



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

Over the past couple of months, I traveled from one end of the state to the other attending all eight district meetings. While being a native South Dakotan, there were many little towns that I had not been to. I have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed having that opportunity. It was amazing to see what they had to offer. I never knew. As the administrative assistant for our local school district, this time of year begins the end of another school year which in turn puts everyone in high gear making sure everything has been done and we are ready to send another group of young people out into the real world. Much like the school year, our SDALA year is fast approaching the end. If someone would have told me how fast this year of serving as Department President would go, I would never have believed them but they would have been right. The year has gone extremely fast, and we are nearing the end. With the end comes the State Convention and a lot of preparation. The Watertown Unit has been working hard to make sure we will be taken care of. To that, I say thank you. Have you made plans to attend, it's not too late. The convention is a wonderful opportunity to be learn, to meet up with old friends, make new ones and to be an active part of the SDALA. The American Legion Auxiliary is a member organization, and we need you, the member to get involved. This is the perfect opportunity to take that step. As I always say, "Think Outside the Box". What have you got to lose.

Spring District Meetings



District One



District Two



District Three



District Four



District Five



District Six



District Seven



District Eight

Congratulations to the District Members of the Year

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Julie Malcolm, Spearfish #164 | 2. Shirley Goforth, Hot Springs #71 |
| 3. Carol Sundall, Kennebec-Reliance #179 | 4. Rhonda Burke, Conde #148 |
| 5. Mary Margaret Lynn, Elkton #198 | 6. Mary Lou Cameron, Wessington Springs #14 |
| 7. DaNann Williamson Tirrel, Garretson #23 | 8. Dolores Kotab, Wagner #11 |



May Guide

05/08: Mothers' Day

05/15: Poppy Posters due to Dept. Chairman Jane Benzel, 27949 Horse Camp Rd., Hot Springs, SD 57747 - on 11x14 poster board

05/21: Armed Forces Day

05/27: National Poppy Day

05/30: Memorial Day

05/30 - 06/04: ALA Girls State

Election and installation of Unit Officers. Send Unit Officers Form to Headquarters and District President

Elect delegates for Dept. Convention; send convention delegates and alternate delegates form with fees.



Blue Star Juniors

Jadyn Goeres, Junior member from Unit 66, Lemmon, attended the Omaha National Junior Meeting. She received a Blue Star Pin. Since 1917, it has been traditional to display a blue star when a member of the family has served in war. For those whose son, husband, father, brother, cousin, uncle, daughter, wife, mother, sister, or aunt served, they, too, were bound together by shared sacrifice. Now, Jadyn can wear this Blue Star Pin as a badge of honor to signify that her loved one is in service to the nation at a time of war.



In Memoriam

Unit 17 Watertown – Dorthy Haljian, March 2022; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** – Florence Tiede, March 2022; **Unit 38 Miller** – Marie Froning, October 2021; Norma Carr, May 2021; Marcella Lander, April 2022; **Unit 42 Arlington** – Leona Dowden, March 2022; **Unit 45 Harrisburg** – Fern Swearingen, January 2022; **Unit 56 Geddes** – Bernice Jaeger, April 2022; **Unit 59 Wolsey** – Idel McDonald, March 2022; **Unit 63 Lake Preston** – Bonnie Jensen, March 2022; **Unit 80 Britton** – Betty Mundt, March 2022; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Dorothy Edwardson, August 2021; Dawn Madasz, May 2021; Ruth Swanson, September 2021; **Unit 118 Harford** – Marcella Edberg, March 2022; **Unit 142 Tripp** – Lucille Eisenbraun, April 2022; **Unit 148 Conde** – Lila Olson, April 2022; **Unit 169 Winner** – Dorothy Lapsley, March 2022; **Unit 191 Eagle Butte** – Marcella LeBeau, November 2021; **Unit 201 Pukwana** – Penny Handel, January 2022; **Unit 229 Big Stone City** – Marilyn Barnhardt, April 2022; **Unit 240 Martin** – Bessie Buckmaster, March 2022; **Unit 249 Delmont** – Ione Fideler, April 2022; Lorraine Schelske, December 2021; **Unit 311 Piedmont** – Bonnie Rainey, March 2022; **Unit 500** – Darlene Elkins-Olson, March 2022; Lavere Kallas, January 2018; Peggy Kirstein, December 2019; Ardis Ladely, December 2021; Harriet Pence, November 2020; Audrey Shaw, February 2019; Irene Spencer, February 2017.

