



# 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"*

Good day Auxiliary members. I have just returned from the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. What a wonderful week of learning and making new auxiliary friends. Most important was meeting and learning with Veterans all over the country. The rehabilitation from the arts is outstanding. Veterans heal through the arts and with each other. We had two gold medal winners from South Dakota.

We celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on November 10, 2019. Many units had Birthday Parties. Serving our Veterans for one hundred years is an outstanding accomplishment. I look forward to seeing what we will be doing to ensure the next one hundred years.

As you read this letter, we will have finished four of the Christmas Gift Shops with the Sioux Falls VA Hospital December 2-3. This is always one of the highlights of the year.

Christmas Parties are in December. If you plan to attend, remember the hospitalized Veterans are the most important guests and we need to see to their needs First.

The 2020 Mid-Winter Conference is February 21-23 in Oacoma.

The conference will be held at the Cedar Shores Arrowood Resort and Conference. To make reservations please call 605-734-6376. Be sure to ask for The American Legion Block.

(Cont. page 3)



## *Honoring and Celebrating our Veterans*



1. Veterans Day was celebrated at the Groton Area High School on Monday, November 11, 2019, "Honoring All Who Served." The Groton American Legion Auxiliary Unit invited 6 WWII Veterans to attend the school program and honor them with a Colorful Flag Quilt. During the ceremony, Jan Seibel, a Groton teacher, ran a slide show showing pictures of the veterans during their service. Kayla Jensen spoke about the purpose of the quilts and talked about each veteran's background. Pictured are Doris Alberts, George Alberts, Pearl Dean, behind Carroll Dean, Norma Helmer, behind Richard Helmer, Charlene Erickson behind Clarence Erickson, and Robert and Ruth Pray. In back are Cheryl and Donn Cutler standing in for their Dad, Wayne Cutler, unable to attend.

2. Fifth and sixth grades "Donuts for Veterans" at John Paul II in Mitchell.

3. After a program honoring the servicemen and women on Veterans Day at the Harding County School in Buffalo, SD, the local Legion Auxiliary group serves everyone in attendance, ice cream, bars, cookies and coffee. The school kids really look forward to this as well as many of the adults. Serving ice cream after the Veterans Day Program were Linda Mohagen, Nancy Johnson, Pres. Vicki Anderson, Deanna Juelfs, Alice Holcomb, Mary Johnson, and Laural Faust, all members of the American Legion Auxiliary Lamnison Post 147, Buffalo, SD.

4. Hot Springs Veterans Day program at the school with little Miss Poppy distributing poppies to all veterans.

5. Samantha Owens, Junior Miss Southern Hills serving at the Veteran Day dinner, hosted by the Rapid City American Legion Auxiliary Unit 22 and handing out Veterans Day cards made by Robbinsdale Area Schools students.

## December Guide

- December 1: Girls State Unit Chair form to Cheryl Hovorka
- Legislative Round Tables:
  - \* Dec. 4 Sioux Falls DAV @11
  - \* Dec. 5 Watertown Post @ 11
  - \* Dec.7 Rapid City VFW @ 10
- December 7: Pearl Harbor Day
- December 14: Wreaths across America BHNC
- **December 11-16: Christmas Parties (See page 3)**
- December 25: Christmas

## Yankton Human Service Center December 11, 2019 Veterans Christmas Party

**Due to an increase in the number of veterans at the Human Services in Yankton and limited budget, the Veterans Christmas party will be invitation only.**

**Thank you!**

**Cheryl Hovorka**

**ALA HSC Christmas Party Chairmen**



## In Memoriam



**Unit 8 Pierre** – Priscilla Sommer, February 2019; **Unit 9 Milbank** – Arlys Lambrechts, October 2019; **Unit 10 Lake Andes** – Sybil Hotchkiss, April 2019; Shirley Payer, October 2018; Dollie Rolston, April 2019; **Unit 25 Madison** – Lavonne Taylor, October 2019; **Unit 42 Arlington** – L. Ardeth Deboer, September 2019; **Unit 79 Onida** – Wand Hall, October 2019; Patricia N. Smith, September 2018; Alice West, September 2019; **Unit 88 White** – Linda Carlson, November 2019; **Unit 89 Presho** – Arlene Ambur, October 2019; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Eleanore Durfee, October 2019; Wilma Nelson, October 2019; **Unit 102 Faulkton** – Linda Schmidt, November 2019; **Unit 106 Faith** – Doris Frankfurth, July 2019; Gladys Peterson, May 2018; **Unit 118 Hartford** – Jean Larson, July 2019; **Unit 129 Waubay** – Linda Boal, July 2019; **Unit 133 Sinai** – Juanita Moe, October 2019; **Unit 135 Gettysburg** – Marla Gerber, September 2019; Elaine Ahlmeier, July 2019; **Unit 145 Howard** – Goldie Callies, January 2017; **Unit 150 Avon** – Neva Raysby, October 2019; **Unit 176 Davis** – Yvonne Craw, February 2019; Meredith Larson, May 2019; **Unit 179 Kennebec-Reliance** – Judy Busch, October 2019; **Unit 209 Raymond** – Margaret Roberts, October 2019; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** – Carolyn Schlagel, October 2019; **Unit 272 Pollock** – Ruth Acheson, December 2018; Mary Johnson, December 2018; **Unit 275 Java** – Viola Fiedler, July 2019; **Unit 276 Long Lake** – Esther Hoffman, November 2019

## Membership by Rose Kraft, Department Chairman

Congratulations ! - South Dakota is setting 4th in the nation at 71.24% membership - this is amazing! We had 17 units earn \$100 from Nationals for making the 100% or more membership goal! Congratulations, and five of these units will receive \$100 from the Department of South Dakota for meeting this goal. So many were so close! Now that we are officially in the year of our 100 years of service not self.

