



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## *Embracing our Veterans*

Hello members.  
Well, it is nearing my end of term, I have had many travels and new friendships along the way. Girls State week and State Convention is just around the corner. I will be attending Girls State for the week

June 3-8, but arrive on Sunday June 2nd to help Girls State Director Tiffany and others to register the girls when they arrive Sunday afternoon. On Saturday May 18th and Sunday May 19th the statewide American Legion Riders had our meeting and meal at Pizza Ranch in Ft. Pierre on Saturday night, then on Sunday we laid a wreath to honor those that sacrificed for us for our freedoms, at the Soldiers and Sailors bldg. in Pierre. We had a decent turnout. As a reminder, for the State Convention on Thursday June 20th is the Finance and DEC meetings, then Friday is the opening session through Sunday. Our National President Lisa Williams will be attending.

Hope to see you there.  
Dept President  
Patsy Madsen



## 4th Annual Wreath Laying

SD Dept. President Patsy Madsen, member of the Ft. Pierre Chapter #20 of The American Legion Riders, participated in the 4th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Soldiers & Sailors War Memorial in Pierre, May 19, 2024. The guest speaker was Kevin Morello, candidate for the office of TAL Department Commander. Riders from the Warner, Wagner, Ft. Pierre, and Black Hills Chapters participated in the ceremony.



## *Endorsements 2024-2025*

Alcester, S.D. Unit 86, endorses AnnaMae Warnier for the position of American Legion Auxiliary Department President

Irene, S.D. Unit 193, endorses Susie Learning for the position of the South Dakota Legion Auxiliary Department 1st Vice President

Mitchell, SD Unit 18, endorses Sharon Boghammer for the position of South Dakota Auxiliary Department Chaplin

Onida, SD Unit 79, endorses Mary Jo Stier for the position of South Dakota Auxiliary Department NEC

Aurora, SD Unit 230 endorses Wendy Henley for the position of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President

Wagner, SD Unit 11 endorses Kathleen Gieman for the position of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President

## *South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Fundraiser*

<b>South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Raffle Fundraiser</b>			
Proceeds to Benefit our Veterans			
50% of Proceeds to be awarded in Cash Prize			
1st Prize 25% - 2nd Prize 15% - 3rd Prize 10%			
Drawing to be held at			
<b>2025 Department Convention</b>			
Donation: \$10 Per Ticket			
6 for \$30 - 12 for \$45			
Winner need not be present			

Raffle No. 0123

Tickets to be available at Convention in June 2024. Winners to be determined at Convention 2025

District Presidents will help with distribution.

Members can sign out tickets to sell and will turn in their money and tickets to Susie Learning.

All unsold tickets will need to be turned into Susie Learning

## June Calendar

**June 6:** D-Day—Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France

**June 12:** Women Veterans Day

**June 14:** Army Birthday

**June 14:** Flag Day

**June 9 –15:** National Flag Week:

**June 27:** PTSD Awareness Day

**June 20-23**—Department Convention, Pierre SD

## In Loving Memory

12 Yankton Naomi Somen - 04/24  
 15 Sioux Falls Lillian Blanchard - 04/24  
 65 Dell Rapids Marcella Rave - 04/24  
 80 Britton Betty Mundt - 03/22  
 91 Dallas Lillian Lane - 04/24  
 118 Hartford Helen Kapperman - 04/24  
 140 Salem Cleata Lentsch -04/24  
 140 Salem Gertrude Kayser- 04/24  
 142 Tripp Elva Brosz - 06/23  
 159 Hoven Virginia Hawkinson - 02/24  
 159 Hoven Alice Simon - 01/04  
 166 Emery Valeria Plucker - 04/24  
 187 Fairfax Dorthy Pistulka - 12/23  
 187 Fairfax Marilyn Weidner - 01/24  
 187 Fairfax Viola Wiedrick - 02/24



## June Prayer

Submitted by Jill Lamer

A prayer of gratitude is simply giving thanks to God in humility and love. We are called to love God by Christ Himself and this means gratitude of the heart for the mercy and grace of God!

When we're willing to come before Him with gratitude and humility, we realize that no matter what we face, God doesn't just work to change our situations and help us through our problems. He does more. He changes our hearts. His power, through hearts of thankfulness and focused minds on Him, releases the grip our struggles have over us. We're strengthened by His peace, refueled by His joy.



## District 1 Member of the Year



American Legion Auxiliary Spring District One Meeting. During the district meeting, Cindy Raysor was selected as the American Legion Auxiliary Member of the year moving to the state level. The Spearfish Unit 164 auxiliary members nominated and elected Cindy Raysor as their 2024 Unit Member of the Year. Cindy is an active member of The American Legion Auxiliary. She dedicates herself to serving veterans and the community. She serves as the Unit Parliamentary and Unit Constitution & Bylaws chairman.