Membership

by Rose Kraft, Dept. Membership Chairman

Hello members of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. The tunes are playing across the Department, but we are just slow dancing and swaying with the music. It is time for us to start dancing a jive and become the Stars of South Dakota. Our membership is at 93.3% which has us hanging at about 20th in the nation. We need to get the “move and the groove” on and find 663 members. On the happy tune we have 49 units at 100% or above, 75 more units above 90% this is out of our 194 units. You do the math – this puts 70 units needing to work the “R” renew, rejoin, recruit.

Talking about recruit – **you have until Mother’s Day to send in “new junior members”** who will be entered into a drawing at the department convention for a gift from Rose.

My next outreach is to all of the PDP – that is Past Department Presidents – is your unit 100% and how about one of your “favorite” units from when you were department president – check in on them – are they 100%.

Our top 100 list continues to grow: Bullhead – 82, DeSmet, Bullhead – 324, Sioux Falls 15, Sioux Falls 911, Bowdle, Parkston, Aurora, Armour, Brandon, Piedmont, Avon, Elkton, Midland, Eureka, White Lake, Salem, Hurley, Groton, Mellette, Iroquois, Conde, Claremont, Selby, Volga, Castlewood, Cresbard, Wessington, Wilmot, Garretson, White, Tripp, Wakonda, Onida, Arlington, New Underwood, Presho, Fairfax, Herrick, Columbia, Big Stone City, Wessington Springs, Woonsocket, Ethan, Trent, Hudson, Chester, Worthing and Colman. Congratulations to all of you – who will join this list next?

I’m still looking for the first District to get 100% - District IV continues to be at the top with 96.39%, making a move on them are District 7 at 95.47% and District 1 at 94.24%. District 1 only needs 51 members to be at 100%. In the middle of the road there is a very tight race with District 3 at 92.83%, District 5 at 92.65% and District 8 at 92.14%. District 6 is sitting in 7th place at 90.45% and District 2 comes in last at 89.90% needing 68 members to be 100%. It doesn’t matter where you are that 100% is very reachable by just a few units turning in their memberships!

Easter Egg Hunt



Piedmont Unit #311 had a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt on Easter weekend.



"Magical Moment for our Veterans"

In 1997-1998 Elda Hoffer served at the "Ring Master" under the "Big Top" as the South Dakota Department President. The theme was to make "Magical Moment for our Veterans"; join us on Saturday, June 18 as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of her presidency. Help us make some "Magical Moments for Elda!"

Social will be at 5:00 PM, banquet at 5:30, program at 6:00 PM. If you are unable to attend but have a magical memory that you would like to share please contact Jeannine Loesch.



Endorsements

Members of the Piedmont Valley American Legion Unit #311 are proud to announce the candidacy of **Laura 'Susie' Clyde** for the office of National Historian 2022-2023.

The members of Sully Unit #79 in Onida, South Dakota proudly endorse **Mary Jo Stier** for the office of National Executive Committeeman (NEC) for 2022-2024.

Arthur Peterson Chester ALA Unit #136 is proud to endorse **Joyce Smith** for Department of South Dakota President for 2022-2023.

Pierre ALA Unit #8 is proud to endorse **Patsy Madsen** for Dept. of South Dakota First Vice President for 2022-2023.

Alcester ALA Unit #86 of Alcester, proudly endorses **AnnaMae Warnier** as a candidate for the American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of South Dakota Second Vice President for 2022-2023.

