



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Elvira Moen, Department President



"Thanks to Our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota"

This is the beginning of a fabulous year and I am honored to be your 2017-2018 American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota State President. I am a paid-up-for-life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. I am eligible through my husband Hilmer who is a Korean War veteran. We have four children, six grand children and 12 great grand children. All the girls are members of the auxiliary as junior or senior members. I am looking forward to working with Commander Hugh and support his plans for the Legion.

My theme for this year is "Thanks to our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota." Don't forget to thank our veterans when you see them. You can still give them a HUG also. I have chosen Red, White & Blue for my colors as they are the colors of our flag. My flower is the carnation as it is bright & showy and my symbol is the bell. Let Freedom Ring! In keeping with the statement, freedom rings in South Dakota. "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land" are chosen to be my songs for this coming year. My President's project will be directed to the Hot Springs Veteran's Hospital. The project will be announced at the District Meetings. We will continue to support our Auxiliary programs.

(Cont. page 4)



Congratulations! 2017-2018 SD Dept. Officers

From Left to Right: Historian Bonnie McBrayer, Secretary Laurel Stringer, Treasurer Regina Whipple, President/Alternative NEC Elvira Moen, First Vice President Jeanine Loesch, Second Vice President Teresa Huntimer, and Chaplain Karen Layer

Juniors Program *by Junior Chairman Sharon Teunissen*

Hello from the Juniors As a new year started, we are finalizing our patches I hope to present these at the fall District meetings Congratulations to all the girls; 15 patches are being ordered and more will be finalized later. This past year we had 3 girls earn their President's Patch. Thank you to Unit 15 for sponsoring 2 girls and helping with the dollars needed. Our young ladies did a great job and were very active in their schools, community, and state.

Juniors will be doing tray favors for their local veterans. So if there is any way that you could help them, please offer your assistance. As a mentoring group, we can help these young ladies develop into fantastic women of the future. You never know when just a few words of encouragement can help them in a way that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Our State project this year is "Adopt a Vet." They will choose a veteran in their neighborhood who they feel is in need of someone. They can just send a card or to do something special for them. Remember these veterans have given of themselves for us. Of course we will be doing the Military Child's Table again as we feel that this is so important for our Military children.

Special thank you to Shanna Clyde for her leadership this past year. We know you will do great things with the Northwest Division and our American Legion Auxiliary. Congratulations to our new officers and best of luck for the year ahead. Congratula-

tions to Casondra Gerlach for being selected as South Dakota's Junior Member of The Year and for being elected to Honorary President.

Be sure to have your Juniors plan ahead and come to Mid Winter and State Conventions This past year the girls enjoyed a pizza party by the pool, going out to eat, our own talent show, and don't forget our crafts HOPE TO SEE LOTS OF GIRLS AT MISSION TRAINING.

If anyone needs something, please just call me. Thank you for your confidence in me to lead these young ladies forth. It is truly a blessing.

SEPTEMBER: FITNESS PATCH
JOIN AN ORGANIZATION OR AN ACTIVITY TO KEEP YOU FIT AND HEALTHY

South Dakota Honorary Junior President Casondra Gerlach and Honorary Junior Vice President Brianna Gerlach visited the Sioux Falls VA Hospital and gave each veteran a homemade card, a couple of peppermint candies and a small flag and of course personally thanked each veteran for their service to our country.



September Guide

- 9/11: Patriot Day
- 9/15: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9/17: US Constitution Day
- 9/24: Gold Star Mothers' Day

REMEMBER...

Report from your Citizens of Girl State

Plan your Unit program for the year

Launch a membership drive

Make plans to attend District meetings

Organize Junior group/activities

Send 2017 Legionette subscriptions to Dept. Headquarters

Subscribe to THE DISPATCH. Send \$15 to:

The American Legion Dispatch
PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Christmas Gift Shops
items are due by
October 1**

Fall District Meetings

September 9 -(Saturday) District 2 – TDB.

