



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

As we transition from the joy of spending time with family and friends as well as the birth of our dear Lord and Savior, we look forward to a bright New Year in 2022. Yes Covid 19 is still in our mist, but it is time for us to bring back many of our in-person activities. One such activity is the Midwinter Conference. As you will see in this edition of the Legionette, there are several items that pertain to midwinter. As Department President, I had the opportunity to help plan activities for the conference. Like I said at the fall district meetings, we are planning for a fun as well as educational conference. I have enlisted the help of the chairmen who will be presenting. Our theme for the conference is South Dakota ALA Game of Games. The committee is working hard to fulfill our commitment of fun and education. I encourage you to come join us at Cedar Shores in Oacoma, February 18 through February 20.

A shout out of thank you to all of you and your units for going out and working membership. I am very excited to share that the Department of South Dakota has been number one in the nation and also achieved the goal of 80%. This is because we are a team and we work together. Let's continue to work membership and reach for a 90% goal by midwinter. That will knock Rose's socks off!

While I can share good news with you, it is with a heavy heart that I inform our members that I have received notification from Laurel Stringer, our Department Secretary of her resignation. Laurel's last day with the department is Friday, December 31, 2021. More information regarding the vacancy will be shared soon.

With a new year on the horizon, take a minute to look back at 2021 remember all the good things that happened. Now, let's look into a new year and all that we as a department can accomplish. God's blessings to you all and I look forward to seeing you at Midwinter.



2022 Midwinter Conference

*Arrowood Resort & Conference Center—Cedar Shore
 Oacoma, SD*

Friday, February 18, 2022

- 9:00 am Desk Opens – Pre-function Area, Conference Center
- 10 am Department Special Executive Meeting
- Noon Recess – Lunch on your own
- 12:00 – 1:45 pm Garage Sale Opens
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm Speakers
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm Game of Games – Round 1
- 6:00 pm Membership Phonathon
- 6:30 pm No Host Cocktails – Pre-function Area, Conf. Center

Saturday, February 19, 2022

- 7:30 am Registration Desk Opens
- 8:00 am Joint Opening Session – Conference Center
- 8:45 am DeeDee Buckley, Northwester Division Vice President
- 9:00 am Auxiliary VA&R: Laura "Susie" Clyde
- Auxiliary Children & Youth: Alice Upshaw
- 10:00 am Recess Joint Session
- 10:15 am Auxiliary Session Opens
- Department Mary Jo Stier – Report
- 1st Vice President Joyce Smith, Leadership Chairman
- 2nd Vice President Patsy Madsen, C&B Chairman
- Laura "Susie" Clyde, VA&R Chairman
- Alice Upshaw, Children & Youth Chairman
- Awards/Announcements/Adjourn
- 11:30 am Recess
- Legion Family Luncheon (Sandwich Buffet)
- 11:30 – 1:45 pm Garage Sale Open
- 1:30 – 4:00 pm SD ALA Game of Games – Round 2
- 6:00 pm Auxiliary Banquet – SD ALA Game of Games Final

Sunday, February 20, 2022

- 8:30 am Non-Denominational Service
- 10:30 am SD American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

This schedule is tentative.

Caregiver Certificate of Appreciation



Legion Auxiliary Unit 48 in Rosholt presented Diane Madsen (Auxiliary member) with the "Caregiver Certificate of Appreciation" for helping her husband Eddie who was seriously injured in a farm tractor accident recently. She is providing round the clock care and support to him.

Our National President Kathy Daudistel shares a vision of recognizing military and their families who are caregivers and what a overwhelming task it is. "We appreciate caregivers of our veterans."

January Guide

01/01: New Year

01/11: Opening of the 95th SD Legislative Session, Pierre

Plan a Legislative Program or sponsor Legislative Roundtable

01/17" Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
"A Day on, Not a Day Off"



Membership

Gayville Auxiliary #237 honored two of their own for continuous membership. **Jane Petersen**, left, of Gayville has been a member for 75 years. She joined when her brother went to WWII.



LeAnne Cutts, right, of Mission Hill has been a member since she was 2 years old. Both were given a certificate and a pin in appreciation of their service.

