



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



A Word from the President

Patsy Madsen, Department President

GREETINGS:

Thank you all for having the confidence in me to be your department president. I am looking forward to this year and want to share my goals for the year. I would like for us to focus on mentoring and teaching our seasoned members, new members, and junior members about our programs. Mentoring is a great opportunity to learn from experienced and knowledgeable American Legion Family members. I believe that mentoring in our organization will truly make a difference as it gives us a chance to give back and help shape the future of our organization and to develop their own leadership skills. I am fortunate to have had two past department presidents as mentors and helped me tremendously through the process of stepping up as your Dept. President.

This year my president projects are the VA Facility at Ft. Meade and The Ranch Ministries. Both are great opportunities to help our Veterans. The SD Dept Americanism Poem theme is "Embracing Our Veterans".

So far this year, I have visited three Units. On August 4-6, 2023, I along with my husband LeRoy went to Piedmont Legion Post/Unit 311 and helped serve suppers at the Legion Post. They serve breakfast and supper for 10 days during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. We enjoyed helping them. Sunday August 13th, I, along with LeRoy were invited to attend Rock Creek Post/Unit 324 and Little Eagle Post 82 Pow Wow in Bullhead SD. We were honored to participate in the opening ceremony at the Pow Wow arena. We visited their Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We did have somewhat of an adventure getting to the event, sort of got off the beaten path, drove on muddy roads, almost slid in the ditch a few times, but we made it to the highway safely to meet up with Carol and Russell, and arrived just in time for the opening ceremony. We can laugh at it now, but at the time it was not so funny to either of us.

If anyone would like me to visit or attend an event, please contact me at least two weeks in advance so that I can check my schedule to make sure that I am available to attend. I plan on coming to all District meetings. I look forward to seeing you there.

With that, I will leave you a quote that I like: "Together We Can" and a quote by Helen Keller "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much."

Thank you,
Patsy Madsen

SD Department Officers 2023-2024



Sharon Broghammer— Historian; Kim Anderson— Parliamentarian; Past Dept President Joyce Smith ; President Patsy madsen; AnnaMae Warnier—1st Vice; Susie Learning—2nd Vice; Wendy Henley—Chaplain



President Patsy Madsen; Treasurer Carol Edwards; Secretary Regina Whipple

SD Department District Presidents 2023-2024



District 1— Patrice Sorensen; District 2—Deb MacDonald; District 3 Marla Moisman; District 4—Jan Seibel; District 5—Mary Jo Boner; District 6—LaNell Quam; District 7—Noelle Bonjour; District 8—Karen Richelieu



September Guide

- **September 1:** *Be the One* ; Wear "Be the One" apparel- 1st Day of the month
- **September 4:** Labor Day
- **September 11:** National Day of Service & Remembrance Day
- **September 11:** *Patriot Day*
- **September 15:** National *POW/ MIA* Recognition Day
- **September 18:** *Air Force* Birthday
- **September 24:** *Gold Star Mother's Day*

District Fall Meetings

- District 2:** September 16th , Hermosa Post 303 –TBD
- District 1:** - September 17th, Piedmont Post 311: Social 10:30am mtn; Lunch noon, Meeting 12:45pm
- District 4:** September 23rd –TBD
- District 5:** September 24th— Watertown– TBD
- District 7:** October 21th –Tea-TBD
- District 8:** October 22nd—TBD
- District 6:** October 28th –TBD
- District 3:** October 29th—TBD

in Loving Memory

Unit 2 Tyndall - Judith Wiskus-Wynia, May 2023; Phyllis Mace March 2023; **Unit 12 Yankton** - Betty Dupraz, May 2023; **Unit 17 Watertown** - Dawn Hewlette, May 2023; **Unit 22 Rapid City** - Dorothy Wiederhold, Jan 2023; Irene Aughenbaugh, May 2023; **Unit 23 Garretson**—Mary Dorsman; **Unit 26 Stickney**—Florence Nelsen Jan 2023, Florence Hughes March 2023; Elaine Boeker, May 2023; **Unit 35 Highmore**- Jacque McDonnell, April 2023

Unit 37 Bryant -Mary Martin, Dec 2022
Unit 56 Geddes—Leona Bruner August 2023; **Unit 60 Clark**- Lousie Kittelson, May 2023; **Unit 63 Lake Preston**- Darlene Malone, April 2023; Sharon Odegaard, May 2023; **Unit 80 Britton**- Waldeen Pearson, March 2023; Loretta Enderson, April 2023; **Unit 88 White**- Teresa Pomrenke, May 2023; **Unit 114 Volga**- Rena Haynes, May 2023; **Unit 131 Valley Springs**- Harriet Skillman, Feb 2023; **Unit 152 Menno**- Alice Aisenbrey, July 2023; Stella Nusz, May 2023; Marsha Schelske, June 2023; **Unit 159 Hoven** Viola Hoven, Jan 2023; **Unit 169 Winner**- Gretchen Wollin, April 2023; **Unit 173 Philip**- Thelma Heltzel, May 2023; Gladys Kuchenbecker July 2023; **Unit 176 Davis**-- Alene Wiebesiek ,May 2023; **Unit 178 Orient** - Beverly Yost ,March 2023; Helen McKay July 2023; **Unit 184 Estelline**—Mary Yoder July 2023; **Unit 194 Parkston**- Lyna Beryl Wittenhagen ,May 2023

