



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?"

Dedication is what the members of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary are all about! At the writing of this article, our membership is at 92% and we are in second place in the Northwestern Division! I am very proud of all of you and can't wait to see which district will be the first to reach goal.

Although our Spring District meetings are finished, I want to say how much I enjoyed them and enjoyed being able to spend time with my Auxiliary sisters. Congratulations to all the District Presidents for a job well done. It is always so inspiring to hear about all the wonderful accomplishments from our units and members. I want to congratulate the newly-elected District officers and all the District Members of the year who were chosen to represent their District at State convention. I am looking forward to announcing the Department winner at State convention in Watertown.

May is a very busy month for the American Legion Auxiliary. Units need to elect and install officers for the 2017-2018 year. Girls State teas and orientations are conducted, Mother's Day and Memorial Day programs are planned and end of year reports need to be completed. Poppy Day programs and distributions need to be arranged; starting this year, the Friday before Memorial Day will be designated as "Poppy Day." This is a wonderful recognition and will help to promote the significance of the poppy.

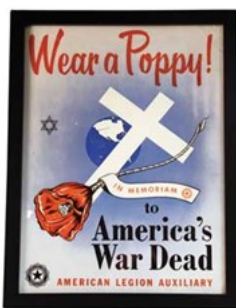
(Cont. page 2)

Poppy by Dept. Chairman Sue Frantzick

It has been an honor to serve as the Department Poppy Chairman this year. Poppy funds are used to help veterans and their families and active-duty military and their families where financial and medical need is evident. Some of these veterans (21 males, 5 females) are part of the "poppy-making force" at the Hot Springs VA and in the Hot Springs community that I have had the privilege to work with since September. They have worked diligently to fill orders for over 102,000 small and 701 large poppies. I enjoy visiting with and learning more about each of them and sending them off with gratitude for their service and support of our program. These veterans are so appreciative not only for the additional income, but also for the support of Auxiliary members and the feeling that they are contributing to a worthwhile cause. Poppy Room treats are also a drawing factor!

I would like to thank all of the Units that ordered poppies. By the time you read this article, all orders should have been received. Please contact me at 605-431-4513 if your order has not arrived. Thanks to all members who submitted entries for the Midwinter Senior Poppy Contest and/or attended my Poppy Craft workshop. Remember to bring your Unit masterpieces for the South Dakota Flanders Field display at State Convention. Poppy Poster Contest entries will be judged in the near future.

As we approach the time for Poppy Distributions, keep in mind the purpose of the Poppy Program: to promote and educate people about the history of the poppy and to make them aware of the sacrifices of our veterans. Don't forget to also use poppies creatively—see the many ideas in the Poppy Program Plan of Action at www.sdlegionaux.org.
Deadlines: 5/10/17 Miss Poppy information/scrapbooks to me
6/15/17 Poppy proceeds to Department



The American Legion Family will launch National Poppy Day on Friday, May 26, as a way to honor U.S. servicemembers, from the battlefields of France in WWI a century ago to today's global war on terrorism.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe and quickly became a symbol of the sacrifices made by Americans and allied servicemembers around the world. Soldiers returning from WWI brought home the flowers in memory of the barren landscape transformed by the sudden growth of wild red poppies among the newly dug graves — unforgetta-

bly described in a memorial poem by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae:

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

National Poppy Day broadens a tradition that dates back to the American Legion Auxiliary's first National Convention in the early 1920s when the red poppy was adopted as The American Legion Family's memorial flower. Today, it remains an iconic symbol of honor for the sacrifice of our veterans. ALA members distribute millions of poppies annually across the country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans in our communities. Boeing Co. is a sponsor of National Poppy Day. American Legion Auxiliary National President Mary E. Davis and American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt encourage all Americans to wear or display poppies on National Poppy Day in memory of the fallen and to honor those who have fought for freedom.
"https://www.alaforveterans.org/poppy/"

