



# 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, Is spring really here? I'm looking forward to getting outside for some fresh air. With spring here, it means Spring District meetings. I have traveled to Wakonda, Montrose, Winner and Wessington Springs for 918 miles. I have four more, they are in Veblen, Mobridge, Martin, and Piedmont or 2,407 miles. What a joy to see everyone and hear the amazing things the units did during Covid -19. Auxiliary members know how to think outside of the box. Great job!

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has worked very hard on updating and changing some things to help our organization operate more efficiently. Please read all the information and have discussions at your unit meetings about these changes. You may call any member on the constitution and bylaws committee to answer questions. Resolutions will be voted on at the State Convention.

Yes, we are planning to have an in-person State Convention in Huron. The Convention will be June 24-27, 2021. It will be held at the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Convention Center. Phone no. is (605) 352-3204. There will be a raffle at convention for the President's project but no Silent Auction. Both Senior and Junior Poppy Contests will be held at State Convention.

Membership Unit Caring and Sharing Week is April 1-7, 2021. Please work together with your unit to contact all the members of your unit. Let them know we care about them and are willing to help in whatever way we can.

National Volunteers Week is April 18-24, 2021. This is an annual celebration to promote and show appreciation for volunteerism and volunteering. Wow, we know how to do this!

Purple Up for Military Kids is April 15, 2021. This is a day to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. You will find the ceremony for the Military Child's Table in this publication.  
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## SHOW YOUR PURPLE PRIDE ON APRIL 15

### Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

As we honor our veterans, we must remember to honor those at home. The sacrifices the children make when a family member is deployed.

In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberg recognized the importance of military-connected children and their role in military families when he established the "Month of the Military Child," underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community.

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed while deployed, his request was simple, "**Please, just help take care of our children.**"

In honor of the children, we present to you the Military Child's Table Setting. This table is inspired by our POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

The **Potted Flowering Plant** symbolizes that the children of our deployed may flower and flourish where they are planted.

The **Hand Spade** recognizes that the military children may be transplanted to a new location, any place at moment's notice. They must acclimate themselves to a new school, new friends, possibly a new culture. (insert in pot)

The **Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles** symbolize birthdays and special events that their deployed loved one will miss while they are away.

The **Baseball Glove and Ball** represent the games they have without the cheering from their deployed loved one.

The **Ballet Slippers** signify that there are many special occasions that go without the deployed loved one sharing in the joys of that day, in person.

The **Family Photo** depicting a child or children with their uniformed parents represent the foundation of our country's strength of families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad to endure that our flag continues to fly free.

## Remember the children!

## St. Patrick's Day



Kim Geer received 80 of these cute handmade cards from the Jr. Auxiliary members and their leader Melinda Jenson from Gary SD. The residents at the State Veterans home in Hot Springs loved them.

## Spring District Meetings



March 13, District 8  
in Wakonda  
March 14, District 7  
in Montrose  
March 20, District 3  
in Winner

