



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



Embracing our Veterans



Happy Fall Everyone.

It is hard to believe that it is this time of year already. Not quite sure where the year went.

It has been very busy for me between work

and travelling to district meetings. I attended the Midwest Honor Flight celebration in Sioux Falls on Sept 26th. My husband LeRoy was on the Mission 16 flight, along with Rod Smith, Hugh Holmes, Jim Huls and 80 other veterans.

While in Sioux Falls, I and LeRoy toured the Veterans Community Project (tiny home village for veterans). The director Eric Gage gave us the tour and information on this tiny home project for veterans. They were expecting three veterans to move in to their tiny homes that week.

On October 11th, we went out to "The Ranch Ministries" east of Pierre to donate \$610 to Ken & Liz Korkow, from the sales of the angel charms that I made for my special Presidents project. I want to thank each of you that purchased one of these charms. The Ranch Ministries appreciated it very much.

I will be attending the last four district meetings the end of October. Then on November 4th, I will be attending the Northern Hills Veterans Fair in Sturgis SD.

Before we know it, Veterans Day will be here on November 11th, and Thanksgiving, then Christmas Gift Shops are in November and Christmas parties in December. And then Christmas itself.

Thank you everyone for all that you do for our Veterans, families and communities.

Patsy Madsen
Dept. President



Ranch Ministries Donation

I went to the Ranch Ministries on October 11th, for my special Presidents project, I presented Ken & Liz Korkow with a donation check for \$610, that was raised from selling the angel charms that I made.

I want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their donations.

Thank you,

Patsy

Veterans Community Project

September 25, 2023. I visited the Veterans Community Project in Sioux Falls SD. Eric Gage Executive Director gave us a tour and shared information with myself and LeRoy. Currently, they have three Veterans moving in this week. Unit 15 Auxiliary provides the kitchen table and chairs, some food items and the American flag (donating the flag for life).

The beds, kitchens and bathrooms amenities are all donated by different companies in the community. All furniture items leave with the Veterans when they transition next place of residence. Typically, Veterans are at the tiny home village up to a two-year period.

There are five tiny homes completed and working on five more that will be enclosed before winter. There are tiny homes for one-person (200 square feet), other tiny homes for veterans and family (300 square feet) and tiny homes that are ADA compliant (400 square feet).

Altogether when all tiny homes are completed there will be 25 homes along with buildings in the center for the Veterans to get together. Along with landscaping.

This is such a great project, taking care of our Veterans.

Thank you to Eric Gage for taking the time to give us a tour and all the information. ~ Department President Patsy



November Calendar

- Nov 1—Be The One –Wear your “Be The One” Apparel
- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Nov 5th—Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 10th—Marine Corps Day/Birthday
- Nov 10th— American Legion Auxiliary Birthday
- Nov 11th — Veterans Day
- Nov 23rd— Thanksgiving



Mid-Winter Conference

**Mid-Winter Conference in Deadwood
Feb 16th—18th 2024**

**If you plan on attending,
please pre-register by emailing
patrice.sorensenau@yaho.com
Or call and leave a message at
605-791-1501**

**This will help with registration and seating
Hope to see you there!**

in Loving Memory

- Unit 7 Huron** -Vivian Hampton,9/23
- Unit 11 Wagner** -Wendy Etuk,8/23
- Unit 13 Wakonda**- Beverly Frislie, 4/23
- Unit 15 Sioux Falls**- Kathy Engle,9/23
- Unit 18 Mitchell** - Jean Mae Peterson,6/23;**Unit 21 Hurley**- Linda LeBrun; 9/23;**Unit 29 Woonsocket** -Leona Brown; 2/23;**Unit 33 Sturgis** -Juliette Hyronemus; 9/23;Elda Keeton; 7/23;**Unit 40 Webster** -Mary Cimpl , 9/23;**Unit 50 Sisseton**- Agnes Case; 10/22;**Unit 53 Canton**- Norma Palmer; 9/23;**Unit 65 Dell Rapids**- Caryl Schone ; 4/22;**Unit 69 Doland** --Lillian Woodfork ; 10/23;**Unit 71 Hot Springs** - Barbara Schulz ; 7/23; LaRee Cole,6/23;
- Unit 88 White** Georgene Baustad ,3/23;
- Unit 92 Redfield** -Rita Lunney ,5/23;**Unit 92 Redfield**- Joan Crook,2/22;**Unit 92 Redfield** -Marilyn Vanvleet, 6/23; **Unit 93 Letcher**- Magdalen Siemonsma, 9/23;
- Unit 96 White Lake** -Norma Parce,5/23;
- Unit 115 Platte**- Jean Docken,9/23; **Unit 135 Gettysburg**- Ella Mae Nehls,8/23;
- Unit 136 Chester**-- Lurane Schroeder,7/23;**Unit 169 Winner** Ramona Helgeson,8/23; **Unit 169 Winner** -Connie Swenson,9/23; **Unit 177 Worthing** -- Evelyn Jensen,9/23;**Unit 229 Big Stone City**- Joyce Weber,9/23;**Unit 262 Claremont** -Joan Hageman,9/23

