



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Mary Jo Stier Department President



S.M.I.L.E

They say time flies when you are having fun and boy are they right. It is hard to believe that we are three months into the new Department's year. The past month has been a whirlwind full of learning and having fun. At the end of August, I had the privilege and honor to be sworn in as your Department President at the National Convention in Phoenix. While the weather was extremely hot, it was a wonderful experience. I have attended national conventions before, but I will never forget the feeling of pride and honor as I did that last day when I was sworn in as our department president. Upon returning from the convention, I have had the opportunity to visit a couple of units. I love having the opportunity to meet with unit members and hear about all the activities they do throughout the year. If your unit would like me to come visit, please shoot me an email at sda-lamjs@gmail.com or give me a call at (605) 222-3857 and let me know when a good time would be. I do ask that you give me a little advanced notice; I am still working full time and need to make arrangements with my employer. Besides the unit visits, I have attended six of the eight district meetings, Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 as well as Districts 7 and 8. Thank you to those District Presidents and to the Unit Presidents for working together and make each meeting a success. I am looking forward to the remaining two district meetings. Please note that if you were unable to attend your district meeting, you are more than welcome to come join in at another district meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear what is going on in the Department and in the Districts. Let's continue to S.M.I.L.E as we serve our Veterans, our military, their families and our communities.

National ALA President Kathy Daudistel's Visit

Sunday, October 24

Fly into Pierre, SD – arrival (expected time – 10:19 am)
Attend District 3 Meeting – Social at 11:30, Lunch at 12:00, Meeting at 1:00
4:00 pm Check into B&B- Hitching Horse Inn, 635 N. Euclid Ave, Pierre
7:00 pm Pizza Party at Post 8, 520 S Pierre St. sponsored by Unit 8

Monday, October 25

7:30 am Breakfast (at hotel)
8:30 am Leave for DTOM 220 Veterans Ranch in Warner
11:00 am Tour ranch, 13952 387th Ave, Warner (605) 725-3866
12:15 pm Head to Aberdeen
12:30 pm Lunch at the American Inn - 301 Centennial St. S - Host District 4
1:30 pm Leave for Francis Janisch Family Salutes our Veterans – Eden - Marshall County Road 16, 4.5 miles east of Eden

2:45 pm Tour the memorial
3:00 pm Leave for Watertown
4:15 pm Arrive in Watertown
4:15 pm Check into Hotel - Watertown Ramkota (605) 886-8011
5:15 pm Leave for Wilmot
6:15 pm Arrival in Wilmot
6:30 pm Supper/Gathering at Wilmot Community Center – 516 Main St - Host Wilmot Unit 64

8:00 pm Leave for Watertown
9:00 pm Arrive in Watertown for the evening

Tuesday, October 26

7:30 am Breakfast at Watertown AL Post 17, 1412 9th Ave SW - Host Unit 17
8:45 am Tour Legion Department Headquarters - 14 1st Ave SE (County Courthouse)
9:30 am Head to Veterans Memorial (Watertown) – 90 S Lake Dr.
10:30 am Leave for Vermillion
1:00 pm Arrive at Vermillion (USD) 414 E. Clark St.– Lunch with Dr. Ernest, Laura Weimers and Sandi Allred - tour the campus
3:00 pm Head to Yankton
3:30 pm If able, tour the Human Service Center – W 39th St., Yankton, otherwise tour the Mead Cultural Education Center on the campus of the Human Services – 82 Mickelsen Dr., Yankton 605-665-3898 (Cost is currently \$8 per person unless there are ten or more, then the cost is \$5 per person.)
4:30 pm Check in at the Holiday Inn Express – 2507 Broadway Ave, Yankton (605) 886-8011
6:00 pm Supper at Legion Post – 209 Cedar St., Yankton (Host District 8)
Prepare gift bags for the workers/veterans at the Human Service Center
8:15 pm Back to the hotel for the evening

