



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 I am writing, we have just returned from Midwinter. The weekend was a great success! I was so glad to spend time with so many of you! There were 94 ladies in attendance including 7 Junior members. What a wonderful turnout! During the Midwinter Awards presentation, it was my honor to be able to present the President's RED membership award to the 22 units who made or exceeded their goal before or by Midwinter! What an awesome achievement, great teamwork! I can't wait to present more membership awards at State Convention.

I want to thank the Chamberlain Unit #3 for the great job they did setting up the conference. A huge "Thank You" to the workshop presenters, Rose Kraft, Melanie Martens, Cheryl Hovorka, and Roberta Olsen. A special "Thank You" goes to our luncheon entertainment, the Valley Springs Puppet Show A heartfelt "Thank You" to Sharon Teunissen and the Juniors; they did a fantastic job of decorating and participating throughout the entire conference.

Also, I want to thank Micheline Nelson and Melanie Martens for judging the Senior Poppy Contest and Evelyn Huntimer, Sue Carlson, Donna Jorgenson, Roxy Brendan, Connie Wagner and Kris Sachara for taking care of the Silent Auction. The auction netted \$1,236.00 that will go to my President's Project. When Auxiliary ladies work together, wonderful things happen. Go Team South Dakota!

March is a very busy month, beginning with the American Legion Birthday on the 15th. Celebrate their success by doing something special; let them know how much we appreciate what they do for our children and youth, our veterans and veterans' families!



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Community Service

By Dept. Chairman Linda Youngbluth

The Community Service Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state, and nation. By being visible in our localities, the Community Service Program demonstrates who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Work with and invite other organizations to work on service projects to heighten awareness of the America Legion Auxiliary's local efforts to support our veterans, service members, their families, and the community.

Every activity that your unit does, should be reported in your year-end report. If the activity does not seem to fit under any other program, report it under community service. Volunteer at local libraries, food pantries, domestic violence shelters, senior citizen shelters, assisted living centers, and nursing homes. Work with your post to offer space and their participation in local service projects and causes.

Remember to always be a visible representative of the Auxiliary. You can do this by wearing an Auxiliary vest, shirt, pin, or emblem.

A Unit Community Service Award will be presented by Department to the most outstanding program during the 2017-2018 year. Entries must include the cover sheet that was included in one of your packets from Department. Please send entries to me by May 1, 2018.

For District presidents: When you send your year-end reports to any of the chairman, please state the number of units in your district and the number of units reporting on that program. Also, PLEASE summarize the reports from your units—do not report about what each unit does and do not send the chairman ALL of the unit reports.

Department Finance Committee - Openings

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary is looking for members interested in serving on the **Department Finance Committee**. The duties of the Finance Committee are to oversee the general financial policy of the organization and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures. Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume by May, 2018 to Department Headquarters at 129 N Main Ave, Hartford, SD 57033. Interviews will be conducted prior to the Department Convention in Spearfish, SD.

MARCH Guide

March 15: Legion Birthday Observance

Legionette Nominees due to District President's - Before your district meeting, no later than March 15th for Districts 3-8

Send in Girls State Registration

Quarters - .25 cents per member to Dept. Headquarters

Submit prayers to Dept. Chaplain for President's Prayer Book

Midwinter 2018

The South Dakota Juniors were busy making cards and decorating for the convention. - with Dept. Junior Chairman Sharon Teunissen.



The winners of the SR. poppy contest.



Doris Ann Werlinger, Pat Huls, and Pat Coyle thank all who kept them in their prayers, sent hope messages of support, and showered them with get well cards and visits.

They are continuing on their recovery roads taking one day-at-a-time!



Members to Remember



In March 1949, the Baltic American Legion Auxiliary Unit 175 was chartered. The Baltic Unit 175 is proud to honor Rhoda Wold, a charter member, as the member to remember. She has played an active role in the organization, holding every office at least once, in her 69 years of membership. When she first joined, dues were \$1.50! Rhoda still attends the monthly meetings but has declined to hold any more offices. Her unit is proud and thank her for years of service and dedication to the organization.

Lesley Schoolcraft is a working mom. That means she has two full time jobs. But even though she is unable to attend meetings, that doesn't stop her from helping with the auxiliary's programs. She and her daughter, Junior member Ella, have helped distribute poppies at the local Sunshine store. She is always ready to supply a dessert for the legion's soup supper fund raisers. And she's right there to help at our New Year New Supplies bingo event. "Thanks, Lesley, for being there for our veterans and youth! The Valley Springs ALA Unit 131 is fortunate to have you as a member."