In Memoriam

Unit 15 Sioux Falls – Clarice “Cy” Binger, Mar. 17; Elsie Stedman, Mar. 17; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** – Ethel Klitzke, Mar. 17; **Unit 33 Sturgis** – Dorothy Short, Mar. 17; **Unit 41 Alexandria** – Marie Bettment, Apr. 17; **Unit 42 Arlington** – Marlys Christensen, Mar. 17; **Unit 43 Centerville** – Mavis Overgaard, Mar. 17; **Unit 47 Artesian** – Dorothy Weinberger, Mar. 17; **Unit 53 Canton** – Edline Haugen, Oct 16; Glenda Helgerson, Oct. 16; **Unit 58 Columbia** – Freda Herther, Mar. 17; **Unit 79 Onida** – Eileen Hofer, Aug. 16; Gladys Unruh, Mar. 17; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Dorothy Eimers, Mar. 17; Faye Lower, Mar. 17; **Unit 93 Letcher** – Marvis Godber, Feb. 17; Charlotte VanLaecken, Feb. 17; **Unit 103 Astoria** – Violet Brinkman, Mar. 17; **Unit 113 Willow Lake** – Helen Townsend, Dec. 16; **Unit 118 Hartford** – Marie Froehlich, Feb. 17; Margaret Lee, Mar. 17; **Unit 131 Valley Springs** – Joyce Smykjle, Sep. 16; **Unit 135 Gettysburg** – Jule Eidman, Mar. 17; Darlene Niederberger, Feb. 17; **Unit 151 Mellette** – Doris Little, Nov. 16; **Unit 169 Winner** – Elvera King, Mar. 17; Betty Toman, Mar. 17; **Unit 170 Herreid** – Martha Renz, Jan. 17; **Unit 184 Estelline** – Jeanne Husman, Mar. 17; Loretta Lentz, Dec. 16; Barbara Nelson, Feb. 17; Martha Renz, Jan. 17; Mary Skovlund, Nov. 16; **Unit 188 Lebanon-Dorothy Fischer**, Jan. 17; **Unit 241 Erwin** – Alice Siver, Mar. 17; **Unit 261 Ethan** - Breniece Feiner, Feb. 17; **Unit 283 Chancellor** – Jennifer Andrews, Mar. 17; Muriel Minkel, Mar. 17

Junior Auxiliary along with the help from a local church collected items for "The Church on the Street" located in Sioux Falls. Items were delivered to Sharon Teunissen for distribution. Included in the picture are Auxiliary members Mary Hildebrandt, Diane Spilde. Junior Auxiliary member Alivia Spilde and other church helpers Jensine Matson and Ramey Gearhart.



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



A Word from the President (Cont. from p. 1) Our 97th American Legion Auxiliary convention is just around the corner. This year it will be held June 16-18, 2017 in Watertown. Please elect your delegates and alternates to the convention at your May meeting. A list of your delegates and alternates needs to be sent to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. Make plans to attend, we have a fun and informative convention planned for you. I have a guest speaker planned for the Saturday luncheon, she has a great message to share with us. Again, this year we will be doing a National Commander's Walk on Saturday; make sure to bring comfortable shoes and come out to show your support to the National Commander.

This year we will not be holding the Silent Auction. Instead, we will have three canvas oil paintings from a well-known local artist on display at the Registration desk. Everyone will have a chance to purchase tickets for the drawing of these paintings that will be held Sunday morning. The proceeds will go to Melanie's Presidents Project at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. We are excited to offer these paintings to our members and hope that we can count on your support of this new idea.

I want to close this month by wishing all Mothers a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. We are all thankful for our mothers and the love they have given us.

Until next month.....Melanie

ADVANCE TICKET FORM—Deadline June 1, 2017 for ALL Meals

American Legion Auxiliary – June 16 & 17, 2017

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENTS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Friday, June 16, 2017 – noon

Menu: Deli Buffet: Roast beef, turkey, ham, American & Swiss cheeses, Kettle chips, choice of two salads, lettuce, tomato, & pickles—assorted breads

Number of tickets @ \$17.00 per ticket _____ = \$ _____

Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, June 17, 2017 – noon

Menu: Italian buffet: two pastas; meatball marinara and chicken alfredo, Sicilian vegetables & Caesar salad. Served w/ Minerva's house dressing.

