



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



A Word from the President *Joyce Smith Department President*



One Nation Under God, Thanking Veterans for Our Freedom

I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving!!! “Let your hands be so busy catching Blessings that there is no room to hold on to Grudges” quote by Sothern Love & Blessings.

The Gift shops out west went great. Thank you to the chairmen and volunteers. One thing we need to be aware of is that we will need a Hospital Rep. for the Hot Springs VA, as Shanna will be off to college next year. So, members in that vicinity you need to consider stepping out of your comfort zone. The rewards of helping Veterans choose gifts for their families emphasize what the meaning of Christmas is all about. Sioux Falls’ Gift Shop was after Thanksgiving.

I missed the Gift Shop at the Fort Meade VA because I was at the Welcome Back Ceremony for the 235th which had been deployed to Cuba. My daughter-in-law is home safe at last. After listening to the speakers, our South Dakota National Guard received many awards and accolades. It sounded like they made the regular service branches sit up and take notice. I, for one, am very proud of the men and women in our South Dakota National Guard.

The Veterans Day celebration I attended at the local school was just awesome. The 4-year-olds through the Seniors all took part in honoring the local Veterans that were there. I know many of our units participated in Veterans Day ceremonies, parades, or dinners.

As we get closer to Christmas, thank you to those preparing for the Christmas Parties! Those events make it so special for our Veterans.

From my family to yours, many blessings at Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023!

Joyce Smith, SD ALA Department President



From National President Vickie Koutz

American Legion Family, Department of South Dakota

Thank you so much for your generous donations to my National President Special Project and all the beautiful gifts from everyone.

Your hospitality was so much appreciated. I had so much fun!

I am loving not only getting to see this beautiful country of ours, many places I have never seen before, but having the opportunity to meet all our hard-working volunteers in our wonderful American Legion Family.

God Bless!

Vickie Koutz

American Legion Auxiliary National President 2022-2023



Members in the Spotlight



Groton Unit 39 member and District Four president, Jan Seibel, hosted Unit 39's continuous member potluck at the American Legion hall on November 7. Eight of the 15 honorees attended the event. The night began with a meal and cake. Next, Seibel presented eight certificates of continuous membership for 40 plus years, and several of those members spoke about their special memories while serving our state and local veterans while being a unit member of the

American Legion Auxiliary. During this celebration, Camryn Kurtz sang, word bingo was played and prizes were won. In closing, our eight honorees were given a long stemmed rose from Unit 39 for Make a Difference Day.

picture of 8: L to R front row Patricia Larson 40 yrs, Carol Dohman 42 yrs, Gertrude Erickson 60 yrs, and Charlean Erickson 49 yrs. back row L to R Lisa Pray 40 yrs, Tami Zimney 55 yrs, Michele Everson 45 yrs., and Dawn Monson 47 yrs.



December Guide

- **December 7:** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- **November 7:** Membership Goal is 75%
- **December 25:** Christmas Day

Christmas Parties

Check the guide [[Department Program Guide – South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary \(sdlegionaux.org\)](#)] for the Christmas Party Chairmen of each facility for dates, times, and instructions

You may check with your District President and VA&R Chairman Susie Clyde at sd.va_r@yahoo.com or 605-890-1854



Sending a care package to a deployed service member is not only a supreme act of kindness (especially when you do not know them personally) but is a tangible way to let them know that someone is thinking of them “back home”. While there are restrictions on what you can and cannot send (see the many lists available online), it's more about the idea and thought. Don't get me wrong -- when they're craving their favorite potato chips and they happen to be in that box, it makes them smile and forget where they are even for just a few minutes. Care packages are also a great way to cure homesickness.