Members of Mitchell Unit 18, proudly endorse **Linda Holmes** for the ALA Dept. of South Dakota Historian for 2022-2023

Members of District 6 proudly endorse **Sharon Broghammer** for the ALA Dept. of South Dakota Chaplain for 2022-2023.

Members of Pike-Huska Unit #230, Aurora, proudly and unanimously endorse **Wendy Henley** for the office of ALA Dept. of South Dakota Chaplain for 2022-2023.

Department Convention Watertown Friday, June 17 - Sunday, June 19, 2022

Advance Ticket Form TAL Joint Family Banquet

All American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL) Friday, June 17, 2022

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

American Legion Joint Family Banquet –

Social 6:00 PM with meal at 7:00 PM

Choose 1: ___ Yankee Pot Roast ___ Pan Seared Chicken Breast
Slow cooked savory roast beef with house gravy or boneless chicken breast.
Served with House garden salad, choice of starch, vegetable, house bread & butter.

Fresh brewed coffee

Number of tickets requested at \$35.00 per ticket _____

() Check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check.

Send to: American Legion Auxiliary

P.O. Box 1432

Watertown, SD 57201

Deadline is May 25, 2022

Advance Ticket Form Auxiliary Saturday Evening

All American Legion Auxiliary, Saturday, June 18, 2022

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

American Legion Auxiliary Evening Banquet –

Social 5:00 PM with Meal at 5:30 PM

Choose 1: ___ Roasted Pork Loin or ___ Chicken Asparagus
Alfredo Penne

Served with house garden salad with assorted dressings, Chef's choice of starch,
Vegetable, house bread with butter, fresh brewed coffee

Number of tickets requested at \$30.00 per ticket _____

() Check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check

Make checks payable to Codington County Auxiliary Unit 17

Send to: American Legion Auxiliary

P.O. Box 1432

Watertown, SD 57201

Advance Ticket Form Noon Luncheon

All American Legion Auxiliary, Saturday, June 18, 2022

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Soup & Sandwich Saturday, June 18, 2022, 12:00pm –

Choose 1: ___ 1/2 Turkey ___ 1/2 Chicken Salad ___ 1/2 Caesar Wrap

Served with Vegetable Beef Soup

Number of tickets requested at \$15.00 per ticket _____

() Check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check

Send to: American Legion Auxiliary

P.O. Box 1432

Watertown, SD 57201

Deadline is May 25, 2022

Springfield, Dwight Wood Unit #132 honors membership longevity.

Legion Auxiliary honors members

Springfield American Legion Auxiliary has recognized and honored members who have had continuous membership in the organization. They include:

- Ten years: Addyson Hornstra;
- 15 years: Kristian McDougale,
- 20 years: Grace Diede, Ashley Herman, Kendra Kattelmann,
- 35 years: Ethel Cooper and
- 70 years: Doris Thomas.

The honored members were presented with a certificate that reads "Each has been a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary continuously and be it further known that such record of consistent loyalty to the American Legion Auxiliary merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the accomplishment of the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary."



35 years – Linda Tjeerdsma, auxiliary treasurer; Ethel Cooper and Kathy Hornstra, auxiliary president



20 years – Grace Diede and Linda Tjeerdsma, auxiliary treasurer



70 years – Linda Tjeerdsma, auxiliary treasurer and Doris Thomas

The American Legion 103rd Birthday



Birthday Cake Greer #11, Wagner, Commander Clayton Rados and President Juanita Stone



During the American Legion Birthday Party at the Military Alliance building, Sioux Falls Post and Unit 15 presented numerous awards. Above are recipients of Certificates of Appreciation and to the left, Sue Peters was recognized by the Post.



At the Spearfish American Legion Birthday Celebration, the oldest Legionnaire WWII Veteran Arne Koski and Post Chaplain Monica Lucio cut the Birthday cake. The charter members from the ALR Black Hills Chapter, Matt Hardin, Jim Childers, Fred Nelson, and Micheline Nelson cut the cake for the chapter's 10th anniversary.

