



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"

As Auxiliary members, we need to let people know who we are, what we do and why it matters. Thank you to all of you who serve our veterans every day. I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the units who hosted the District meetings. They were well attended and much information was given to the members to help the Units with the current year business of the Auxiliary. By the time this newsletter is published, Mission Training in Minneapolis will be also be completed. The National Chairmen provided great information. I hope that all of you enjoyed the training and learned a lot!

November is a busy month for us beginning with the ALA Birthday on November 10th. I hope that every unit will take time to celebrate and show our pride in our organization! If your unit has older or housebound ALA members, maybe you could bring them a birthday cupcake? November 11th is Veteran's Day and there are programs planned across the state – please attend and show your support for our amazing veterans - don't forget your Auxiliary pins or emblems. Personal visits, cards or phone calls to veterans in your area are always appreciated. American Education Week is November 13th – November 17th and World Kindness Day is November 13th. What a good time to show appreciation to teachers and be more visible in our schools. Again, be sure to wear your Auxiliary pins and emblems. We do so much good in our communities and this is another chance to let students, teachers and parents see our organization at work. (Cont. page 4)



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation *by Jeannine Loesch, Dept. Chairman*

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is the oldest program in the American Legion Auxiliary. Support of our Veterans is the purpose of our organization. VA&R donations include items that the VA cannot pay for such of end of Life Request, Showers, pay for the hygiene and personal care items, Christmas gives a \$5.00 gift to the Veterans in the VA facilities for as many as the Units wish to sponsor, the Gift Shop represents the monies or gifts sent in by the Units, and Creative Arts goes to the Creative Arts Program.

There are many ways to help our Veterans. You can sew or purchase quilts, crochet hats, scarves and mittens for the homeless veterans. There will be 2 stand downs, 1 was already in Sioux Falls and the other in Rapid City on November 9th. You can do things that don't cost money like cutting plastic bags to be crocheted into the plastic mats for the homeless veterans. The Community Outpatient Clinics need help too. Small gifts such as art supplies, and coffee items can be donated. In the Creative Arts program you can find out what a Veteran artist project needs are and donate the needed supplies. Contact homeless shelters, transitional and permanent housing projects and find out their needs. They sometimes need clothing and food drives, hygiene kits, buddy baskets along with household and furniture items. The VA has a website www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp.

Because of the role the Auxiliary volunteer plays in the successful care and rehabilitation of the Veterans, the ALA adopted the Code of Ethics for us to use a guide in our service. Confidentially, professional behavior, and appropriate dress for the facility is expected and most of all those who serve will, under all conditions and circumstances, be treated with the compassion, dignity and respect they have earned and deserve.

Don't forget the Christmas Gift shops for the Veterans at each facility in November and Christmas Parties in December. Please bring trial-size personal care items such as toothpaste, individual packaged toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, etc. to Mid-Winter Conference to be taken to the VA'S. Regular size can also be purchased and brought to Mid-Winter. The longer-term facilities use regular size. Sioux Falls VA doesn't use flip flops but Hot Springs VA uses them for showers. Don't forget Midyear and Year-End reports. If you don't report it we don't know about it. Remember Poppy funds can only be used for Veterans and Active duty Military.



November Guide

Nov. 5: Mission Training Minneapolis

REMEMBER...

Send Poppy orders to Headquarters

Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 15 Mid Year Reports Due

Nov. 16: 65% Membership Target

Nov. 19: District 8 Workshop Tripp Legion Post from 10:00 - 2:00 (Americanism) 605-494-1825

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Day



Jane Benzel NW Chairman for VA&R at the National VETERANS Creative Arts.

ELAINE HOFHENKE is shown with the sleeping mats and handbags she crochets out of plastic bags for homeless veterans. She is also shown wearing a red, white and blue scarf that she made for the Big Stone Legion Auxiliary members. Elaine started making the sleeping mats just a few years ago, but has been crocheting since 1959.



Around South Dakota

I received so many great stories, members to remember, district meetings, and articles. Some will be published as space allows, some will be in the email Legionette. Thank you!



Sioux Falls Stand Down on September 23 with Sioux Falls members, Dept. 1st VP Elvira Moen and Dept. President Melanie Martens.



Unit 216 and the Oldham Unit deliver dictionaries to third grade students at Oldham-Ramona School. This is a project that both units do each year for their local school.

Department of South Dakota Honorary Jun-



ior President Shanna Clyde talks to the senior members at the District 2 Fall meeting about Junior members and the Patch Program, while Department President Melanie Martens holds Shanna's Patches and Pride Banner.

