



# 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"*

Fall greetings to everyone as we begin a fabulous year for our American Legion Auxiliary! I had a great time at the National Convention in Reno meeting other Department Presidents and sharing ideas, and attending very informative breakout sessions. I attended the breakout session on support for ALA Caregivers, and I plan to promote ways to identify and help caregivers of our military or their families. Our highest award was National President Mary Davis' Department Award for Excellence. What an honor for Melanie Martens and the Department and Units of South Dakota! We also received awards for Deb MacDonald, Public Relations; Sue Frantzick, Poppy; Elvira Moen, VA & R; Jeannine Loesch, Children & Youth; and two awards for our Strategic Plan. Great Job Team South Dakota!

By now I am sure that most of you have held your first meetings and started planning your activities for the year. Don't forget the Christmas Gift Shops and parties! Donations for the Gift Shops are due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember to order Poppies, and plan something for Make A Difference Day on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

(Cont.

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## Membership *by Membership Chairman Pat Huls* "Ring Your Bells for Membership--- Membership Matters!"



October is Membership Month for the American Legion Auxiliary. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our members paid their yearly dues during October? Well, it can be even better than you think---the National American Legion Auxiliary is offering a great award to all Departments. If every unit in South Dakota has at least one paid member sent in to department headquarters and forwarded to National by 10/31/2017 South Dakota ALA will receive \$1,000.00. Please, EVERYONE, help us win this generous award!

Auxiliary sisters, our membership numbers have been sliding for many years from an all-time high of 20,187 in 1994 to less than 12,000 currently. Our goal for this year is to increase our number of members in each Unit by 5%. We must count on everyone to help, especially our units located in larger towns who have so many more possible members to reach out to. Please continue to be leaders in your communities and enjoy each other as you do special projects for veterans, current military, their families, your communities and always the children.

If someone expresses an interest in joining, please be welcoming and helpful. Try to be open to new ideas, maybe you could share with each other your own special story of the veteran who inspired you to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

We are having a contest again this year between units of similar sizes. There will be five (5) winning units announced at State Convention. The award will be for the unit with the largest % increase in membership in each category:

- 1) Units with 10-25 members
- 2) Units with 26-45 members
- 3) Units with 46-80 members
- 4) Units with 81-120 members
- 5) Units with 121 + members

The five (5) winning units will each receive \$100.00. Good Luck! There is more information on contests, etc. on the Web Site under Membership.

If I can be of help to you with your membership concerns, please call or e-mail me. My information is on the program for this year.

## *The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Is 125 Years Old*

Valley Springs Unit 131 introduced a puppet show to kindergartners on the Pledge of Allegiance. Noelle Bonjour wrote the show and owns the puppets. Teresa Huntimer, Children & Youth and Dept. 2nd VP was invited to help by Gloria Bonjour. The children loved the show and kept asking for more. Noelle will be taking the show on the road in the future.



Britton-Hecla Elementary students honored the 125th Anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance by gathering together in the lunchroom to recite the Pledge...following Mike Kraft, Commander of Britton American Legion Post 80 presented the students with a new American flag and new South Dakota flag.

### October Guide

10-28: Make a Difference Day

10-31: Halloween

#### REMEMBER...

Send Poppy orders to Dept. Headquarters

Pay National Convention Assessment - 15 cents per member at end of previous year

Pay Convention Proceedings—\$15

Pay Unit Bond—\$6

Department Membership Goal of 55%

Cash Donations to Christmas Fund—November 1

Send 2017 -2018 Legionette subscriptions to Dept. Headquarters

Paper \$5; email \$2

**One last month before going to the new mailing list!**

**Christmas Gift Shops items are due by October 31**



Iowa and South Dakota working at the September **Stand Down in Sioux Falls..** — with Joyce Smith, Ann Crawford, Jeanine Loesch - Dept. 1st VP, Donna Beck, Elvira Moen, - Dept. Pres., and Teresa Huntimer Dept. 2nd VP.

The Spearfish American Legion Family honored Patriot Day ,the morning of 9/11 with the local Fire dept., the Ambulance Service, the Police, and Sherriff's dept. The ceremony was led by prayers and laying of flowers on the Fire Dept. Memorial.



