



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Jeannine Loesch, Department President



"Saddle Up for Veterans"

It doesn't seem possible that a year has gone by since I was elected your Department President. As I write my final Legionette article, it is amazing on how the Units have "Saddled Up for Veterans". The activities I have been invited to and the reports I have received, the warrants signed, and the money donated to the program along with all the service hours make me proud to be part of such a wonderful organization, "The Largest Patriotic Women's Organization in the World".

I will be attending Girls State May 27-June 1 at the USD campus of Vermillion. I look forward to spending time with these young ladies, watching them grow outside their comfort zones.

Membership has been a challenge. Our focus this year was to be inclusive, not exclusive. We did this by engaging all our members. South Dakota is in 3rd place in the Northwest Division. Congratulations to all the Unit Members of the year! Good Luck to all of you at State Convention!! Also, I would like to congratulate all the new District Presidents. I would like to thank the outgoing District Presidents for the GREAT Jobs they did in their District!! I received several of the yearend reports. It is amazing what all the Units do for our VETERANS, their families and the community.

State Convention is June 6-9, 2019 at the Sheraton Hotel in Sioux Falls SD. I hope to see all of you there. On Saturday the Chairmen will present their reports about all the accomplishments and the great Auxiliary year they had.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA 101st ANNUAL CONVENTION SHERATON HOTEL- CONVENTION CENTER Sioux Falls, SD JUNE 6 -9, 2019

Thursday, June 6, 2019

3:00 P.M. Finance Committee Interviews – Room 5

Friday, June 7, 2019

7:30 A.M. Registration Desk Opens – Registration Booth

8:00 A.M. Finance Committee Meeting – Rooms 6-7

Silent Auction Opens – Rooms 8-10

10:30 A.M. Juniors Meeting – Room 10

12:00 P.M. Lunch – On your Own

1:00- 3:00 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting – Rooms 6-7

3:00 P.M. Department Chairmen Training -Rooms 6-7

Incoming/Outgoing District President Training – Rms 6-7

6:00 P.M. Auxiliary Banquet Honoring Mary Ann Guthmiller
Rooms 8-10

7:30 P.M. "The American Legion" Fun Auction"
Meeting Rooms 11-14

Saturday, June 8, 2019

7:30 A.M. Registration Desk Opens – Registration Booth

8:00 A.M. Processional Line-UP – Hallway

8:30 A.M. Auxiliary Convention Convenes - Rooms 8-10

11:30 A.M. Recess

Silent Auction Opens – Rooms 8-10

12:00 P.M. Auxiliary Luncheon – Rooms 6-7

1:15 P.M. Convention Reconvenes – Rooms 8-10

2:45 P.M. Convention in Recess

4:00 P.M. Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Memorial Service -Rms11-14

5:00 P.M. No Host Cocktails/Social – Ballroom A

6:00 P.M. Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet – Ballroom A

8:00 P.M. Dance - Ballroom A

Sunday, June 9, 2019

7:30 A.M. Registration Desk Opens – Registration Booth

8:00 A.M. Convention Reconvenes – Rooms 8-10

From our Units



Linda Holmes, ALA president of Coacher-Goetsch Unit 18 in Mitchell, distributed poppies with granddaughters Olivia and Claire Holmes. Their dad is active duty Army stationed at Fort Lee, VA.

Ed Harvey of the Legion Post 71 gave Kaylen Stearns (4th from left) and Andrianna Krush (last on right) their scholarships. Jane Benzel, Unit 71 gave scholarships to Tierra Schroeder-right of Jane, Serenity Engel-5th from left and Mary Lane-2nd from right.



Staci Larson, Youth Chairman of the Gingrich-Dixon Post #13 of Wakonda, raised funds to purchase military bears and books for six children whose parents are currently deployed. The presentation took place on Purple Up Day in Gayville.



A Word from the President

by Jeannine Loesch, Department President

On Saturday at the noon luncheon Erin Bultje will speak on "Homeless Female Veterans". We will have election of Officers on Sunday! I had a very good year!! I would like to thank all the Units for Cards of Support, Get Well, and especially the Prayers as I prepare for my Transplant June 18th. I am still feeling GREAT!! I will close by thanking all Department Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputy Representatives, Gift Shop Chairmen, Christmas Party Chairmen, and Department Officers for a great job throughout the year. A special Thank You to Laurel, she has been a great help this year, I couldn't have done it without her!!!