September 10 -(Sunday) District 1 – Bison Post 255. 11 pm Joint meeting
12 pm lunch, 1 pm meeting

September 23-(Saturday) District 3 –Reliance Post 179. 2 pm meeting - Coffee/cake provided.

September 24 -(Sunday) District 5 – Britton Post 80. 1 pm meeting

September 24 -(Sunday) District 4 – Brentford Post 242. 6 pm social/meal/meeting at Brentford Legion, Auxiliary at Brentford Congregational Church.

September 29 -(Friday) District 7 – Tea Post 266.

September 30 -(Saturday) District 6 – Wessington Springs Post 14. Social at 1 pm; Meeting at 2 pm; no lunch

October 1 -(Sunday) District 8– Scotland Post 155, 1:30 pm meeting at Scotland City Hall for both Legion and Auxiliary. Coffee/bars/cookies provided.



In Memoriam

Unit 6 Gregory - Viola Christensen June 2017; Margaret Hanson April 2017; Irene Nelson April 2017;

Unit 12 Yankton - Martha List July 2017; Geraldine Pederson June 2017;

Unit 22 Rapid City - Evangeline Orthouse May 2017;

Unit 24 Aberdeen - Jeanette Johnson February 2017; Mary Ann Ochs May 2017;

Unit 25 Madison - Eunices Griffin June 2017; Aloha McPeck June 2017; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** - Alice Petersen May 2017;

Unit 66 Lemmon - Ethel Johnson May 2017;

Unit 84 Hitchcock - Vivian Morris June 2017; Agnes Tereldal May 2017; **Unit 94 White River** - Nadine Tucker March 2017;

Unit 105 Nunda - Judeen Hansonb May 2017; Viola Toffefson May 2017; **Unit 115 Platte** - Patricia Sluiter May 2017;

Unit 128 Hudson - Norma Crawford May 2017;

Unit 132 Springfield - Neva Thomas May 2017;

Unit 135 Gettysburg - Dorothy Brown April 2017;

Unit 138 DeSmet - Rogene Hagel May 2017;

Unit 169 Winner - Darmytia Kucera May 2017; June Nelson June 2017;

Unit 176 Davis - Agnes Emerson February 2017;

Unit 188 Lebanon - Mildred Anderson July 2017;

Unit 191 Eagle Butte - Mable Hinzman March 2017;

Unit 235 Marion - Katheryn Tiezen November 2016;

Unit 240 Martin - Lois Metzinger September 2015;

Unit 253 Roslyn - Joan Storley April 2017;

Unit 311 Piedmont - Edwina Whitaker June 2017



Everything Came up Roses

I wish to extend my most humble gratitude to all the attendees at the banquet at the Dept. Convention in Watertown, who came to make my 25th anniversary since being Dept. President, so very special. Past-President Parley Carol Edwards did an outstanding job in arranging the program. The video brought back many memories. The response to Carol's request for everyone to bring a rose (my flower) was overwhelming. Our car trunk was filled with over three dozen live roses, and dozens of silks. The silk roses are arranged in vases around my home. The petals from the live roses are also in vases, and their fragrance lingers, as will the memories.

Thank you also for the personal gifts... a crocheted afghan, patriotic bracelet, table runner, hand-blown glass rose, and a silver metal rose with a barbed wire stem – unique and beautiful.

I was so happy to have "my" State Commander Richard and Sharleen Hovorka present. He is still smiling after all these years! We accomplished many things and had fun doing it!

Good memories... When I saw all the familiar faces in the audience, it felt like I had never left!