We tend to let the number of items we are sending determine what size box to ship. However, it's best to remember the bigger the box, the more it costs to ship. There is also a company called “Shipthriftly” that works with individuals and companies to send care packages. Their website indicates that they provide free labels when sending twenty-five packages or more and have “discovered different savings opportunities that can save most groups huge money.” You can find more information at <https://shipthriftly.com>. Regardless of how you ship the boxes, get them sent soon to allow for shipping times.

in Loving Memory

Unit 4 Mobridge – Irene S Goben, July 2022; Hilda Landis, July 2022; Linda Voegele, October 2022; **Unit 7 Huron** – Madelyn Saarie, October 2022; **Unit 12 Yankton** – Jacqueline Duncan, October 2022; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** – Mercedes Yesda, October 2022; Unit 24 Aberdeen – Ruth Angerhoffer, August 2022; **Unit 32 Belle Fourche** – Kay Williams, December 2021; **Unit 40 Webster** – Janis Kwasniewski, October 2022; **Unit 60 Clark** – Alma Holm, July 2022; **Unit 61 Canova** – Merleen Duxbury, February 2022; **Unit 66 Lemmon** – Iona Baumeister, July 2022; Marie Edwards, August 2022; **Unit 137 Warner** – Mavis Eske, October 2022; **Unit 158 Oldham** – Darleen Duffy, May 2022; **Unit 169 Winner** – Joyce Lund, September 2022; **Unit 172 Edgemont** – Virginia Tubbs, August 2022; **Unit 175 Baltic** – Vera Sagness-Young, April 2022; **Unit 176 Davis** – Kay Gordon, October 2022; **Unit 241 Erwin** – Ruth Severson, June 2022; **Unit 280 Iroquois** – Elaine Bura, April 2022

Membership by Rose Kraft, SD Dept. Chairman

The race continues with the South Dakota car setting in 11th place at 62.10%. The membership keeps zooming in every day, which keeps your driver, Rose, extremely busy entering information in ALAMIS. We have a few “race rules” we need to remember to follow when sending in membership. Number 1 – it is to your benefit to have a phone number or email address on the top of the transmittal form in case of questions from those recording your membership. Number 2 – you must include the name of the veteran that makes you eligible to be a member on all new members along with what war or conflict they were part of and finally how you are related to them. Number 3 – unfortunately we are unable to take membership under the connection of niece or daughter-in-law. Number 4 – please, print the email address and phone numbers very clearly with your new memberships. Lastly, Number 5 – always compare the membership number reported in the progress report with what you have listed locally. If you have just recently (within the last week) mailed off membership to headquarters, please consider this for a reason for a difference in a number. However, if you believe you have 27 members, and the progress report says you have 18 – please contact Rose or Regina so we can track the difference. A few facts about the South Dakota race. Seven units that had reached the winners circle by November 11th each will receive \$25.00 from the department of South Dakota and a \$25.00 gift card from Emblem Sales. They are Armour, Little Eagle, Marion, Volga, Rosholt, Orient and Raymond. **Fairfax** has also taken the drive down Victory Lane and joined the winners circle at 100%. Along with this we have 22 units that only have one lap (four members or less) before they reach the winner's circle. As a department we are looking for 1302 members to be sent to headquarters before December 7th so we can meet our 75% goal. That is only seven members per unit – You can do this!

ALA Birthday

The Gregory American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit of Hutchison celebrated the ALA Birthday and a Salute to Veterans for the month of November



South Dakota ALA Girls State

We are very excited to be moving forward with plans for ALA South Dakota Girls State 2023!

An email with the necessary application information for the 2023 ALA South Dakota Girls State session was sent to the unit president or Girls State Chairmen. I wanted to provide a quick rundown of all the included documents with highlights of important information to take note of as we prepare to have delegates register for this year's session. **As a reminder, students that are eligible to attend are current juniors who will graduate with the Class of 2024.**

Check with your unit chairmen.

The following documents were included in the email:

Statement of Interest 2023: *This is for unit use only – please do not send this with the delegate pre-registration form(s).* Please use this form to gather information from interested delegates. As a unit, you can use this information to select those that attend.

Delegate Pre-Registration Form 2023: Use this form to submit the names and information of the delegate(s) & Journalism City delegate(s) that your unit has chosen to attend. These forms are due to me no later than **March 1, 2023.**

Information Sheet: Utilize this document to give additional information to interested delegates!