Unit 235 Marion- Ann Deckert, May 2023
Unit 261 Ethan -Darlene Hohn, Dec 2022
Unit 264 Bowdle- Virginia Oster, May 2023; **Unit 303 Hermosa** -Marie Kennedy, June 2023

Membership by Rose Kraft, SD Dept. Chairman



A new year is upon us. As we are beginning our year recruiting, retaining, rejoining, and renewing members, the new theme will be "The Great American Dog Race". With our new national president being from Alaska she knows that membership at times is as difficult as a dog sled race across a frozen tundra.

Membership in our organization is what keeps services for our veterans in our state. Nationally, this past year memberships grew across many departments, for South Dakota we continued our decreasing numbers. As you receive your monthly progress report you will see numbers that you feel are out of reach. The Department of South Dakota received a goal from nationals, and it was up to us on how we could reach this number. Renew is the clue word in this passage. I promised every unit who renewed 100% of their membership that they would receive a one-member increase and I kept this promise. From there your number was formed by your membership August 1st plus your nonrenewed members plus one to five depending upon the size of your unit. This is a number; my true goal is for you to be one more member than you were this year.

Do not fear, just as the Great American Race, our membership will be filled with leaders, swing members, wheelers, and all of us will work as a team to reach our goals and continue to serve our veterans in our community, department and nation.

As for now I say, "Hike – begin" and "Mush on" for our membership goals in 2024.

Achievement Awards



Vice President Jane Petersen, seated, of the Gayville American Legion Auxiliary Unit #237 presented Sandy Heier, standing, with a pin and certificate for 40 years



Roberta Olson was honored June 1st for her dedication and loyalty to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #210 Mount Vernon. She was presented with a plaque in appreciation of her 50+ years of service



President Malena Diede presented Special Honor Certificates to the following members of the Yankton American Legion Auxiliary: Priscilla Mazourek for her years as Treasurer, her abundant care and accomplishments in ordering, preparing, sorting the poppies each year to be distributed on Poppy Day. Marlys List for attending conventions, District meetings and giving detailed reports to the local organization, and for serving as Unit 12 Chaplain. Gert Boyles for serving as Girls' State Chairman for many years, interviewing the girls; mentoring them and giving support where needed. Gladys Johnson for serving as Unit 12 Secretary so efficiently. Helen Simpson for her many years a Membership Chairman. She called and wrote to every member and reminded them for dues and kept accurate records of each member. Dianne Bahn for serving as 2nd Vice President for many years and stepping up to help whenever the president needed it. Joyce List for all of her years as Auxiliary President, Vice President and her work to contact the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in Yankton to set up schedules for Poppy Days.



Member to remember from ALA Mobridge Unit 4, District 4
Eileen Gienger has been a member of American Legion Auxiliary for over 65 years. Eileen has held the following officer positions : ALA President twice, Secretary once, and poppy chairman for the last 40 years, as well as served on other committees within the American Legion Auxiliary. One of Eileen's greatest assets is her ability to cook. Eileen enjoys cooking for others, she has cooked meals for the American Legion Post #4 monthly meetings for over 50 years. Eileen will be age "92" in Sept 2023 and still cooking every week for Mobridge Rotary Club. One of Eileen's hobby (when is not cooking) is crocheting. Eileen has made countless Afghans, lap blankets etc.. Eileen has been an outstanding member of our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 4 of Mobridge and we appreciate all the time and talents she has given to the Auxiliary and Legion Post #4 over the years. You are one amazing lady, Eileen Gienger

These ladies were honored recently for their continuing faithful membership to the American Legion Auxiliary in Yankton Roy Anderson Unit #12.



Left to right: Gert Boyles for 65 years; Dianna Bahn for 20 years; Marilyn Obr for 25 years; and Karen Gran for 20 years. Not pic-

September Prayer

By Wendy Henley
Dept. Chaplain

As we start a new year, with not only a new President and Officers and Chairpersons not only this but new or revised amendments and some changes in our By-aws.

Lord, I ask you now to place your hand on us and guide us in the way you would have us govern and guide the ALA, make our words Your words.

We thank you for President Madsen and for ideas along with her contributions to our Veterans with not only donations but with her time. Bless us all through the new year.

In your sons' precious name, Amen.