Wednesday, October 27

7:30 am Breakfast (at hotel)
8:30 am Depart for Sioux Falls
10:30 am Tour the State Cemetery – 25965 477th Ave, Sioux Falls (Scheduled with Brian Voges)
11:45 am Tour Department Headquarters – 129 N Main Ave, Hartford
12:30 pm Lunch at the Alliance (host Unit 15)
2:00 pm Tour Veterans Memorial Park- 1021 W. Bailey St., Sioux Falls
3:00 pm Tour the Sioux Falls VA (tentative)
4:00 pm Check in at Aerostay, 2821 N Jaycee Ln., Sioux Falls (605) 886-8011
5:15 pm Tour the Veterans Park in Dell Rapids, 47147 245th St., Dell Rapids
6:00 pm Supper at Dell Rapids Legion Hall (Host District 7), 408 Orleans Ave

Thursday, October 28

6:00 am Head to airport - 6:30 am Breakfast at airport
8:00 am Departure for the National President's next department visit

October Guide

District 6 - October 23 @ Chamberlain Community Center: Social 1:00 pm, meeting at 2:00 pm. (no meal)
District 3 - October 24 @ Pierre Post 8: Social 11:30 am, lunch at the Post 12:00 pm, Meeting 1:00 pm

- 10/23: Make-a-Difference Day
- October 24-28: National President Kathy Daudistel's Visit
- October 31 Safe Halloween Events

Christmas Gift Shops Monetary donations to Headquarters ASAP.



Fall District Meetings' pictures will be after all eight districts met.

Christmas Gift Shop Ft. Meade VA

Details for the gift shop days will be announced in the November Legionette. Check your district president's letter.

V-neck t-shirts and sweat pants with no elastic. L, XL, 2X, 3XL - Gifts that could be for men or women and nice jewelry. Monetary donations for postage. Gifts may be collected up to the first week of November. Money, early October and thereafter.

Sioux Falls VA Christmas Gift Shop List

Date: November 29th and 30th, 2021

We will not know for sure how the Gift Shop will be run this year. Right now, we are planning on the same as last year with no contact with the Veterans. VA employees help Veterans pick from a list and video, and we will wrap and send out the gifts.

The VA is not accepting the boxes of gifts. Please contact Julie and she can make arrangements to get the donations whenever you are done shopping or mail/drop them at the Dept. Headquarters by November 15. Julie works in Sioux Falls and can meet you in Sioux Falls. If you are sending money, send it to State Headquarters memo Xmas Gift Shop. A list of preferred needs is in your District President's letter.

Julie Weinmann - 524 N Cedar Canton, SD. 57013
 Home Phone 605-764-2743. Cell 605-941-7854.



Remembering Ed Stringer

Edward "Ed" A. Stringer, 74, Sioux Falls, died Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Sanford USD Medical Center after a courageous battle with cancer. Ed's 21-year Navy career brought him to many countries, including service during the Vietnam conflict. His many awards included National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Battle and Ribbon with Device, Navy Expeditionary Medal, four (4) Good Conduct Medals, Sea Service Deployment Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation. Retirement from the road did not slow our Ed down one bit! His passion for Veterans causes lit a fire in him to serve with the American Legion as a member, Post Commander (Post 15), and District Commander (District 7). He actively served on the board and as a counselor for Boy's State. Ed was also State Membership Chairman and had earned five (5) Gold Brigade jackets for the recruitment of new Legion members. He was reported to have even recruited a new member directly in front of the National American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. Anyone who has known Ed has surely heard his bellowing invitation... "Are you a member of the American Legion? No? Talk to me and let's fix that!"



October 8, 1988, Ed married his love, Laurel, in Hartford. Memorial Services will be held 7pm, Friday, October 1, 2021, at Heartland Funeral Home, with visitation beginning at 5pm. A private inurnment will take place at the SD State Veteran's Cemetery. **In lieu of flowers, a Memorial has been established in his honor.**

During this time of sorrow, may we keep Laurel and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

In Memoriam

Unit 3 Chamberlain – Carina Lindley, June 2021; Bernice Kindt, August 2021; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** – Bette Hirsch, July 2021; Della Pulford, August 2021; **Unit 17 Watertown** – Ann Florey, August 2021; **Unit 20 Ft. Pierre** – Mary Welsh, January 2021; **Unit 62 Humboldt** – Ruby Sundermann, July 2021; Connie Meyer, August 2021; **Unit 76, Veblen** – Marcela Twite, August 2021; **Unit 96 White Lake** – Inge Glissendorf, July 2021; Melva Koch, July 2021; **Unit 102 Faulkton** – Beverly Brower, July 2021; Maureen Auchampach, August 2021; **Unit 110 Wessington** - Barbara Holli, October 2020; **Unit 137 Warner** – Ruth Walth, August 2021; **Unit 148 Conde** - Leone Henjum, May 2021; **Unit 169 Winner** – Rosabel Snethen, July 2021; Delores Soles, August 2021; **Unit 183 Tabor** – Hattie Vellek, July 2021; Frances Honner, July 2021; **Unit 272 Pollock** – Kathryn Lovo, February 2021; Beatrice Reierson, July 2020