March 21, District 6  
in Wessington Springs

**Full coverage of the Spring Meetings in May.**



## 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



## To Memoriam

**Unit 2 Tyndall** - Audrey Hajek, December 2020;  
**Unit 11 Wagner** - Shirley Eitemiller, February 2021;  
**Unit 13 Wakonda** - Esther Hybertson, December 2020; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** - Dorothy Koepsell, February 2021;  
**Unit 16 Gann Valley** - Phyllis DeJong, April 2019; Alice Gulbranson, February 2021; **Unit 23 Garretson** - Agnes Schmiesing, February 2021; **Unit 26 Stickney** - Ruby Bult, January 2021; **Unit 41 Alexandria** - Marilyn Burnham, February 2021; Agnes Geppert, February 2021; **Unit 43 Centerville** - Helen Johnson, February 2021; Harriet Hansen, March 2021; **Unit 48 Rosholt** - Jane Hanson, February 2021; **Unit 62 Humboldt** - Shelley Fetters, January 2021; **Unit 64 Wilmot** - Barbara Nielsen, November 2020; Anita Remund, November 2020; Jancie Thielsen, November 2020; **Unit 79 Onida** - Doris Donner, November 2020; Karen Wilcox, November 2020; **Unit 118 Hartford** - Linda Gerlach Larson, June 2019; Bonnie Viet, November 2020; Audrey Matthies, December 2020; Cecil Binkerd, January 2021; Marianne England, February 2021; **Unit 136 Chester** - Donna Lidel, December 2020; **Unit 139 McIntosh** - Lois Utter, December 2020; Unit 146 Colome - Joan Hughes, February 2021; **Unit 230 Aurora** - Carol Belling, July 2020; Audrey Anderson, January 2021; Unit 235 Marion - Kathryn Wieman, November 2020; **Unit 240 Martin** - Jean Weinmaster, January 2021; Annabel Christensen, February 2021; **Unit 259 Roscoe** - Bernice Hettick, February 2021

## Easter Candy Holder

These adorable Easter holders and candy from Mary Tiede, ALA unit 194 in Parkston SD were made by a Stampin up group. They made 100 of these for the residents at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.



Kim Geer will deliver then on March 30th.



## April 2021 Guide



April 1: ALA Girls State Pre-registrations Forms and Journalism Applications due to Director Tiffany Newman

### District Meetings

**District 1:** April 10 - Piedmont Post 311, 10:00 workshop on making greeting cards, 12:30 Joint Meeting, 1:00 business meeting - lunch will be served before the joint meeting - 3:30 pm Social - Steak Night starts at 5:00pm.

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

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

### Calendar

**April 4: Easter**

**April 15: Military Children's Day**

**April 15: End-of-year reports due to District Presidents**

**April 18-24: National Volunteers' Week**

**May 1: Poppy Posters are mailed to Jane Benzel**

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**

## Member in the Spotlight



On Thursday, March 11, 2021 Jody Moritz, Secretary on left, and Karen Collins, President of Unit 102 of Faulkton presented member Avis (Schilder) Niederbaumer with a "Quilt of Honor" in honor of her service in World War II. Avis served from April 1945 to April 1948 as a First Lt. in the Army

Nurse Corps. She is 97 years old (born Nov. 26, 1923) and fell recently and broke her femur. She is taking therapy at the local nursing home and hopes to be able to return to her assisted living apartment. The quilt was made by the Faulkton Area Ecumenical Quilting Group with a patriotic design for the Auxiliary.

### ADVANCE TICKETS

American Legion Auxiliary - Saturday, June 26, 2021  
NO Tickets will be available at the event

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Celebration for Kim Anderson and Kathryn Young 25 Year PDP  
Saturday, June 26, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

Menu: Buffet Brats with buns, Cowboy Beans, Coleslaw and chips.

Number of tickets requested @ \$17.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check

TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Night \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Huron ALA Unit #7**

Send to: Sandy Mencke - 1829 Dexter Ct, Huron, SD 57350

For additional information, contact Sandy at 605-352-3208

**Deadline June 7, 2021**

## Valentine Gift Boxes

Winner American Legion Auxiliary put together Valentine gift boxes for 18 veterans in the Winner Long Term Care Center, Elder Inn and Golden Prairie Manor. The baskets contained cookies and bars made by the Legion Auxiliary and gifts donated by 27 businesses. The card said: *"Thank you for being a veteran and Happy Valentine's Day."*



Pictured from left are Liz Farley,

Jeanette Sprengle

Sharon Hiemstra.