National ALA Caregiver Awards



ALA National President Kathy Daudistel encourages each unit to recognize individuals who demonstrate selflessness caregivers. Our ALA SD President Mary Jo Stier and Spearfish Unit President Micheline Nelson helped present these awards. Receiving the awards were Annette Johnson for taking care of a Veteran and his wife after a serious car accident, Larry and Lynette Haglund for providing all the items to make a "move-in basket" and additional warm clothing for homeless Veterans; Kaylan Harrington for volunteering to give a wounded Veteran a motorcycle therapy ride on the Charity Ride from Moab to Sturgis; Mike and Charlene Kain for adopting Booker, a therapy horse at the DTOM Veterans Ranch, providing for his care. Booker is helping many Veterans with therapy with Doc Tracy and Chris Reeder; and Julie Malcolm who for over five years provided care and companionship to an 85-year-old man with Autism who had numerous medical and physical issues. As his health declined this year, she spent extra time to take care of him until his last days. The last award will be presented later to Ernie and Sandi Nauman for coordinating the Holiday Remembrance Wreaths allowing community members to remember our Veterans and place wreaths at the Black Hills National Cemetery and Spearfish Rosehill Cemetery.

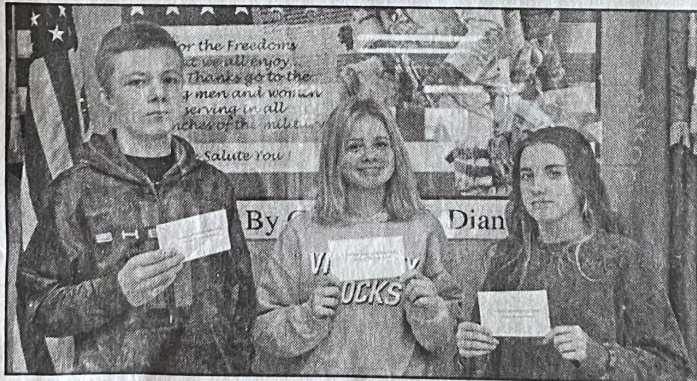


Gregory American Legion hosts essay contest



The Gregory American Legion hosted an essay contest recently for the Gregory sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.

The title was "How Can We Support Families Who Provide Care to Their Veterans?" eighth grade winners were: Danielle Timanus, not pictured (1st), and Asia VanDerWerff, left (2nd), and Aubree Miller, right (3rd)



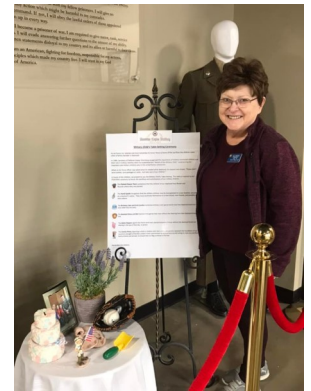
Gregory seventh grade winners of the contest were: Landon Keiser (1st), Emily Stevicks (2nd), and Kamre Peabody (3rd).



Gregory sixth grade winners were: Charissa Ring (1st), Ellyse Grage (2nd), and Peyton O'Connor (3rd)



Military Child's Table



Potter Unit 3, Chamberlain displayed the Military Child's Table at the grocery store in the Al's Oasis Mall. Susan Panning of Sioux Falls Unit 15 displayed the table at the Military Alliance building.

Elkton Unit 198 advertised April as the Month of the Military Child with a display in their school cafeteria.

Terry Curry from Rapid City Unit 22 did a classroom presentation.

The Spearfish Middle School had a Purple-Up for Military Kids Day program and explained the Military Child's Table Ceremony.



National ALA Good Deed Awards



April 9 Children & Youth National Good Deed Awards were presented to Sydnee and Kenzie Lawlar by ALA SD Department President Mary Jo Stier and Spearfish Unit 164 Children & Youth Chairman Connie Wagner.