"Saddle Up for Veterans"



State Convention Speaker:
Erin Bultje

"Homeless Female Veterans"

Erin Bultje is an Army Veteran that served on active duty with the 1st Armored Division for 5 years. She deployed for 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Tactical Satellite Communications Team Chief and training NCO. She was part of the HUB platoon which supplied the entire communication network for the northern half of Iraq and received 2 Army Commendation Medals from that deployment.

Erin is a Program Manager for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. She is the appeals specialist and assists veterans with their claims all the way up to representing them in front of the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington DC. Ms. Bultje's responsibilities also include the role of department trainer.

While Erin is a program manager, she wears another hat as the Executive Director of South Dakota Joining Forces. SDJF is an outreach initiative that provides resources to Military, Veterans and their Families through outreach, social media and a website database. In this last year, SDJF, along with the SDDVA, started a new prison outreach to work with incarcerated veterans and their families. She loves doing benefit presentations all over the state and educating anyone who will listen about benefits they could be eligible for or due to them.

When not working hard for the veterans in South Dakota, she spends her time volunteering in her community. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. She is also a member of the Sioux Empire Rock-A-Bettys which is a non-profit organization whose goal is to empower women in the community with educational scholarships, charitable donations, volunteerism and fundraising.

Mobridge Unit 4

Recognizing the SD Girls State Governor 2018, Youth Hero Awards, and the Community Easter Egg Hunt



2018 Girls State Governor Calico Ducheneaux and Mobridge Girls State Chairman, Pat Fuhrman; Plaque presented to Calico at Mobridge-Pollock High School Awards Day,

Youth Hero Awards present to : Grace Wollman, Reaghan Stoick, Channing Wientjes, Ava Stoick all of Mobridge SD



Several members of Mobridge Unit #4 filling Easter Eggs with candy for the community Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th.

June, July, August Guide

June 6: D-Day 1944 - 75th Anniversary
June 6-9: State Convention - Sioux Falls
June 10: Remit 25% of Poppy proceeds to Dept. Headquarters
June 14 : Flag Day
June 16: Fathers' Day



July 4: Independence Day

July 20-27: ALA Girls Nation, Washington D.C.

August 7: Purple Heart Day

August 24-28 National Convention, Indianapolis



In Memoriam

Unit 8 Pierre – Doris Myers, April 2019;
Unit 15 Sioux Falls – Barbara Holmstrom, February 2019;
Unit 18 Mitchell – Grace Durst, April 2019;
Unit 17 Watertown – Sonya Benson, May 2019; Delores Meyer, April 2019; Eva Miggel, March 2019;
Unit 67 Ipswich – Norma Schneider, April 2019;
Unit 77 Blunt – Ruth Ann Johnson, April 2019; Georgianne Kimbley, November 2018; Julie Schultz, November 2018; Leonda Wright, October 2018;
Unit 83 Timber Lake, Genieve Elder, April 2019;
Unit 96 White Lake – Lucille Hengen, May 2019;
Unit 115 Platte – Dena Meyerink, May 2019;
Unit 118 Hartford – Lucille Boy, April 2019;
Unit 131 Valley Springs – Patricia Smedsrud, April 2019;

Unit 132 Springfield – Loraine Boschma, March 2019;
Unit 146 Colome – Jacquelyn Kalenda, May 2019;
Unit 169 Winner – Eleanor Wilken, April 2019;
Unit 216 Cresbard – Kay Klingenberg, April 2019;
Unit 220 Herrick – Margaret Hitchcock, April 2019;
Unit 240 Martin – Luella Cozad, April 2019;
Unit 268 Virgil – Gladys Schilling, April 2019;
Unit 315 Box Elder – Deborah Sisco, March 2019



Good Deed Award



A young member of Unit 48 Rosholt received a Good Deed Award from ALA National Children & Youth. In November 2018, Emma Steffes decided to create

thank you cards for the Veterans who live in the North Dakota Veterans Home in honor of Veterans Day. For two weeks she distributed and collected 140 cards from her classmates, friends, younger students, and people through the community. She distributed them at the Lisbon, ND Veterans Day celebration.

Pictured are: a veteran at the State Veterans Home, Lisbon ND with Emma Steffes, her sister Madesen and brother Levi.



Poems and Essays



Top left: Piedmont Valley winners;

top right, Pierre Unit winners,

2nd row, Mitchell Unit winners.

Flag Etiquette for First Graders



Eight classrooms of first graders (close to 200 students) participated in the Flag Etiquette program at West Elementary, Spearfish. The Spearfish Honor Guard, The ALR Black Hills Chapter and the ALA Spearfish Unit 164 collaborated for the annual program. Pictured is one class of students with their flag and flag etiquette rules.

