



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 can't believe that I am writing my letter for the end of the year 2022.

Two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending Egan's Christmas celebration. The members of this Unit had 25 days of Christmas Giving. This project brought the community together. They collected approximately 1500 items plus monetary donations from families, individuals, organizations, groups, and companies. These items were distributed in this way, 435 items were taken to the VA in Sioux Falls, 66 personal care bags, approximately 30 gift boxes for Veterans, Auxiliary members, in nursing homes, assisted living, shut-ins and veterans at the VA Health Center. Don't let the size of your unit limit the good you do, everything you do for the Veterans in your lives and communities is good and worth reporting. To the world you may only be one person but to one person you may be the world. Keep working on membership, from the Christmas gathering in Egan, the Auxiliary has two new members and a possible third, the Legion and SAL may have acquired members also.

We continue to search for a permanent Department Treasurer.

I hope every one of you and your families had a Blessed and Merry Christmas. I wish you all a prosperous New Year.

My Quote is from Matthew Henry "Nothing can be more absurd than to hearken unto weak and fallible men more than unto a God that is infinitely wise and holy."
Joyce Smith, SD ALA Department President

Christmas at the VA Facilities



Pres. Joyce Smith helping a Veteran at the Sioux Falls VA Gift Shop. Piedmont Valley Unit 311 made the gift bags for the Ft. Meade VA Christmas Party. Group picture of the volunteers at the Sioux Falls VA Christmas Gift Shop.



Dell Rapids Unit 65 made cookies for the Sioux Falls Christmas Party.



Christmas pictures from unit programs are in the emailed Legionette.

Member in the Spotlight

A Veblen lady has a story to tell similar to the Ukraine refugees today. Elli Nelson fell in love with an American soldier in 1953 and that's how she made it to South Dakota.



At 91, she is still active in the community, the American Legion Auxiliary, and her church.

In 1944, Elli's life came to an abrupt change with the Russian Army moving closer to East Prussia. Her dad joined the war effort and was later taken prisoner.

At 13 years old, she remembers standing in food lines, being hungry, and sleeping on a bench with her head on a table.

She thanks God that he must have had a plan for her life.

January Guide

- **January 1:** New Year
- **January 16:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Sponsor or attend legislative programs
- District oratorical contests
- Send in your meal tickets for the Midwinter Conference before February 1!
- Send in your prayers for the President's Prayer Book
- Send in nominations



Unit Fundraiser



Unit 179 held their annual fundraiser on Sunday, November 13. The picture shows some of the ladies who cooked and served the brunch that day to their local community. It was a huge turnout on a very cold day.



in Loving Memory

Unit 13 Wakonda – Barbara Kronaizi, October 2022;

Unit 21 Hurley – Bonnie Sanborn, December 2022;

Unit 29 Woonsocket – Darla Tucker, November 2022;

Unit 66 Lemmon – Emily Kreitlow, November 2022; Marie Edwards, August 2022; Rosemary T. Hoffman, October 2022;

Unit 88 White – Emily Kreitlow, November 2022;

Unit 129 Waubay – Shirley Bisgard, September 2022;

Unit 137 Warner – Jean Rieck, November 2022;

Unit 150 Avon – Betty Harmacek, November 2020;

Unit 216 Ramona – Phyllis Fuller, January 2022;

Unit 266 Tea – Coral Shatter, November 2022

Membership by Rose Kraft, SD Dept. Chairman

Here we are **Zoomin' into '23!** As I type this report, we are at 72% in the department with 19 Units having taken the drive down **Victory Lane and into the Winner's Circle.** The champagne toast goes out to each of the following: McLaughlin, Armour, Sioux Falls 15, Little Eagle, Volga, Marion, Irene, Columbia, Montrose, Rosholt, Gregory, Chester, Fairfax, Ipswich, Orient, Raymond, Egan, Trent, and Hurley who have all reached 100% or more!

The exciting news is that we have entered many new members! With everyone having members yet to renew we will be able to reach our goal of 80% for midwinter – that is 801 members – 5 renewals per unit – you all have that many to reach. I also have a challenge for all past department presidents and current DEC along with the finance board to have their units at 100% for Mid-Winter! The Victory Flag will be flying come February 11th!

Reminder to always compare the progress sheet with the membership number you have locally. We have found a couple have never reached headquarters, so we really do want to make sure we are as accurate as possible.

As we ring in the new year let's remember those ALA sisters and brothers we have not heard from and give them a ring to just check on them to make sure they are warm and well. Have a blessed 2023 and keep the memberships coming in as a support for our Veterans.

Christmas Stockings

The Artesian American Legion Auxiliary prepared and delivered Christmas stockings to the veterans and auxiliary members that are home bound or in care facilities. Pictured are Laura Pearson, Holly McKillop and Dee Bechen.



Americanism by Dept. Chairman MaryJo Boner

Happy New Year! I hope that your Holiday Season was filled with precious moments with friends and family as well as the promise that the new year has more of those moments in store.

It won't be long, and our Americanism projects will take center stage. The essay title this year is "What does patriotism mean to you?" while our poem title is "Thanking our Veterans for our Freedom". Due Dates are as follows: To the Unit President by March 1st, the District President by March 15, and the Department Americanism Chairman by April 1st. Please see the cover sheets for each in either the HQ mailing from October or find them on our website.

Our Department Oratory Contest is coming up at Mid-Winter meetings – hopefully you've had a chance to either participate in an event or at least watch one – these kids are tremendous speakers! And don't forget about the Star Spangled Kids program – this is a great way to get kids interested in the constitution and possibly produce some future Oratory competitors.