In Memoriam

Unit 4 Mobridge – Della Berndt, October 2021; Janice Freudenthal, April 2021; Avis Hanson, November 2020; Delila Schneider, July 2021; Dorothy Smith, August 2021; **Unit 8 Pierre** – Lois Schmidt, August 2021; **Unit 9 Milbank** – Evelyn Dittes, November 2021; **Unit 12 Yankton** – Gladys Hasker, December 2021; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** – Gayle Mulkey, December 2021; **Unit 40 Webster** – Gwen Jesme, November 2021; **Unit 41 Alexandria** – Luella Schladweiler, December 2021; **Unit 50 Sisseton** – Jeroldyne Sckerl, November 2021; **Unit 56 Geddes** – Marilyn Pesicka, August 2021; **Unit 64 Wilmot** – Mary Cameron, October 2021; **Unit 72 Beresford** – Corrine Lingbert, December 2021; **Unit 76 Veblen** – Ruth Nelson, November 2021; **Unit 96 White Lake** – Marge Knigge, December 2021; **Unit 159 Hoven** – Ann Simon, June 2021; Rose Marie Reuer, December 2021; **Unit 169 Winner** – Clara Ulmer, November 2021; **Unit 170 Herreid** – Beverly Goehring, August 2021; **Unit 311 Piedmont** – Katie Clark, January 2020; Lucy Stoll, August 2020; Ann Lee, November 2020; Rose Schlem, February 2021; Joy Weber, March 2021; **Unit 500 Hartford** – Irma Bad Wound, October 2021

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

Membership by Rose Kraft, Dept. Membership Chairman

"Celebrate Good Times, Come ON" keeps playing through my mind. I'm celebrating because **you** turned in membership for our **department** to be one of eight that will receive \$250.00 from nationals because we met our 75% membership by Pear Harbor Day! On top of this we are **#1 in the nation** with membership. Along with this, we have twenty-one units at 100% and thirty-three more at 90% or better. I can't wait to see how many of these make it into my top membership list.

Our focus now is on the units that are under 50%. If this is your unit, how can we help? It is a new year and time now to reach hard, look around all the corners to find that silver bell, visit with those who have not paid their membership. I'm sure they are just waiting for a personal contact and let that be you!

What are now at 80% - department membership and working on 85% by Mid-Winter! Department of South Dakota's top 21 tunes are.....

As of December 18, 2021: Sioux Falls 911, 121.43%; Bowdle, 118.52%; Aurora, 117.39%; Sioux Falls 15, 114.75%; Avon, 108.62%; Armour, 108.33%; White lake, 106.90%; Hurley, 105.41%; Wilmot, 102.22%; Conde 101.54%; Wakonda, 101.41%; Wessington, 100.78%; Fairfax, 100%; Columbia, 100%; Volga, 100%; Trent, 100%; Hudson, 100%; Chester, 100%; Salem, 100%; Worthing, 100%; Colman, 100%

Wishing You A Safe
and Happy Holiday

From Your
National
Membership Committee



Woo Hoo to the Northwestern Division as you hold on to your strong lead in 1st Place! Awesome job and thank you to all for your continuous hard work !! Way to go!! Pulling in the lead also from the Northwestern Division is South Dakota! Fantastic Job!!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all of you for all your hard work and dedication!

#TogetherWeServe!

Published with permission from Michele DeGennaro, National Membership Committee Chairman



Christmas Gift Shops 2021



It was another year of wrapping and mailing gifts. All facilities are hoping to go back to the traditional Christmas Gift Shop program and Christmas Parties. Top-Down: 1. Day 1 at the Hot Springs Post 71 preparing gifts for Michael J. Fitzmaurice SD Veterans Home; 2. A nice crew of elves helping at theft. Meade VA; 3. & 4 Day 2 preparations for the SD Veterans Home; 5. Santa's elves for the Human Services Center in Yankton, headed by ALA Junior Sydney Ganshow.



No pictures of other facilities were available.

2022 Midwinter Conference Arrowood Resort & Conference Center—Cedar Shore Oacoma, SD

Advance Ticket
The American Legion Joint Banquet
Friday, February 18, 2022
Deadline, February 11, 2022 (No tickets available at the event)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip & Phone# _____

Hosted by Chamberlain American Legion Post #3

Menu: Fried chicken, rich beef pot roast, loaded mashed potatoes, buttery sweet corn, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh rolls, butter, and dessert

Number of tickets: ____ @ \$30.00 per ticket = \$ _____

Send to: John Payer, 25120 344th Ave, Chamberlain, SD 57325
Make checks payable to The American Legion Chamberlain Post #3

ADVANCE TICKET FORM TAL FAMILY NOON LUNCHEON
All American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL) – Saturday, February 19, 2022
NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Legion Family Noon Luncheon Deli Buffet, Saturday, February 19, 2022 – 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sliced Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Salami, and Pepperoni, Assorted Bread, Swiss and Cheddar Cheese, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, and Pickle Spears, Chicken and Rice Soup, Coffee

Number of tickets requested @ \$20.00 per ticket _____
 check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check
TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Legion Family Noon Buffet \$ _____
Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3
Send to: Lila Speckels
34465 249th St
Chamberlain, SD 57325
For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548
Deadline – February 11, 2022