### In Memoriam

- Unit 18 Mitchell** – Lorraine Breidenbach, June 2017; **Unit 20 Ft Pierre** – Patricia Stoesser, June 2017; **Unit 61 Canova** – Lorraine Koepsell, July 2017; **Unit 67 Ipswich** –Nancy Bloemendaal, August 2017; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** – Geraldine Huddelston, July 2017; **Unit 76 Veblen** – Patricia Hornseth, August 2017; Nancy Opitz, August 2017; **Unit 88 White** – Marilyn Dietz, July 2017; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Geri Heim, August 2017; Judy Masat, August 2017; Ruby Tjarks, April 2016; **Unit 102 Faulkton** – Bernadine Selting, June 2017; **Unit 110 Wessington** – Mary Kuper, July 2017; **Unit 116 Alpena** – Mary Jane Scherschligt, August 2017; **Unit 141 Lanford** –Hazel Erickson, February 2017; **Unit 143 Midland** –Mary Parquet, May 2017; Annetta Wiotte, May 2017; **Unit 148 Conde** – Janice Taylor, August 2017; **Unit 169 Winner** - Donna Lee Frantz, August 2017; **Unit 171 Strandburg** – Loretta Orman, July 2017; **Unit 180 New Effington** – Irma Cornelius, July 2017; Irma Orman, July 2017; **Unit 267 Grenville** – Maythol Pischke, June 2017; **Unit 311 Piedmont** – Darlene Teachout, September 2017

### Fall District Meetings

District 1 in Bison with Pres. Elvira Moen and District Pres. Kristine Sachara; District 2 in Hot Springs with District 2 Pres. Carol Harvey and Unit 125 Rosebud Juniors and Dept. Chair Sharon Teunissen.





## CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Due October 31

**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

## Dictionaries for 3rd Graders

Pierre Unit 8 participates each year in the Dictionary project, along with the Central Board of Realtors, and Fort Pierre Unit 20. On the morning of Wed. Sept 6th, Helen Zander, Jan Enright and Patsy Madsen-president, several Realtors from Pierre delivered dictionaries to all Pierre schools 3rd graders. After lunch we went to Fort Pierre school and met Jeannine Loesch and Karla-president of Unit 20 to deliver dictionaries to them. All the 3rd graders were very excited to receive these. Some sang us blessings, and several hugs were received from the children. This was the first time for me to assist in this project and was very enjoyable.



## American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota State Veterans Home Christmas Gift Shop



Suggested Gift Items, New/Homemade  
For Male and Female Veterans and their Family of All Ages

**Household:** Designer and Non-Designer Kitchen and Bath Towel sets, Area Rugs; Bathmats, Bed Pillows, Fleece Throws, Blankets; Radios, Alarm Clocks, Nightlights, Flashlights, Battery Lanterns;

**Small Décor:** Faux Plants/Florals, Plaques, Throw Pillows, Ornaments, Candles, Dolls, Room Scenters, Coasters; Wall Calendars

**Women:** Stationary, Perfume, Lotion, Bath and Makeup Sets, Decorative Soaps, Fashion Handbags, Purses, Wallets, Scarfs and Jewelry; Yarn

**Men:** Cologne, Billfolds, Tools, Caps, Gloves, Belts, Ties; Sandals/Loafers

**All Ages:** Art Books, Craft Sets, Mind/Board Games, Puzzles, Journals, Watches, CDs, Portable Music Players, Small Stuffed Animals; Sealed Candy Tins (no boxed or homemade)

**Clothing All Ages:** Robes, Fleece PJs, Slippers, Socks, T-shirts, Warm Apparel Sets, Sweat Sets (no XXL; no boxer shorts); Baby Blankets/Gift Sets

**Youth:** Dolls, Cars/Trucks, Toys, Hand Held Games, Arts & Crafts

Monetary Contributions: Units Mail to SD Dept. by Oct. 1st

Packages: Units Mailed to State Veterans Home by Oct. 25th

Candy: Do not mail early or call prior to mailing.

