



## A Word from the President

by Elvira Moen, Department President



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

Mid-Winter conference is fast approaching on February 16th – February 18<sup>th</sup>. We have a busy exciting weekend planned for all of you. Plan to attend all four workshops, the chairmen have some great information and fun activities to share with you! I can't wait to see all the Poppy items that have been made for the Senior Poppy contest. Thank you to Micheline and Melanie for judging! Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction. The Auxiliary banquet will be a great time for us to spend together. I am very pleased that the Juniors will be able to join us for our luncheon and banquet. The Joint Banquet is Friday night, the Auxiliary luncheon is Saturday at noon, and the Auxiliary banquet is Saturday night. Sunday morning, we will have our Joint Memorial service followed by the Oratorical Scholarship contest.

Awards will be presented to units that are at 100% of goal at Mid-Winter. All our Districts are over 70% of goal, led by District 8 with 79.6%. Great job Janice and District 8. Our Department is at 76.11% of goal, and our goal from National is 85% by Valentine's Day.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is February 12 – February 16, 2018. The purpose of this program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers. Several of the VA facilities in our state plan special events for the veterans during this week. Check with a facility near you to see

what you or your unit can do to assist. Valentine's Day falls during the week of Salute to Hospitalized Veterans – what a great time to send cards and visit the veterans. You can get your Junior members involved in making cards to send.

# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
SOUTH DAKOTA



By Dept. Director/Chairman Cheryl Hovorka

The 72<sup>nd</sup> annual ALA SD Girls State will be May 28 – June 2, 2018 on the campus of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

The Journalism City applications were mailed to Units in the December President's packets from Department Headquarters. If you have not contacted your schools please do soon as possible as we are still accepting applications. Besides Journalism City, each girl will also be assigned to a regular city. She will not be able to run for any offices as her primary objective for the week will be to produce the *Sacajawea Scroll*. But, by being part of a regular city and Journalism City, it will give the girls a broader ALA Girls State experience.

There will be a lunch/roundtable discussion for the Journalism City delegates. Tuesday through Friday a different source of the media (radio, TV, newspaper, magazine) will be invited to join the girls for lunch. It will give girls a chance to network with professional staff in each of those areas.

Pre-registration packets have been mailed to the Units. If the Unit data sheet was not returned notifying us where the material should be sent, it was automatically sent to the Unit President. Final registration will be done online so be sure to read the instructions closely.

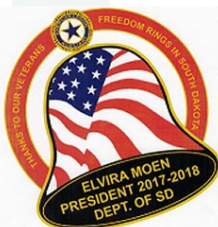
**It is the responsibility of each Unit to make the final selection for all ALA SD Girls State Citizens.** Units must work with the schools to outline our program including qualifications needed for participation. Ask schools for a list of students fitting our criteria, **but make it clear that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors ALA Girls State and the final selection rests with the Unit.** There is no Unit quota so if you have several delegates that are interested in attending, but you do not have the funding, be sure to ask businesses and organizations in your community if they would be willing to help sponsor or co-sponsor a delegate. Please advise the delegates that no permission will be granted to attend other activities during the session and to receive awards. The **FULL** session must be attended. If a girl chooses not to attend and there is no alternate, the delegate is responsible for reimbursing the Unit for the registration fee.

The delegates will have the opportunity to register for a three-credit course entitled POLS 210: State and Local Government.

**THE COURSE IS STRICTLY OPTIONAL AND THE DELEGATES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.**

The delegate may take it as a dual credit (with approval of her high school counselor) or as college credit. The course is scheduled for 6-8 weeks, which includes online and face-to-face classes during the week of ALA Girls State. The cost of the course will depend on whether it is taken as dual credit or college credit. If a delegate is interested in getting more information on the course, there will be a box on the online registration form she can check to indicate her interest. Dr. Matthew Fairholm, Professor in the USD Department of Political Science, will be the teaching the course.

Auxiliary Day is scheduled for Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>!



## February Guide

February 1: Journalism City Applications due

February 12-16: National Salute Veteran Patients

February 16—18 Midwinter Conference at Oacoma/Chamberlain

March 1: Past President's Parley Dues to Headquarters

Send Unit Poems and Essays to District Presidents

National Membership Goal—85% by February 14

## Across South Dakota

PIERRE - American Legion Day in Pierre on Wednesday. Girls State and Boys State Governors and Girls Nation Senator were honored in the Senate and House with Dept. Commander Holmes, Dept. president Elvira Moen, and Dept. Girls State Director Cheryl Hovorka.



MITCHELL - WW II Memorial Coin Event. The Davison county veterans office and State VA Officials attended and Distributed WW II coins to 16 veteran recipients in Davison and Sanborn County. They received a hand salute for their service to our country, protecting our country's freedom during WW II.



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

### 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

## Membership by Chairman Pat Huls

Our Membership Goal for 2018 is 12,011 members. Currently we have 9,141. As the Department of SD we are at 76.11% of our goal, and nearly 500 members behind last year. If you have not yet paid your Auxiliary dues, please try to get that done ASAP. If you know of someone who is eligible to join, please help your Unit membership chairman by contacting that person and encouraging her to join us. Invite her to a meeting, answer her questions, find out what she would like to help with, and be kind to her and encouraging. Thank you for your membership and for your help in accomplishing our goals.