ADVANCE TICKET FORM AUXILIARY SATURDAY EVENING
American Legion Auxiliary – Saturday, February 19, 2022- 6:00 p.m.
NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone _____

American Legion Auxiliary Evening Banquet
Saturday, February 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Lettuce Salad with Raspberry Dressing (gluten and dairy free),
6oz Sirloin Steak, Baked Potatoes, Honey Buttered Carrots,
Fresh Rolls and Butter, Coffee

Number of tickets requested @ \$28.00 per ticket _____
 check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check
TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Auxiliary Banquet Buffet \$ _____
Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3
Send to: Lila Speckels
34465 249th St
Chamberlain, SD 57325
For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548
Deadline – February 11, 2022



The Gertje-Van Lith ALA members Janice Hinders and Faye Athey were at the Big Stone City School on Veterans Day for their program and gave a poppy to all who attended. Pictured are the first graders.



The Onida Unit #79 started Veterans Day with rolls and coffee before the Veterans Day program at the school. Pictured center: Dept. President Mary Jo Stier.



Spearfish Unit #164 decorated the hall for the Veterans Dinner with posters created by local school children. Pictured L-R: Micheline Nelson, Sandy Johnson, Connie Wagner, Charlene Kain, and Virginia Schmunk.



Piedmont Elementary School had a wonderful program for the local Veterans. Members of the Piedmont American Legion Family #311 were participating on Veteran's Day. Piedmont Post and Unit #311 hosted the annual Veteran's dinner.



They had the 2021 Girls and Boys State delegates share their experience. "It was a wonderful community gathering."

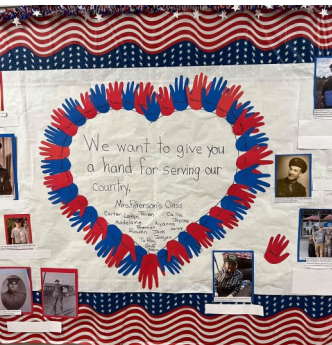
Veterans' Day program at the Stanley County School District.



Veterans Day Program at the School of Blind & Visually Impaired - Aberdeen, SD



Groton Unit #39 opened the Veterans Day program by posting the colors. Gayle Anderson, Instructional Assistant, with the help of the students in Lorri Peterson's class created a display to recognize and honor veterans. Dr. Tracy Diefenbach from the DTOM Veterans Ranch and Warner Legion Post #137 member was the keynote speaker. Chris Reder - CEO/Founder of the DTOM Ranch; member of Post #137, Doc Tracy D., and Sean Colleran received a Quilt of Valor.





Christmas Trees

Britton Unit #80 decorated their Christmas tree with poppies.

Dell Rapids Unit #65 displayed a Christmas tree at the Dell Rapids museum.

The Gertje-Van Lith Unit #229 members, Paulette Webb, Linda Brandt, and Janice Hinders, set up and decorated a Christmas tree at the Grant County Courthouse for the "Parade of Trees: the theme was "Our Troops are our Angels."

Unit 15 has our tree displayed in the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance. They also decorated a tree in the vestibule of the Post.

ALA Unit #48 in Rosholt decorated the community center during their annual fundraiser at "Turkey Night", with a military Christmas tree to honor and remember local veterans. The tree was decorated with flags, lights, and various hats, helmets and boots associated with different branches of the service.



Stratford Unit #207 hosted their annual Christmas potluck with Santa.



Merry Christmas from the SD-ALA

Christmas basket project was a phenomenal success. This year, Box Elder Unit 315 was able to provide 17 families and 67 children with a complete Christmas dinner along with snacks and nutritious food for the Christmas break and gift cards for Timmons and Pure Bean. All the children received at least two toys. They were also able to provide a nice food basket and gift cards for several of local home bound veterans. With the help of Sandy Larson (one of the charter members) they were able to work with the Box Elder Chamber of Commerce. "We owe a big thanks to the Chamber and its members along with Walmart on Lacrosse, the Commissary for their food donation and the ROTC for the toy collection. A big thanks to Legion Post 315 for being our Santa's and delivering all the packages. We could not do it without them. We were so glad that our District President, Carol Edwards was able to be with us for the packing the boxes." Lin Popp, District One 1st Vice President.



Another great year of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 66 Lemmon South Dakota "**Wreaths for Veterans**" Project!! Thanks to all that sponsored wreaths either for a Veteran of their choosing or by having one placed by random draw in Greenhill Cemetery, Lemmon, SD, and a big thanks to this crew that helped place them Saturday, December 11, 2021. (Not pictured is LaQuita Shockley because she of course had the camera).