In Memoriam

Unit 2 Tyndall

Irene Herman - October 2016

Unit 3 Chamberlain

Eva Olinger - October 2016

Unit 10 Lake Andes

Clara Svatas - September 2016

Ella Varilek - October 2016

Unit 12 Yankton

Alice Evenson - October 2016

Unit 16 Gann Valley

Janice Sedgwick - May 2016

Juanita Sinkie - August 2016

Unit 27 Kadoka

Lillian Carlson - April 2016

Viola Olney - June 2014

Viola Olson - June 2015

Marlene Perault - March 2015

Unit 36 Bonesteel

Marjorie LaFave - April 2016

Lillian Hebert - October 2016

Unit 42 Arlington

Betty Rasmussen - September 2016

Unit 130 Kimball

Melva Goulh - June 2016

Karen Hildebrand - February 2015

Unit 154 Montrose

Ethel Ackerman - August 2016

Unit 175 Baltic

Neva Brendsel - July 2016

Unit 201 Pukwana

Lorraine Plooster - May 2016

Unit 242 - Brentford

Paula Little - July 2016

Marlene Young - August 2016

Unit 272 Pollock

Lenora Ryckman - July 2016

Thank You

"Many thanks" to all ALA Ladies for your cards, phone calls and memorials for Verlyn.

You made a very rough time easier to go through, being a caregiver for almost two years, hospice care for eight days; it went fast.

Thank you again for your love and support. God bless each on e.

Shirley Baker



Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families



Hosted by the
South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary

in partnership with

Autumn Simunek ~ Miss South Dakota 2015

Contribute "Buddy Baskets or Buddy Bags"

Buddy Basket Home-Warming Welcome Recipe: Assemble a

Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleansers, Rubber Gloves, Cleaning Sponges, Dust Pan w/Hand Brush, Light Bulbs, Flashlight, Batteries, Alarm Clock, Shower Curtain w/Rings, Bath Towel Set, Bathroom Tissue, Dishes, Eating Utensils, Dish Soap; Dish Towel Set

– Frosted with clear wrap, bow, and greeting tag

Buddy Bag Thank A Hero Recipe: Assemble a Bag filled with:

Personal Hygiene Products, Hand Towel Set, Shower Shoes or Slippers, Socks, Hat Gloves Scarf Set; Shopping or Salon Gift Card

– Sealed with a note or card of appreciation

Substitute, Homemade, or Single Household and Essential Items

Welcome: Bedding, Warm Apparel, Small Appliances, Thermos, Bottled Water, Sun Screen, Lip Balm, Bus Pass; Pre-Paid Phone Card

Monetary Donations: Checks payable & mailed to:

SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive
129 North Main Ave. • Hartford, SD 57033

SD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

November 11, 2016 - January 30, 2017

- Aberdeen - Area Chamber of Commerce • 516 S Main St.
- Sioux Falls - American Legion Post 15 • 1701 West Legion Dr.
- Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk 201 W Cherry St.
- Yankton - Area Chamber of Commerce • 803 E 4th St.
- Huron - Chamber & Visitors Bureau • 1725 Dakota Ave. S
- Mitchell - American Legion Post 18 • 107 N Main St.
- Hot Springs - American Legion Post 71 • 1045 Jennings Ave.
- Rapid City - American Legion Post 22 • 818 E Saint Patrick St.
- Sturgis - Area Chamber of Commerce • 2040 Junction Ave.
- Deadwood - Lawrence County Admin. Bldg. Lobby • 90 Sherman St.
- Spearfish - Area Chamber of Commerce • 106 W Kansas St.
- Black Hills Pioneer • 315 Seaton Circle



Thank you for contributing to
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Programs!

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities
Additional Information: Veterans HRD@gmail.com; 605.890.3093



Christmas Gift Shops

Fort Meade VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 13th 1pm to 5pm (and potluck); Nov. 14th 9:30am to 4pm; Nov. 15th 9:30am to 2 pm

JoanAnn Goeringer Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-717-6900

113 Comanche Road,
Fort Meade - Sturgis, SD 57741

Hot Springs State Veterans Home - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 13th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 14th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 15th 8am to 2 pm

Diane Simunek Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-890-3093

2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Hot Springs VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 16th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 17th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 18th 8am to 2 pm

Susie Clyde Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-890-1854

500 N. 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 27th 1pm to 5pm; Nov. 28th 8am to 4pm; Nov. 29th 8am to 2 pm

Teresa Huntimer - Christmas Gift Shop Chairman

605-351-8470

2501 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Human Service Center - - - Gift Shop Hours

Nov. 28 Volunteers arrive at 8:30 am

Irene & Cheryl Hovorka Christmas Gift Shop Chairmen

605-665-5635

816 park Street
Yankton, SD 57078



Members to Remember

Pictured are Jan Peterson (L) and Rosemary (Rosie) Hoffman of Lemmon Post #66. Both ladies are the first to step up to plan, help in the kitchen, clean, serve, assist with Bingo, or wherever they are needed, above and beyond "the call of duty." Rosie is a 10 year member and Jan has been a member for 6 years.

