



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



A Word from the President

by Teresa Huntimer Department President



"Always Remember Serving Veterans, Not self"

Auxiliary Members,
I just returned from our Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee Meeting. It was a long meeting, but you will be happy to know the DEC approved the revised Standing Rules. Yea! These rules will be available on the Department Website soon. All District Presidents have them. I encourage you to reach out to them for a copy. Please read them and if you have any questions contact the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Susie Clyde at SS.bylaws@gmail.com or 605-890-1854. The Resolution Committee and selection committee for interviews for the Finance Committee were approved. Rose Kraft was approved as the Membership Chairman for 2021-2022. The Finance Committee also met. Budget matters were discussed, and recommendations were voted on. Reimbursement for District Presidents to attend the National Convention and Girls State fees were discussed. The Finance Committee will make recommendations to the DEC later as more research and discussions are definitely needed. Thank you to Mary Jo Stier and Micheline Nelson for working on having Zoom availability. The Internet connection at the facility was having major problems. Thank you again!
Please remember to update your Constitution and Bylaws with the National changes. If you need a template to update, please contact your District President or Susie Clyde and they will send you one. (All you have to do is fill in the blanks) Send a copy to the Department Headquarters or Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Susie Clyde.
District meetings are scheduled for the last three weekends in March and the second weekend in April. Locations and times are updated in the Legionette. Please check the webpage and our Facebook page for updates. Spring meetings in odd numbered District are conducting elections for district officers so please consider being an officer. (cont. page 4)



Give 10 to Education

The "Give 10 to Education" program is designed to allow our members to support education from different angles. Every unit participating will receive a certificate. Let's try for 100% participation, because this project can allow all members, juniors included, to participate. Here's how it works! Determine what type of activity to which you would like to donate. Here are some suggestions:

- Donate 10 minutes of your time to volunteer in a classroom.
- Assist with or donate 10 items to a "Snack Back-Pack" program held at many schools.
- Donate 10 boxes of pencils or crayons to a classroom or school.
- Provide a \$10 donation to a school library.
- Help a teacher on the playground for 10 minutes.
- Donate 10 flags and discuss the importance of the flag to a class.
- Donate 10 pair of underwear to a kindergarten class.
- Donate 10 pair of mittens. 9. Give 10 dictionaries to third grade students.
- Support a scholarship fund (including National Scholarships) by donating \$10.

Contact the school. Complete the task. Of course, if you have the time and/or funds available, it would be wonderful if you could donate more than 10 on a regular basis.

Report your "Give 10" activities by **May 1, 2021** to Department Education Chairman Mary Jo Boner,
Find the form on our website www.sdlegionaux.org - select FORMS and find 2021 Give Ten To Education Form

The 75th annual ALA SD Girls State will be held May 31st - June 5th, 2021 on the campus of the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$125.00 PER DELEGATE.

As a reminder, delegates attend the FULL session of ALA Girls State. No permission will be granted to attend other activities during the session. To receive awards and scholarships, the FULL session must be attended.

Deadline for Journalism City is APRIL 1, 2021, candidates will be contacted by April 15 of their acceptance or rejection.
Deadline for the applications is MAY 15, 2021; units should make sure that there are no last minute changes by that cut-off date.

The printed document reads "June 1 - Arrival" and "June 6 - Departure".
Correction: May 31st - Delegates will arrive on campus between 1 and 4 p.m. and June 5th - Delegates will depart from campus at noon.

Tiffany Newman
ALA SD Girls State Director
605-484-7865



Flag Project



Addeylynn Hickey, Junior Auxiliary member, front, and Lila Speckels, junior activities chairman, back right, presented two solar light systems to The American Legion Potter Post #3 to illuminate the Flags at the Legion and Potter cemetery plots. Funding to purchase was provided through Julie

Soulek of Modern Woodmen of America, back left. Hickey was working on a community service project and found the Flags needed to be illuminated at night. She received approval from Potter Post Legionnaires to complete the project. Post members will install the lights as weather permits. Also pictured are Commander Ken Anderson, back, second from the left, and Adjutant Doug Feltman.