Sylvia Mikkelsen



A lifetime member of Hutchinson Unit 6 Gregory , received her Poppy Pin. She was very excited and will wear it proudly

Regina Whipple



Regina has announced her retirement from the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Secretary Position.



We will miss your words of wisdom and encouragement. Best Wishes on your new Chapter!

4 Generations of Auxiliary Members



Rieck Morgan Legion Auxiliary of Warner, District 4, Unit 137, is proud to have 4 generations of members attend our meetings. Members are Donna Kappes, member since 6-1-1973, Patty Vaughn, member since 11-28-2012, Megan Smidt, member since 1-14-2014, and Lilliana Smidt, member since 12-5-2022.

Christine Woodard

Submitted by Cynthia Stoebner, President



A life-time member actively serving our community for 62 years and recently celebrated her 97th birthday.

"I joined the Higgins-Jessen Unit in 1961. Back then we would sew rags together to send to Hot Springs where they made them into beautiful rugs. I still have some of those rugs." "I was President 1967-1969, and again 1991-1992. At some time I have held every office at least once, except Vice President." Christine has installed several years of officers and continues as a vital resource for our Constitution and Bylaws. Thank you for being our role model.

October Prayer

By Wendy Henley
Dept. Chaplain



Dear Lord,

*Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve our country now and in the past, and for the sacrifices their families make so that we can all enjoy the blessing of freedom. We praise you for calling them to help protect us, and for giving them the courage and ability to do their jobs well.
~Amen*

Hudson Unit 128

Members have been busy populating their new formal Auxiliary Wall at their Post location with recognition, awards, certificates, pictures and their new Auxiliary Banner. They "love the Banner and are very proud of the Wall



which strongly portrays the service our members give."

New Member Recruitment

Volga Unit 114 recruiting new members during Post 114 pancake feed. And promoting Americanism by handing out Poppy and America the Beautiful color-

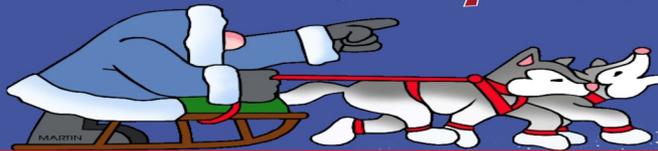


Artesian American Legion Auxiliary #47



The Auxiliary #47 prepare decorations and door prizes for the upcoming Veterans Day Lunch. Pictured from left to right Candi Danek, Holly Mckillop, Dee Bechen, and Laura Pearson. Not pictured Karen Klinkner

The Great American Membership Race



Membership by Rose Kraft, SD Dept. Chairman

As you are reading this article, all the sled dogs have been delivered to their new owners, the District Presidents. Sarge, my dog, is excited to see how many units and how many districts make the Great South Dakota Membership Race and take a trip of learning to New Orleans next August for the National Convention. So, here is the map for the Mighty state of South Dakota, who knows what it is like to renew, recruit, and rejoin members. All the pups were born in Britton, South Dakota at my home, they were nourished with great information about our organization, on how we are the largest woman-based organization supporting our Veterans. We not only love our Veterans, but we care for our military, our children, and our communities. This is why each of us does what we do every day. As I traveled across to the district meetings, I delivered the pups to their new owners and each District President hitched up their team and in tandem they are off visiting their units and being nourished by the greatness each of you are doing. Here is the map for the great state of South Dakota.