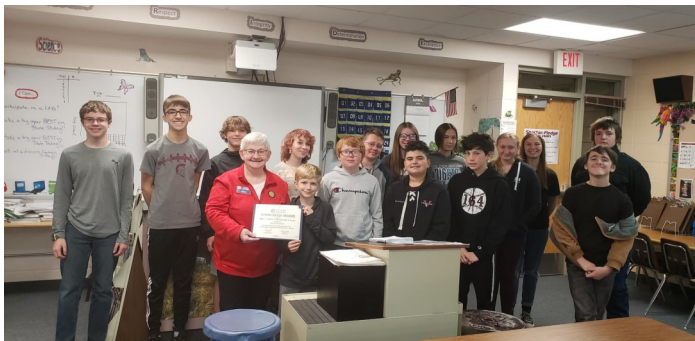
April 22, 2022; Spearfish Creekside Elementary assembly- Unit 164 Children & Youth Chairman Connie Wagner with the assistance of the Unit Americanism Chairman Michele Thomson, presented five National Good Deed Awards. Congratulations Grayson, Alyvia, Finley, Mrs. Burke classroom, and Principal Olson on behalf of the Spearfish Creekside Elementary!

April 6, 2022: After serving their monthly meal at the Spearfish Legion meeting, the Spearfish Middle School Students Council was awarded the ALA National Good Deed Award for their continued volunteering and for honoring our local Veterans.



April 25, 2022 - The Spearfish Unit Children & Youth Chairman Connie Wagner visited the Spearfish Middle School to present four National Good Deed Awards. Pictured left is Mrs. Farley's Start class who did a "Giving Tree" with hats, and gloves for students who needed them during the winter. Second picture left is Mr. Sudbeck and third right, below, is Mrs. Capp's classrooms. These students raised money, collected socks, and toiletries for homeless Veterans.

One group was not pictured. The Spearfish Middle School PE Department who did a "sock-a-thon" and collected 500 pairs of socks for Veterans in need.





May Prayer

By Wendy Henley
Department Chaplain

O God, we thank You for the flag of our country and for all that our flag represents.

We thank You for giving the victory to brave and valiant men who gave their last measure of strength that it might wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We thank You for giving us the ideals of faith and liberty, for preserving the sanctity of our homes, and for freedom of worship, conscious of our limitations and our deep unworthiness, we pray that our flag may bind together the many elements in our own dear country, and foster in our nation a one hundred percent Americanism.

Remember those who have served our country in time of war willing at all times to uphold and defend our Constitution and our government.

Grant that our 50 sovereign states remain forever an indissoluble Union flying the same flag. AMEN



BE IN THE KNOW

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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!

Stand-Up for Female Veterans

On March 26th Unit 15 ALA and Post 15 of Sioux Falls, were two of the many groups that took part in the first annual Stand Up for Women Veterans. Unit 15 had several members there to help with registration, door prize sign-up and general help throughout the event. It was a fantastic day of learning from other vendors who showed Women Veterans there were programs to help them. Plus, many break out sessions with a variety of programs from self help "Write your Story" to helping women Veterans learn how to turn their hobby into a business. There was chair yoga, lunch by Hy-Vee, and each attendee was given a Gift Bag and several amazing door prizes. Sioux Falls Post 15 and Unit 15 each had a vendor table showing and telling the benefits of belonging to each organization. Unit 15 contributed items for gift bags and gave out several shirts donated by a local business. Tamara Panning, Legion member was interviewed by the deputy National Communications Director DAV.



Thank You, Veterans

Gingrich-Dixon Legion Auxiliary Post #13 of Wakonda, held a "thank you" breakfast on April 5, 2022 for area Veteran's. Posts invited were: Wakonda, Alsen, Centerville, Gayville, & Irene. Twenty-three Veterans were in attendance, along with 16 guests. The breakfast served was: egg bakes, cinnamon & caramel rolls, ham, pancakes, fruit cups, juice, and coffee.



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Guess Who?



The game is to guess who the picture is and whoever gets the most guesses correct gets something special. The reveal will be at State Convention! Blank guess sheets will be available at the convention! Hope you have enjoyed all of the fun pictures!

SEE YOU IN JUNE!!

Submitted by:
Stacie Mosiman, PR Chairman