



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"

Midwinter 2019- WOW!!! I want to thank District 1 for organizing and planning, you did a GREAT JOB! The weather wasn't the greatest, but it is South Dakota in the Winter. With temperatures well below zero, we all managed to have a good time and stay warm. Although the attendance wasn't the greatest, it was fun! Educational! Informative! Chairmen you did a great job with the Program Fair and I hope a lot of information will be taken back to the Units. I want to thank you for taking the time to set up and decorate your program table to follow my theme "Saddle Up For Veterans". In addition, Susie Clyde did a skit on Parliamentary Procedure. Funny! Also, she did her NEC report. Rose Kraft did her presentation on "The ALA and Me". Thank You Ladies! The cowboy hats that were given out at Midwinter will again be worn at State convention so bring them along with you to State Convention.

The Ladies Night out at the Lodge in Deadwood was fantastic. Good food, drinks, and the Slot tournament with free money, all FREE!! What more can you ask for?

Poppy Centerpieces were judged by Susie Clyde and Patsy Madsen. Joan Spears took care of the Silent Auction which brought in \$429.00 to go towards my President's Project.

Thank You Ladies for a Great Job! Juniors Chairman Alice Upshaw spent the weekend with the Juniors.

(Cont. page 2)



SPRING DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

March 16 – District 1- Saturday – Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center - Lunch 11:00 am, Lucky's 13 Pub on your own, Joint Meeting 1:00 pm, Separate Meetings 2:00 pm.

March 17 – District 2– Sunday – Custer – Crazy Horse Memorial Social 11:00 am., Lunch 12:00 pm., in Laughing Water Restaurant, 1:00 pm., Song of Welcome at viewing platform, Rosebud Boys & Girls Club Drum Team. Joint welcome. Meeting 1:30 pm. Auxiliary meeting in large classroom.

March 22– District 6– Friday – Wessington Springs Social 5:00 pm., Meal 6:00 pm, meeting 7:00 pm; Auxiliary TBD

March 23 – District 7 – Saturday– Canton VFW; Social 2 pm., Meeting 3:00 pm, Lunch to follow; Auxiliary TBD

March 24– District 8 – Sunday – Yankton-NFAA Building- 800 Archery Lane, Yankton, SD; Social 1:00 pm. Meeting 2:00 pm. Lite lunch following meeting.; Auxiliary meeting at same location

March 29 – District 4 – Friday – Leola Legion Bar; Social 5:30 pm., Meal 6:00 pm., Meeting 7:00 pm; Legion meeting in Legion Club, Auxiliary meeting in Municipal Building

March 30 – District 5– Saturday – Clark; Social 5:30 pm, Meal 6:00 pm – Meeting 7:00 pm; Auxiliary meeting in the Community Building

March 31 – District 3 – Sunday -Winner – 133 Wet 3rd Street- Social 12:00 pm, Meeting 1:00 pm, light meal to follow; Auxiliary meets at the same location



Openings on the ALA Department Finance Committee

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. This is a three-year term. Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume by May 1, 2019, to: Department Headquarters at 129 N. Main Ave., Hartford, SD 57033. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, June 6, 2019.

From our Units



Unit 71 - Hot Springs had their Girls State Delegates and families join the members for dinner at the January meeting. Each delegate spoke about what Girls State meant to her and what she learned. Jane Benzel is on left, Serenity Engel and Mary Lane on the right.

Ms Morgan's 3-4 Grade class received the Good Deed Award from the National American Legion Auxiliary. They were nominated by Auxiliary member Sharon Broghammer for their Selfless Generosity. They forfeited a class party and donated \$430 raised to the Adult Nutrition program for its annual Hunger Tree. Community Services Director Jessica Pickett attended ceremony in honor



of these amazing students! She looks forward to them joining the JVCC for Throwback Thursday, to play games with the members

"Saddle up for our Veterans"

cont. from page 1

By Jeannine Loesch, Department. President

Our National Guest for the weekend was Northwestern Division VP Barb Vetter. She gave remarks at the Auxiliary Session on Saturday and again at the Joint Banquet on Saturday evening. She brought greetings from the National Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan.

March is a busy month, it begins with the American Legions Birthday on March 15th show the Legion how much we appreciate them. March is Community Service Month contact organizations in your community to carry out projects that will benefit our youth, our troops and community. Spring Meetings are fast approaching. Please try to attend. The odd numbers Districts will be electing officers this year think of how you can step up. Don't forget your Unit Member Nominee needs to be to your district President by March 1st. District Meetings begin in March, check and see where your District Meets. District Meetings will begin in March: March 16, District 1 in Spearfish; March 17, District 2 Crazy Horse; March 22, District 6, Wessington Springs; March 23, District 7, Canton; March 24, District 8, Yankton; March 29, District 4, Leola; March 30, District 5, Clark; and March 31, District 3, Winner.

If you are unable to make your own District Meeting, find a District you can go to.

Until we meet again..." *Saddle Up for Veterans*".

Community Service

by Cindy Hanson, Chairman

Making our communities better places in which to live is another core value put in action by American Legion Auxiliary members every day across the country. Whether hosting a stand down to bring vital health and support services to homeless veterans or coordinating a send-off or welcome-home event for a deployed military unit, Auxiliary members are continuously at work in their communities, demonstrating the compassion and heart we have for those who serve our country and give so much. Community Service projects focus on enhancing the quality of life for veterans and their families.

In recent years, the Auxiliary has partnered with the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) to make the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday—the third Monday in January—"a day on, not a day off" for service. Units and departments are encouraged to plan special projects that focus on veterans, military families, or children as part of this [national day of service](#).