Number of tickets @ \$17.00 per ticket _____ = \$ _____

Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, June 18, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

Menu: Montreal pork chop bacon wrapped, Montreal seasoning and fresh mushroom white wine demi-sauce. Mixed greens salad with vinaigrette dressing, oven roasted potatoes, green beans, Minerva bread; coffee or tea.

Number of tickets @ \$25.00 per ticket _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL amount enclosed for luncheon(s) and/or Auxiliary Banquet \$ _____

Make checks payable and send to: Watertown ALA Unit #17

PO BOX 1432, Watertown, 57201

2017 State Convention Joint Banquet, Friday, June 16, 2017

Hosted by Codington County American Legion Post #17, Watertown

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

MENU: Yankee Pot Roast w/Beef Gravy and Chicken Breast w/Cream; Mixed Green Salad, Vegetable, Bread, Coffee—"BUFFET—Help Yourself"

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$30 per ticket = \$ _____

SEND TO: Watertown Legion Post 17, PO Box 292, Watertown, SD 57201



Pictured is Jessica Tschetter and her daughter Skye. Jessica has been a member of Schmidt-Barnes Legion Auxiliary Post #268 of Virgil, SD for 23 years.

Jessica and Skye have been collecting and bring pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House for several years as a way to "give back" for the help Ronald McDonald House provided their family when Skye was in the NICU at Sanford for 2 1/2 months in 2011. Skye was born prematurely and weighed under two pounds. Being able to stay at the House was such a tremendous help during this time. Skye is now 6 years old and in kindergarten at Wolsey-Wessington School. Their picture was one that appeared on the cover of a 2016 edition of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of SD magazine. Along with Jessica, her mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, two aunts and a great aunt are/have been members of Schmidt-Barnes Auxiliary

May Guide

Election & Installation of Unit Officers

Conduct Poppy Distribution

Mother's Day & Poppy Day Programs

Remit 25% of Poppy Proceeds to Dept. Headquarters by June 10th

Elect Delegates to Dept. Convention & Remit Registration Fee

Conduct Memorial Service for Deceased Members

May 4: National Day of Prayer

May 8: V-E Day 1945

May 14: Mother's Day

May 26: National Poppy Day

May 29: Memorial Day



*May Prayer**By Shelley Dragoo**Department Chaplain**We Shall Keep the Faith**by Moina Michael*

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the
dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

*Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot
be parted, either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfill in them the purpose of your
love; and bring us all, with them, to
your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.*

*Grassroots of South Dakota*

A Military Child's Table was set up at the Soldiers and Sailors' Building across from the Capitol in Pierre. Students at the Spearfish Middle School prepared the table and bulletin board in the library in memory of longtime ALA member Eileen Schuttler who started the library and took care of her family during multiple deployments of her husband Ron Schuttler, Navy veteran. District 2 made Prayers Pillows in Hot Springs with District President Carol Harvey, to give to veterans in residence. The members of Watertown enjoyed creating Poppy fields with Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens and Dept. 1st. VP Elvira Moen. The Lead unit invited the Spearfish Unit to give their Juniors an evening of crafts and fun.

*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

Department Secretary: Laurel Stringer, 129 North Main, Hartford, SD 57033 Phone: 605-461-3389 or email at southdako-taala@gmail.com

Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

Membership *by Dept. Chairman Barb Vetter*

What an exciting time in the Auxiliary membership year! South Dakota has 44 goal units, is at 92% membership, and is in second place in the Northwestern division!!!!. Here are the district standings for the month of April. I couldn't be more proud of you ladies♥☐. All of you have really been working hard to build our membership to make sure our veterans are taken care of.

District 1 85%
District 2 88%
District 3 94%
District 4 95%
District 5 95%
District 6 86%
District 7 93%
District 8 88%

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District Spring Meetings

Left: District One Member of the Year Connie Wagner of Spearfish with Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens in Sturgis.