I was glad that my three children and their spouses were able to attend, as well as my great-grandson Joedy. Joedy was my escort! Several Legion/Auxiliary couples were also present – friends for 25 years! Thank you – *LuElla Lehr, Past Dept. President 1992-1993*

Membership Honorees



On Memorial Day, the Bryant American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37 honored those who have been a member for 50 years or more. Pictured: Kim Krogh, Jean Steever, Susan Anderson, Greta Anderson, and Rozella Noem. Also honored were Donna Fedt, Virginia Nupen, Mary Martin, Grace Brown, Darlene Olson, Ardell Dede, Cindy Larson, Roberta Johnson, Carla Kress, Margaret Lincoln, Kathy Ward, Debra Johnson, and Darla Steever. Membership ranged from 50 to 81 years.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Due October 1

Ft. Meade VA Medical Center:

Attn: JoanAnn Goeringer (ALA Gift Shop)
113 Comanche Road,
Fort Meade - Sturgis, SD 57741

Hot Springs VA Medical Center:

Attn: Susie Clyde (ALA Gift Shop)
500 N. 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Hot Springs State Home:

Attn: Diane Simunek (ALA Gift Shop)
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center:

Attn: Teresa Huntimer (ALA Gift Shop)
2501 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Human Service Center:

Attn: Cheryl Hovorka (ALA Gift Shop)
816 park Street
Yankton, SD 57078

South Dakota Department Receives Awards at the ALA National Convention in Reno

Congratulations Team South Dakota on an amazing year!!! We received some wonderful accolades and awards at National Convention. Below are some of the awards that we received:

Poppy - Sue Frantzic - Best Overall Program in the NW Division
Public Relations – Deb MacDonald – Most Outstanding Department in the NW Division

VA&R – Elvira Moen – Best Overall Program in the NW Division

Chaplain – Shelley Dragoo – Certificate of Appreciation from the National Chaplain

Children & Youth – Jeannine Loesch – Best Overall Program in the NW Division

Strategic Plan – Overall 10% increase in reporting

Strategic Plan – Overall 10% increase in 990's filed

National President's Department Award for Excellence – Melanie Martens

Thanks to your support, we have been recognized and awarded this recognition, way to go TEAM SOUTH DAKOTA!!!!!! *Melanie Martens*

Junior Past President, Department of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the new Unit 125 of Rosebud. Carol Harvey, District 2 President and Melanie Martens 2016-2017 ALA Department President, with Jennifer Iron Shell newly installed Unit President holding the signed charter.

2017-2018 National President

Diane Duscheck, of Markesan, Wisc., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization's 97th National Convention held Aug. 18-24 in Reno.

Congratulations!



Honoring Years of Membership

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit # 240 of Martin, SD held a tea on Sunday afternoon, July 23, 2017 to honor Auxiliary Members who have had 50 or more years of service with approximately 40 people in attendance. A patriotic theme was used. Bill and Jeanie Hines entertained the group with a number of songs, ending with God Bless America. Corsages and Certificates were given to the honorees' present. The years of service that were honored were from 50 to 71 years. Junior Auxiliary Members Eden Fanning, Aris Fanning, Laney Fanning, Ellen McDonnell and Katie McDonnell served the honorees' and guests present with cupcakes & ice cream. A

good time was held by all with visiting and memories. Certificates will be mailed to the honorees' that were not able to attend.

Left picture - back row: Auxiliary Unit President Janet Speidel, Dorothy Hicks, Mary Thomsen, Diana Nelson, Shirley McCue, Carol Livermont & Kay Cee Hodson. Front row: Eulalia Mansfield, Janice Goetzinger. Right picture - Betty Cook, ALA Martin Unit # 240 Sargent of Arms with Jean Weinmaster our Auxiliary member with 71 years of service.



September Prayer
By Karen Layher
Dept. Chaplain

Our Most Gracious and Heavenly Father,

May your goodness and love be present in us this year as we continue our work on behalf of our Veterans, our communities, our children and our active military family.

Come bless our meetings with unity, hope and vision.

Lord, grow in us all a deep respect for each other to unite our members so the service of the American Legion Auxiliary will be pleasing to you.

Lord, come and stir your hope within our hearts and renew our faith. May your vision fill our lives as we seek to reveal your love through our service.

We ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

At the Department Convention, Juniors elected their new honorary officers for 2017-2018



South Dakota Department President, Elvira Moen at her homecoming, pictured escorted by her husband Hilmer Moen and celebrating with Department Commander Hugh Holmes and his wife Linda. [Check the SD ALA Facebook for additional pictures!]



"Thanks to Our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota"

A Word from the President - Cont. from page 1.

We will also hold workshops in their areas to help members become more familiar with the Auxiliary programs. Past President Melanie initiated these programs during her presidency. Also the new reporting form for Mid-Year Reports and Year-End Reports will be used again this year. This new reporting form resulted in many more reports being submitted to allow the units acknowledgement for their services.

We are in year 4 of the Strategic Plan. Our goal this year is to Strengthen Departments and Units. One of the initiatives of Goal 4 is to work on a user-friendly Department of South Dakota Member Guide. I have a committee in place to start work on this project.

We plan to continue all the programs that support the veterans and their families. My president's project will be with the Hot Springs VA and will be announced at the District Meetings. The program to find help for caregivers will be one of my projects. There are 5.5 million men and women serving as caregivers to service members or veterans.

There are two stand downs scheduled – September 22nd in Sioux Falls and November 9th in Rapid City. I do plan to be at both events. They do reach out to many homeless and give them needed supplies. The plastic mats and large bags made by some ladies in Watertown will be available at the stand downs.

We are ready to begin this new year! Our District Meetings are starting right after we get back from the National ALA Convention in Reno. I also want to thank everyone for coming to help me celebrate the beginning of this exciting new year.

Until next month... *Elvira Moen, Department President*



BE IN THE KNOW

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-to-date with District and Department information. **Subscriptions are from September to June** aligning with the Dept. President's and fiscal year. 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!

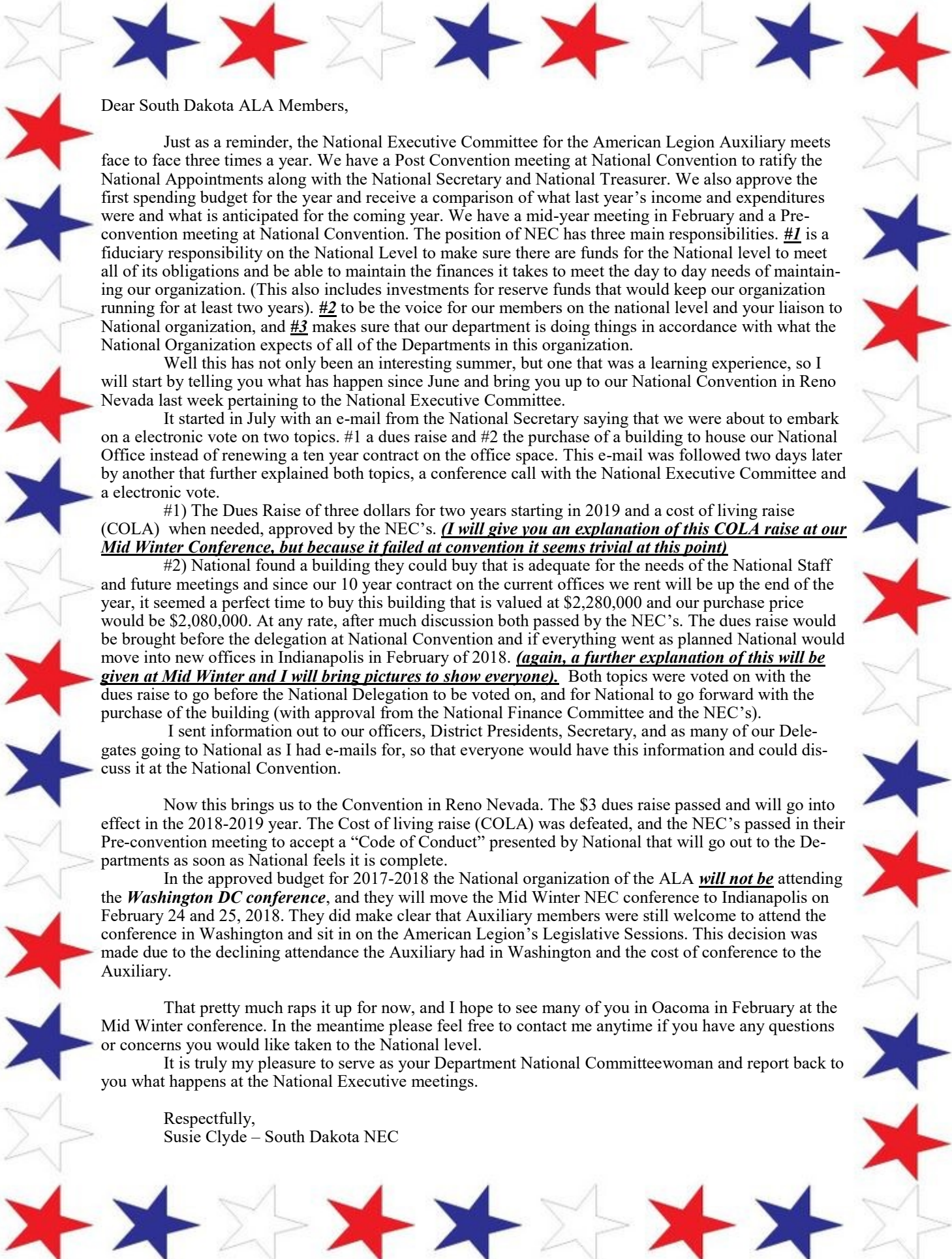
Department Member of the Year at National Convention