Save the Date: Feel free to print out copies of this to use as promotional information.

All Delegate Pre-Registration Forms & Payment should be mailed before or on **March 1, 2023,** to:

Tiffany French
ALA SD Girls State Director
1645 Wildcat Ln.
Custer, SD 57730

****One important note** – please ensure that the delegate checks the appropriate box at the top of the Delegate Pre-Registration form. This will identify if the delegate wishes to attend ALA SD Girls State as one of the following options:

ALA Girls State Delegate
Journalism City Delegate

PLEASE MAKE SURE ONLY ONE BOX IS SELECTED! This will indicate which information they will receive for further registration. Once I have received the Delegate Pre-Registration Form, I will then email additional information to the delegates on April 1, 2023. I will also be sending the health waiver forms to the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) on April 1, 2023.

SD ALA Grassroots Projects



ALA Members of the White donning their new aprons while serving Veterans Day Supper 2022.

Wreaths Honoring Veterans at the Arlington Cemetery

A great group of Arlington Legion Auxiliary members worked on completing wreaths for Veterans Day. The wreaths were placed at the Arlington City Cemetery in preparation for Veterans Day by Auxiliary and Legion members alike. This is another way to honor the veterans that have sacrificed so much for our nation. Thank you to everyone that helped and to everyone that purchased a wreath to honor a veteran. A special thank you to Penny Rinderneck and Lynette Diaz for spearheading this important project, and doing such an excellent job.



The Castlewood American Legion Auxiliary and the Legion Post 250 visited the second grade and fifth grade classrooms on November 11th (Veterans Day). They handed out dictionaries to the second graders and flags to the fifth graders. Legion member Chuck Greenfield showed the students some of the supplies that are given to the service men/women.



The Artesian American Legion Auxiliary participated in the Artesian Community trunk and treat on October 30, 2022. Members passing out treats are Candi Danek and Laura Pearson.



Honoring their Military Service

The American Legion Auxiliary of Britton Unit # 80 made pouches to give to the Honor Guard, when they present the casings of the Three-Rifle Volley to the family member after the burial service.



The Gertje -Van Lith Unit 229 - Big Stone City



On Election Day, November 8, three auxiliary members from Unit 229, served at the voting center in Big Stone City. They are Vicky Torgerson, Denise Scobic, and Sue Christensen.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, Fay Atchey, the Poppy Chairman, was handing out poppies and flags to the students and adults who attended the Veterans Day program at the Big Stone City School.

Three auxiliary members, Sue Christensen, Janelle Kelly, the librarian, and Patti Holquist from Unit 229, served coffee and donuts to the Veterans who came to the Big Stone City library, on November 12.

Janice Hinders, Sandy Rice, Sue Christensen, and Gloria Arndt, from Unit 229, volunteered at the school on November 16. They helped serve 233 Thanksgiving meals to students, families and community members.



Spearfish Unit 164



Thank you to 2022 ALA Girl State delegates Madison Reece (also Spearfish ALA Unit 164 Member); Kylie Wheaton, and their friend Claire Larson... all three Spearfish High School seniors, for the delivery of hats, gloves, undies, and toiletries to help our homeless Veterans or in housing crisis. The Christmas stockings will be filled!

American Education Week 2022: The Spearfish American Legion Post 164 worked with the ALA Unit to collect school supplies, socks, gloves, sweatpants, undies, and snacks for a value of \$1,000, to donate to five local schools. Members of the Post and Unit, worked together and helped with the delivery.



During the "We've Got your Six" Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair, the ALA Spearfish presented a donation to Chris Reder and Doc T. of the DTOM Veterans Ranch .



Unit 164 Juniors Kenzie and Sydnee Lawlar, shopped and prepared Christmas boxes for "Operation Christmas Child" to mail to the Samaritan's Purse. These boxes will make a difference in a children Christmas!



