



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

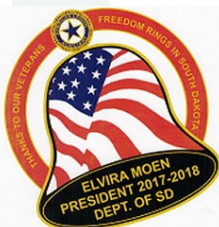
by Elvira Moen, Department President



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

I hope that all of you had a blessed holiday season and are excited about moving forward into 2018. Thanks to all our Hospital Representatives, Deputies, Units and volunteers for making our Gift Shops and Christmas parties so special for our veterans. January 15 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. In 1994 Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act designating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concern into citizen action. What a great day to collaborate with other organizations to promote patriotic community service activities and build community partnerships. Our service this day elevates our presence in the community while focusing on the needs of our national heroes. Share with friends why our organization spends so many hours volunteering for those who served our country and introduce someone new to the volunteer experience

January is National Security & Legislation month. Legislative Day has been changed to January 17th. Your legislators will be at Post 8 in Pierre at 5pm to hear your concerns and comments. It is important to communicate with your elected officials, know your facts and stress the importance of veterans benefits and veterans' healthcare. Your views are important. If you are proud of something your Unit, District, Juniors and/or Department accomplished, BRAG! And ask your congressional delegation to include the information in the Congressional Record.



Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families

Midwinter Conference: *Senior Poppy Contest*

Categories: Centerpiece, Tray Favors, Corsages, etc.

1. A Senior member may enter any or all of the categories.
2. All entries must use the American Legion Auxiliary poppy—large, small, or a combination.
3. The white label of the small poppy must be removed.
4. Accessories, greenery, and filler may be used BUT the poppy must be predominant.
5. Each entry must have the following information attached behind or under the arrangement, hidden from immediate view of the judges:
 - a. The member's name and **Auxiliary ID number**
 - b. The name and number of the Member's Unit
 - c. The category of the entry
6. All work must be done by the Unit member entering the contest.
7. Entries will be judged at Midwinter and should be checked in by 8:00 am, Saturday, February 17th, 2018.
8. Entries will be judged using the following criteria:
 - a. 25% Labeling, proper materials, following directions
 - b. 50% Predominance of the Poppy
 - c. 25% Design and creativity

Midwinter Conference: *Silent Auction*

Donations will be accepted on Friday ONLY from 1:00 pm—4:00 pm in the "old" Gift Shop area. Acceptance of any late drop-offs will be at the discretion of the Chairman. Items must be in new or almost new conditions to be accepted. The Silent Auction benefits the President's Project at the Hot Springs VA Veterans Home. *(All donations become the SD ALA property)*

Bidding will take place on Friday starting at 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm—it will not be open during the Joint Banquet. The Silent Auction will reopen on Saturday morning at 7:30 am. Bidding will close at 3:30 pm. Items must be picked up on Saturday by 6:00 pm, unless special arrangements are made with the Chairman.

Thank you for your generosity!

January Guide

January 1: New Year 2018

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

National Security donation by February 1, 2018

Plan Poppy Contest/Miss Poppy

Sponsor Legislative Programs

Districts Contests - Oratorical Scholarship

District 1: Jan. 7 at 1:00 pm - Sturgis Vets Club (Storm date Jan. 14)

District 2: Jan. 21 at 2:00 pm—Rapid City Post 22 (Storm date Jan. 28)

District 3: Jan. 21 at 2:00 pm - Pierre, Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center (Storm date Jan. 28)

District 4: Jan. 7 at 5:30 pm Aberdeen Post 24 (Storm date Jan. 14)

District 5: Jan. 21 at 2:00 pm Britton-Hecla School in Britton - east door (Storm date Jan. 28)

District 6: Jan. 21 at 2:00 pm Mitchell Public Library (Storm date Jan. 28)

District 7: Jan. 21 at 2:00 pm Sioux Falls Post 15 (Storm date Jan. 28)

District 8: Jan. 13 at 10:00 am Yankton Community Library (Storm date Jan. 20)

2018 Midwinter Conference

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center at Cedar Shore, Oacoma, SD

Friday, February 16, 2018

8:30 - 9:30 am Finance Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room
 9:30 - 10:00 am Recess
 10:00 - 11:30 am Executive Committee Meeting - RiverRun Wetlands Room
 12:00 pm (noon) Registration Desk Opens
 1:00 - 4:00 pm Visiting and re-acquainting with each other/ Silent Auction
 6:00 pm No Host Cocktails
 7:00 pm Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet - Oacoma