Micheline Nelson, Unit president said "Cindy is a humble member, always there, always ready to help and participate in our Unit projects. She is dependable and follows through with her commitments. She led our unit to review our Constitution & Bylaws and rewrote our standing rules. As a committee member, she helped find donors for the door prizes for the Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair. She was one of three committee members for the Christmas Gift Bags project that prepared and helped distribute 186 gifts to Veterans in nursing homes, Cornerstone Mission, Ft. Meade VA, and local at-home Veterans. She is our go-to member when we need cookies and baking goods. This year she made dozens of cookies for the 20th Black Hills Veterans March & Marathon, the Vietnam Seabees Reunion at the Fish Hatchery, Halloween cupcakes for the Blood Drive, dozens of cookies for the Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair "We've Got Your Six", desserts for the Quilts of Valor ceremony, and Valentine cupcakes for the National Salute to Veterans Patients' reception at Ft. Meade. She also volunteered with the school supplies drive for the American Education Week and helped deliver them to the local schools." She volunteers for her church preparing baked goods; making salads; setup, serving, and cleaning up for funeral meals. She helps for Sturgis Rally breakfasts each morning, and she takes the Blessed Sacraments to the Priest to serve the congregation at Communion. She also volunteers for the Compassion Cupboard, and was appointed to the Belle Fourche Ministerial Association Board. Cindy Raysor brings ideas, she is a servant leader, and emanate peace. She impacts our local and area Veterans and our community. Her life is a testimony to the quote from Roy T. Bennett "Dedicate yourself to what gives your life true meaning and purpose; make a positive difference in someone's life."

Pictured: ALA District One President, Patrice Sorensen; Cindy Raysor; ALA Dept. of South Dakota President, Patsy Madsen



Submitted by Rose Kraft

To make a difference in someone's world, you do not have to be amazing, rich, talented, or beautiful. You just have to be you and CARE." If you are reading this article, I am talking about you. You have volunteered in your community, you have helped a veteran, an active military person, and the children in your world. You also have worked the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and recruited, retained, rejoined, or renewed a member for our organization.

I have been asked recently why I joined; it is a dying organization. The truth of the matter is we have more Veterans today than ever who need our help. South Dakota has had facilities on the closing list, but because of our numbers in our organization we have been able to convince congress to keep them open. Personally, I am thankful that Northeast South Dakota now has facilities in South Dakota and our Veterans do not have to drive three hours for services.

The year 2024 is coming to a close. We get to celebrate our successes at the Department Convention June 21 – 23 in Pierre. We are having many transitions in our department and that is not always easy for everyone. But the one thing that is easy is to be a member of this organization for your community, your Veterans, your children, and your active military! Nationals has presented us with a very reachable membership goal for 2025. This means that we need to continue to renew our members. We have 70 units that have five or more members that have not renewed for this year. I have reached out to our past, present and future leaders to make some personal phone calls. I am hoping to get as close to 9279 members this year as possible. This means 665 members by July 1! Is this a huge goal? Yes! Do I believe we can reach it? Maybe! But, mostly, every number closer to 9279 is a number closer to a great 2025 year for South Dakota. A few upcoming pieces of information, I will have information for all units to be able to have full ALAMIS access, this means that you can enter membership, enter new members, change names, and addresses. The 2025-year membership renewal starts after the National Convention – I say look at your September meeting. We are going to be promoting membership everywhere next year and with that we are going to try to reach goals and receive incentives for your great work!

May you be proud of the work you have done, the person you are and the difference you have made for the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. It is never too late to renew a member.

## Mitchell Unit 18 Member of the Year



Coacher-Goetsch American Legion Auxiliary is honored to select Linda Ekberg as our 2024 Member of the Year. She currently serves as our unit's membership chairperson. The unit can always count on her to provide baked goods or salads whenever asked. Some activities she has participated in this year included concession stand for Corn Palace BINGO, providing lap blankets for veterans residing in local nursing homes and preparing Christmas stockings for veterans at

the Sioux Falls VA. She is dedicated to her church, volunteering to fold church newsletters.

Linda has three children and five grandchildren and seven grand dogs. She is a Nebraska Husker and Green Bay Packers fan. She loves spending time with her friends and family, especially going out to eat and hosting scrabble parties. She spends a lot of her time crafting; making and selling wreaths and other craft items at craft shows. She also works out at the local Recreation Center enjoying aquasize classes. In her spare time, she enjoys watching her soaps and game show network and Hallmark movies.

