



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## Americanism

by 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 freedom mean to you?" while our Poem Title is "Embracing our Veterans". 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.

There will be Americanism or Star-Spangled Kids kits available at MidWinter – 1 for each District President. Please take these on your Unit visits so that our Units can see some of the resources that are available from National, i.e., the comic books, flag etiquette, etc. Maybe if, by seeing them, they will decide to order them and use them for future Americanism projects!

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

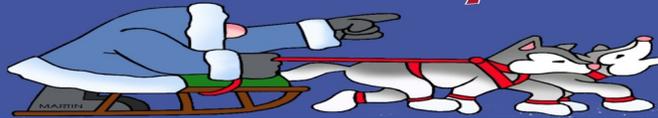
Work these programs together and let's make Americanism a Family Affair! (Oh, and Report! Report! Report!)

### 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
- National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29
- 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
- Father's Day, third Sunday in June
- Independence Day - July 4
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27
- Labor Day - first Monday in September
- Constitution Day, September 17
- Columbus Day - second Monday in October
- Navy Day - October 27
- Veterans Day - November 11
- Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day - December 25
- Birthdays of States (date of admission)
- Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

## The Great American Membership Race



Membership by Rose Kraft.

As we have been busy with the bustle and hustle of Christmas time celebrating with family and friends, we have ten units who are celebrating \$25.00 for making our 100% membership challenge. Congratulations to Units 75 Murdo, 187 Fairfax, 52 Armour, 58 Columbia, 178 Orient, 76 Veblen, 180 New Effington, 105 Nunda, 154 Montrose, 193 Irene and 235 Marion. You will be presented with your check at the Mid-Winter activities in Deadwood in February. It would be great if you could have a member or members attend to receive this recognition.

While we continue celebrating, we ring in our New Year! Nationals is celebrating with the 2023 membership finishing off the year ahead of the 2022 membership year. This shows an **increase in membership** for the American Legion Auxiliary! South Dakota continues with sending in their memberships with hopes of reaching 9178 members which would be one more than we had at the end of 2023. I am anxiously waiting to share with you that we are ahead of membership for 2024 then we were at the same time in 2023. I believe in you and know we will meet this goal. One easy way to reach this goal is to renew all your members. We have a challenge out there right now. If you renew 100% of your membership by January 31<sup>st</sup> your unit will be in a drawing for \$50.00 from the Department. Right now, we have ten units in this drawing and many very close!

As you set our New Year's resolutions remember to include Renewing, Recruiting, Rejoining and Retaining your members as you continue to do your great work for the veterans, active military, community, and children in your community!

Mush on with Membership in 2024 – Have a blessed New Year!

### December Calendar

- 1st —Be The One —Wear your “Be The One” Apparel
- 1st— Happy News's Years
- 16th—Martin Luther Kings Day
- Send in your nominations
- RED Friday —Every Friday

### Winnie Kayl



Winnie Kayl, 93, passed away on December 10. Winnie was a life-time member of the Gregory Hutchison Unit #6 Auxiliary. Winnie was the Poppy Poster chairman for years and she enjoyed every minute working with the children.

Feb. 16-18  
**Wine**  
Cork Pull Fundraiser  
\$20 Pull a Cork & Win!  
Proceeds to Benefit  
OUR VETERANS AND OTHER ALA PROGRAMS



### January Prayer

Submitted by Jill Lamer

Eternal God, thank you that you have given gifts to every man and woman who serves in our military and they have used those gifts to bless us. As we pray for our military, we ask that you would provide wisdom, guidance and direction. Dispense your abundant grace upon them that they may live in your victorious light. Work in them through your Holy Spirit that they would be equipped to carry out every good deed you have prepared in advance for them. May your love reign in their hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.



### Sip - N - Paint Party

Saturday , February 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Registration: \$40.00 - In Advance  
Limited to 35 Seats

To Register go to:

<https://signpaint.net/ola/services/american-legion-auxiliary-the-lodge-at-deadwood>

### South Dakota American Legion Family - Mid Winter Conference

Joint Banquet - Friday, February 16, 2024

MENU: Buffet with Roast Beef & Chicken Picatta

Salads, Seasonal Vegetable, Potato with Bread & Butter

Mark if you require special dietary needs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets \$35.00 per meal # of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TICKETS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

Return Randall McGruder

to: 11332 Tetro Rock RD

Lead, SD 57754

Mobile: 605-580-5919 grude@rbmsesentials.com

Checks Made Payable to:

Department of South Dakota District 1 American Legion

### Mid-Winter Conference

Mid-Winter Conference

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

There is a block of rooms set aside for this conference. The room rates are \$95 for a Standard King or Standard Double Queen. Reservations can be made by calling 605-584-4800. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Mid-Winter Conferences to get this rate.

### Birthday Wishes



Gregory American Legion Auxiliary

celebrated their birthday in

November.



