



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, the last three weeks have been a challenge for all members.

Yes, District Meetings, State Convention, National Convention, ALA SD Girl State and ALA Girls Nation all have been canceled for 2020.

Department Elections: We have no provisions for Special Elections in our Constitution, we will follow National for all our officers that are voted on Annually as well as Chairmen that are appointed annually. That is that they will all stay in place until the next Department Convention when we have elections, or if any of them chose to resign the Department President will appoint someone to fulfill the term of that position. I would like to thank Susie Clyde for all the research, phone calls, writing a letter with explanation to the DEC.

SD ALA Girls State: I would also like to thank Tiffany Newman for sending a letter to all Unit Presidents on the cancellation of ALA SD Girl State. Her explanation on going forward was outstanding. Her concern was for the delegates. The auxiliary units who paid will get their checks mailed back to them. Tiffany has gone above and beyond this year. Thank You again!

Memorial Day: This year Memorial Day will be different with social distancing. Here are some ways to celebrate

Hold a virtual ceremony

Memorialize recently deceased Post members with a news release

Share the story of your Post's namesake with the public
Stream a reading of patriotic poetry, In Flanders Fields
Host a coloring contest.

Post a Memorial Day picture on Facebook

Letters to the editor of the newspaper

Reports, Awards, & Information from National

By NEC Laura (Susie) Clyde

Due to the Pandemic, things have changed a bit on the National Level and I am going to try to inform all of you of as much of this as I can. The following information you should know going forward for the rest of this year and next year.

YEAR-END REPORTS - members send to Unit, Unit sends to District President, District President send impact number to Department Secretary and Department President, who in turn sends impact numbers to National. (Impact numbers are Veterans served, Volunteer hours, and money spent) This is then sent to the National American Legion who submits in the Congress.

No narrative reports will be turned into National Chairman this year.

Instead the Mid-Year reports that will be sent to National Next year (National Deadline is January 5, 2021) will be for all of the 2020 year and the first half of the 2020-2021 year.

Americanism Essays will be awarded both this year and next year... This deadline has already passed for this year (4/15) Topic will be the same next year as this year.

Children and Youth: Youth Hero and Good Deed awards are ongoing and will continue this year and next year. This also applies to the Give 10 program.

Membership: incentive awards will continue to be awarded this year and the same awards will apply to next year with the Calendar dates being changed.

Juniors will still submit their 2019-2020 member of the year, and the winner will be honored next year along with next year's winner. The Divisional Junior Vice Presidents will still be picked for next year. Any junior that attended the Mission Training session can submit a "Intent to run form". This will be sent out this summer to those that qualify.

Past President Parley: Unit Member of the year and Service Women of the Year will not be honored this year on the National level. (DEC will decide what to do on the Department level)

Poppy: *Poppy Posters* will be judged both this year and next year, so make sure you get your poppy poster into the Poppy Chairman. Little Miss Poppy will also be award both this year and next year, both winners will be invited to next year's National Convention.

Sewing Masks for Protection



Across South Dakota, members are sewing masks for family, friends, healthcare providers, and first responders. Left is Maddy Reece, Spearfish Unit 164 Junior, sewing masks for the Spearfish Monument Hospital.

Dept. President Teresa Huntimer made many masks for the Sioux Falls VA.



Member to Remember



"It was nice for me to become a Legion Auxiliary member because the Legion and the Auxiliary worked together on many projects," said Ruth Mittleider of the Jacob A. Heinrich Legion Auxiliary Post #170 of Herreid. For 56 years, Ruth has been an active member beginning in 1964. "I decided if I am going to join, I am going to be helpful." And that she has been.

Ruth was the treasurer for 20 some years for the Herreid unit. When they needed a Poppy Chairman, Ruth agreed to do that too handing off her duties as treasurer to someone else. "As long as I can do it, I'm happy to. I enjoy it."

Her son is a Son's of the Legion member as well as her daughter in law and three granddaughters that are members of the Herreid Legion Auxiliary. "I used to take my granddaughters to distribute poppies in the area. " One time, her youngest granddaughter went to a house and when she came back to the car, she was a little puzzled as the woman wanted 5 poppies and only gave a quarter. Ruth reassured her that was okay saying that they will have to be satisfied with what people gave.

Ruth has been involved in many different projects but one of her favorite is the Bankers Banquet that the Auxiliary caters each January. "The project is a good money maker for us and the bank is so appreciative and so happy with the food. "It is nice to be appreciated," said Ruth.

But Ruth's volunteerism goes much farther back than 1964. She began taking piano lessons at age 9 and by age 18, she was accompanying in her church; when she was a teacher, she played for contest soloists for a total of over 70 years. Now 88, Ruth is still using her talent playing at her church. "It's good to keep busy," said Ruth.