## A word from the Secretary

Pierre Unit #8 is looking for volunteers to assist with the registration table at the Department Convention. If interested, they can contact Jeannine Loesch at (605) 220-9351.

The deadline to request Joint Banquet tickets is June 1st.

The Saturday Auxiliary Banquet honoring the 25th Anniversary of Sereta Douthit is open to anyone in the Legion Family.

There will be a banquet style luncheon available for purchase at the Convention Hall.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

Official Publication of the American Legion  
Auxiliary Department of South Dakota

Published monthly except July and August at  
Hartford, SD from September 2022, forward.  
Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701  
-2917. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year. Dates  
from September through June All copy must be  
in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of each  
month preceding current issues. We do not pay  
for the postage cost of address changes.

## BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquar-  
ters

Dept. Headquarters 23782 136th St.,  
Firesteel SD 57633

email at [southdakotaala@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaala@gmail.com)

Visit the SD ALA Website at  
[www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

South Dakota Legionette. (Form on the  
website) Send your news and pictures to  
the editor at [sjlamer@outlook.com](mailto:sjlamer@outlook.com) or  
mail them. For reporting an error on  
names or addresses, change of ad-  
dresses and deceased members, con-



## Hudson ALA Unit #128 -- Poppies

Our Hudson Auxiliary held a Poppy Days  
Coloring Activity for Children, at the Hud-  
son Library, where children could learn  
about the Poppy and its meaning. Each  
child received a Poppy, the Poppy Coloring  
Book, snacks, and a Poppy page to color--  
for display in the Library window during  
the month of May. The children enjoyed  
a reading from "The Poppy Lady"  
book. Poppy Coloring Books will be dis-  
tributed to children at Hudson's American  
Legion Memorial Day Program.



## Yankton Unit 12 Girls State Orientation

Seven Yankton High School juniors attended the Girls State Orientation on Tuesday  
evening. They are the following: Sophie Petheram, Taylor Tucker, Braxton Adams,  
Aimee Tschetter, Rain Lane, Andrea Sotelo, and Kiyah Sherman. Seated are the Yankton



## June is PTSD Awareness Month

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling
- Educate yourself and members on the "BE the One" Campaign
- Display resources at your post or in your community

Resources can be found at [betheone.org](http://betheone.org)

**For Urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and  
press 1 for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7.**

You can also text **838255**

## South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary

The new Logo for the SD American Legion  
Auxiliary has been approved for certain  
items and can be purchased on-line at Sign  
Design ([signdesign1977.com](http://signdesign1977.com))

Navigate to club ordering then American  
Legion Auxiliary: Filter by American Legion  
Auxiliary

Remember , any item or-  
dered online Sign Design  
will give back \$2.00 to the  
American Legion Auxiliary.



### Yankton Unit 12 Poem and Essay Winners

The American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Chairman Malena Diede and Deanna Branaugh presented the winning awards for the Essay and Poetry Contest. The winners from Minette Paltz sixth grade class and Lisa Olnes' seventh grade class at Sacred Heart School are pictured below.



Essay winners pictured from left to right: Malena Diede, Harper Weisenburger - First place, Grade 6; Mary Poeschl - Second place, Grade 6; Leah Hiser - Third place, Grade 6; Deanna Branaugh, Americanism Co Chairman.

Poetry winners pictured from left to right: Malena Diede Americanism Chairman, Everly Bruening - First place, Grade 6; Avery Brinkman- Third place, Grade 7; Luke Olnes Second place, Grade 6; Olivia Brim - First place, Grade 7; Kelsey Villanueva - Third place, Grade 6; Karsen Schulte - Second place, Grade 7; Deanna Branaugh, Americanism Co Chair-



### Post 179 members and Unit 179 Auxiliary members went to the Veteran's home in Hot Springs

“Legion Members of Johnson-Peterson Post 179 along with Auxiliary members and guests sponsored bingo for the residents of the Veteran’s Home in Hot Springs on Saturday, April 27. They also delivered cookies, caps, puzzles, socks, t-shirts, playing cards, and personal hygiene products for the veterans.”



