



# 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**

By the time you read this article, Thanksgiving has come and gone. I hope you all had a wonderful family celebration, giving thanks for all the blessings you have received. I along with my husband, our children, my son's new girlfriend and my two grand puppies went to Minnesota and spent the day with Steven's family. We have not had the opportunity to see any of them for exactly one year (last Thanksgiving and then for only two hours). Now we set our eyes on Christmas and the wonderful celebration of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

After Christmas, time will really fly by as we prepare for the Mid-Winter Conference to be held at Cedar Shores in Oacoma, February 18-20. The mid-winter planning committee recently held a zoom meeting to begin making plans for the conference. Like I said at all the district meetings, the goal for the conference this year is to be fun but educational and informative. The committee is working diligently to make sure that happens. Stay tuned for more information.

As you saw in the November edition of the Legionette, there was a picture from all eight district meetings. I would like to congratulate and say thank you to the district presidents for the wonderful job you all did along with the help from the units. I truly enjoyed each of the meetings and thought they were very informative.

At the first six district meetings, we heard from Julie Goeres, the Junior Chairman and the outstanding plans she had for the Juniors. Right before the final two meetings, Julie had to step down as chairman. We will miss Julie's enthusiasm and wish her well. So that said, I am looking for a member who would be interested in filling the vacancy. If you are interested, please contact me directly at 605-222-3857 or email me at [sdalamjs@gmail.com](mailto:sdalamjs@gmail.com).

I encourage you all to continue working the ALA programs and want you to all know that you are doing a fantastic job. Until next month . . .

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022.



## Christmas Tree at the Capitol

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the SD American Legion and Auxiliary decorated the statewide Christmas tree at the Pierre Capitol for the annual Christmas tree display. They had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed decorating the tree. It was decorated with ornaments that were made by Auxiliary and Legion members with all SD Posts and Units numbers and names written on them. Other ornaments had Never Forget with POW /MIA emblem, angel wings with dog tags, and painted angel wings that list all wars with the number of unaccounted for each branch of Service.

Second Vice President Patsy Madsen came up with the theme and carried out the project.



## ALA National President Kathy Daudistel



October 24-28, 2021: National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, Kentucky visited South Dakota. Upon landing in Pierre, she attended the District 3 meeting. She was gifted a Native American Star Quilt by the Lead Homestake Unit 31. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, President Kathy toured the Veterans Ranch in Warner, experiencing a therapy demonstration on one of the horses. District 4 hosted a well attended luncheon in Aberdeen. After a visit to the Francis Janish Family Salute to Veterans Memorial in Eden, she ended the day with a dinner hosted by the Wilmot Unit 64 unit. On Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, the delega-

tion visited the SD American Legion Headquarters, the Watertown Memorial Park, and drove to Vermillion at USD, home of SD Girls State. District 8 hosted the dinner, and everyone prepared gift bags for the Veterans at the Human Service Center. On her final day of the visit, President Kathy toured the Sioux Falls State Cemetery, had lunch served by the Sioux Falls Unit 15 at the Post, in the Armory Bldg., located on the Alliance Complex. President Kathy shared her vision of recognizing military and veterans who are caregivers. She has learned what an overwhelming task it is for so many and reminds us to tell others "Thank you" when they are the caregiver. That afternoon, she toured the Veterans Memorial Park both in Sioux Falls and Dell Rapids before spending her last evening at the Dell Rapids American Legion Post 65 for a dinner hosted by District 7.





## December Guide

- December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 18: Wreaths across America
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 24-25: Department Headquarters closed



### December 13: Worldwide Candle Lighting Day



Since 1997, the global candle lighting ceremony symbolizes compassionate support for each other by families grieving the loss of a child. It is believed to be the world's largest candle lighting ceremony. Today, hundreds of worldwide Candle Lighting Day gatherings are supported by local churches, funeral homes, hospitals, hospices, cemeteries, memorial gardens, and community centers. In 2019, The Compassionate Friends added a virtual Worldwide Candle Lighting Memorial Wall where family members could share a memorial message in honor and memory of



### Christmas Craft fair

Piedmont American Legion Auxiliary Unit 311 had a great Craft Fair November 20 and 21 which was their biggest yet.

They served soup and sandwiches

for donation, and charged a minimal Vendor Fee for a fundraiser to support local veterans. Thank you to the great community who came out to support them.



