



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"

Hope you are all enjoying the pleasant weather we've been having. I hope Mother nature is good to us over the Mid-Winter Conference week and holds off on the bad weather.

The Christmas Parties are over at the VAs and were a huge success as they always are. I want to thank the Chairmen for the wonderful jobs they did. The Veterans enjoy visiting and sharing their service connection with us.

Midwinter Conference is fast approaching, and we have an exciting weekend planned. Barb Vetter the Northwestern Division National Vice President will be our guest. A Program Fair is planned for Friday and Saturday. Chairmen will set up and have great information about their program to share with you.

Friday evening, we have the Slot tournament at the Lodge in Deadwood, and ladies it's FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!! Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction. The proceeds will go for my President's project at the Ft. Meade VA for iPad's. The Joint Banquet is Saturday evening. Tickets are available until February 1st and none will be available after that date.

On February 6th the Boys and Girls State Governors will be in Pierre and will be introduced to the Senate and House sides of the Legislature. Starting that evening there will be a Legislative Reception at the Post 8 American Legion cabin in Pierre. This is a time to meet and greet the Legislators new and old.

(Cont. page 2)



Northwestern Division National Vice President Barb Vetter

Mid-Winter Guest Speaker



Barb Vetter is a 36-year member of the ALA and lives in Cresbard, population of 75. Her eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary is through her 96-year-old father, US Army Air Force, WWII, who served in Guam, Saipan, and the Tinian Islands. Her husband PDC Wayne Vetter, is a US Army Vietnam Era and Desert Storm veteran and her son is a US Army National Guard veteran who served during Iraqi Freedom. She served as South Dakota Department President, 2012-2013; is a retired teacher after 40 years, and still works part-time.

Northwestern Division National Vice President Barb Vetter will bring the message from the American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan during her mid-winter convention address. To highlight a few key points, National President Kathy Dungan focuses on "women who served" also known as women veterans. President Dungan announced changes in National Awards to recognize five deserving members as National Goodwill Ambassadors as well as a new Department Award for Excellence in Membership.



Americanism by Department Chairman Patsy Madsen



"SADDLE UP FOR AMERICANISM" February is Americanism Month

Ways to promote Americanism and Patriotism by displaying the American Flag in your home, businesses, community.

Teach Flag etiquette,
participate in parades, Veterans and Memorial Day programs, vote,
Support American Legion programs such as
Legion Baseball, Oratory Contest, and Junior Shooting Sports.

Promote in schools, the Americanism Essay Contest
"How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities"
and the SD poem contest " Saddle Up for Veterans"

District Officers please submit essays/poems to
Patsy Madsen - Americanism Officer

after your District Meeting to allow time to judge essays/Poems.
Patsy's Address is: 125 North Madison Ave., Pierre SD 57501



Unit 7 Huron – Gladys Haggar, Dec. 2018
Unit 11 Wagner – Pearl Wiechman, Dec. 2018
Unit 12 Yankton – Jacqueline Simonsen, Dec. 2018
Unit 14 Wessington Springs – Viorene McEldowney, Dec. 2018
Unit 20 Ft. Pierre – Louraine Hammell, Nov. 2018
Unit 21 Hurley – Annette Olson, Dec. 2018
Unit 22 Rapid City – Grace Schmid, Dec. 2018; Flo C. Swem, Dec. 2018
Unit 50 Sisseton – Darlene Olson, Dec. 2018
Unit 76 Veblen – Lavonne Jacobson, April 2018
Unit 135 Gettysburg – Lucy Van Bockel, Dec. 2018
Unit 142 Tripp – Elsie Magstadt, Dec. 2018
Unit 169 Winner – Barbara Hespe, Dec. 2018; Velda Kindt, Jan. 2019
Unit 303 Hermosa – Evelyn A. Card, Nov. 2017

“Saddle up for our Veterans”

cont. from page 1

By Jeannine Loesch, Department. President

Remember Journalism City and Girls State, it's not too early to contact the schools and find any eligible Juniors. Journalism City and Girls State deadline is March 1st. The registration fee is now \$125.00. Americanism Poems and Essays are due back to the Units from the schools by March 1st. The poem title is “Saddle Up for Veterans” and the Essay title is “How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