Bake Sale Success

What do you get when you mix 60-plus American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 members with a bake sale? Lots of busy cooks in their kitchens! The result; a scrumptiously sweet spread of homemade cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, bars, rolls, sweetbreads... you name it. Gluten free options, too, and someone even made homemade egg noodles for the occasion! And

that particular occasion was part of the American Legion Post 15's 2nd annual Rummage Sale. The event is a fundraiser for the auxiliary to help support programs for veterans. The Auxiliary's Hospitality Committee, Etc... which organized the bake sale, is thrilled with the outcome, bringing in over \$1,600. A win-win for all involved, from the recipients of the fundraiser to all those customers who gave to a good cause and got to enjoy some truly tantalizing treats

Kay Stephenson built our hospitality committee from the ground up and now we serve at several funerals, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other special events. On top of that Kay spearheads the bake sale we do during the Legion Rummage sale the last two years. This year she enlisted over 60 volunteers to bake goodies and work the bake sale.

BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary: Regina Whipple
SDALA Headquarters P. O. Box 529
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)

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 sjlamer@outlook.com or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, contact Regina first. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP Due October 1

Ft. Meade VA Medical Center:

Attn: JoanAnn Goeringer (ALA Gift Shop)
113 Comanche Road, Ft Meade SD 57741
Check with the ALA Gift Shop representative for list of items

Hot Springs VA Medical Center:

Attn: Shanna Clyde (ALA Gift Shop)
500 N. 5th Street Hot Springs, SD 57747
Check with the ALA Gift Shop representative for list of items.

Hot Springs State Veterans Home:

Attn: Carrie Alm, (ALA Gift Shop)
2500 Minnekata Ave, Hot springs SD 57747
Check with the ALA Gift Shop representative for list of items.

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center:

Attn: Julie Weinmann (ALA Gift Shop)
2501 W 22nd St, Sioux Falls SD 57117
Check with the ALA Gift Shop representative for list of items.

Human Service Center:

Attn: Lori Ganschow (ALA Gift Shop)
3515 Broadway Ave, Yankton, SD 57078
Check with the ALA Gift Shop representative for list of items.



Send monetary contributions to SD ALA Headquarters and designate your facility.



MEMORIAL DAY



The three young men sang "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood at the Memorial Day Program in Gary. SD put on by AL Post 109.

Hershman-Gordon Unit 59.



The men put the crosses in the ground at the city park across the road from the Legion Hall early in the morning. The Auxiliary arranges the wreaths in groups so the children that attend the program can put one wreath per name on each cross as the Roll Call of deceased veterans is read by the Legion Chaplain.

I've attached pictures of what it looks like before roll call and the children that helped this year. The program starts at the Legion Hall then we move to the park and after the laying of the wreaths, a potluck is at the Legion.



The Spearfish ALA Unit #164 theme this year was "Honoring the Families of our Deployed Soldiers." The rain did not stop the parade. There was so many laughter and joy from the Blue Star families who rode the Spearfish ALA float. It was a day to remember for these children

Mitchell Unit 18



FUMC love feast team and volunteers handed out over 550 backpacks and school supplies to families and kids in the community last night and this morning



The Yankton High School Girl Staters reported to the American Legion Auxiliary on their experiences at Girls State, USD, May 29 to June 3. They were among 215 other Junior girls from S. Dakota high schools under the direction of Tiffany French, Custer American Legion Auxiliary Abigail Saylor reported on her much-appreciated Journalism City assignments. They included conducting interviews with speakers who visited, including S.D. State Attorney Marty Jackley and S. D. Chief Justice, Jensen. The Girl State delegates had classes in self-defense, forensics and a mock trial where Jazmin Pietz served as prosecuting attorney. There was a very busy schedule, moving around to many activities and publishing four issues of their newspaper. They met press and communications people during lunch hours and especially enjoyed setting up a "special new-station format, complete with a green screen and teleprompters".

The other three delegates were surrounded by a simulative government. They had hands-on experience with branches of government, mock elections, and interacting "with inspiring elected officials".

The sense of unity and friendship among the delegates helped them. Special officers gained experience and their guest speakers helped us to learn how to become leaders.

There will be special notice to Junior girls after January 1, 2024 to apply for this opportunity to learn more. Witten by Gert Boyles



Piedmont SD American Legion Post 311. Friday August 4th - 6th, SD Dept Auxiliary President Patsy Madsen and LeRoy, her chauffeur, came out to help serve suppers at the Post for the weekend. The Post Legion and Auxiliary serve breakfasts and suppers the whole week during Sturgis. They serve great food.

Friday night we served pork loin, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, tossed salad, bread and cake for dessert. Sat night we served roast beef dinner, salad, bread and cake for dessert. Post 311 and Unit 311 serve delicious breakfast and supper all week long.

Thank you, Post 311 American Legion and Unit 311, for all that you do.

Patsy Madsen SD

State Convention

June 8-11, 2023





Department President Patsy's Homecoming

Theme:
Embracing our Veterans

Quote:
Together We Can



COLORS: RED, BLUE AND BLACK

FLOWERS: BLUE FORGET ME NOT

SONGS:

GOD BLESS AMERICA BY LEE GREENWOOD

WHERE STARS AND STRIPES AND THE EAGLES FLY BY AARON TIPPEN



PRESIDENT PROJECTS



THE RANCH MINISTRIES

VA FACILITY AT FORT MEADE