## In Memoriam

**Unit 2 Tyndall** – Helen Vavruska, October 2021; Mabel Winninfram, October 2021; **Unit 9 Milbank** – Shirley Olson, July 2021; **Unit 14 Wessington Springs** – Lorraine Remann, October 2021; **Unit 16 Gann Valley** – Elnita Rank, July 2021; **Unit 20 Ft. Pierre** – Carol Jones, October 2021; **Unit 33 Sturgis** – Marietta Callahan, November 2019; **Unit 35 Highmore** – Delores Matre, July 2020; H Gladine Boshee, August 2020; Armelia Remily, August 2020; Verneal O'Brien, October 2021; **Unit 39 Groton** – Lois Pasch, October 2021 **GOLD STAR MOTHER**; **Unit 60 Clark** – Doris Gross, November 2021; **Unit 71 Hot Springs** – Mae Niedermyer, July 2021; **Unit 74 Brookings** – Velda Cappel, November 2021; **Unit 80 Britton** – Alice Olson, December 2020; Elanor Johnson, July 2021; Mary Brandt, August 2021; Mary Sckerl, August 2021; Beverly Owen, November 2021; **Unit 81 Toronto** – Alice Falken, February 2021; Cathryn King, June 2021, Lela Feuerborn, August 2021; **Unit 86 Alcester** – Donna Pederson, September 2021; **Unit 88 White** – Verna Mae Peterson, October 2021; Unit 115 Platte – Barbara Schoenrock, July 2021; **Unit 130 Kimball** – Fran Mahoney, April 2021; **Unit 142 Tripp** – Luella Lehr, November 2021 **Past Department President**; **Unit 146 Colome** – Beverly Mellow, September 2021; Clara Vobr, September 2021; **Unit 147 Buffalo** – Creta Minor, October 2021; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Betty Brusseau, December 2020; **Unit 169 Winner** – Norma Storms, October 2021; **Unit 171 Strandburg** – Arlene Fields, July 2021; **Unit 184 Estelline** – Darlene Pedersen, October 2021; **Unit 191 Eagle Butte** – Betty Lou Kost, September 2021; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** – Malene Lundin, October 2021; Melissa McMahon, October 2021; **Unit 250 Castlewood** – Ardell Strait, April 2021; **Unit 255 Bison** – Alma Aukand, March 2021; **Unit 259 Roscoe** – Dolores Sahli, September 2021; **Unit 267 Grenville** – Donna Okroi, November 2021

## Membership by Rose Kraft, Dept. Membership Chairman

Wanted 563 memberships turned in. You have until December 7th for these to reach headquarters and Laurel. This is only 3 members for every unit in the state! You can do this!

**How are transferred membership counted?** A person's dues may only count for one unit. So, the unit that they pay their dues to in 2022 is the unit that gets to count them as their membership. For example, if Rose pays her dues in Britton then transfers to Salem, her membership number counts in Britton for this year. I hope this helps clarify numeric objective unit percentages for some. Thank you for the questions, keep them coming.

UNIT	CITY	Goal	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0230	Aurora	23	13	13	26	113.04%
0150	Avon	58	21	42	63	108.62%
0015	Sioux Falls	122	10	115	125	102.46%
0148	Conde	65	11	55	66	101.54%
0013	Wakonda	71	15	57	72	101.41%
0187	Fairfax	13	0	13	13	100.00%
0058	Columbia	38	8	30	38	100.00%
0114	Volga	25	0	25	25	100.00%
0096	White Lake	29	0	29	29	100.00%
0122	Trent	26	3	23	26	100.00%
0177	Worthing	8	0	8	8	100.00%

### Money, Money, Money

Which units in South Dakota made their membership to headquarters by November 11th. The official six units who will receive \$50.00 from SDALA are Fairfax, Columbia, Aurora, Sioux Falls 15, Colman and Avon. Great job auxiliary and thank you for continuing to work the Mission of the ALA. South Dakota top 11 - Units at 100% or better. Who will join them next month?



# Veterans Day

Dept. President Mary Jo Stier was the emcee for the Onida School Veterans Day Program.



Three Veterans were honored with quilts at the Groton Veterans Day program. An additional two Veterans unable to attend the program received their quilt where they reside.



Veterans Day at the Hot Springs School Veterans Day Program was assisted by M'elaiya Schmit and Amelia Decker of the Little Miss Hot Springs Program to help distributing poppies.



Kindergarten Class at Britton Hecla School led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem for the Veterans Day Program

Hermosa Unit 303 participated in the Custer Co. Fair parade. Their float represented Dept. President Mary Jo Stier's motto S.M.I.L.E.