### Mitchell Coacher-Goetsch Auxiliary Unit 18

Mitchell Coacher-Goetsch Auxiliary Unit 18 sponsored an event where all participants that placed in the ALA Poem & Essay contest read their entry. A total of \$160 was awarded to 26 winners that were honored. 104 guests attended the presentation where they enjoyed listening to these patriotic



Participants were presented certificates and monetary awards. A total of 79 entries were submitted from third through sixth graders from three local elementary schools

### Roscoe Unit 229



Roscoe Unit 259 promoted April Military Children Awareness. School supplies were collected and sent to Ellsworth AFB in Box Elder

## Spearfish Mayor John Senden proclaimed May 24-27 as Spearfish Poppy Days

On May 20, 2024, during the City Council meeting, Spearfish Mayor John Senden proclaimed May 24-27 as Spearfish Poppy Days. Honor our fallen warriors and contribute to the continuing needs of our veterans on National Poppy Day®, during Memorial Day weekend. The Flanders Fields poppy has become an internationally known and recognized symbol of the lives sacrificed in war and the hope that none died in vain. The American Legion Family called upon Congress to proclaim the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day, which was officially designated as such in 2017. “Wearing the poppy on National Poppy Day and throughout Memorial Day weekend is one small way to honor and remember our fallen warriors who willingly served our nation and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,” said ALA Unit 164 Poppy Chairman, Amber Lawlar. “We must never forget.”

When The American Legion Family adopted the poppy as its memorial flower in the early 1920s, the blood-red icon became an enduring symbol of honor for the sacrifices of our veterans from the battlefields of France in World War I to today’s conflicts. The American Legion Auxiliary raises funds each year distributing poppies throughout the nation, with 100 percent of the funds raised going directly to help veterans, military, and their families.



Pictured are Amber Lawlar, Johannas Asmussen, City representative, Micheline Nelson, and Penny Brown

### Mitchell Coacher-Goetsch Auxiliary Unit 18



On May 1st, Sharon Broghammer presented a check to Mitchell Christian Principal Todd for Teacher Appreciation Week.



SD VFW 1st Vice President Colleen Miller-Foland and SD ALA State Historian Sharon Broghammer ready Poppy lady to the Mitchell Christian 3rd graders and handed out poppies and flags to the class afterwards

### Scholarship winners

Department Scholarship winners:

- \$500 University Scholarship winners: Sydney Ganschow, Tea, and Emily Clark, Grotton, Alternates: Aubri Haselhorst, Faulkton and Quinton Berg, Emery
- \$500 Technical Scholarship: no one applied
- \$300 Thelma Foster Jr. winner is Madlynn Kenton, Madison and alternate is Lainey Uttecht, Wolsy.
- \$300 Thelma Foster Sr. winner is Tya Weideman, Mellette and no alternate.

National Scholarship winners: We had 3 South Dakota winners this year!

- \$1000 Spirit of Youth - Mackenzie Kaiser, Tolstoy
- \$2000 Non-Traditional Student - Katherine Stier, Onida
- \$2500 Junior Member Loyalty - Shanna Clyde, Hot Springs

### Tentative Schedule SD ALA 104<sup>th</sup> Department Convention June 20-23, 2024

**\*Thursday June 20, 2024\***

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Finance Interviews
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- 2:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. DEC Meeting
- \*\*\*District President & Department Chairperson Orientation to follow\*\*\*

**\*Friday June 21, 2024\***

- 7:30 Registration Desk opens.
- 8:00 a.m. Processional lineup
- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Auxiliary Convention Convenes -**Official Opening—Call to Order**  
Advance Colors//Pledge//Opening Prayer  
National Anthem//Preamble//Welcome  
Resolutions//C&B (Preliminary Reading)  
Reports from Department Officers  
Nominations of Dept. Officers
- ??? Juniors Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Convention Reconvenes  
Greetings from District Presidents  
Recognition of Hospital Reps//Depts//Chairmen  
Reports from Dept. Chairmen  
Prayer—Convention in Recess
- 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Legion-ALA-SAL-Riders
- 6:00 p.m. No Host Social Hour
- 7:00 p.m. Joint Banquet Legion-ALA-SAL-Riders

**\*Saturday June 22, 2024\***

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Desk opens.
- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Auxiliary Convention Reconvenes  
Call to Order//Prayer//Pledge//Preamble  
Unit Member of the Year Awards  
Constitution & Bylaws (Final Report)
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- ??? Legion Band Concert
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Convention Reconvenes  
Business Meeting//Vote on Amendments  
Election of Department Officers  
Election of National Convention Delegates & Alternates  
Prayer//Convention in Recess
- 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Auxiliary Banquet honoring 25-year PDP Sereta Douthit
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion "Fun Auction"

**\*Sunday June 23, 2024\***

- 8:30 a.m. - Convention Reconvenes  
ALA Memorial Service  
Installation of Dept. Officers & District Presidents//Acceptance & Farewell speeches  
Announcements//Closing Prayer//Retiree Colors  
Adjournment of the 104<sup>th</sup> Dept. Convention
- 30-minute Break with Post Finance//DEC Meeting to Follow. All members are welcome.