WANTED - Centennial Babies! We are looking for baby girls born November 10, 2019 to November 10, 2020 and become a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. After sending in membership to Laurel String at the state headquarters, send me a message with babies name, date born, and who their eligibility is under. Email me at sdmemberrose@gmail.com If possible I would love a picture of the baby and the Veteran they have joined under or just the baby. The baby will receive a special certificate that they are a Centennial Member of the ALA.

Membership by Rose Kraft, Department Chairperson

Now is the time to reach out to our members including those who did not renew yet. Our membership stands at 92.32%! What this means, is that we, I, am asking every unit to have a personal phone call with a former or current member of the ALA.

Sweet breads

Treats for ourselves, because we have worked so hard this year meeting our membership goals. We have recruited everyone we know from every avenue we can find to be a member. The first is a "cake mix" recipe that you can substitute with any flavor of cake mix.

Pistachio (Cake Mix) Bread

1 pkg yellow cake mix (Lemon for lemon bread, spice for a spice bread, etc); 1 pkg instant pistachio pudding; 4 eggs; 1 cup sour cream; ¼ cup oil; ½ cup nuts (optional)

Spray bread pan with Pam, dust pans with a mixture of cinnamon and sugar. Bake 350 degrees 45 min.

Banana Bread

1 egg; 2 cups flour; ¼ cup oil; ½ tsp baking powder; 3 Tbls milk ; ½ tsp salt; ¾ cup sugar; ½ tsp soda; 2 - 3 cups mashed bananas ; 1 cup nuts (optional) Mix well Bake 350 degrees for 1 hour



In Memoriam

Unit 9 Milbank – Doris Enquist, February 2020; Lois Stinson, February 2020; **Unit 23 Garretson** – Lavonne Willems, April 2020; **Unit 58 Columbia** – Carol Daly, February 2020; **Unit 60 Clark** – Faye Knutson, March 2020; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** – Phyllis Bunkers, February 2020; **Unit 67 Ipswich** – Ann Heier, February 2020; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Lucille Strahl, March 2020; **Unit 97 Egan** – Elizabeth Hinricher, December 2019; **Unit 109 Gary** – France Miller, April 2020; Neoma Peterson, January 2020; **Unit 132 Springfield** – Bessie Hornstra, March 2020; **Unit 140 Salem** – Geraldine Thill, April 2020; **Unit 147 Buffalo** – Shirley Hollister, December 2019; **Unit 151 Mellette** – Darlene Arthurs, January 2020; Patricia Dobberpuhl, January 2020; Martha Dickey, March 2020; **Unit 164 Spearfish** – Nadine Fidler, April 2020; **Unit 191 Eagle Butte** – Alva Schneider, June 2019; Gloria J. Webb, March 2020; **Unit 213 Cresbard** – Corene Griffeth, March 2020; **Unit 275 Java** – Geraldine Biel, March 2020



Department Finance Committee Opening

Due to the unexpected passing of Cheryl Hovorka, the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary is looking for members interested in serving on the **Department Finance Committee**. The appointment would be to complete Cheryl two years of her three-year commitment.

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.

Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume **by May 1, 2020** to Department Headquarters at 129 N Main Ave, Hartford, SD 57033.

May Guide - Poppy & Mothers' Day

- * Quarters - 25 cents per member (last year membership) to Dept. Headquarters
- * May 10: Mothers' Day
- * May 15: Poppy Posters due to Jane Benzel
- * May 16: Armed Forces Day
- * May 22: National Poppy Day
- * May 25: Memorial Day



SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION BAND SEEKING MUSICIANS

This article is especially targeted to instrumental musicians who have been involved in the South Dakota American Legion Band at some point or would like to be.



We hope to rally as much participation as possible from within our normal participants and especially those who have been able to join us at some point in the past. We will have our stalwarts who never miss joined by those who are able to participate from time-to-time. As in the past, we will be heavily dependent on added musi-

cians (usually from the convention location areas) to augment the band. We would like to reach out to invite and encourage musicians we know to join our band. If you know of any potential musicians who might be able to join our ranks, please invite them to join us and get their contact info to us so they can receive future convention information. At the very least, pass on names of potential players to the contacts listed below.

We would love to see new instrumentalists join us to serve our veterans! Contact Dwayne LaFave: dwayne.lafave@gmail.com, 605-690 1650 or Marla Mosiman: mmosiman@venturecomm.net, 605-222-3313.

Poppy Lady



Rames Bender Post 152, Menno, Auxiliary President Judy Headley read the book "The Poppy Lady" by Moira Belle Michael, to the 2019 3rd graders at the Menno Public School. Plans are to read it to the current third graders provided that they are back in school in May during Poppy month.