To Memoriam

Unit 8 Pierre – Jean Beeman, December 2020; **Unit 12 Yankton** - Mae Tienken, February 2021; Murial Van Gergen, February 2021; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** – Marguerite Sylvis, December 2020; Maxine Leaders, January 2021; **Unit 21 Hurley** – Ardis Walker, January 2021; **Unit 22 Rapid City** – Donna Stulken, January 2021; **Unit 40 Webster** – Loa Murschel, December 2020; Lillian Nielsen, December 2020; **Unit 42 Arlington** – Odessa Josephsen, February 2021; Leone Mix, February 2021; **Unit 50 Sisseton** – Sharon Foster, January 2021; **Unit 59 Wolsey** – Florence Holm, January 2021; **Unit 60 Clark** – Lael Smith, December 2020; **Unit 63 Lake Preston** – Deloris Olson, February 2021; **Unit 81 Toronto** – Alice Falken, January 2021; **Unit 100 Selby** – Linda Martinez, January 2021; **Unit 120 Isabel** – Alice Meginness, November 2020; Gold Star Mother Betty Walker, February 2021; **Unit 142 Tripp** – Lois Buehner, February 2021; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Joann Dierkson, July 2020; **Unit 169 Winner** – Clarice Chauncey, January 2021; Nancy Vesley, January 2021; Unit 180 New Effington – Patsy Schmechel, January 2021; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** – Elaine Hofhenke, February 2021; **Unit 262 Claremont** – Doris Spencer, December 2020; Donna Schliebe, January 2021

Valentine's Day



Kim Geer delivered ten dozen donuts for a Valentine treat for the residents at the State Veterans home in Hot Springs on Friday, February 12th. She also received and delivered Valentine cards from the Gary SD American Legion Auxiliary Jrs. and the Jones County Elementary school in Murdo, SD. ALA unit 301 provided the cardstock for the school.

Project Day! The Spearfish Unit 164 prepared 8 Valentine baskets for the local nursing homes/assisted living where there are 274 residents from which 20% are Veterans; Valentine gift bags with a \$10 to Hardee's and sweets for the homeless Veterans at the Cornerstone Mission; and two totes with children sweatpants and underwear for the Spearfish schools - Kindergarten, first, and second graders. Fourteen members participated in the project day!



Just in time for Valentine's Day! All gifts and baskets were delivered on February 12th to the Cornerstone Mission for homeless Veterans and the local assisted living/nursing homes. Pictured are Rhonda Williams, Unit 2nd VP and Amber from the Cornerstone Mission.

Two openings on the Dept. 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 and there are two positions that are open. Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume by May 1, 2021 to Department Headquarters at 129 N Main Ave., Hartford, SD 57033. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, June 24, 2021

Gold Star Mother

The Smith Wright Unit 120, Isabel, SD lost their last living Gold Star Mother, Betty Harris Walker, on Feb 14th, 2021. Her son, Vern Harris lost his life in the Vietnam war.



March 2021 Guide

March 1: Past President Parley dues
Americanism Poem & Essay due to District Presidents

Quarters—25 cents per member to Dept. Headquarters

March 13: National K-9 Veterans Day

March 13: District 8 - Wakonda

March 14: District 7 - Montrose

March 15: American Legion Birthday

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 20: District 3 - Winner

March 21: District 6 - Wessington Springs

March 21: Youth Trooper Academy applications due

March 27: District 5 - Veblen

March 28: District 4 - Mobridge

Journalism City applications due APRIL 1

April 10: District 1 - Piedmont

April 11: District 2 - Martin

April 15: Year-end reports due to district presidents

District Meetings

District 1: April 10 - Piedmont Post 311, 10:00 social, 11:00 lunch, 1:00 business meeting

District 2: 11 April - Martin Bennett County Post 240, noon social; 12:30 lunch; 1:00 business meeting

District 3: March 20 - Winner, noon lunch; 1:00 business meeting

District 4: March 28 - Mobridge Post 4, 1:00 social; 2:00 business meeting

District 5: March 27 - Veblen Post 76, 1:30 Social, 2:00 business meeting

District 6: March 21 - Wessington Springs Post 14, 4:00 pm social; 5:00 dinner; 6:00 business meeting

District 7: March 14 - Montrose Post 154, 12:00 social, 1:00 meal, 2:00 business meeting—Auxiliary at the Methodist Church

District 8: March 13 - Wakonda, Alsen Post 44 host, 1:00 social; 2:00 business meeting

There will be NO Zoom connections during the spring district meetings.

Member in the Spotlight

When it comes to volunteering and helping veterans there is no one better than Judy Wilcox.

A tireless worker who puts her heart into everything she does.

For her hard work, the Winner Area Chamber of Commerce has named Wilcox as the volunteer of the year.

Due to COVID-19 there was no annual banquet or awards presentation.

Wilcox was surprised with the award at a Chamber board meeting on Jan. 20. She thought she was coming to the Chamber to help Liz Farley with a RSVP project. But much to her surprise, Wilcox was the center of attention with the award presentation.

Wilcox goes above and beyond to keep the new Legion building spotless.

During the summer, she mows several lawns for veterans. And when the snow starts to fly, she cleans driveways for veterans.

The Honor Guard is an important part of the veteran organizations in Winner. Wilcox organizes a supper for the Honor Guard. She also organizes miscellaneous luncheons, soup suppers for many occasions. She also has served several funeral luncheons for deceased veterans, organized cake and ice cream for volunteers of the Thrift Store.