Meet Maxine White from Unit 213 of Cresbard. Maxine is 87 years old and has been our unit membership chairman for over 30 years. Maxine makes personal contact with members to make sure their dues are paid for the year. She is a very dedicated Auxiliary member who drives 20 miles one way to attend our monthly meetings.



Veterans Day Prayer
By Shelley Dragoo
Dept. Chaplain

Dear Lord,
 Today we honor our veterans,
 worthy men and women who gave
 their best when they were called
 upon to serve and protect their
 country.

We pray that you will bless them,
 Lord, for their unselfish service.
 Bless them abundantly for the hard-
 ships they faced and for the sacrific-
 es they made.

We respect them, we thank them,
 we honor them, and we pray that
 you will watch over these special
 people and bless them with peace
 and happiness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thought for the Day

*For anything worth having, one
 must pay the price; and the price is
 always work, patience, love, self-
 sacrifice - no paper currency, no
 promises to pay, but the gold
 of real service. (John Burroughs)*



Juniors sent tray favors to the VA Hospital different times. In November, they will make wooden heart and stars with life savers, telling the Veterans “Thank you for being our life savers.” They are making plans to put a Christmas Tree in the Aurora County Courthouse. Juniors are collecting stocking hats for the veterans. **If you do have Juniors in your group please encourage and help them to put up a tree somewhere and a collection box for stocking hats. The hats can be used in their own area or they can be sent on to me in Sioux Falls or Plankinton. Document and take a picture or two.** With Veterans Day approaching, set up a Military Children’s Table.

Did you know that the Juniors were very active in the deactivation ceremony by handing out flags and giving a little girl her real cake on the Military Children’s Table? Did you know that Juniors handed out flags at the wake of Sgt. Philip Iyotte, a POW/MIA Korean War Veteran who returned home to White River, 66 years later?

Thank you Shania Clyde for representing South Dakota Juniors at the National Junior meeting during the Mission Training in Minneapolis.

By Sharon Teunissen , Dept. Juniors Chairman

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Reports are due to your District President by November 15th. Please use the new spreadsheet and narrative forms introduced last year. The forms are available on our website at www.sdlegionaux.org for you to print and use. If you have any questions, contact your District President.

Thanks to all of you for your donations and gifts for our Christmas Gift Shops. We will be conducting the VA Gift Shops during the month of November. The dates are as follows: Hot Springs State Home, Nov. 6,7 & 8, Ft Meade, Nov. 12, 13, & 14, HSVA Nov. 15, 16 & 17, Human Service Nov. 27, and Sioux Falls VA Nov. 27 & 28. Everyone is welcome to visit any of these VA centers during the Gift Shops to assist the veterans with their shopping or help the Auxiliary members wrap and prepare the gifts for mailing. Our veterans look forward to this every year, and both Hilmer and I really enjoy attending all of the Gift Shops.

Veteran’s Christmas parties are also coming up and you will notice that the date of the HSVA party has changed to December 9th. This change was requested by the veterans to give them something a little closer to Christmas.

The theme for the upcoming Poem Contest will be **“THANKS TO OUR VETERANS, FREEDOM RINGS IN SOUTH DAKOTA”**.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and family.

Elvira Moen, Department President



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

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Membership Standings			
	Goal	October	%
District 1	1022	348	.34
District 2	858	276	.31
District 3	1578	743	.47
District 4	1501	728	.48
District 5	2366	964	.41
District 6	1960	1085	.55
District 7	1503	599	.39
District 8	1320	546	.41
Totals	12,108	5,280	.43

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Fall District Meetings



District 3 - Group picture and Dept. Junior Past President Melanie Martens giving Dept. 1st Vice-President Jeannine Loesch her award. **District 4** - Jan Seibel District 2nd Vice President with Dept President Elvira Moen and District 4 President Jeannine Brown Jilek. **District 5** - Dept. President Elvira Moen presenting an award to District 5 President Rose Eich-Kraft



Fall District Meetings



District 6 - Dept. President Elvira Moen with District 6 President Linda Holmes. **District 7** - Dept. President Elvira Moen with **District 7** - President Alice Upshaw. **District 8** - Dept. President Elvira Moen with District 8 President Janice Coleman.