The next target date for membership is February 14th Valentine's Day. Please if your Units are holding memberships get them sent to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible. We would like to count them towards our paid memberships but cannot do that until the money reaches Headquarters. **MEMBERSHIP** is not only the job for the Unit Membership Chairman; it belongs to all of us as members. We need to concentrate on renewals, rejoins and acquiring new members. Don't forget the Juniors they are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. I would like to thank everyone who has kept me in their prayers and sent cards of encouragement! It is greatly appreciated. I would like to wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day and until we meet again...” *Saddle Up for Veterans”.*

Mid-Winter Convention - Spearfish, February 8-10, 2019

Friday, February 8, 2019

9:00 PM	Silent Auction Opens – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
8:30-9:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
9:30-10:00 AM	Recess
10:00-11:30 AM	Executive Committee Meeting – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
12:00 PM (Noon)	Registration Desk Opens
1:00-2:30 PM	Program Fair – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
4:30 PM	Bus leaves for Deadwood for Slot tournament
7:30 PM	Bus returns to convention center

Saturday, February 9, 2019

7:30 AM	Registration Desk Opens
	Silent Auction Opens – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
8:00 AM	Joint Opening Session – Willow/Aspen
	Presentation of Colors
	Remarks by State Commander Denny Brenden
	Auxiliary President Jeannine Loesch
	SAL Detachment Commander, Kerry Jorgenson
	James Sweet, National Vice Commander
8:25 AM	Auxiliary VA&R, Teresa Huntimer, 1 st Vice President
8:45 AM	Auxiliary Children & Youth, Mary Jo Stier, 2nd Vice President
9:00 AM	Department of Veterans Affairs
9:15 AM	Paul Dillard, Leading Candidate for National Commander
9:35 AM	Auxiliary Session Opens – Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
10:00 AM	Junior Activities – Canyon Room
	Department Report – Jeannine Loesch, President
	Finance Report – AnnaMae Warnier
	National Northwest Division Vice President – Barb Vetter
	Recess - Check your Silent Auction items
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:00 Noon	Reconvene Session
1:00 -1:20 PM	Program Fair– Cottonwood/Ponderosa Room
1:30-3:30 PM	SILENT AUCTION CLOSES
3:30 PM	Awards/Announcements/Drawings/Adjourn
4:00 PM	No-Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
6:00 PM	Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet – Willow/Aspen/Spruce/Oak/Cedar Room
7:00 PM	Hospitality Rooms, Spearfish Holiday Inn
8:00 PM	

Sunday, February 10, 2019

8:30AM	Non-Denominational Service – Willow/Aspen/Spruce/Oak/Cedar Rm
10:30AM	SD American Legion -State Finals- High School Oratorical



Mid-Winter Senior Poppy Contest

Categories: Wreaths, Centerpiece, Tray Favors, Corsages, Photographs, etc.

Eligibility: A Senior member may enter any or all of the categories.

All entries must use the American Legion Auxiliary poppy-large, small or a combination

The white label of the small poppy must be removed.

Accessories greenery and filler may be used BUT the poppy must be predominant

Each entry must have the following information attached behind or under the arrangement hidden from immediate view of the judge:

- The member's name and Auxiliary ID number
- The name and number of the Member's Unit
- The category for the entry
- All work must be done by the Unit member entering the contest.
- Entries will be judged at Mid-Winter and should be checked in by 8:00 AM Saturday, February 9th, 2019

Entries will be judged using the following criteria:

- 25% Labeling, proper materials, following directions
- 50% Predominance of the Poppy
- 25% Design and creativity

February Guide

- Feb. 6: Legion Legislative Day in Pierre
- Feb. 11-15:
National Salute to Veteran Patients

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliary, and nursing homes.

- **Feb. 14: Valentines' Day -
National Membership Goal: 85%**
- Feb. 18: Presidents' Day
- March 1: Pay Past Presidents Parley Dues
- March 1: Journalism City Applications

Spring District Meetings

March 16 Saturday District 1 in Spearfish
March 17 Sun. District 2 at Crazy Horse
March 22 Fri. District 6 in Wessington Springs
March 23 Saturday District 7 in Canton
March 24 Sunday District 8 TBD
March 29 Friday District 4 in Leola
March 30 Saturday District 5 in Clark
March 31 Sunday District 3 in Winner

Members to Remember



Verlyn Madsen is 92 years old and a 70-year member of the Arlington Unit. Her eligibility is through her WWII husband who was shot in the face and lost his hearing. He received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He passed away eleven years ago. Verlyn is so proud of him. She is an avid reader of the Legionette.