Education Week: "You've Got Muffins"

Britton American Legion Auxiliary Unit #80 provided mini muffins to the teachers, kitchen staff, janitors, & bus drivers for Education week!

The Letcher Unit usually does apples for Education week but saw Britton did muffins so thought they would treat the Sanborn Central staff with muffins. Thank you, Amy Howard, for baking them all.



Watertown Unit 17

On November 4, Watertown Post and Unit 17 hosted the Early Bird Feed. They served over 125 meals for the members of the Legion who paid their dues.



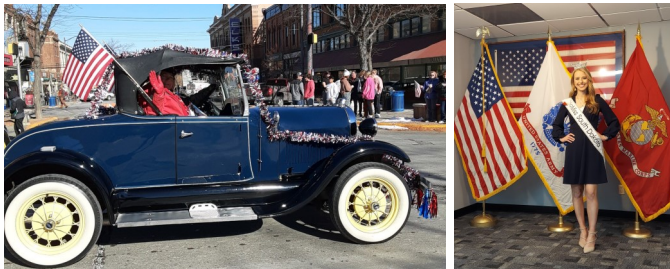
Chester Unit 136

SD Department ALA President Joyce Smith, member of Chester Unit 136, donated patriotic books on Veterans Day to the Chester elementary library!



Helping is dual member Courtney Steffen, SD American Legion Vice-Commander.

Rapid City Unit 22



President of Unit 22 rode in member's 1927 model a roadster at the parade.

Post & Unit 22 had their annual turkey dinner with homemade pies. Miss South Dakota, Hunter Wedvey, dropped by Post 22 to greet Veterans and help put whipped cream on everyone's pie

Eagle Butte Unit 191



The weather did not cooperate on the 11th but the school made sure to honor the local Veterans.

On Tuesday, November 16, The Veterans Day program at the Cheyenne Eagle Butte School.



Unit 22 and 40 & 8 cooked and served the pancake breakfast at Post 22 to raise money for SD ALA Girls State.



December Prayer

By Sharon Broghammer
Dept. Chaplain

Dear Almighty Father,

Please keep our soldiers in active duty protected and safe. Bring them home to their families this holiday season. Comfort their families and loved ones while they wait for their return. Bring peace and contentment across our country so everyone can realize it's the birth of your son coming into this world to save us all. It is the true meaning of Christmas. In Jesus name I pray. May everyone have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



I would greatly appreciate if all auxiliary unit, district, and department members send a prayer for President Joyce Smith's Prayer Book.

You may send them to Sharon Broghammer, SD ALA Dept. Chaplain atsab50@midco.net or mail it to: 1011 W 8th Ave Apt 27 Mitchell, SD 57301

Thank you!

Honoring Veterans

ALA Groton Unit 39 honored five Vietnam Veterans with honor quilts made by member Karen Wolter. Dr. Diefenbach and Chris Reder had the honor of draping each veteran in a patriotic quilt. The students at Groton Area read summaries about each veteran. Students Jr. kindergarten through high school sang songs, the band played service songs, Groton Post 39 posted & retired the colors and Taps was played by Jayden Schwan. Dr. Diefenbach spoke about the DTOM Veterans Ranch's mission. It was a beautiful tribute to all Veterans and especially to the five Vietnam Veterans.



Happy 100th Birthday!

Member and Gold Star Mother of Unit 140 celebrated her 100th birthday in October with an open house full of family, community and old friends.

Happiest of birthdays to our Unit 140 member Gert Kayser.



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, contact Regina first.

A Week of Veterans Day Programs



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 President, Marlene Warnke, from Alexandria, set up the POW/MIA Remembrance Table at the Veterans Day program at the Hanson High School. Unit Treasurer, Kate Aulner, Unit Treasurer displayed the Military Child's Table.

For Veteran's Day this year, Hanson High School Superintendent, Jim Bridge, and Elementary School Principal, Josh Oltmans, worked on a weeklong Veterans' Day Awareness program for the students. The Alexandria American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 also printed copies of the meaning of the tables, and sent the school an electronic version, which they shared with all the teachers.



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