Saturday, February 17, 2018

7:30 am Registration Desks and Silent Auction Open
 8:00 am Joint Opening Session - Hale/Oacoma
 Presentation of Colors
 Remarks by State Commander Hugh Holmes
 Remarks by Dept. President Elvira Moen
 Remarks by SAL Detachment Commander Jeff Shannon
 National Commander Denise H. Rohan
 Aux. VA&R, Jeannine Loesch, 1st Vice President
 Aux. Children & Youth, Teresa Huntimer, 2nd Vice President
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Brett Reistad, Leading Candidate for National Commander
 Youth Trooper Academy, SD Highway Patrol
 Auxiliary Session Opens - RiverRun Wetlands Room
 Department Report - Elvira Moen, President
 Finance Report - Kathy Evenson
 Public Relations - Deb MacDonald
 Legislative - Jean Hunhoff
 Recess - Check Silent Auction
 Lunch - Valley Springs Puppet Show
 Session Reconvenes
 Breakout Sessions (1/2 hour each)
 Melanie Martens, National Security - Breakwater Room
 Cheryl Hovorka, ALA SD Girls State - Missouri Winds Rm
 Roberta Olsen, Aux. Emergency Fund (AEF) - Atrium
 Pat Huls, Membership - RiverRun Wetlands Room
 SILENT AUCTION CLOSES
 Awards/Announcements/Drawings/Adjourn
 Auxiliary banquet - RiverRun Wetlands Room

Sunday, February 18, 2018

8:30 am Non-Denomination Service - Wheeler Rooms, Cedar Shore
 10:30 am SD American Legion - State Finals - High School Oratorical

Endorsements

At the November meeting, the Piedmont Valley Unit 311 endorsed **Susie Clyde** for the 2018-2020 South Dakota National Executive Committeewoman (NEC).

The members of Unit 20 Ft Pierre are proud to endorse **Jeannine Loesch** for Department President for the State of South Dakota for the 2018-2019 year.

Hot Springs Unit 71 is honored to endorse **Carol Harvey** for Department 2nd Vice President for the 2018-2019 year. Carol is currently the District 2 President and secretary of Unit 71 and a very dedicated Auxiliary member.

Hot Springs Unit 71 is honored to endorse **Barbara Walter** for Department Chaplain for the 2018-2019 year. Barb is currently chaplain for Unit 71 and has served that position for the last several years.



Ken & Carol Luebke of Rosholt had to shingle their barn after a severe wind and rainstorm this past summer. Ken is a

combat Vietnam veteran who always respects his country in whatever he says and does. In honor of veterans in their community and all over the USA, the south side of the barn, which directly faces the highway, has colors of Red, White and Blue. There is also a patriotic barn quilt on the front side of the building. Several people have honked as they drive by or stopped to thank them. They wanted to save this historic barn from further



Hosted by the
Department of South Dakota
American Legion Auxiliary

Welcoming "Buddy Baskets and 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

November 11, 2017 - January 31, 2018

FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS/INFORMATION CONTACT:
Autumn Simunek at VeteransHRD@gmail.com,
605.890-3093 or visit SDLegionaux.org



Thank you for contributing to
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Programs!
Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



In Memoriam

Unit 2 Tyndall Elsie Waller – November 2017; **Unit 17 Wauertown** Molly Belatte – October 2017; **Unit 18 Mitchell** Millie Meagher – November 2017; **Unit 22 Rapid City** Irma Brandt – November 2017; **Unit 38 Miller** Maureen Gerdes – November 2017; Dorothy Jones – September 2017; **Unit 40 Webster** Dorothy Olson – October 2017; **Unit 50 Sisseton** June Kasyoki – November 2017; **Unit 62 Humboldt** Phyllis Sieverding – November 2017; **Unit 69 Doland** Gwen Schunk – November 2017; **Unit 79 Onida** Musette Huse – September 2017; **Unit 83 Timber Lake** May Torevell – November 2017; **Unit 105 Nunda** Arvilla M Dilly – November 2017; **Unit 116 Alpena** Doris M Kludt – November 2017; **Unit 130 Kimball** Constance Hamilton – October 2017; Unit 143 Midland Christine Niedan – October 2017; **Unit 169 Winner** Lydia Earll – November 2017; Jeanette Long – December 2017; **Unit 240 Martin** Jeanette Christensen – October 2017; Norma Good –

ADVANCE TICKET FORM
American Legion Auxiliary – Saturday, February 17, 2018
NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____
Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, February 17, 2018 – Noon
Menu President's Choice: Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup and Sandwich of Turkey and Cheese on 7 grain Bread and condiments and coffee.
Gluten free bread will be available on request.
Number of tickets requested @ \$12.00 per ticket _____
 check box for special dietary needs and list need with your check

Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, February 17, 2018 – 6:00 PM
Menu: House Salad with Peppercorn Dressing, 8 oz. Chicken Breast with a sauce of mushrooms, Baked Potato with Sour Cream, Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Carrot Medley
Vegetable: Dinner Roll and Coffee.
Number of tickets requested @ \$25.00 per ticket _____
 check box for special dietary needs and list need with your check

TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Luncheon and/or Auxiliary Banquet:

\$ _____
Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3
Send to: Lila Speckels
34465 249th St
Chamberlain, SD 57325-6326

For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548
Deadline to order tickets – February 8, 2018

The American Legion Joint Banquet – Friday, February 16, 2018
No-host Cocktail hour – 6:00 PM Banquet – 7:00 PM
NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Menu: House Salad with Dressing, 6 oz. Sirloin Steak and 4 oz. Walleye, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Dinner Roll and Coffee.
Number of tickets requested @ \$30.00 per ticket _____

TOTAL amount enclosed for Friday Joint Banquet \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Chamberlain Potter Post #3

Send to: John Payer
25120 344th Ave
Chamberlain, SD 57325

For additional information, contact John Payer at 402-277-6729

Members to Remember



Our Auxiliary Unit - Roy L. Hall Post #58 from Columbia nominated Florence Krege as "A Member to Remember". Florence has been a member of the Legion Auxiliary for 61 years - since 1956! She has been a vital part of our organization from the start. She has willingly given of her time and efforts to the benefit of everyone in our community. She is very approachable and loves to help out the youth in our area. When it comes to events in our Legion, she is the first to show and the last to go! Florence is a very dedicated member of our Auxiliary.



