



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



Embracing our Veterans

Happy January. What a way to bring in the new year with all this cold weather. BRRRR! Hope everyone is staying warm and healthy. I have not done many travels for this new year 2024, however, we have the upcoming Mid-Winter Conferences being held at The Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood SD. I am praying that the weather holds out for us to attend this.

We have some exciting things going on at the Conference this year. We will not be having a silent auction. In place of this, we are hosting a Wine Cork Pull Fundraiser to raise monies for our Veterans programs. There also will not be an Auxiliary Banquet on Sat. night. In place of this, Dept President Patsy is having a Sip and Paint party from 6-8 on Saturday evening. We will be painting a poppy picture. As a reminder, if you plan to attend this party, you will need to pre-register as there is limited seating of 35 and cost of \$40.00 The link to pre-register was included on the sheet in the December mailing.

January 14th was supposed to be the District 3 Oratory Contest here in Pierre, but the weather was too cold and was postponed until January 21st at Faith Lutheran Church, 2 p.m., Pierre SD. Hopefully other Districts have been able to hold their Oratory Contests. The contestant that wins at District level, will go to the State Oratory contest that is held at our Mid-Winter Conference on Sunday February 18, 2024.

January 22nd I will be attending the Boys State and Girls State Commemoration at the Pierre Capital Building, along with other Legion Family and the Governors of Girls State/Boys State. That night there is a Legislative Reception meal at Pierre Post 8 Legion Cabin at 5:00 p.m.

Other news is that the Spring District meetings will start in March and April. It is hard to believe it is so close to holding these meetings already, as well as the Legion Family is beginning to plan for our State Convention June 21 – 23, 2024 in Pierre SD. I am not sure where 2023 went, it flew by so quickly.

With that, I hope to see you at Mid-Winter Conferences in Deadwood, providing the weather holds out for us. Otherwise, we will hopefully see you at the Spring District meetings.

Stay warm and healthy!

Department President

Patsy Madsen



2023-2024 Department of South Dakota Unit Member of the Year

The Unit Member of the Year award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. The award is open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.

Units will submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to their district president describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address. **Deadline for submission to district presidents is February 21.**

District presidents will then select one winner from their respective district and submit their nomination to Mary Jo Stier, Past Presidents Parley Chairman via email at sdalanec2@gmail.com or snail mail to PO Box 224, Onida, SD 57564. All district nominees must be received by May 1. We would like to have all district winners attend the Department Convention in June to be recognized. The Department Unit Member of the Year will receive four days meal allowance and three days room allowance in addition to their round-trip airfare, round-trip mileage to and from the airport, and registration fees to attend the National Convention. This year's national convention will be held in New Orleans, August 24 through August 28.

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, 1st Vice President



February Calendar

Groundhog Day	2/2
Four Chaplains Day	2/3
USO Birthday	2/4
National Salute to Veteran Patients	
Week of Feb 12th	
Valentine's Day	2/14
Midwinter Conference	2/16-2/18
Presidents Day	2/19
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	2/19
• Send in nominations	
• Sponsor or attend legislative programs	

February Prayer



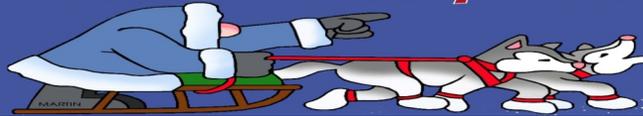
Lord, I ask that you inspire us always to do our best. Lead us, Lord to discover and use our talents to the fullest. May we live in such a way that we help others to experience success. Inspire us to be generous in praising others for the good use of their abilities— looking not so much at the degree of achievement but at the effort put in. Remind us that we all have a contribution to make in our own way.