# in Loving Memory

- Unit 2 Tyndall: Arlo Mae Schuurmans - 09/23;
- Unit 23 Garretson: Patricia Swenson - 04/23;
- Unit 14 Wessington Springs: Dorothy Powell - 04/23; Alice Willman - 10/23;
- Unit 18 Mitchell: Ethel Gramm - 11/23;
- Unit 41 Alexandria: Mary Erpenbach - 11/23; Velma "Blondie" Wagner - 01/23;
- Unit 50 Sisseton: Erma Aadland - 11/23; **GOLD STAR MOTHER**
- Unit 59 Wolsey: Joyce Rahder - 11/23; Erman Moser-Woodruff - 11/23;
- Unit 72 Beresford: Betty Kaltenbach - 07/23; Wanda Miller - 02/23;
- Unit 74 Brookings: Joan Bennett - 11/23;
- Unit 79 Onida: Irene LaFurge - 10/23;
- Unit 80 Britton: Marge Thoeke - 11/23;
- Unit 83 Timber Lake: Keva Aberle - 09/23;
- Unit 153 Carpenter: Kathryn Wicks - 08/23;
- Unit 171 Strandburg: Ardith Larson - 09/23;
- Unit 255 Bison: Eldora Ogdahl - 08/23

## Decorating for the Holidays

Auxiliary Unit 315 decorated a tree for the Box Event Center. The Box is having a contest for best decorated tree in the winner will receive \$1000.



Unit 315 merrily took the top prize and was awarded the \$1000.00 Congratulations!



## Christmas at the Courthouse

The Auxiliary Unit 41 of Alexandria, SD, put up a Christmas Tree at the Courthouse for the season. The tree depicts flags and poppies, along with service boots from one of our local Legion/ Sons of Legion members. We will also be participating in our local Winter Christmas Festival .



## SHS Key Club collected goods for Veterans



When Claire Larson contacted Micheline Nelson to find out about this year's needs for a good deed project, she brought a couple of ideas to her student organization. The Spearfish High School Key Club (Student version of the Kiwanis Club) collected canned soups, various canned goods, hats, and gloves for their winter project to help the Veterans at Volunteers of America. They have a new project in mind for the spring: a "Soup-a-thon" to provide a hot meal in a can! Pictured are Ava Berberick, Claire Nida, Micheline Nelson, Spearfish American Legion Auxiliary President, Elana Nielsen, and Claire Larson!

## Leo Unit 48



Leo Unit 48 presented the 3rd grade class in Rosholt and Hutterite colony, with dictionaries on Veterans Day before their annual program at the school. Members presenting the dictionaries were from Rosholt and New Effington units.



Leo Unit 48 in Rosholt made Christmas cookie trays during their Christmas party, for Veterans and Auxiliary members at Country Side Assisted Living, others in the community who are alone, & Auxiliary members who were ill

## Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

### BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquarters

P. O. Box 529 Clear Lake, SD 57226

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

Visit the SD ALA Website at  
[www.sdlegionaux.org](http://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](mailto:sjlamer@outlook.com) or mail them. For report-  
ing an error on names or addresses, change of  
addresses and deceased members, contact Depart-  
ment Headquarters.. Thank you!

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

#### LEGIONETTE

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the postage cost of address changes.

### Unit 315 Box Elder Annual Chili Cook-off



The Annual Chili Cook-off was held November 4, 23. The winners received gift certificates to the Legion and most importantly Braggin' Rights



### Legion Family Bingo Feather Party



Alexandria Post 41 Legion, Sons of Legion and Auxiliary Unit 41 teamed up to host the annual Bingo/ Feather Party in November. Legion members called bingo with turkeys and hams as prizes, Sons of Legion helped with bingo; and the Auxiliary and Jr Auxiliary members served loaded baked potatoes. Security State Bank of Alexandria and RJ's Party Hall, local businesses, also donated towards the event.

### Veterans Affairs Program Presented at Auxiliary Meeting

At the American Legion Auxiliary's November meeting, Gloria Pibal introduced Douglas Haar, a Yankton High School Social Studies instructor who presented the Veterans Affairs Program. He referenced his collection of books that contain a detailed history of America's wars. He emphasized the importance of funding for defense purposes and stated that those who volunteer to serve our country in the military deserve our support. Historical numbers of those who have served: WWI - 35,000; WWII - 68,000; Korea - 26,000; Viet Nam - 20,000; War on Terror - 12,500. The WWII June 6th Normandy invasion resulted in 50,000 casualties. Mr. Haar also explained the decision by the United States to use the atomic bomb in Japan and presented the details in the "Why Truman Dropped the Bomb" article. Vern Hull and Eugene Wiedenbach, two local soldiers, are listed in the book as being two of the people who picked up the casualties at Normandy. In one of his books, we can read about the Prisoner of Wars located in Nebraska and the work on the Missouri River by the prisoners. It would be a good read for all of us and especially if you are interested in knowing more about the Battles of WWII.