Marsha L. Timm was honored at the convention. Pictured with National President Mary Davis.



THE SOUTH DAKOTA
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Dear South Dakota ALA Members,

Just as a reminder, the National Executive Committee for the American Legion Auxiliary meets face to face three times a year. We have a Post Convention meeting at National Convention to ratify the National Appointments along with the National Secretary and National Treasurer. We also approve the first spending budget for the year and receive a comparison of what last year's income and expenditures were and what is anticipated for the coming year. We have a mid-year meeting in February and a Pre-convention meeting at National Convention. The position of NEC has three main responsibilities. **#1** is a fiduciary responsibility on the National Level to make sure there are funds for the National level to meet all of its obligations and be able to maintain the finances it takes to meet the day to day needs of maintaining our organization. (This also includes investments for reserve funds that would keep our organization running for at least two years). **#2** to be the voice for our members on the national level and your liaison to National organization, and **#3** makes sure that our department is doing things in accordance with what the National Organization expects of all of the Departments in this organization.

Well this has not only been an interesting summer, but one that was a learning experience, so I will start by telling you what has happen since June and bring you up to our National Convention in Reno Nevada last week pertaining to the National Executive Committee.

It started in July with an e-mail from the National Secretary saying that we were about to embark on a electronic vote on two topics. #1 a dues raise and #2 the purchase of a building to house our National Office instead of renewing a ten year contract on the office space. This e-mail was followed two days later by another that further explained both topics, a conference call with the National Executive Committee and a electronic vote.

#1) The Dues Raise of three dollars for two years starting in 2019 and a cost of living raise (COLA) when needed, approved by the NEC's. **(I will give you an explanation of this COLA raise at our Mid Winter Conference, but because it failed at convention it seems trivial at this point)**

#2) National found a building they could buy that is adequate for the needs of the National Staff and future meetings and since our 10 year contract on the current offices we rent will be up the end of the year, it seemed a perfect time to buy this building that is valued at \$2,280,000 and our purchase price would be \$2,080,000. At any rate, after much discussion both passed by the NEC's. The dues raise would be brought before the delegation at National Convention and if everything went as planned National would move into new offices in Indianapolis in February of 2018. **(again, a further explanation of this will be given at Mid Winter and I will bring pictures to show everyone)**. Both topics were voted on with the dues raise to go before the National Delegation to be voted on, and for National to go forward with the purchase of the building (with approval from the National Finance Committee and the NEC's).