Wanda Artz is a member of the Wm.H. Crippen Unit 62 of Humboldt. She has been our community service chairman for several years. Each year, she shops for Christmas gifts for the shut-ins and those in nursing homes from our community. Always finding the right gift. Wanda sends cards to those in the service and if out of the country, she sends gift boxes. As a longtime member of the Mothers' Tea committee, she always comes up with good ideas. Wanda is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is active in the community and her church. Most Saturdays, you will find her helping at the local Food Pantry at the church with cookies in hand for the guests.

Four ALA Generations Strong!



Henrietta Tschetter was featured in the ALA National News for February 2018 in the Decades of Membership on the last page of the magazine with a picture of their four generations and a short story. This gave not only the Marion Unit #235 publicity, but also the state of South Dakota. Stephanie from the National ALA called her daughter to tell her that her mother's story would be featured and to thank her for the submission.

Stephanie had hoped that the story would inspire other members to write their story and submit it to her as well.

The Tschetter family has 190 years membership in the ALA. They have three generations of Girls State: Henrietta's daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter and five Boys State, her grandson, grandson-in-law, grand-nephew, and twin great grand-nephews.

Carol (Tschetter) Nelson submitted the story. She has four granddaughters and a daughter, all members in the Marion Unit #235. "We love the ALA and our country's veterans!"

VHRD Giving Hearts

by Autumn Simunek

American Legion Auxiliary units continued to work endlessly on the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive project, giving to our military heroes throughout National Salute to Veteran Patient week and on Valentine's Day. Thank you for your dedication. Autumn Simunek



Photo 1: Yankton

Betty Adam, President and Marlys List, Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12 of Yankton pictured as they delivered Buddy Baskets to the Pathway Homeless Shelter in Yankton. They partnered with the Yankton Elks Lodge #994 as a drop-off location. Two baskets were prepared by an area Girls State Delegate family.



Photo 2: Hot Springs

Battle Mountain American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12 assembled Buddy Baskets and homemade pillow case bags, topped with stuffed animals at their February meeting. Pictured are Carol Harvey, Jane Benzel, Diane Simunek, MaryAnn Ackerman, and Barb Walter.



Photo 3 & 4: Spearfish

On their second mission of delivering donations, the Spearfish Unit 164 prepared and delivered 40 shower caddies valued at \$1200 to the Homeless Veterans' Wing at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission in Rapid City. Their Juniors Sydnee and Kelsie decorated the envelopes for the Hardee's gift card thank you notes. The Buddy Basket shower caddies were placed on each Veteran's bed on Valentine's Day.

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Spring District Meetings

District 1: Sat. March 10– Piedmont American Legion Post - Meal at 11:30 am, Meeting at 12:30 pm. Auxiliary meeting at the same location

District 2: Sun. March 11 – Hot Springs American Legion Post - Meeting at 11:00 am, Meal at 12:30 pm. Auxiliary meeting at the same location.

District 3: Sat. March 24– Pierre American Legion Post - Social at 11:00 am, Meal at 11:45 am, Meeting at 12:45 PM. Auxiliary meeting at the Pierre Senior Center, 401 W. Pleasant Dr.

District 4: Sat. March 24– Mobridge American Legion Post - Social at 4:30 pm, Meal at 5:30 pm, Meeting at 6:30 pm. Auxiliary meeting adjacent to the post.

District 5: Fri. March 23 - Watertown American Legion Post - Social at 5:30 pm, Meal at 6:00 pm, Meeting at 7:00 pm. Auxiliary meeting at the VFW 808 S Broadway.

District 6: Sun., March 18 – Badger American Legion Post - Social at 2:00 pm, Meeting at 3:00 pm, Meal to follow. Auxiliary meeting at the same location.

District 7: Sat. March 17 - Sioux Falls American Legion Post - Meal at 11:00 am, Social at noon, Meeting at 1:00 pm. Auxiliary meeting at the Paralyzed Veterans 209 N Garfield Ave.

District 8: Fri. March 16 – Wagner American Legion Post - Social at 5:00 pm, Meal at 6:00 pm, Meeting at 7:00 pm. Auxiliary meeting at the Methodist Church 406 SW 1st St.