June Prayer

By *Barbara Walter, Dept. Chaplain*

Heavenly Father,

Be with us this rainy cold May day. These days are hard for many, no sunshine, brings stress and depression but we know You are with us.

You provide the sunshine and your protecting angels are all around us. You give us hope that we will make it through these moments and days. We thank you Lord.

In the upcoming busy month of June, the ALA has many events; State Convention with elections and more. Father, continue to be with us throughout this next year 2019-2020. We travel many miles to be with everyone so keep us all safe from harm.

As we prepare for the convention, help us in the jobs at hand that we need to do, guide us in decisions that need to be made and give us wisdom for the betterment of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary.

Prayers for our Active Military, our Veterans and their families. We surround them in prayers of Safety and Protection.

In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen

Thank You Everyone for your support during this past year 2018-2019 as the Department Chaplain.

Members to Remember

honored for years of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary



Marla Erickson Mosiman President of Unit 79, Onida, presented membership award certificates to members with 50 or more years of continuous membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Congratulations ladies and thank you for your years of continuous membership in the American Legion Auxiliary—Wanda 56 years, Kaleen 58 years, Edna 59 years, Marcelleen 50 years, Darlene 57 years, and Marla 53 years! Certificates were also mailed to twelve members who could not be present.



Wanda for attaining 75 years of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary and to Helen for 50 years! Thank you for your many years of membership to our organization! With Jeannine Loesch, S.D. Department President.



Alice West received a certificate for 75 years of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79, Onida with Judi West and Department Second Vice President Mary Jo Stier.

Congratulations!

2019-2020 Endorsements

At the January meeting, The George A. Fitzgerald Unit #65 in Dell Rapids, South Dakota proudly endorsed **Teresa Huntimer** for the American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Department Office of President 2019-2020.

At their February 2019 meeting, members of Unit #79 in Onida, South Dakota, proudly endorsed **Mary Jo Stier** for the Office of First Vice-President and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota, for the year 2019-2020.

At their March meeting, the Arthur Peterson American Legion Auxiliary Unit #136, endorsed **Joyce Smith** for the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department 2nd Vice President 2019-2020.

Pierre Unit 8 proudly endorsed **Anita Cass** for SD Department Historian for 2019-2020 year at their April 13th meeting.

The Geer Unit 11 in Wagner, South Dakota proudly endorsed **Kathleen Kucera-Geiman** for the 2019-2020 for the American Legion Auxiliary S.D. Department Chaplain.

BE IN THE KNOW

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



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. The South Dakota Legionette is the official newsletter of the SD Department of the American Legion Auxiliary. The editor respects the message from the Department President and/or program chairmen and will publish these articles as submitted.



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*National Poppy Day in
South Dakota*




Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender signed Unit 22's Poppy Day Proclamation. Auxiliary members Bel Felix and Sue Frantzick are pictured with American Legion Rider, Leon Frantzick.

Unit 31, Lead had their Poppy Day in the Lead community. Pictured are Joanann Goeringer and Melanie Martens.

Members of Unit 315, Box Elder were active and participated in the National Poppy Day. Some of the members pictured are Sheron Reagan, Pat-Karen McKim and Deanna Marie Holst.

Fourteen member of Unit 164, Spearfish including two Junior members Sydnee and Kenzie Lawlar, and their Little Miss Poppy Sydnee Lawlar, were in four locations in the Spearfish community. It was a banner year for donations! Members pictured in no specific order are Penny Brown, Donie Hanson, Lynn Pohlman, Julie Malcolm, Sydnee Lawlar, Sandy Johnson, Sandra Dean, Ruth Hobbs, Charlene Kain, Rhonda Williams, Kenzie Lawlar, Annette Johnson (AJ); not pictured Poppy Chair pro tem Amber Lawlar.

Many other Units had Poppy Days! These were the Units who had pictures available for publication.



Never

Forget





Congratulations to the 2019 ALA South Dakota Girls State Governor Success Suehne from Sioux Falls!
 Welcome to ALA South Dakota Girl State with Calico Ducheneaux, 2018 ALA Girls State Governor, SD ALA President Jeannine Loesh, and ALA Girls State Counselor Tiffany Newman.
 The ALA South Dakota Girls State Governor Calico Ducheneaux and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem.
 The SD ALA Girls State delegates who passed the Bar exam are taking the Oath of Attorneys.
 Project during the SD ALA Girls State week: pillow cases for our deployed service members.