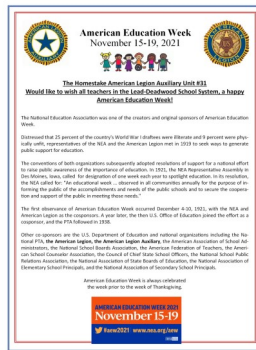


The Gertje-Van Lith Unit 229 hosted the American Red Cross Blood Drive on October 26. Unit members donating blood were Ft L-R Faye and Marie. Back row L-R: Janice blood mobile coordinator, Sandy and Sue Christensen.



# Education Program

Lead Homestake Unit #31 presented cookies to the Lead Deadwood schools on Wednesday, November 17th to commemorate National Education Week in our schools. They also include this nifty history so everyone was aware of why we honor our teachers at this time of year.



Britton Legion Auxiliary Unit #80 took mini muffins to the school teachers, cooks, janitors & bus drivers for education week! Spearfish Unit #164 delivered five baskets to the local schools thanking teachers and staff.



Unit #15 president Susan delivered to Sioux Falls School District Superintendent Dr Jane Staverm 100 Pledge of Allegiance posters which they will distribute to their classrooms.



Left::Greer Unit #11, Wagner SD delivered 57 dictionaries to the Wagner Community School as well as 10 to Marty Indian School. The Gertje-Van Lith American Legion Auxiliary Unit #229 presented dictionaries to the 3rd grade class of Big Stone City .

Below: Langford Auxiliary Post #141 shared a "Give 10" with the third graders at Langford Area by presenting each student with their own dictionary.



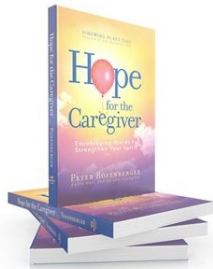


### December Prayer

By Wendy Henley,  
Dept. Chaplain

In thy infinite mercy, our Father, grant to us and to all others, the spirit of kindness, goodwill, and charity. Hasten the day when men shall hear the Angels chorus paying homage to Thee, the Prince of Peace, singing again the glad tidings; Glory to God in the Highest and on earth Peace to men of goodwill. Amen

**“Hope for the Caregiver: Encouraging Words to Strengthen Your Spirit** written by Peter Rosenberger shares relatable experiences from his 30-plus years as a caregiver. Through his decades of experience, Rosenberger’s wisdom provides proven practical tips on how caregivers can live a calmer, healthier, and even more joyful life. He reminds his readers and fellow caregivers of God’s presence, strength, and faithfulness in every circumstance. “



[Book provides hope for caregivers \(legion-aux.org\)](https://www.legion-aux.org)

### Dept. President’s Visit

Mary Jo Stier, Department President visited the Sioux Falls Unit #15. Dinner was at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc. An awesome event venue and what you see when you enter is “FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.” After dinner she attended the Unit’s monthly meeting.



*The January Legionette will showcase the Gift Shops and Christmas Parties.*



### Service to Veterans Volunteers

Service to Veterans volunteers are ALA members who provide service to veterans outside a VA Medical Center. Whether organizing a stand down, assembling care packages/tray favors/greeting cards, assisting with a veteran’s burial or gravesite upkeep, sewing, cooking, or shopping for active-duty military/veterans and/or their families, member volunteers are at the heart of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program structure. The ALA recognizes time and service through the use of Service to Veterans pins and hour bars. Volunteer hours are certified by the department secretary in accordance with the department procedures. Once a volunteer has reached a milestone of accumulated hours, the department secretary will send certification to ALA National Headquarters. Volunteers are recognized when specific hour milestones are reached: 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1,000. The next bar will be earned in 1,000-hour increments up to 20,000 hours, then 25,000 hours and 30,000 hours. The volunteer will be awarded a Lifetime Service to Veterans pin at 35,000 hours. [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)



### Gold Star Mothers

Susan Panning, Sioux Falls Unit 15, would like to say “Thank You” to all the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary units that were helping to locate some missing flags from August 2019, that were supposed to be delivered to Gold Star families. They have been found and delivered.

### Member in the Spotlight



Catherine Donovan from Butrick Post 89 was submitted by her peers to be recognized as the member in the spotlight.

### 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. (Form on the website)  
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!

### Bridge Dedication



On Thursday, November 11, the South Dakota HWY 38 Bridge over the James River, east of Mitchell, was dedicated in honor of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Gregory Wagner.

Wagner graduated in 1989 from Hanson High School in Alexandria, and soon after enlisted in the South Dakota National Guard. His unit was deployed to Iraq in October 2005. On May 8, 2006, he died when his convoy was attacked in a Baghdad neighborhood. Speakers for the program included: Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden, SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock, SDNG COL Phil Stiles, U. S. Senator John Thune, and Dan Wagner.

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#### LEGIONETTE

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