Points to Ponder about Poppies

by Jane Benzel, Dept. Poppy Chairman

With National Poppy Day coming soon, I thought I'd give you some information about the poppy program. Veterans assemble poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary. Poppies were first used following WWI to decorate graves for fallen soldiers. The ALA Poppy Program became one of our national programs in 1924. In 2017, National Poppy Day was established the Friday before Memorial Day. Our poppies are made by veterans from the Hot Springs VA. Money from poppies can only be used to help veterans. They are made by veterans and any funds collected during poppy distribution must be used for veterans.

I will give some examples of the cost involved in the program. I will use 1,000 poppies as my example. When you order poppies, if you purchase 1,000, it cost you \$225. It costs the Department to purchase the kits and labels for these poppies approximately \$80, depending on shipping charges. The veteran gets \$100 for making 1,000 poppies. That is 10 cents a poppy. As you can see, this adds up to \$180.00. We also have to mail the poppies to your unit. A 1,000 poppies will cost \$30-\$50, depending on whether it takes 1 or 2 boxes, the size of the boxes and the distance. If there is any money left, it goes into the Department Poppy fund.

When you send in your 25% from your poppy distribution/donations to Department, this money also goes into the Department Poppy fund. This money has to be used for projects for veterans. Special requests for these funds need to go through the Executive Board. This year, some funds were taken out of the Department fund to help a veteran who was chosen to go to the National Veterans Creative Arts festival from South Dakota. It was used to pick up some charges that the Veterans Creative Arts didn't cover, such as the charge to ship his guitar.

Your unit should be keeping the 75% collected from poppy distribution separate, not in your general fund, to be used for helping veterans in your area. **Poppies can be distributed at any time, not just Memorial Day.** I know several units that distribute them around Veterans Day also. I hope this clears up some questions you might have about the Poppy Program.

Poppy Posters Information

I thought I had cleared up some misunderstandings with due dates on the poppy posters, but not all dates were changed. **Posters are due to the Department Poppy Chairman by May 15.** Do not send them to District Presidents. I know with schools closing because of the Coronavirus, getting posters turned in might be a challenge. Please do the best you can. I have received notice that National is still continuing with the contest. Thank you.

Child Welfare Challenge

Children & Youth department chairperson Joyce Smith has issue a challenge to the South Dakota American Legion Family to see who can collect the most donations for the Child Welfare Fund. Money has to be sent to the Department Headquarters.



Remember Everyone Deployed

I want to remind everyone to check regularly with our deployed soldiers' families. With so many jobs and businesses not open there may be some who are in need now or soon will be.

Thank you

From Dept. C&Y Chairperson Joyce Smith

May Prayer

By Kathleen Geiman Dept. Chaplain

Heavenly Father, We thank you for this day Lord, we know that despite all of the stresses and chaos of the world, You indeed see and care for us. Father, it can be easy for us to become consumed with the fears that surround us in life, but we know that just as Your eye is on the sparrow, it is also on us. Lord, today we present at Your Holy Throne all our cares, worries, and fears. We thank You in advance that You will not only provide protection and peace, but that You will also work all things out for our goal. May all our family and Legion members be protected from the Corona-virus. May we soon enjoy the privilege of spending time together to share joy, celebrate happy occasions. In the Precious Name of Jesus, Amen.

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 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 or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, email or call headquarters first. Thank you!

Visiting Seniors before & during COVID-19



ALA members of Unit 4, Mobridge, with residents of the Assisted Living Center in Mobridge. Jan Wales, Jan Payer and Pat Fuhrer helped the residents with making Valentine decorations for the front of the doors of their apartments.



When visitors are not allowed in nursing homes and healthcare centers, Spearfish Unit 164 Little Miss Poppy and her family found a way to cheer the residents at the



Spearfish Canyon Healthcare Center. Pictured are unit 164 Past President Bev Carr, Miss Poppy Kenzie Lawlar, Junior Sydnee Lawlar, and Amber Lawlar.



A Word from the President by Teresa Huntimer Department President

Year -End-Reports : Some of the ALA reports and awards deadlines have changed because the current administration year is a continuation until National Convention 2021. For example: the year-end reports are a 2-year reporting period from 2019-2021. We still would like the impact numbers to use to send to congress. State impact numbers for South Dakota are due to me before May 15th, 2020.

The next several months will be a challenge for all of us. New information is coming weekly from National and we will try to pass this on as fast as we can to make sure it is correct. Be Patient, Be Kind, we all are doing the best in this stressful time. Now is the time to think outside the box to help our Veterans, Military and their families, and our members. Laurel and I are under the governor's home in shelter order for Minnehaha county. We are both working together over the phone and computer to keep the department up to date.

Stay Safe / Stay Home - You can do it too !
Always Remember Serving Veterans, Not Self

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

- sunshine is not cancelled
- spring is not cancelled
- love is not cancelled
- relationships are not cancelled
- reading is not cancelled
- naps are not cancelled
- devotion is not cancelled
- music is not cancelled
- dancing is not cancelled
- imagination is not cancelled
- kindness is not cancelled
- conversations are not cancelled
- hope** is not cancelled



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