I am looking for our new **CENTENNIAL BABIES!** If you know of a daughter or granddaughter born to a Veteran from November 10, 2019 to November 10, 2020 - they will be known as our Centennial Babies - please send me a picture, preferably with their Veteran and their Auxiliary Membership and they will receive a Centennial Baby Certificate! Keep the membership growing!

## Peanut Bark Candy

Something sweet for the spouses who stands in support of their soldier or veteran. They understand their inner thoughts, wants to make them go away, and know all they can do is be their support.

2 pounds white candy coating	2 cups dry roasted peanuts
1 cup Peanut Butter	2 cups mini marshmallows
3 cups crisp rice cereal	

Melt the candy coating in a double-boiler and stir until smooth. Add peanut butter and mix well. Stir in the three remaining ingredients and drop onto waxed paper. Allow to set for an hour. Make about 9 – 10 dozen candies.







### Christmas Parties

All Christmas parties start at 2:00 pm

Yankton Human Service Center : Dec. 11

Sioux Falls VA: December 12

Hot Springs VA : December 14

Hot Springs State Home: December 15

Ft Meade VA: December 16



### A Word from the President Cont. from page 1

There will be a Program Fair at the conference. We will have a luncheon on Saturday and a Hawaii/Beach theme Dinner Saturday night. So, bring your shorts, grass skirt, and flip flops. Fun, Fun will be going on all evening.

We will be doing pillowcase too. I have more guard members that are not deploying asking if they can have one. I can't tell them no. So please keep them coming.

Please say a Special Prayer for all those who have a love one deployed around the world. I know this time of year can be a challenge, even if the deployment is not necessarily in a war zone, being separated from those they care about.

Don't forget to help the families at home.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Teresa Huntimer,  
Department President



"Always Remember Serving Veterans Not Self"

### ADVANCE TICKET FORM

American Legion Auxiliary – Saturday, February 22, 2020

**NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Auxiliary Noon Luncheon, Saturday, February 22, 2020 – noon

Menu President's Choice: Sandwich Board/ Sliced Ham, beef and turkey; Assorted cheese slices; Marbled rye, whole wheat and white bread; Homemade soup and crackers; Garden fresh tossed salad with dressings; Sliced tomatoes, pickles and condiments; Coffee.

Gluten free bread will be available on request.

Number of tickets requested @ \$18.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

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

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#### Auxiliary Banquet, Saturday, February 22, 2020– 6:00 p.m.

Menu Presidents Choice: Caesar Salad; 8 oz. oven baked pork chops with sage dressing served with a light pork sauce; Oven roasted potatoes; Green beans almandine; Dinner Roll and Coffee

Gluten free bread will be available on request.

Number of tickets requested @ \$25.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

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

TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday luncheon and/or ALA Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3

Send to: Lila Speckels; 34465 249<sup>th</sup> St; Chamberlain, SD 57325

Contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548

**Deadline – February 10, 2020**

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### ADVANCE TICKET FORM

The American Legion Joint Banquet-Friday, February 21, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Menu: Steak & Walleye, Salad, Baked potato, Carrots, coffee or tea.

Number of tickets requested @ \$30.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

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

TOTAL amount enclosed for Joint Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

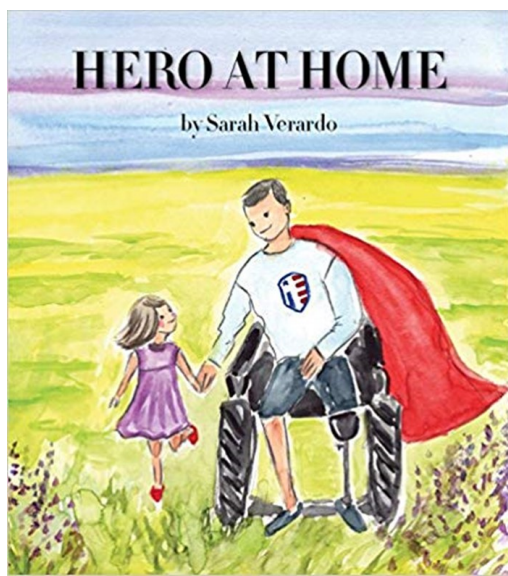
Make checks payable to: Chamberlain Post #3