Give The Best Gift - Time - 2017 Christmas Gift Shop Volunteer Schedule

Sat., Nov. 4th: 1 – 5 pm: Set-up Gift Shop

Sun., Nov. 5th: 1 – 5 pm: Set-up Gift Shop

Mon., Nov. 6th: 8 am – 5 pm: Greet & Wrap Gifts

Tues., Nov. 7th: 8 am – 2 pm: Greet & Wrap Gifts

2 – 8 pm: Closing Gift Shop;

Wed., Nov 8th: 4:30 pm - 10 pm, Closing Gift Shop

Thank You,

Diane Simunek, Christmas Gift Shop Chairman (605)890-3093

Website: [sdlegionaux.org](http://sdlegionaux.org); FB: South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary; Memberships Welcome!



## Sioux Falls VA Gift Shop Items Needed (2016)

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L or XL); gloves – men or women, youth; hats – men or women, youth; games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants – (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; fleece blankets

## Fort Meade VA Gift Shop Items Needed (2016)

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L or XL); gloves – men or women, youth; hats – men or women, youth; games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants – (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; T-shirts with designs and pockets or buttons (L, XL or XXL); handkerchiefs

## Hot Springs VA Gift Shop Items Needed (2016)

Kitchen towel sets; bath towel sets; jewelry – bracelets or pins; women's slippers – (M, L or XL); men's slippers – (M, L, XL or XXL); Gloves – men or women, Youth; Games – hand held, electronic or board; books and games for young children; socks for men or women; sweatpants or sweatshirts – (L, XL or XXL); pajama pants - (L, XL or XXL); shower gel and lotion sets; men or women – watches, wallets; tools – tape measure, flashlights; T-shirts with designs for youth

### October Prayer by Karen Layher Dept. Chaplain

O God Our Heavenly Father, who is our refuge and strength. Who is our help in good times and during times of trouble. We pray for our nation, our family and friends that have been affected by the hurricanes and the forest fires that have ravished the lands of your creation.

We humbly pray your peace and love will surround those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their loved ones. We humbly pray for the safety of the first responders and the many volunteers who are assisting to provide the necessities for life. Strengthen those who are rebuilding hope for those who have lost so much; so our brothers and sisters may face the future without fear. We ask this through the name of our Father. Amen.

*Matthew 25: 44-45*

*"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 'He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"*



On the third Friday of September, 613 students from the Spearfish Creekside Elementary Grades 3-5, learned the meaning of the ceremony of remembrance on the National POW/MIA Day, presented by the Black Hills Chapter of the American Legion Riders. Three unit 164 members participated.

Ethan Post 261 organized SweatforVets, a 5K or 2K walk or run to raise funds for veterans projects and needs.



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

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

Fall District meetings have begun and will be over on the first of October. I want to encourage everyone to sign up for the Mission Training in Minneapolis on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a one-day training session that will provide a fun and interactive way for you to learn how to be more effective in working our mission. You are encouraged to bring your Junior members as this is their National Convention at each of the Mission Training locations.

November is devoted to Membership. Our goal for each Unit is last year's attained membership plus 5%. As an added incentive, there is a prize of \$1,000.00 if each unit has at least one membership recorded at National by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

My President's Project is to provide new Mountain Bikes for the Hot Springs VA. Many of the Vets use bicycles as their mode of transportation or are learning to enjoy mountain biking as a hobby. Exercise is important for both physical and mental health, and the equipment that they are currently using is older and difficult to maintain. The Elks have provided a \$1000.00 grant which will be used to set up a bicycle repair training program for our Vets.

Wear RED on Friday until all our deployed come home.

My cell phone number on my cards is incorrect - please change it to 886-5914.

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](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. **Subscriptions are from September to June** aligning with the Dept. President's and fiscal year. 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!

### Give Ten to Education

Piedmont Valley ALA Unit 311 delivering 10 for 10 program items (headphones) to Piedmont Valley Elementary School, Piedmont, SD. Unit members Mary Wranek and Helen Riedlinger with School Secretary Kelli Wilson. Quote from Kelli "Thanks for all you and the Auxiliary do for our school."



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