South Dakota Membership Race

- 10% - 1st stop is Groton home of District 4 President, Jan Seibel**
- 20% - 2nd stop is Castlewood home of District 5 President, Mary Jo Boner**
- 30% - 3rd stop is Canton home of District 7 President, Noel Bonjour**
- 40% - 4th stop is Irene home of District 8 President, Karen Richelieu**
- 50% - 5th stop is Arlington home of District 6 President, LaNell Quam**
- 60% - 6th stop is Onida home of District 3 President, Marla Mosiman**
- 70% - 7th stop is Box Elder home of District 1 President, Patrice Sorensen**
- 80% - 8th stop is Hermosa home of District 2 President, Deb MacDonald**
- 90% - 9th stop – Pierre, SD home of Depart. President, Patsy Madsen and our Department Convention**
- 100% - 10th stop – National Convention – New Orleans!**

Where is your unit located today? Where is your district today? Updates will come in next month's Legionette. Mush on and remember to renew, rejoin, and recruit your members!

BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquarters

P. O. Box 529 Clear Lake, SD 57226

email at southdakotaala@gmail.com

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

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

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"Chip in for Vets"

On August 15, 2023 the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 held it's 2nd Annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament. We had another beautiful day for this tournament and had 136 people show up. We sold mulligans, had "move up" holes, a raffle for a Folds of Honor Golf Bag and a raffle for many door prizes donated by our community. We also had \$1,000 sponsorships, \$500 sponsorships and \$100 sponsorships. Rolls and coffee were served prior to the tournament and also had box lunches for the players and the volunteers to make this tournament a huge success. This year we raised \$20,186.80 to help the Veterans Community Project with the "tiny homes. We honored all our veterans that played in this tournament and especially one that was a WWII veteran that is now 90 years young that participated. We look forward to planning next years tournament that will be held August 13th, 2024 at Elmwood Golf Course.



Kasey Jacobsen, Karen Dunham and Deb Metzger, Co-chairs

Dictionaries for Students



The Henry J. Fix Auxiliary Unit 23– Garretson presented dictionaries to 34 3rd graders! Shown is Rhonda Kirton showing the dictionaries and the students excited! Even though ipads are wonderful, it is nice to have an actual



dictionary book in hand to look up things for class and to learn new vocabulary words. Enjoy!

Job Opening— American Legion Auxiliary Secretary

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary has an open position for the Department Secretary.

Qualifications: • Manage the department headquarters while supporting our mission for the organization. • Knowledgeable on non-profit and employee tax forms to ensure that all appropriate state and/or regulatory taxes are filed. • Excellent communication skills, willingness to learn new systems as needed, provide necessary reporting as requested, ability to multi-task and able to work closely with multiple Executives. • Attention to detail, strong organizational and time management skills, work under minimal supervision. • Maintain all monies received at the department headquarters, make deposits, and provide the Treasurer details of deposits. • Maintain all record books that are needed to carry out the work of the office. • Proficient in Word and Excel. • Open all mail, answer phone calls, maintain calendar and appointments, make room arrangements, and fill other related job duties. • Attend meetings as requested. Send and give notices of all meetings, take meeting minutes, and act as Secretary of the Executive Committee. • Ability to work some weekends and have dependable transportation. • Department Secretary position is 40 hours a week. • High School diploma, 3 years experience preferred.

Closing date December 15, 2023, or until filled. Please submit a written letter of interest along with a resume and job references to: South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 529, Clear Lake, SD 57226

Position is open statewide and Dept headquarters location TBD

South Dakota Czech Day's Queen Guest Speaker at Unit 12, Yankton

Submitted by Malena Diede, President of American Legion Auxiliary Yankton



At the monthly meeting in September for Roy Anderson #12 Unit of Yankton American Legion Auxiliary, President Malena Diede introduced Drew Hejna as guest speaker. Drew Hejna was the 2022-2023 Tabor Czech Day's Queen, South Dakota Czech Day's Queen and was nominated and represented South Dakota at the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant and was awarded the title Miss Czech-Slovak US First Runner - Up along with Miss Congeniality. Dressed in the traditional Czech kroj, she explained the meaning behind the intricately decorated costume which celebrates her family's Czech heritage.



Drew currently attends the University of South Dakota for kinesiology and exercise science. She feels very passionately about her Czech and Slovak heritage and looks forward to traveling nationwide for the rest of the year, advocating for her heritage.

Hot Springs Tea Party

2nd Annual Tea Party in Hot Springs was held on Sept 17, 2023 .



Good food,
Good conversation,
Good time!



Hermosa Unit 303



Hermosa Unit #303 had t-shirts made with President Patsy's emblem and theme printed on them for the Custer Co. Fair / Parade this year.