Here is the breakdown of membership so far for January, 2018:

District 1-----71.8%	District 5-----77.5%
District 2-----70.57%	District 6-----75.18%
District 3-----74.8%	District 7-----77.28%
District 4-----77.0%	District 8-----79.6%

It has been an honor to serve as Membership Chairman. I sincerely hope our goal will be achieved this year as that would end the downward slide in our membership. It takes all of us to make this happen. Good Luck! Pat Huls

## VHRD Ringing in 2018 & National Salute to Veteran Patients

by Autumn Simunek

The Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive reports that donations are incoming into the New Year and providing some challenging and rewarding work for units in many of the drop-off locations. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 32 of Belle Fourche partnered with a new drop-off location, the AmericInn, collecting through Valentine's Day weekend. During a holiday delivery of relief items to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission in Rapid City, Micheline Nelson reported one veteran had a teary eye and said "I was not thanked coming back from Viet-Nam, but you did." Participating units, please submit by Feb. 25, a brief project report of: volunteer hours; est. collection value and number of veterans served; delivery location or distribution plan for donations, and photo of unit with donations to me at [VeteransHRD@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransHRD@gmail.com). A sincere thank you to every supportive unit and Auxiliary and Post Family members who are volunteering their valuable time and hands-on labor.



**Jacki Omland, President of Sidney L. Smith American Legion Auxiliary Unit 24** pays her appreciation to the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce VHRD drop-off center as she collects donations, again! **Battle Mountain Unit 71** of Hot Springs poses with a Buddy Basket donation after their monthly meeting, pleased with numerous relief and monetary donations this VHRD season. The **Hot Springs Middle School Student Council** presented the American Legion Auxiliary Post 71 with \$400 for the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive project. The funds donated were raised by the middle school students through their Pie Fundraiser.



### 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 249<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Ave

Chamberlain, SD 57325

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

## In Memoriam



**Unit 9 Milbank** Georgia Reiffenberger – November 2017; **Unit 12 Yankton** Ardis Saylor – January 2018; **Unit 14 Wessington Springs** Bernece Rasmussen – December 2017; **Unit 18 Mitchell** Eunice Carlson – December 2017; **Unit 21 Hurley** Margaret Eckhoff – December 2017; **Unit 23 Garretson** Dorothy Williamson – December 2017; **Unit 27 Kadoka** Lucy Freeman – December 2017, Florence Gropper – December 2017, Hellen Uhler – December 2017; **Unit 102 Faulkton** Betty Stammer – December 2017; **Unit 109 Gary** Della Emmons – January 2018, Arloa Meyer – November 2017, Andrea Reynolds – October 2017; **Unit 118 Hartford** Laura Keller – December 2017; **Unit 146 Colome** Marguerite Blaine – January 2018; **Unit 170 Herreid** Lydia Rueb – December 2017; **Unit 175 Baltic** Helen Riswold – December 2017; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** Luella Walker – January 2018; **Unit 267 Grenville** Evonne Lesnar – January 2018

## Member to Remember



Gwynn Bodewitz is a paid-up-for-life member of the Valley Springs ALA Unit 131. She joined in 1969 on her husband's service in Vietnam. Since 1986, she has been the treasurer of our unit. She has kept up with all the tax filing requirements of non-profit organizations. Her recommendations to the unit have saved the unit money and hassles. She is always ready to furnish a dessert, sandwiches, roast a turkey, supervise kid's bingo...whatever is needed. Thanks, Gwynn, for making our unit a positive factor in our community.

## February Prayer

By Karen Layher - Dept. Chaplain

Heavenly Father, your love is amazing and everlasting. Help us to accept and cherish the endless love you have for all of us.

By your powerful love, continue to guide and inspire us to transform our lives to be respectful and accepting of others. Through your love may the work of our Auxiliary be pleasing to you as we strive to complete the mission of service not self.

I pray that we may be united in spirit and in purpose, and that we do nothing from selfishness, but rather with humility and ever mindful of the needs of our Auxiliary members and our veterans to whom we extend our gratitude for their sacrifice to our Country and the freedoms we as Americans take for granted.

We pray for the homeless veterans, those who are suffering from the effects of their service. May your love surround them and give them comfort.

Father we ask you to be with our Auxiliary members who are in need of your healing grace. May your love surround them and give them peace. This I pray in the name of Jesus, who loves one and all unconditionally. Amen.

*Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Ephesians 4:2:*

## Ready for Poppy Day!



Poppy chairman Sue Frantzick and PDP Jane Benzel work hard at helping the Hot Springs Veterans make the poppies needed for the orders sent around the state.

## Reading with a Purpose

G.I. Josh travels in District One with Dist. President Kris Sachara. Picture of the Homestake Unit 31, Lead



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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. Send your news and pictures to the editor at [Micheline.Nelson@live.com](mailto: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!

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

And don't forget the active duty men and women who are deployed.

Applications for Education scholarships are due to Education Chairman, Jacki Omland, by March 1, 2018. Check the Auxiliary website at [sdlegionaux.org](http://sdlegionaux.org) for the form or contact Jacki if you have questions or need assistance.

Girls State Journalism applications are due by February 1<sup>st</sup> to Girls State Registrar, Irene Hovorka.

Americanism Poems and Essays are due back to units from the schools by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and due to your District Presidents by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The first Sunday in February is Four Chaplains Sunday for the American Legion.

Sadly, Pat Huls will have to step down as Membership Chairman. She has some serious health issues, so please keep her in your prayers. I will let you know who will be taking over for Pat soon. Please check the "Thinking of You" section of our website at [sdlegeionaux.org](http://sdlegeionaux.org) to keep up with our members who have health issues.

Remember, Thanks to our Veterans, Freedom Rings In South Dakota!

*Elvira Moen, Dept. President*

## 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.

The George A. Fitzgerald Unit 65 in Dell Rapids, SD proudly endorse **Teresa Huntimer** for Department 1st Vice President 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.

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