Submitted by Malena Diede





**Hot Springs VA Christmas Party**



**Hot Springs State Home Christmas Party**



**Ft. Meade Christmas Party**



*May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy*

**American Legion Auxiliary Elves preparing for Christmas for our Veterans**



Piedmont Unit 311 ALA elves were busy wrapping and preparing gifts for the Fort Meade Christmas Party 2023. Always such fun and a pleasure to serve our Veterans. Merry Christmas and Happy new Year to all .

Submitted by Dorothy Tinnell



**Gregory American Legion Auxiliary**

Gregory American Legion Auxiliary serves lunches to the Veterans at their monthly meetings. A Christmas supper was held for the Veterans and Auxiliary in December.



**Santa's Elf spreading cheer**

ALA member, Sydney Ganschow, busily wraps Christmas gifts for 20 family members for the veteran's families from the Human Services Center in Yankton. This is Sydney's second year of gathering the information from the Veterans then going shopping with friends to purchase individualized gifts for their family members. Sydney shared, "I think about what I would want to buy someone from my family who is this age. Then try to find a special gift for each of them."



**National Education Week**

Sturgis Unit 33 presented schools in the Meade County School District with sweet breads for National Education week. Deliveries were made to the 5 country schools, Sturgis Elementary, Middle and High school and Elementary School in Whitewood.



Along with the breads the following letter of appreciation was included with the signatures of the Unit members.



Did you know the idea of National Education Week was first proposed in 1919 at a meeting between representatives of the American Legion and the National Education Association (NEA). It was first observed in 1921, with the stipulated aim of addressing the shortcomings of the American education system that had given rise to a startlingly high rate of illiteracy in the country—nearly 6%!

Since then, the week preceding Thanksgiving has been earmarked as National Education Week to generate awareness, curiosity, and excitement for learning, while also celebrating the absolutely vital place education holds in our society. It also functions as a mechanism for public schools to secure funds to meet their needs. During National Education Week the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary celebrates the achievements of public schools and honors those who have contributed to improving education.

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Sturgis Unit 33 would like to thank you for your dedication.

**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)



### Christmas Gift Bags for Veterans

Each December, one of the best project days from the Spearfish American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 brings joy to many Veterans. They made 186 Christmas gift bags for Veterans in six Senior Living Facilities, Ft. Meade VA, Support Services for Veteran Families of the Cornerstone Mission, and local Veterans recommended to them. Thank you to all the members who volunteered to make this project a success. The Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation unit committee led by Julie Malcolm, chairman, Cindy Raysor and Charlene Kain, had all preparations, purchases, and labels ready to assemble the bags. The unit thanks Monica Lucio, one of their female Veterans (US Navy) and three of her children, junior members for helping with so much energy. They also thank their secretary Sydney Pollack, US Army SDNG Veteran who brought reinforcements to help set-up. Her husband and mom were hard at work! And lastly thanks all who helped deliver the bags. Each bag had homemade Christmas cards by a local group of card makers and ornaments hand painted by the Black Hills Arts Association or quilted by Laura Turner. Micheline Nelson, unit president shared her feelings after an afternoon delivering many Christmas bags. "I feel blessed for meeting Veterans while giving them a small gift of appreciation, sharing their stories, com-

forting those who were not well, and getting hugs. It is the true meaning of Christmas!"



### Polka Fest

Unit 276 at the annual polka fest at Long Lake South Dakota. The Auxiliary serves lunch every year. We're small but mighty. Back row: Shirley Wolff, Cindy Jenner, Hazel Vilhauer, Nancy Fischer, Phyllis Gab. Front row: Dawn Jenner, Carla Kaaz and Lucy F...



### Helping Homeless Veterans



The Spearfish American Legion Family #164, Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders joined forces to prepare seven starter kits for the kitchen, bathroom, and bedding to take to the Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) of the Cornerstone Mission to give Veterans who are helped find housing. It's a fresh start. These "Move in Baskets" were needed as the SSVF program was able to place all but four homeless Veterans in November and new ones signed up for the program in December. Each Veteran has a case manager that follows him or her for a minimum of 90 days and up to a year.

Pictured: Back row: Brian Hambek, Black Hills Chapter of the American Legion Riders, Director; Jack French, Post 164 Americanism Officer; Pat Buttler, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 164 Commander; Fred Nelson, Post 164 Adjutant; Front row: Larry Haglund, Post 164 Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman; Micheline Nelson, Spearfish American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 President; and Doug Henwood, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 164 Adjutant. Most belong to two or three of the four family groups of the Spearfish American Legion Family.

### Wreaths Across America South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery



On December 16th, 2023 Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, SAL and Legion showed up to volunteer and honor the Veterans at the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery by placing wreaths at each headstone.