Send to: John Payer; 25120 344<sup>th</sup> Ave, Chamberlain, SD 57325

**Deadline – January 31, 2020**

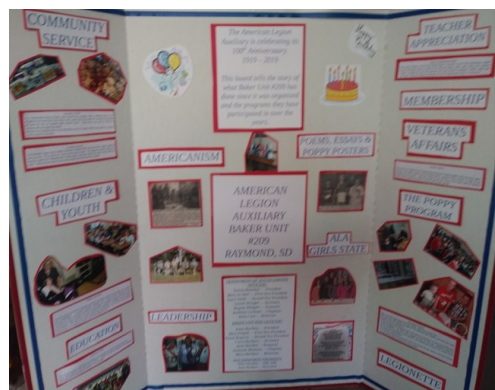
### Children's Book Corner

"Hero at Home" was inspired by the author's personal family journey: having three young daughters and a catastrophically wounded Veteran husband. Grace's dad is an inspiration to so many, but he is not the only one in his family who deals with scars of war. This book is dedicated to the brave men of Bravo Company, 2-508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne, who fought alongside Grace's dad-the ones who came home, and in loving memory of the ones who did not.



### Who we are -What we do

This is the tri-fold Board that the Baker Unit #209 of Raymond put together about their Unit and have on display at a local restaurant. It tells about the project area the Unit participates in.



### Rapid City Stand Down

The American Legion Family united at the Rapid City Stand Down to provide services, information and personal items to homeless and disadvantaged veterans! Rapid City Post #22 American Legion, Auxiliary and American Legion Riders, Hermosa Post #303 Auxiliary, Watertown Auxiliary Unit #17, Box Elder Unit #315 Auxiliary, Spearfish Unit #164 Auxiliary, and the Black Hills Chapter Post 164 of the American Legion Riders, came and set up eight tables.

This year, the Spearfish Unit 164 of the American Legion Auxiliary focused on items specifically for female veterans. The unit had a budget of \$550 to plan for 25 female veterans and found out that the need was real. It was the first time that a table was set specifically for females. In addition, the Spearfish Middle School and the Spearfish High School collected over 300 warm hats and 300 insulated gloves. On that day, 230 veterans came through the doors. They are vetted by the VA and receive a ticket to allow them to go through the fifty booths and tables set-up between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. This event is an annual event organized by the VA that takes place at the Rapid City Civic Center, the week before Veterans Day.



### Rocks of Honor

American Legion Auxiliary Unit to Drake Sorbel Post #64 read the book Maya Lin Artist-Architect of Light and Lines by Jeanne Walker Harvey to the 1-6 grade at school. Then we encouraged them to use words and art to honor veterans on rocks. We put the decorated rocks in the landscaping around Wilmot as a reminder for all to stop and take a moment to think of all the Veterans that served or are serving.







Junior member Jessie Agnew and her grandmother Evelyn Huntimer decorated the ALA 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Christmas Tree at the Dell Rapids Tree Festival at the local museum.

The Isabel Smith Wright Post 120 ALA held a Veterans Supper and ALA 100th Birthday celebration on Nov. 10, 2019. The three girls are Jr. members and their Dad just became the first male member in our unit. Talley, Lexi, and Kendyl Locken parents Joe and Mandy Locken.



On Nov. 13 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 240 at Martin celebrated the 100th birthday of the ALA.

On a stormy evening, Homestake Unit 31 of Lead celebrated the ALA 100th Birthday during their monthly meeting.



Buffalo celebrated the ALA Birthday with District One President Carol Edwards.



November 10, 2019





## December Prayer

By Kathleen Geiman Dept. Chaplain

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God! This is a most special time of year. We get so caught up in our preparations that we often forget what we are supposed to be celebrating. This is the time year when we should be bursting with joy and deep gratitude - joy for all that our God has planned for us and gratitude for all that He has already given us. May you be blessed with spirit of the season, which is hope and the heart of the season which is love. "Heavenly Father, please teach us how to show gratitude to You for all that You have bestowed upon us. You have been most generous and kind. Let us rejoice and sing Your praises. Teach us to simply say, thank you." Amen

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy Holidays*

## 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 Legionette to stay up-to-date with District and Department information.

**Subscriptions are from September to June** aligning with the Dept. President's and fiscal year. Time to renew!

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!

## Dictionaries in Schools



The ALA **Buffalo Unit** purchased dictionaries for all our 3rd grade students in all of our area schools here in Harding County. This past Oct 17, Alice Holcomb and Linda Mohagen traveled to Camp Crook; Ludlow and Buffalo schools to distribute dictionaries. A total of approximately 186 miles were driven that day between them. The students were very excited and were amazed the dictionaries were theirs to keep.



The **Timber Lake Unit #83** and **Isabel Unit #120** donate dictionaries with government facts in the back to each third grader in the Timber Lake School.



## Endorsements

At their October meeting, members of Unit #79 in Onida, SD proudly endorsed **Mary Jo Stier** for the 2020-2021 Office of President for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota .

At the Pierre Unit #8 September meeting, the members proudly endorsed **Patsy Madsen** for the 2020-2021 Office of Second Vice-President for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota,

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