In Memoriam



Unit 12 Yankton Delores Gwinnn – December 2017; **Unit 18 Mitchell** Dorothy Patton – November 2017; Sidney Uptagrafft – January 2018; **Unit 23 Garretson** Lorraine Anderson – January 2018; **Unit 25 Madison** Darlene Gorham – January 2018; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** Ruth Berg – January 2018; **Unit 37 Bryant** Kathleen Ward – January 2018; **Unit 45 Harrisburg** Clara Craddock – January 2018; **Unit 56 Geddes** Dorothy Thompson – December 2017; **Unit 60 Clark** Grace McMillan – January 2018; **Unit 61 Canova** Jean Johanson – February 2017; **Unit 104 Revillo** Nina Brandenburg – December 2017; Helen Veen – December 2017; **Unit 110 Wessington** Mary Hgill – January 2018; **Unit 130 Kimball** Constance L. Hamilton – October 2017; **Unit 140 Salem** Mildred Heiberger – January 2018; **Unit 142 Tripp** O L Fuerst – December 2016; Ione Schaefer – January 2018; **Unit 146 Colome** Joyce Steffen – February 2018; **Unit 148 Conde** Janice Herman – January 2018; **Unit 173 Philip** Hazel Thompson – February 2018; **Unit 193 Irene** Marlies Johnson – January 2018; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** Suzette Kaercher-Blake – February 2018; Gloria Throndrud – January 2018; **Unit 230 Aurora** Isabell Short – January 2018; **Unit 238 Oelrich** Adeline Frahm – September 2018; **Unit 255 Bison** Kari Hoff – December 2017; **Unit 262 Claremont** Merlene Dunlavty – January 2018; **Unit 278 Canton** Marguerite Strenge – December 2017

March Prayer

By Karen Layher - Dept. Chaplain

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CREDIT CARD

I'm sure you have all received many credit card applications in the mail; however, this is information for a different kind of credit card. There are many things money can buy – for everything else there's the "Master's Card". There are no finance charges, no payments due. The bill has already been covered – it's a prepaid deal. We couldn't afford the price so Jesus stepped in and paid it for us. Our name is written on the card for all to see. It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world. The "Master's Card" has so many benefits it's hard to list them all. There is *unlimited grace* – that's right – there's no preset limit to the amount of grace you receive. It offers the greatest rate on *love* that has ever been offered. Want *real joy* despite the difficulties of life? Apply for the "Master's Card". Want a *lasting peace*? Apply for the "Master's Card". Another great thing about the "Master's Card" is that it never expires and will never be canceled. Once you're a member you're a member for life – eternal life, that is. So why not apply today? It's only a prayer away!

John 3:16 ... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have ever-lasting life..."

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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IT'S ALL good
GOOD WORKS BY ALA MEMBERS

EDUCATING CHILDREN: (Left to right) Teresa Huntimer of the Dell Rapids, S.D. Unit 65; Gloria Bonjour and Noelle Bonjour of Valley Springs, S.D. unit 131.

PATRIOTIC PUPPET SHOW TEACHES CHILDREN

A couple of American Legion Auxiliary members in **Valley Springs, S.D.**, are putting on puppet shows to teach young children about patriotism.

Auxiliary members **Noelle Bonjour** and her mother **Gloria Bonjour**, both of Charles R. Doman **Unit 131**, spearheaded the show — which has been presented in a couple of local elementary schools. The Bonjours are hoping to put together more puppet shows.

"This first puppet show is about the Pledge of Allegiance. It's something many of us have recited

without even thinking about what we are saying. And there are some big words in it that elementary kids don't understand. So this puppet show explains what those words mean and what the pledge itself means," Noelle Bonjour said. "Because puppets are nonthreatening, they capture a child's attention in ways that adults cannot."

The Bonjours received help with a performance from ALA member **Teresa Huntimer of Dell Rapids, S.D. Unit 65**. Huntimer chairs the Department of South Dakota's Children & Youth Committee, and is the national Northwestern Division C&Y chairman.

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

March is Community Service Month. Have fun with your Community Service projects and don't forget to write up a report.

Just a couple of quick reminders – Quarters are due to Department Headquarters this month, and Girls State Registration applications and fees are due by April 1st. Also, don't forget to submit prayers to Karen Layher for the President's Prayer Book

Spring District meetings are fast approaching. The meetings begin on March 10th, and I am looking forward to attending and hearing what each District and Unit has been doing. See you in March!

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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