Shirley Morgan has been an active member of the Warner Legion Auxiliary #137 for 40 years. Shirley is their unit historian.

She helps with the blood drive by calling potential donors and provides times available.



She quilts at her local church, served in various offices in her unit and in her church. She brings a smile to all meetings and activities. Her unit recognizes her as the member to remember and thanks her for all she does!

Mid-Winter Convention Silent Auction

Donations will be accepted on Friday from 9:00 PM – 4:00 PM – acceptance of any late drop offs will be at the discretion of the Chairman. Items must be in almost new or new condition to be accepted.

The Silent Auction will open on Saturday morning at 7:30 AM – Bidding will close on Saturday at 3:30 PM. Items must be picked up on SATURDAY by 5:00 PM, unless special arrangements are made with the Chairman.

The Silent Auction will be set up in the Cottonwood/Ponderosa room. All monies raised at the auction will go towards the President's Project Ft Meade VA.

Thank you for participating in the Silent Auction.

All donations made to Silent Auction become the property of the SD ALA. Thank you for your generosity.

Unit Member of the Year Award

Presented to a senior in good standing who hasn't obtained an elected or appointed leadership role higher than of unit president. This award celebrates and recognizes those members who quietly work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Materials and guidelines: Selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc., for the current administrative year:

Current membership dues must be paid; years of membership are not a part of the criteria; nominee may be a new member; all entry forms, including a narrative (limited to 1,000 words), must be completed and submitted by March 15th or prior to the Spring District meeting whichever comes first. District Presidents' deadline to the department chairman is May 1st.

The unit president and secretary must sign the entry form unless the nominee is one of them, in which case a past unit president must sign the entry form.

The selection of the winner is at the discretion of the Department Past President's Parley Chairman. The department winner is encouraged to attend the National Convention.

ALA Mission Statement. *In the spirit of Service, Not Self*, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

February Prayer

By Barbara Walter, Dept. Chaplain

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you this day to lift up our American Legion Auxiliary families. Many are struggling with illnesses and loss of family members and friends. Give them strength and comfort in their time of need. We thank you Lord for giving us your Strength and Endurance to be able to handle when situations arise.

Winter months are upon us and we lift up the Homeless Veterans across this Nation and this State that are trying to survive these South Dakota temperatures. Keep them Safe and Warm and pray they find appropriate shelter.

Be with our active military and their families throughout the world and bring them home safely. We thank them and our veterans for keeping this nation safe and for their Service to this country.

In Jesus Name We Pray. Amen

In our Schools



On January 11, Piedmont Valley ALA Unit 311 member Mary Wranek set up the Military Child's Table at Piedmont Valley Elementary School. Also shown is assistant librarian Heidi K. The librarian displayed The White Table book in the background. The book was previously donated to the library by Unit 311. Not pictured: Helen Riedlinger.



On a frigid January Day, the Spearfish Unit 164 donated 180 pairs of insulated gloves to two of the elementary schools in Spearfish. Mr. Olson, principal was proud to take the picture in front of the Wall of Honor. Students and staff bring pictures of a family veteran or active military to remember those who served and those still serving. Pictured is Ms. Morgan H.'s classroom and the counselor Lindsey C. who shared the need for warm gloves. "Give 10 to Education" was possible with the generous support of the

local Knecht store who gave the gloves at cost. Unit members present were Julie Malcolm, Connie Turner, Charlene Kain, Connie Wagner, and Micheline Nelson.



American Legion Auxiliary Heirloom

Sheron-Faiferlick Post 105 of Nunda recently purchased a curio cabinet to display dishes given to our unit by the Wentworth Auxiliary Unit. The plates and cups have the American Legion Auxiliary emblem on them.



The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Fundraiser

The Christmas Poppy ornaments made by the 2018 Girls State delegates are available at Mid-Winter or from headquarters. One ornament for \$3.00 or two for \$5.00 - A great way to support and help the South Dakota Girls State program and activities.

BE IN THE KNOW

Department Headquarters 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. **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.



Happy Valentine's Day

THE SOUTH DAKOTA
LEGIONETTE
Official Publication of the
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota

Published monthly except July and August at Spearfish, SD from September 2018, forward. Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701-2917. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year. Dates from September through June All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of each month preceding current issues. We do not pay for the postage cost of address changes.

Endorsement

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.