Wilcox is secretary/treasurer of the Winner Legion Auxiliary. In this capacity she sends items to the state organization that need to be filed. She also sends a reminder to members to pay their yearly dues.

She helps the auxiliary furnish candy for Trunk or Treat at the Methodist Church.

Wilcox keeps up with scholarship information and makes sure the school has the scholarship applications.

For Memorial Day, Wilcox manages the ladies who put poppies on crosses for the veterans at the cemetery.

When Government Day rolls around in the spring, Wilcox works with the Legion in organizing this day and then helps serve a lunch to the students.

Wilcox drives veterans as needed to doctor appointments in Winner, Gregory and even Sturgis or Hot Springs.

For many years, she has been a RSVP (Retired Service Volunteer Program) member.



National K-9 Veterans Day

National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on **March 13th** on the official birthday of the [US Army K9 Corps](#), which was formed in 1942. Joseph White, a retired military working dog trainer, originated the idea for the day.

March 13th recognizes National K9 Veterans Day and the dedicated K9 units who've served since World War II.

A lot of things changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Dogs were called to duty. During the first world war, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as sentries, message carriers, and several other functions.

A private citizen, Mrs. Alene Erlanger initiated a program called Dogs for Defense. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, the group aimed to train the dogs for military use.

By November of 1942, the military prepared the first Dogs for Defense for duty in North Africa. While at first, they were gun shy, they proved to be well trained.

As the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand, and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions took over the training of the dogs.

Over the years, the military, police, and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units.

March Prayer

By Kathleen Geiman Dept. Chaplain

Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own! Dear Lord, May your beautiful blessings rest upon me and my loved ones. May your peace and comfort surround us daily. My heart belongs to you. I pray that today you have joy in your heart and soul, peace in your home and family, and God's blessings all around you. In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

Dept. President's Message - cont.

This also a time for your unit to tell what you have done to serve the community and most important our Veterans.

Yes, we are having Girls State this year. We are only taking JUNIORS for the 2021 Session. If you need additional applications/questions contact Tiffany at: Tiffany.newman@k12.sd.us or gstate@usd.edu www.alasdgirlsstate.org 605-484-7865

We are planning on have the State Convention in Huron. Will keep everyone updated if something changes. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Thank you to everyone at the Finance and Department Executive Committee meetings for my Birthday wishes. When asked if I spent time with family I said yes, my American Legion Family!

Teresa Huntimer

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department President 2019 - 2021

BE IN THE KNOW

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Visit the SD ALA Website at

www.sdlegionaux.org

Subscribe to the South Dakota Legionette. 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.

Thank you!



The Adventures of a Military Brat book series is specifically designed to meet the needs of children growing up in military families. Each book will identify unique experiences and challenges a military lifestyle brings, such as reuniting with deployed parents, moving, and making new friends. The characters of this series emphasize positive messages and take readers on a journey that is familiar to every military child.

Kids Corner

The Adventures of a Military Brat: The Big Move is the second book of the children's book series The Adventures of a Military Brat. Ride along with a courageous young girl as she faces the challenges of a military family move. Learn how she says goodbye to friends, cherishes favorite memories, and prepares for her new home, all while delivering a touching message of hope and optimism. The Big Move shows how a military family uses positive coping techniques to prepare for an upcoming move.



Honoring First Responders



Winner American Legion Auxiliary presented cookies to law enforcement, fire department and EMTs in support of national law enforcement appreciation day which was Jan. 9. Pictured in front from left are Kathie Cole and Sissy Orel of the Tripp County Ambulance, Jeanette Sprenkle, Darlene Pearsol, Sharon Hiemstra and Judy Wilcox of the Legion auxiliary. In back from left are Kray Krolkowski of the Winner Police Department, Dan McMurtrey of the Tripp County Sheriff's office and Darin Nelson of the Winner Volunteer Fire Department.

2021-2022 Endorsements

On November 23, 2020, the members of Sully Unit #79 in Onida, South Dakota, proudly endorsed **Mary Jo Stier** for the office of President for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota, for the year 2021-2022.

The members of Arthur Peterson Chester American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136 proudly endorsed **Joyce Smith** for the nomination of Department of South Dakota 1st Vice President for the year 2021-2022.

At the Pierre Unit October meeting, Pierre Unit 8 proudly endorsed **Patsy Madsen** for SD Dept State 2nd Vice for the upcoming 2021-2022.

On October 13, 2020, The American Legion Auxiliary Pike-Huska Unit 230 of Aurora, South Dakota, endorsed **Wendy Henley**, for the office of Department Chaplain for the year 2021-2022.

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 2020, 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.