I sent information out to our officers, District Presidents, Secretary, and as many of our Delegates going to National as I had e-mails for, so that everyone would have this information and could discuss it at the National Convention.

Now this brings us to the Convention in Reno Nevada. The \$3 dues raise passed and will go into effect in the 2018-2019 year. The Cost of living raise (COLA) was defeated, and the NEC's passed in their Pre-convention meeting to accept a "Code of Conduct" presented by National that will go out to the Departments as soon as National feels it is complete.

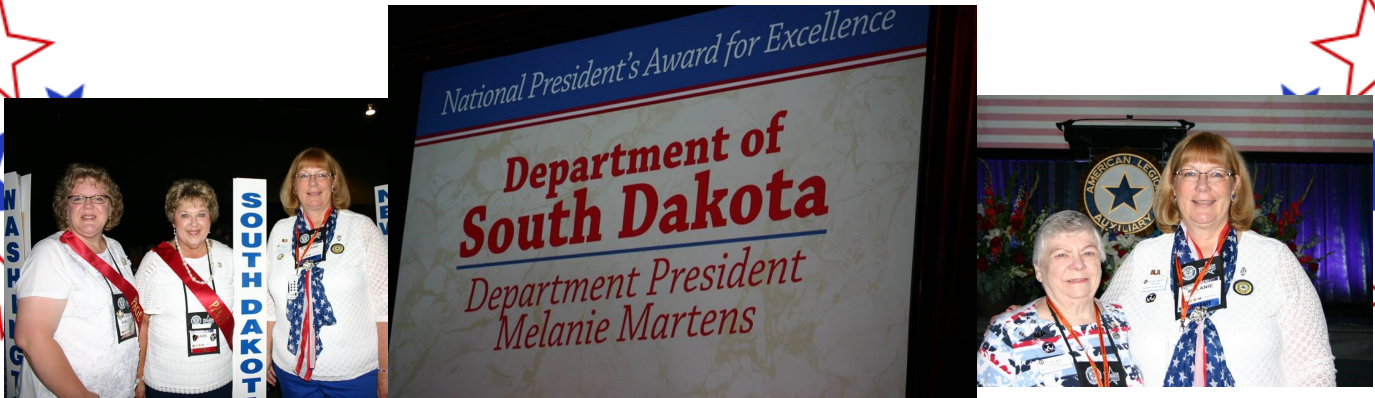
In the approved budget for 2017-2018 the National organization of the ALA **will not be** attending the **Washington DC conference**, and they will move the Mid Winter NEC conference to Indianapolis on February 24 and 25, 2018. They did make clear that Auxiliary members were still welcome to attend the conference in Washington and sit in on the American Legion's Legislative Sessions. This decision was made due to the declining attendance the Auxiliary had in Washington and the cost of conference to the Auxiliary.

That pretty much raps it up for now, and I hope to see many of you in Oacoma in February at the Mid Winter conference. In the meantime please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions or concerns you would like taken to the National level.

It is truly my pleasure to serve as your Department National Committeewoman and report back to you what happens at the National Executive meetings.

Respectfully,
Susie Clyde – South Dakota NEC

ALA National Convention - Reno NV



The ALA National Convention celebrated South Dakota. There is only one department, each year, selected to receive the **National President's Award for Excellence**, recognizing "Service, not Self." Team South Dakota did it! Congratulations to all auxiliary members! The highlight of National President Mary Davis was the making and distribution of the Prayer Pillows for Veterans when she visited South Dakota. Other programs were recognized for their uniqueness and impact. National Community Service Chairman, Carol Edwards gave her platform report and Helen Riedlinger was pictured as a member of the National Finance Committee. The parade in Reno was one the best with great support from the community!

Out-going Dept. President Melanie and her pages Shelley Drago and Barb Vetter, were busy with changes in the schedule. Congratulations to Elvira Moen in-coming SD Dept. President who was installed in Reno.