Harriet Spaniol, an ALA member in Webster for 51 years, has held the office of Secretary for many of those years, and has had near perfect attendance at the monthly meetings. She has worked diligently to maintain reports and collect annual dues. Harriet has baked countless pies for turkey shoots and benefits, hand delivered many cases of apples to teachers for American Education Week, distributed over 500 dictionaries to elementary students, and distributed more poppies than one can count. She promotes patriotism through her beliefs and actions in the community. Harriet is the "rock" of our unit!

January Prayer

By Karen Layher - Dept. Chaplain

Our heavenly Father, as a new year begins, please refresh our hearts with your loving spirit so we may begin the new year with love not hatred; with forgiveness not blame; with understanding not uncaring; with hope not despair and with service to others not self.

Our gracious Father we turn to you in prayer for our nation and our elected officials. Please guide them with your wisdom to lead us in peace and as a united country.

We pray especially for your protection for all those who serve in our armed forces. We thank you for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives.

We give thanks to you for the many blessings of this past year. May we remember you are our foundation. Father, we thank you for the promise and hope of this New Year and we look forward to it with expectancy, faith and service. Amen

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.
Psalm 33:12



South Dakota Grassroots

Menno Legion Auxiliary Unit 152 celebrated "Make a Difference Day" by taking treats to our local nursing home. There have 9 veterans in our nursing home. Darinda Mehlhaf baked the cookies and delivered them to the nursing home.



For Veterans Day, Faulkton Unit 102 and the Faulk County Historical Society displayed items from the World War I collection - a uniform, a kit bag, a couple of photographs and poppies, in the window of the Faulkton Hardware owned by Post Commander Barbara Mills.



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. 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! **New subscriptions start in DECEMBER. Make sure to send your Legionette dues to Headquarters.**

Membership by Chairman Pat Huls

Our membership Goal for the 2017-2018 year is 12,011. Current membership is 8,622 or 71.78%. We are off to a good start, but have quite a way to go yet.

District 1----70.44%
District 2----59.78%
District 3----69.73%
District 4----72.42%
District 5----74.23%
District 6----73.42%
District 7----68.88%
District 8----77.50%

I want to wish each of you a wonderful Holiday! Let's be ready to increase our membership and enjoy our time together in 2018! **Pat Huls**

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

National Security donations are due by February 1st. Congratulations to those of you who have already met your membership goals! (Don't stop now...) We will be honoring goal units at Midwinter and Pat Huls (Membership) will be bringing ideas to help all of you reach goal. The next National Milestone is "Put Your Heart Into It" with 85% of your membership goal by Valentine's Day. Midwinter is coming up Feb 16-18 in Oacoma and I look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our achievements. We have an exciting weekend planned with educational and fun activities. The Valley Springs Puppet Show will be featured at our luncheon on Saturday. Proceeds from our Silent Auction will go towards my President's Project of purchasing Mountain Bikes for the Hot Springs VA, and don't forget to bring your poppy creations for the Poppy Contest! Rules and categories for the contest are available on the website. I can't wait to see what you create!

Get your Americanism Essay and Poem information to your schools so our teachers can plan for these programs in their busy schedules. February is Americanism month. Please remember to write down what you do and take credit for everything your Unit does, because you certainly deserve it. Team South Dakota has the hardest working women I know. National Convention is in August, so you have plenty of time to work your projects and then RECORD them. Remember, Thanks to our Veterans, Freedom Rings In South Dakota!

Elvira Moen, Dept. President



Christmas Gift Shops & Parties

Veterans across South Dakota enjoyed the Gift Shops and the Christmas Parties at the Veteran Affairs Hospitals, State Home, and Human Service Center. From Ft. Meade, Hot Springs, Sioux Falls, and Yankton, chairmen, Department Officers, and auxiliary volunteers made these days memorable for all patients.





Rose Eich-Kraft shared the story of Jeris, Ceci, and Nakaya American Legion Jr. Auxiliary members who spent an afternoon decorating Christmas cookies and filling socks with every day necessities!! They visited Veterans and spread the Christmas cheers.



December 14, the members of the Lead Unit visited the Ft. Meade VA to distribute Christmas gifts.

On December 14, the Spearfish Senior Center Line Dancers and 13 members of the Spearfish Unit provided entertainment for the Christmas Party at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare followed by room visits to the 16 Veterans to give them their Christmas gifts.

