clark** – Evelyn Heiden, Feb 17; **Unit 61 Canova** – Cheryl Lynn Woodlee, Mar 17; **Unit 64 Wilmot** – Getrude Crown, Feb 17; Elsie Hanson, Mar 17; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** – Marie Schwebach, Feb 17; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** – Letha Burg, May 14; **Unit 74 Brookings** – Mercedes Ahlers, Feb 17; **Unit 76 Veblen** – Lillian Guy, Feb 17; **Unit 80 Britton** – Pearline Greeno, Nov 16; **Unit 84 Hitchcock** – Dorothy Olsen, Nov 16; Darlene Olsen, Feb 17; **Unit 92 Redfiled** – Donna Bicknese, Feb 17; Dorothy Carter, Jan 17; **Unit 106 Faith** – Margaret Hoffman, Jan 17; **Unit 115 Platte** – Ruby Hoffman, Jan 17; Bonnie Mika, Feb 17; **Unit 120 Isabel** – Mary Hays Ludeman, Feb 17; Martha Scholl, Jan 16; **Unit 131 Valley Springs** – Kathryn Aaker, Dec 16; **Unit 136 Chester** – Annabelle Baumberger, Feb 17; Ardis Neish, Mar 17; **Unit 140 Salem** – Lois Giesler, Nov 16; **Unit 148 Conde** – Joyce Haskell, Mar 17; Diane Taylor, Mar 17; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Deborah Turner, Feb 17; **Unit 169 Winner** – Dorothy Lewis, Mar 17; Doris Rysavy, Mar 17; **Unit 170 Herreid** – Carol Rossow, Feb 17; **Unit 178 Orient** – Dorothy O'Donnell, Feb 17; **Unit 199 Garden City** – Christina Mankey, Feb 17; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** – Genevieve Stube, Feb 17; **Unit 230 Aurora** – Ruth Vandenberg, Jan 17; **Unit 246 Wall** – Vivene Matthews, Sep 16; **Unit 255 Bison** – Pearl Gerbracht, Jan 17; **Unit 315 Box Elder** – Irma Jeanie Monnot, Feb 17





## A Word from the President

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I am very pleased to announce that National President, Mary Davis will be our guest April 23, 24 and 25. I encourage you to check the travel itinerary and make plans to come and meet her. Let's show her a great, warm South Dakota welcome.

Well, ladies, report time is fast approaching. Unit year-end reports are due to your District President by April 15<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all of you to apply for National awards, take the time to sit down and review the requirements, you will be surprised at how easy it is to apply. We are having a great year and you all deserve to be recognized for what you do.

I know that all of you are diligently working membership, we are almost there!! Reach out to those members that have not renewed by giving them a phone call or stopping by to visit. Personal contact goes a long way. Go team South Dakota!

In closing, I would like to challenge all of you to think about "What is your Why?" Why do you do what you do? What motives you to do what you do? I ask you to find your "Why".....wear it on your sleeve... and tell everyone. You will discover once your figure out your "Why" that it will lead you in many new directions. Until we next month...

*Melanie*



American Legion Auxiliary National President  
Mary Davis  
South Dakota Visit Itinerary  
April 23-25, 2017



### SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

- 4:00 PM Auxiliary members invited to help set up Prayer Pillow Craft and Meal – Post 22, Rapid City  
6:00 PM Pre-Craft Meet N Greet, Meal, and Prayer Pillow Crafting Session with President Mary – Post 22, Rapid City

### MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn – 815 E. Mall Dr., Rapid City, SD  
7:45 AM Travel to Black Hills National Cemetery to lay wreath (Legion Rider escort)  
8:30 AM Lay Wreath at Medal of Honor Recipient's Gravesite  
9:15 AM Tour Ft. Meade, Sturgis, SD – President Mary to hand out Prayer Pillows and visit with Veterans  
12:00 PM Lunch at Hot Springs Post 71 – Hot Springs, SD  
1:30 PM Tour State Veterans Home – Hot Springs, SD  
2:30 PM Tour Hot Springs VA – Hot Springs, SD  
3:30 PM Travel to Mount Rushmore  
4:30 PM Tour Mount Rushmore  
6:30 PM Meet N Greet, Dinner (Business Casual), Speakers, Entertainment Post 303 – Hermosa, SD

### TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

- 8:00 AM Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn – 815 E. Mall Dr., Rapid City, SD  
9:00 AM Depart for Rapid City Regional Airport

National President, Mary Davis, will arrive at Rapid City Regional Airport on Sunday, April 23  
The National President will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City, SD

Escorts will be NEC Susie Clyde & President Melanie Martens  
Coordinator of the National President's visit is Debra MacDonald, Dept. Public Relation  
National President, Mary Davis, will depart from Rapid City on Tuesday, April 25, 2017  
**ALL MEMBERS of The American Legion Family are invited to attend all or any portion of the tour**  
This schedule is subject to change. A final schedule will be posted on the SD ALA Facebook page and Auxiliary Website at [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

## Endorsements 2017-2018

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 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 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.



*April Prayer*

*By Shelley Dragoo  
Department Chaplain  
Prayer of Renewal*

Lord, no matter what I need, the wisdom that will enrich my life and make me whole is found in Your word. Renew me with Your love and strength so that I may grow closer to You. My life is Yours, Father.

In Jesus' name, Amen

*Thought for the Day*

I never knew a night so black  
Light failed to follow on its track.  
I never knew a storm so gray  
It failed to have its clearing day.  
I never knew such bleak despair  
That there was not a rift, somewhere.

I never knew an hour so drear  
Love could not fill it full of cheer!

*John Kendrick Bangs  
(found in A Treasury of Joy and Enthusiasm)*

To serve our families, communities, veterans and you in the coming year. In Christ's name, Amen.

*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness and faithfulness.*

## Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive Spreads "Hugs of Giving"

by Autumn Simunek

**SD ALA Units:** Pictured is Penny Hamilton, President Unit 201 of Pukwana, SD. Penny led her unit in participating in the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive for three years. This year the business Bomgaars sponsored their unit drop-off location. It is also important to recognize the numerous American Legion Auxiliary units that donated to this project through monetary donations to the SD American Legion Auxiliary, and to recognize the Legion Family, regarding their many works that supported the mission of this project and the organization. I am forever grateful to the American Legion Family for your service and partnership during these past five years, and as I grew from a Junior member to a Senior member. As this year's incoming donations are still being tallied, I can report this project's value is well-over \$115,000 for the past five years. As the value is not as important as "Service, Not Self", it is a reflection of how our teamwork and organization branding, together with our communities and our youth can affect the quality of life of others in "Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities" statewide. *I am extremely honored and proud to represent the SD American Legion Auxiliary with this project. Autumn Simunek, 22 year member of American Legion Auxiliary Member Unit 71, VHRD Project Founder; Miss South Dakota 2015. (Upcoming issues will feature some of this year's 20 levels of participating schools.) Pictured: Pukwana, Lead, and Vermillion - Thank you., Autumn*



### Member to Remember SOLE HOPE



In December 2016, Jennifer Loosmore, daughter of Carol Luebke, Auxiliary President of unit 48, Rosholt and member of the local Bethania church women's group, organized a "shoe cutting party" at

the local church called "SOLE HOPE". The upper portions of these shoes are made from old blue jeans and milk jugs. After all the items are cut, pieces for 5 pairs of shoes were placed in a plastic bag, then shipped to Africa to be attached to soles made from locally recycled tires. These shoes would then be given to children that did not have any to wear to help keep their feet free of chiggers.

A group of about 20 women, including 5 youth, made 31 pairs of size 5 shoes, that children in Africa would now be able to wear. A cookie exchange was also done at that time.



### Membership by Barb Vetter

#### Membership Chairman

District 1	79%
District 2	84%
District 3	90%
District 4	93%
District 5	91%
District 6	83%
District 7	86%
<u>District 8</u>	<u>87%</u>
State	86.6%

### Need Information?

Department 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)

Subscribe to the Legionette to stay up-to-date with District and Department information. 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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Official Publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota  
Published monthly except July and August at Spearfish, SD from September 2016, forward. Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701-2917. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year. Dates from January through December. All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of each month preceding current issues. We do not pay for the postage cost of address changes.