District Two was in Mission. They are ready for the meeting and had a nice representation of Juniors from the new unit in Rosebud.



Right: District Three Member of the Year Patsy Madsen of Pierre receiving her pin from Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens, in Highmore.



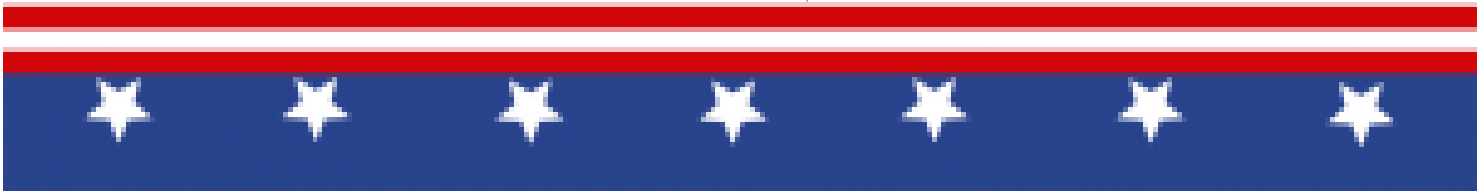
District Three newly elected officers front row with Department officers back row.



District Four honored their member of the Year in Redfield.



Dept.. Pres.. Melanie Martens received a personalized gift from District President Jeannine Brown Jilek.



District Spring Meetings



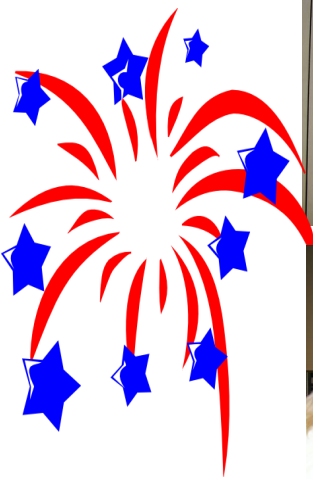
Left: District Five Member of the Year Marsha Timm with Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens. Newly elected District Five Officers pictured with Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens, Dept. 1st. VP Elvira Moen and Dept. 2nd VP Jeannine Loesch.



District Six in Kimball, honored Shirley Thelen Member of the Year from Mitchell and Gold Mother Velma Wagner from Alexandria received a certificate for 68 continuing years of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Pictured with Dept. Pres. Melanie Martens and District President Linda Holmes.

District Seven met in Canistota and elected their new District officers and selected their District Member of the Year.

District Eight in Parker with District President Jan Coleman ia ready for the meeting and shown when enjoying choral singing.





The American Legion Auxiliary
Girls State 2017—Vermillion



Local Veterans Pay Tribute to Past Heroes of World War II

Normandy, France -- members of American Legion Homestake Post 31 in Lead took part in a ceremony to honor the members of the armed services who took part in the invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

On May 9, two members of the American Legion Homestake Post 31 and auxiliary unit 31 later reef in a ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery at Collville-sur-Mer, France.

Adjutant Glori Davis and finance officer Denise Parker place the wreath at the base of the 22 foot Memorial bronze monument called "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves".

The bronze monument, which faces toward the headstones, reminds visitors of the young age of most of the participants of the Normandy battles in the weeks following D-Day.

The cemetery holds the remains of 9387 American servicemen and women who died during what was called Operation Overlord. The Allied invasion of Europe eventually succeeded in defeating the Axis powers. But the effort came at a cost of tens of thousands of lives. Many of the members of the Armed Forces who died were laid to rest in European cemeteries and remain there today. The Normandy American Cemetery is one of the many places that hold the remains.

May 8 and 9 are observed by the Western powers as VE-Day, or the day commemorating Victory in Europe.

American Legion Post 31 still has a living member who participated in the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944. On that day Mel Carlson was a 21 year old Sailor aboard a PT boat during the invasion. The Legion members collected sand from Omaha Beach and presented Mel that sand and a D-Day hat on June 6, 2017.