Wiley family with (3) generations of Auxiliary members with their Veteran; Toby Wiley.

Important Notice

Community Care and Tricare members should know we are each responsible for reporting emergency services used. It is the service member or family's responsibility to report with 72 hours.

72-Hour Emergency Care Reporting Line

1-844-724-7842

This number should be programmed into your phone and others that may need to make this call for you /your service member. (Spouses, Children & others who are your emergency contacts) Being proactive may help ensure billing is reported correctly.

Call Community Care 877-881-7618 for further question.

Historic Custer State Park Cabins



Randy Keiser and Bernie Hunhoff presented the program on Historic Custer State Park cabins at the monthly American Legion Auxiliary meeting in October. Peter Norbeck, who is remembered for designing the Needles Highway, was also instrumental in establishing Custer State Park in 1919. His idea was to allow individuals to build cabins on the park land. These cabin owners were a great asset in helping to preserve Wildlife and were able to keep an eye on Forest Fires developing. Leases on the land occupied by the cabins will be expiring in 2029 and the state is considering not renewing those leases and possibly remove the cabins. Randy Keiser related the interesting history of one particular cabin that was previously owned by Harry and Wynn Speece, WNAX radio's longtime Neighbor Lady.

Submitted by Malena Diede, President of American Legion Auxiliary Roy Anderson Unit #12 of Yankton.



South Dakota
District Fall Meetings



District 1 — Piedmont Unit 311 Host



District 2—Hermosa Unit 303 Host



District 3 — Fort Pierre Unit 20 Host



District 4 — Roscoe Unit 259 Host



District 5 — Watertown Unit 17 Host



District 6 — Wessington Springs Unit 14 Host



District 7 — Tea Unit 266 Host



District 8— Springfield Unit 132 Host

Big Stone City Gertje-Van Lith American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229



Oct 3rd, 2023, the Bid Stone City School had a spaghetti meal at the Community Center. Janice, Sandy, Phyllis and Sue members American Legion Auxiliary volunteered to be the clean up committee



Auxiliary members attended and celebrated member Ruth Hanson's **100th Birthday**. Ruth is their "Gold Star Mother"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



On Tuesday Oct 3rd our Auxiliary Unit Bloodmobile Committee met our new Account Manager, Diane Pillar. Members are Sue, Janice, Diane Pillar, Sandy, and Phyllis

Midwest Honor Flight

Some highlights from Midwest Honor Flight Mission 16 & 17 . What an amazing experience for our veterans. For information on applications for your veterans or guardian applications visit www.midwesthonorflight.org



Jim Huls and Family



Garretson Legion with their veterans



Bill Peters and Family



Rod Smith and Family



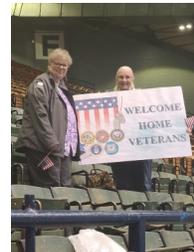
Wakonda Legion Family welcomes home their veteran



Mary Jo served as a guardian for a veteran



Hugh & Linda Holmes



Theresa & Laurel coming to support



Leroy & Patsy Madsen



Wakonda Auxiliary Unit ready to welcome their veteran



Veteran James Williams



Be sure to check the upcoming flights in the spring and plan to attend a Welcome Home, you won't be disappointed!

Things you should know

AD & D

Insurance Protection

We want you to know, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older.

There is no cost to you, coverage has been arranged on your behalf by Your American Legion Department.

For Online Activation and more information visit:

TheLIT.com/LegionCare2



Mission Training 101

Would you like to learn more about working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Would you like to network with national leaders and other members in your district who share your passion and enthusiasm for helping our veterans? During this 1-day conference, you'll be inspired while learning more about working the ALA's core programs in an interactive and fun environment. Many of the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Outreach programs will be covered during this conference.

Join us In Lincoln, NE on February 3, 2024

[Mission Training \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

Americanism Essay Contest

Essay Title:

"What does Freedom mean to me?"

Americanism Poem Contest

Essay Title:

"Embracing Our Veterans"

AEF Grants

The National Executive Committee approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund from \$2,400 to \$3,000.

Updated Applications can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary Website



The American Legion Family Be the One initiative

The American Legion's Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit betheone.org



Department Headquarters

Temporarily all secretarial duties will be handled by Department Treasurer, Carol Edwards.

All mailings should be sent to the same address:

PO Box 529 Clear Lake, SD 57226.

The phone number will remain the same:

southdakotaala@gmail.com

Please have patience while we transition.