Purpose Statement

To strengthen our local communities with uniquely identified opportunities of service by providing volunteer leadership, encouraging the stewardship of its patriotic citizens, acknowledging our country's military history, and supporting the families that have sacrificed for our freedom.

Stand downs were started in 1988 by two Vietnam veterans. Named for a military term for a combat unit's time to rest and recover while at war, today it is a grassroots effort to offer the same services to homeless veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are about 131,000 homeless veterans on the street on any given night.

Stand downs typically include food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, benefits counseling, and job counseling and referral services. The philosophy of a stand down is to give homeless veterans a hand up, not a handout. Stand downs are organized by self-appointed community coalitions that take on the task of holding the event. Any group can decide to hold a stand down.

The traditional stand down lasts three days, providing shelter and food throughout the event, and may provide services such as haircuts, healthcare screenings, vision and dental care, VA benefits counseling, substance abuse counseling, and legal services.

Welcome-home/send-off events are a way for Auxiliary units to say thank -you to service members for their service to our nation. These are both celebrations as well as outreach events, often offering resources for OEF/OIF/OND combat service members, veterans, and their families.

These events may include free health screenings, benefits counseling, employment assistance, education support, and an introduction to community service providers

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.

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.

March Guide

March 1: Pay Past Presidents Parley Dues
Legion Birthday Observance - March 15th



Member of the Year Nominees due to District Presidents

Send in Girls State Registration

Quarters - .25 cents per member to Dept. Headquarters

Send Membership Form to Headquarters by March 16

Year-End Reports are due to District Presidents by April 15

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

In Memoriam

Unit 7 Huron – Genevieve Hunter, January 2019;

Unit 8 Pierre – April Rauscher, December 2018;

Unit 10 Lake Andes – Kathryn Stedronsky, August 2018;

Unit 17 Watertown – Carla Boyd, January 2019; Kay Mahowald, January 2019; Phylis Solum, December 2018;

Unit 21 Hurley – Marlene Hintz, February 2019;

Unit 35 Highmore – Beverly M. Straight, January 2019;

Unit 45 Harrisburg – Shirley E. Messner, January 2019;

Unit 71 Hot Springs – Helen Stanley, December 2018;

Unit 105 Nunda – Shirley Ovenskei, January 2019;

Unit 109 Gary – Bernadine Pieper, October 2018; Sharon Stuerman, December 2018;

Unit 140 Salem – Helen Eichacker, January 2019;

Unit 146 Colome – Pearl Chambers, January 2018; Vola Eubanks, August 2017; Tracy Harmacek, January 2018; Margaret Kollmar, June 2017; Jacquelyn Musilke, December 2018;

Unit 148 Conde – Olga Grandpre, December 2018;

Unit 169 Winner – June Biggins, January 2019; Gladys Kubik, January 2019;

Unit 229 Big Stone – Elayne Fahlgren, January 2019; Unit 240 Martin – Florence Deaver, January 2019;

Unit 280 Iroquois – Nila Ondricek, December 2018;

Unit 241 Erwin – Phyllis Wolkow, December 2018;

Unit 311 Piedmont – Dorothy Edwards, June 2018;

Unit 315 Box Elder – Carolyn Johnson, April 2018



Membership Update on Dues

The Department of South Dakota raised their portion of the Membership Dues. Senior dues increase is \$3.00 and the Junior increase is \$.75.

This was voted on by the body at the State Convention held in Spearfish, SD, June 10, 2018.

For the 2020 year, the amount that needs to be sent to Department Headquarters is \$24.00 for Seniors and \$5.00 for Juniors.

On the Membership Chairman Form, please indicate what your unit will be charging for dues for the 2020 year. National is notified of the change. This is needed when a member pays online. The Department receives a report and in turn, the Department informs the units.

If the Department receives payment of dues and they are not correct, it will be returned to the unit for the correct amount.



Mid-Winter Convention 2019



*March Prayer**By Barbara Walter, Dept. Chaplain*

Dear Lord,

We come to you today to Thank You for being with us and keeping us safe during our time at Mid-Winter Convention in Spearfish, SD.

Today we are lifting up our families, friends and those in need, that struggle to get through life to overcome obstacles just one day at a time.

Give them and us your strength, encouragement and empower us to continue throughout our walks in life. Show us your path Lord that you would have all of us to follow and close the doors not to take.

We Thank You Lord for continually being with us.

In Jesus Name We Pray. Amen

**Attention:**

There was an error in the Poppy Plan of Action. Please send the winners of the Poppy Poster Contest from your unit to Jane Benzel, Department Poppy Chairman, not to your District President. They needs to be postmarked by **May 1st**.

Thank you.

2018 Boys and Girls State Governors at the Capitol

Department Commander Dennis Brenden, Department President Jean-nine Loesch, Girls State Director Cheryl Hovorka , Boys and Girls State Governors , and a delegation of the American Legion Family, met with SD Governor Kristi Noem during the Legislative Session at the SD Capitol in Pierre.

Member to Remember

Elsie Brouwer has been a member of the Charles R. Doman American Legion Auxiliary Unit #131 for 24 years, joining on the service of her Korean veteran husband. She has been the unit secretary for over ten years, faithfully taking accurate minutes of the meetings. She has dutifully made sure that her husband makes it to all the Legion functions he can, all while ensuring that she herself fulfills her Auxiliary commit-

ments. She is quick to volunteer if shopping needs to be done for an Auxiliary event. She willingly takes her turns serving desserts for Legion soup suppers. Even when she is unable to help serve, like for Memorial Day dinners, she will graciously volunteer to still provide food. Elsie is also very supportive of the rest of the unit leadership. She understands that leadership can be difficult, so she is there when someone needs a sounding board. In every disagreement, small or large, she makes sure everyone involved feels heard. We of Unit 131 thank her for all her service!

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.



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.