Auxiliary members of the Langford Unit #14 in the Langford's Santa Day Parade



Spearfish Unit #164 at the Holidazzle Parade of Lights

Hot Springs Unit #71 at the Christmas in the Hills Journey of Lights



December 18 was a busy day for the Spearfish Unit #164! Project coordinator Julie Malcolm & 15 members prepared 133 Christmas gift bags for Veterans in nursing homes, the Cornerstone Mission, Ft. Meade VA, and community Veterans. New member—Janet Campbell in the grey sweater.



Members from Herrick Unit #220 placed approximately 80 wreaths on veterans' graves at the Herrick Cemetery. They did this early while the weather was still nice



ALA Juniors at Christmas

Thank you to Spearfish Unit #164 Junior Madison Reece and her friend Claire Larson for coordinating the Homeless and At-risk Veterans' Drive at the Spearfish High School. Madison knitted 28 scarves. They collected 48 pairs of socks, 7 pairs of gloves, 68 large shampoos/conditioners, 163 toothbrushes, 12 travel kits, 35 large toothpastes, 36 small toothpastes, 18 disposable razors, 26 lip balms, 3 bar soaps, 3 deodorants, 2 big bags of toiletries samples, and 4 cans of Chef Boyardee!



Homeless and At-Risk Veterans' Drive

Accepting Donations of

- New Hats
- New Gloves
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

Every Donation Will Count as an Entry!!!

- Two \$10 Common Ground Gift Cards
- \$10 McDonald's Gift Card
- City Brew Gift Card

Winners Announced November 23

Drop off Box: In the Office End Date Nov. 23



Thank you to Santa's elves for the Yankton Human Services Center, headed up by ALA Junior member Sydney Ganschow. It was a day of shopping and wrapping gifts for the Veterans.



Thank you to Spearfish Unit #164 Juniors Sydnee and Kenzie Lawlar for preparing 6 Christmas Shoe Boxes for boys and girls of different age groups who would not receive a Christmas gift!



Children & Youth



Stratford Unit #207 hosted their annual cookie decorating. It's always a fun, sticky time.



Operation Gold Angels: On the way back from Grayson's 22nd treatment, members of the Spearfish American Legion Family Post #164 met with Grayson Chapeau and his family. They opened gifts and envelopes with cash donations and gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations, and eating establishments. "Even in a time of hardship, the family of seven inspires us with their resilience, smiles, and love of God and community." Pictured left: Micheline Nelson, Unit #164 President, Grayson Chapeau, and Connie Wagner, Children & Youth Unit Chairman





January Prayer

By Wendy Henley,
Dept. Chaplain

Lord, as we begin a new year, let us resolve to keep a promise, seek out a forgotten friend, listen, laugh and brighten the heart of a child, encourage the young, appreciate our elders, express our gratitude and take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of life, speak Your love to others. Dear Lord, guide us in this new year to grow closer together in our families, in our units and in our world. Let us always strive to bring peace to the world. Let us live each day to the fullest.

For all the blessings of this new year, we give you thanks, O' Lord. Amen

American Education Week



Jody Moritz, Unit Secretary and Karen Collins, President of **Faulkton Unit #102** presented dictionaries for American Education Week to the third graders at the Faulkton School. They also gave the school staff treats.

Tabor Unit #183 sponsored a community drive to provide classroom supplies to the teachers in the Tabor Elementary school. The supplies were delivered to the school on December 9. Pictured on left is teacher Alicia Dykstra, kneeling is auxiliary member Deb Caba. On the right is teacher Vicki Carda, auxiliary members Kathy Kortan (front) and Sherry Povondra (back.)



The **Gertje-Van Lith Unit #229** assisted at the Big Stone School during the American Education Week, to serve a Thanksgiving meal to the students, their families, and faculty. Pictured are Sue Christensen, Susann Harmening, Sandy Rice, and Gloria Arndt. Post and Unit #229 provided three U.S. flags for the school. Pictured are Faye Athey and Janice Hinders presenting one flag to Arlo Anderson.

Endorsement

The members of Arthur Peterson Chester American Legion Auxiliary Unit #136 are proud to endorse **Joyce Smith** for the nomination of the Department of South Dakota President for the year 2022-2023.

**NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN**



BE IN THE KNOW

Pro tem Department Secretary:
Regina Whipple

PO Box 337, Clear Lake, SD 57226

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.



Member in the Spotlight

Gold Star Mother



Gert Kayser, Unit #140, of Salem, was listed with the wrong name in the December Legionette.

Gert Kayser turned 99 this year and is the Salem Unit #140 Gold Star Mother and Community Service Chairman with many years of service and giving of self to our community and Unit 140.

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