## 2021 Department Convention

*"Wear your favorite baseball hat or spectator hat"*

for the celebration of

**Kim Anderson 1995-1996**

**Kathryn Young 1996-1997**

**25th Anniversary as Department Presidents**

**Tip your Hat to a Vet**



## April Prayer

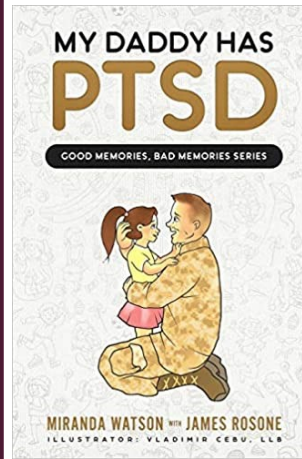
By Kathleen Geiman Dept. Chaplain

Heavenly Father, Thank You that You have established the path that You want us to take. I pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we may press on to the goal of our calling and lay hold of all that You have purposed for us to do, to Your Praise and Glory .

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

## Kids Corner

PTSD is a very serious condition that affects many veterans and other individuals. It can have an impact on the entire family, including the children. This book follows a little girl and her Daddy to explain what PTSD is to a child. It aids in building empathy for the condition and opens the door to helpful conversations.



From <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>  
**How Might a Parent's PTSD Symptoms Affect His or Her Children?**

PTSD includes a range of symptoms that can have an effect on family members. The following are some examples of how certain kinds of PTSD symptoms can affect children.

### Re-experiencing symptoms

People who have PTSD often "re-experience" traumatic events through memories or dreams. This can happen quickly and can seem to come out of nowhere. These symptoms often come with strong feelings of grief, guilt, fear, or anger. Sometimes the experience can be so strong that you may think the trauma is happening again. These symptoms can be scary not only for you but also for your children. Children may not understand what is happening or why it is happening. They may worry about their parent or worry that the parent cannot take care of them.

### Dept. President's Message - cont.

Many units are setting up a table in schools with permission or town's library.

ALA SD Girls State pre-registration forms and fees are sent to Director Tiffany Newman by April 1, 2021. Delegates will receive an email from Tiffany to apply for ALA SD Girl State by April 15, 2021. Delegates apply to participate in ALA SD Girls State no later than May 15, 2021. If you cannot send the pre-registrations forms by April 1 contact Tiffany ASAP. She will work with the units. Unit presidents or ALA Girls State chairman received her contact information by mail. We are only taking Juniors for the 2021 Session of ALA SD Girls State. Questions, contact Tiffany [gstate@usd.edu](mailto:gstate@usd.edu) ; [Tiffany.newman@k12.sd.us](mailto:Tiffany.newman@k12.sd.us)

Hope to see you at the District meetings if not then at State Convention. Please if you have any question call me. I will be happy to answer them.

Teresa Huntimer, Dept. President 2019-2021

## Membership: Caring & Sharing Award

For one week this spring, **April 1-7, 2021**, we are asking Units members and leaders to work together to contact all members of their Unit. We want you to call (or visit) members in good standing, members who still need to renew, and former members (that have not paid dues since 2018). The purpose of these calls is to let everyone know their membership is valued and/or they are missed.

- Award: 100 unit awards of \$25 Emblem Sales Gift Cards
- Presented to: Units that fulfill the intent of the incentive during the week of April 1-7, 2021, and meet the criteria outlined on the award certification form, will be placed into a random drawing from which 100 units will be selected to receive \$25 Emblem Sales Gift Cards.
- Deadline: Certification form must reach National HQ by midnight on Friday, April 30, 2021, with the required rejoin processed in ALAMIS by Friday, April 24, 2021 – four business days prior to form being due to National — to give time for Departments to process the rejoin and get form forwarded to National by April 30.
- [2019-2021 Annual Supplement.pdf \(legion-aux.org\)](#)

## BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary:

Laurel Stringer - 129 North Main,  
Hartford, SD 57033

Phone: 605-461-3389 or email at  
[southdakotaala@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaala@gmail.com)

Visit the SD ALA Website at

[www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

Subscribe to the South Dakota Legionette. Send your news and pictures to the editor at

[Micheline.Nelson@live.com](mailto: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!

## 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 20210-2022.

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.

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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.