100 Years Old & 71-year ALA Members



Ruth Walth turned 100 years old on June 23, 2021. She was a 71-year member of the Warner Rieck-Morgan American Legion Auxiliary. Unit #137.

She passed away on August 14, 2021. She taught school and loved her students keeping in touch with some until her



death. Ruth said "I think I lived the best years in America!" Ruth will be missed by her unit for her loyal membership, and the joy she brought to the world around her.

Ruth Walth

Junior Program Activities



MIDWINTER JUNIOR CAMP 2022

The Department Junior Activities Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan events and chaperone participants during the Mid-Winter Junior Camp February 18-19, 2022. The event is open to any school-age ALA Junior member. The event is still in the initial stages and more information will be provided as plans are finalized. The dates and time will be during the 2022 Midwinter Conference in Oacoma, SD – Feb 2022.

The location would be the cottages across the street from the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center at Cedar Shore.

Arrival would be Friday, 2/18 and departure would be Sunday, 2/20. Exact times not yet determined. The participants would be transported to the conference center for certain activities and return to the cottage with chaperones. One activity planned so far is to have the Participants make BRASS POUCHES. A fee would be required to attend. The fee would cover lodging, meals, entertainment/supplies and an event shirt. Registration/RSVP will be required. If there is no interest or adult volunteers the event will be cancelled.

JULIE GOERES (301) 752-7802

JJGOERES@YAHOO.COM

Interested in helping, planning, or participating in the Juniors Program?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED -

Looking for Unit members to serve on Department Junior Activities Committee.

50 Years of ALA Membership



Jacob D. Smidt Unit 235 of Marion celebrated 50 years of continuous membership for Carol Nelson, Nancy Larsen, and Ann Deckert. They received a certificate and were thanked for their many years of "Service, Not Self."

They received a certificate and were thanked for their many years of "Service, Not Self."

Guess Who?



Each month there will be pictures submitted of Department Chairmen, Officers or District Presidents. The game is to guess who the picture is and whoever gets the most guesses correct gets something special. The reveal will be at Mid-Winter and State Convention!

Submitted by

Stacie Mosiman, PR-Chairman

Public Relations by Stacie Mosiman, Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary emblem and name are recognized by the efforts its members do by promoting and explaining who we are, what we do and why we matter. You can help by continuing to promote a positive image on social media; wearing your branded apparel to different events in your community and by distributing brochures and posters throughout the community. Please take advantage of resources for all programs available through the links on the website: www.sdlegionaux.org. Keep up the good work of promoting the positive image of the American Legion Auxiliary. Your efforts do pay off in our ability to continue with all the wonderful programs of our organization. Just a reminder to all Department President, Chairman and Officers if you have NOT sent me a picture of your younger years to do so ASAP!

Email: Stacie.mosiman@outlook.com other ways to contact me are listed on the website. <http://www.sdlegionaux.org/public-relations/>

Member is the Spotlight



The Gingrich-Dixon Unit #13 of Wakonda nominated Pat Girard for the Unit Member of the Year Award. Pat has been a member for 40 years and has served as their Unit Treasurer and Membership Chairman since 2012. She is a Past Unit President.

Pat lost her husband Marvin Girard, unexpectedly. Marvin had been the driving force for the Wakonda Legion to hold a huge celebration and parade in honor of the Legion's 100th Birthday.

Marvin died on June 5th 2019 and the celebration was scheduled for July 13th. In spite of her grief, she and her family carried on with his wishes as they knew how much this event meant to Marvin. They took a float to area parades, advertising the celebration, and built a beautiful float in honor of the Legion and Marvin for Wakanda's parade. Pat, who is the wife and now widow, of Marvin Girard and Girard Auction, asked the Legion Auxiliary if they would be willing to serve the lunches for their auctions. She helps in the food preparation, and it has been a great fund-raising source for her Unit.