Encourage your community to fly their flags, not only on special days, but every day; and take every opportunity to teach a young person about flag etiquette.

Please support your Post in their Americanism projects, including shooting sports, youth trooper academy, and baseball.

Work these programs together and let's make Americanism a Family affair! (Oh, and Report! Report! Report!)

Mid-winter Conference

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2023

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2023

9:00 AM Registration Desk Opens
10:00 AM Department Special Executive Meeting
Dakota B & F
12:00-1:30 Lunch (on your own or soup sandwich buffet-pay as you go \$17)
1:30-4:30 Chairmen Presentations
Leadership-Patsy Madsen
Constitution and Bylaws-AnnaMae Warnier
VA & R-Laura "Susie" Clyde
6:00 No Host Cocktails
6:30 Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
8:00 AM Joint Opening Session-Prairie Ballroom A B C
VA&R Susie Clyde
Children & Youth-Teresa Huntimer/Stephanie Gordon
10:00 AM Recess Joint Session
10:15 AM Auxiliary Session Opens-Dakota B & F
Dept President Joyce Smith Report
Secretary Report
Treasurer Report
Presentation of Awards/Announcements
11:30-12:30 Lunch Recess (on your own or soup sandwich buffet pay as you go \$17)
12:45-4:00 Chairman Presentations
Membership Activity-Rose Kraft
National Security Remembering Your Veterans
Everyday-Mary Jo Stier
4:00 Adjourn
6:00 Auxiliary Banquet

Sunday, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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

****In place of a Silent Auction there will be a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets available at the Registration desk. Proceeds go to the President's Project-DTOM

When to Fly the Flag: Clip and Save

Here's a quick reference guide from National on when to fly the flag. The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on:

New Year's Day - January 1; Inauguration Day - January 20; Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - third Monday in January

Lincoln's Birthday - February 12; Washington's Birthday - third Monday in February

Easter Sunday - (variable)

Mother's Day - second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) - last Monday in May

Flag Day - June 14

Independence Day - July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27

Labor Day - first Monday - September 1 - 7

Columbus Day (SD Native American Day)- second Monday in October;

Veterans Day - November 11; Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November

Christmas Day - December 25; Birthdays of States (date of admission); Service branches birthdays; Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States



Britton Unit #80 decorated a patriotic Christmas tree for the Britton event Center.

Penny Nehl Rinderneck, Ken Rinderneck, and Lynette Fairhurst-Diaz decorating the light pole in front of the American Legion Post 42 in Arlington SD.

Irene ALA purchased wreaths and placed them on flag pallets. The pallets were painted by the Auxilia and placed at the homes of families of active duty service members.





President Vickie Kuchmister and First Vice President Annette Stein from Aurora Unit 230 getting ready to deliver four Christmas Baskets to Veterans and/or their families. Two baskets were delivered by South Dakota Department Honorary Junior President Avery Stein.

With the coordination and hard work of the Spearfish Unit 164 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation chairman, Julie Malcolm, they assembled 169 Veterans Christmas Gift Bags for seven nursing homes, the Ft. Meade VA, the Cornerstone Rescue Mission, the Spearfish Veterans Honor Guard, and many local Veterans recommended by their members. Sixteen members braved the roads after four days of no travels due to Storm Diaz. Distribution of the gifts was challenging in some areas.

Grateful for better weather conditions just before Christmas, 5 degrees and light winds helped Spearfish Unit President Micheline Nelson and Unit First Vice President Rhonda Williams to deliver the Christmas Gift Bags from Unit 164, to the Veterans staying at the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families from the Cornerstone Rescue Mission,. They found a gift on their bed on Christmas morning.



January Prayer

By Sharon Broghammer
Dept. Chaplain

Dear Almighty Father,
With a New Year beginning, protect our active service members, who are fighting for our country's freedom. Bless all their families and friends, as they wait for their return home. Bless our veterans and their families. Bless all for the New Year with a prosperous year, In Jesus' name I pray. Amen



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!

BE IN THE KNOW

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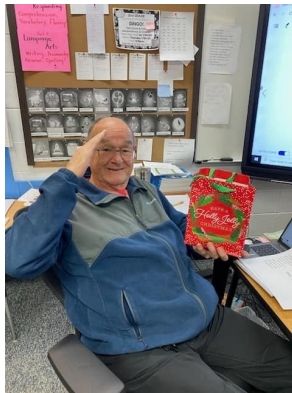
Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

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.



Christmas fruit baskets were prepared and given to over 30 people including Veterans and families throughout the community and to the Elderly village Medicine Wheel residents. Happy Veterans with their fruit bags from the Eagle Butte Unit 191 are Mr. Logg, Lolly Crow and Kenton LaPlante.



**SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2023 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

Saturday, February 11, 2023

BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

6:00 Social 6:30 Dinner-Buffer Style

Lasagna Bolognese, Creamy Coleslaw and Buttered Corn \$23.00

Number of tickets: ____ X \$23 = ____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Sandra Mencke 1829 Dexter Ct Huron, SD 57350-3417

Make checks payable to: ALA Unit #7

*******DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2023*******

Open to Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, and Riders

**SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION
2023 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

Friday, February 10, 2023

Joint Banquet-Buffer Style

6:00 Social 6:30 Dinner-Buffer Style

There will be **two** entrees on buffet:

Roast Beef or Chicken Marsala

Served with tossed salad, baked potato, green beans almondine, cookies & cream salad, dinner roll and coffee

Number of tickets: ____ X \$35 = ____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Lloyd Timperle PO Box 205 Huron, SD 57350

Checks payable to: American Legion post #7

*******DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2023*******



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