In November, Pat and her granddaughters, who are Junior members, help with the Veterans Day Program at the local nursing home, by presenting flags and giving readings. Pat also had the idea of honoring the EMS and Fire Department by holding an appreciation supper for them each January. She makes large pans of lasagna and other members provide lettuce salad, garlic bread and bars to complete the meal. Pat is a very caring person and is always thinking of ways to improve her Unit's presence in the Community and for their Veterans. She is also very active in other ways in her community. Pat attended the National Convention in Phoenix representing the South Dakota Member of the Years 2019-2021.

National ALA Convention - Phoenix, AZ

Thank you ,Department President Teresa Huntimer

2019 - 2021



Congratulations, Department President Mary Jo Steir

2021 - 2022



National Convention 2021
List of Awards for South Dakota

Community Service:

Most outstanding Unit Community Service Program to Spearfish Unit #164
Northwestern Division - South Dakota - Citation Plaque

Constitution and Bylaws:

Photo at the Most Recognizable American Landmark South Dakota for a picture at Mt
Rushmore submitted by Susie Clyde for the initiative of "Read your Constitution and
Bylaws"

Education:

Most Outstanding Unit Education Program to Spearfish Unit #164 Northwestern
Division - South Dakota - Citation Plaque

Historian:

Northwestern Division-South Dakota Anita Cass Department Historian

Leadership:

Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program to Spearfish #164 Northwestern Division-
South Dakota - Citation Plaque

Membership:

2019 -75% of goal by Pearl Harbor Day

National Security:

Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program to Spearfish Unit #164 Northwestern
Division- South Dakota - Citation Plaque

Poppy:

Poppy Poster Contest Class VII-Kory Mundt NW Division-South Dakota-District 5 -
Citation

VAR:

Perfect Attendance for VAVS quarterly meetings for Carol Harvey and Laura "Susie"
Clyde at Hot Springs VA



October Prayer

ALA Chaplains'
Prayer Book

Lord of us all, may You help us to strive to do the best job possible in our work with the American Legion Auxiliary. May we continue our work with the same love and dedication to You as borne by the members who came before us.

Help us to be mindful to pass the torch to future American Legion Auxiliary members with pride in hopes that they will carry on the tradition of our faith and loyalty to God and country. Amen.

Honoring and Remembering



On Wednesday, September 15th, the Lead Homestake ALA Unit #31 created a table to honor the 13 servicemen and women who were killed in the withdrawal from Afghanistan. They had a moment of silence during the joint meeting with the Post. They placed pictures and a rose candle with each name.

Spearfish Unit #164 honored the 13 Fallen in Afghanistan and educated the community on the meaning of the Battlefield Cross during the two parades for the High School Homecoming and BHSU Swarm Day. The Unit parades chairman Annette Johnson, also Dept. Sergeant at Arms, design each float. Pictured from L- R: Ruth Hobbs, Connie Wagner, Amber Lawlar, Julie Malcolm, back: Anette Johnson, and Micheline Nelson.

On September 17, POW/MIA National Day, a Chamberlain business displayed a Remembrance table. Picture provide by the Chamberlain Unit.



Dictionaries

Dictionaries were delivered to the 3rd grade class at Oldham-Ramona School from the ALA Ramona Unit. The excited students ready to jump in and use them.



Unit Member of the Year in the Parade



The Ortonville, Minnesota Corn Fest Parade was on August 22, 2021. The Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit #229 from Big Stone City, had an entry featuring their Unit Member of the Year, Suzann (Sue) Harmening.

She is seated in the back of the truck; to her right is Dawn Barnhart. In front of Sue are Janice Hinders and Sandy Rice. Standing beside the truck (L-R) are Gloria Arndt, Faye Athey, Phyllis Lieb, and Sue Christensen.

BE IN THE KNOW

Department 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 South Dakota Legionette. (Form on the website)

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!

Rapid City Stand Down & Patriot Day



It was a busy week-end for the members of Unit 315, Box Elder. Patty and Linn helped and participated at the Rapid City Stand Down, September 10.

For the Community Patriot Day Parade in Box Elder, the float was decorated with poppies. Helping were Jill, Patrice, Patty and Linn with Post members Jon and Marv. Driving the pickup was Post 315 member Mike.



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