Amen

In Loving Memory

Unit 6 Gregory: Shirley Vosika - 01/24; Winifred Kayl - 12/23
 Unit 15 Sioux Falls: Betty Mettler - 12/23; Lorelei Reynolds - 11/23
 Nada Landeen - 12/23;
 Unit 31 Lead: Wendy Hartman - 12/23
 Unit 53 Canton: Margaret Baldwin - 11/23;
 Unit 63 Lake Preston: Jacquelyn Leonhardt - 12/23; Joan Rich - 12/23;
 Unit 65 Dell Rapids: Bette Kuper - 12/23;
 Unit 80 Britton: Charmaine Young - 12/23
 Unit 83 Timber Lake: Dorothy Opp - 11/23;
 Unit 92 Redfield: Crystal Appel -2/23; Joan Crook- 8/23; Rita Lurmeay - 5/23; Mildred Ratigan -5/22;
 Unit 100 Selby: Elsie Rueb - 01/24;
 Unit 109 Gary: Irene Webber - 05/23; Lorraine Jesme - 12/23
 Unit 110 Wessington: Lorraine Kleinsasser - 12/23;
 Unit 128 Hudson: Phyllis Winterfeld -01/24
 Unit 131 Valley Springs: Lillian Finn - 12/2023 ;
 Unit 169 Winner: Evelyn Farley - 12/23;
 Unit 240 Martin: Arliss Moreland - 11/23
 Unit 259 Roscoe: Berneice Margeson - 11/23

The Great American Membership Race



As we get closer to Mid-Winter, it means we are getting closer to celebrating those who have made it through the great race throughout all of South Dakota and 100% membership. We are anxiously waiting to see what units will have 100% renewal for membership. These units will be in for the \$50 drawing. Your membership will need to have arrived at the Department Headquarters by February 14th. Let's make the best of these last two weeks, renew the memberships, and send them in!

Exciting news has taken place in South Dakota! We have a new unit! Congratulations to Unit 46, Custer and 17 new members! Welcome to our organization!

Presently we have 73.59% membership. We have a goal for 75% by the next divisional meeting and 85% by March 15th. I believe in each of you and know you can make these numbers happen. I am excited to report that we have 36 units at 90% or above, you are all so close to the magic 100%. However, I am concerned about the 28 units that are under 50% membership sent in. Did you know that if you have not paid for your membership, you are considered a guest at a meeting? If they are an officer, they are no longer in good standing and unable to hold the office. A few units need membership sent in before they can legally perform any business. If this is your unit and you don't know what you can do to help, please contact me or your District President and we will help you.

Just as winter months are here and we check on our neighbors, let's check on our members. One phone call, one visit, may bring the membership in for you. Remember it is Valentine's Day coming forward and a perfect time to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in honor or memory for your loved one Veteran.

Let's keep on recruiting, retaining, rejoining, and renewing membership and Mush on for Membership

Mid-Winter Conference



Feb. 16-18
Wine
Cork Pull Fundraiser

\$20 Pull a Cork & Win!

Proceeds to Benefit
OUR VETERANS AND
OTHER
ALA PROGRAMS

Made with PosterMyWid.com



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 AUXILIARY MID-WINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2024

5:30 PM Past Department President's Supper – Organizer Mary Jo Stier

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2024

9:00 AM Registration Desk Opens
8:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting
10:00-12:00 PM Department Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 PM Lunch on your own
1:30-3:00 PM Guest Speaker Theresa Forbes -Chief Experience Officer Ft. Meade VA Medical Center
3:00- 4:00 PM Chairmen Presentations:
Leadership Chairman AnnaMae Warnier
Legislative Chairman Carol Edwards

6:00 PM No Host Cocktails
6:30 PM Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
8:00 AM Joint Opening Session
VA&R Susie Clyde 8:20 AM
Children & Youth Theresa Maeschen 8:30 AM
10:00 AM Recess Joint Session
10:15 AM Auxiliary Session Opens
Department President Patsy Madsen Report
Secretary/Treasurer Report Carol Edwards Report
12:00-1:30 PM Presentation of Awards/Announcements
1:30-4:00 PM Lunch on your own
Chairman Presentations:
South Dakota Girl State – Tiffany French
Constitution & Bylaws Chairmen Susie Learing
VA&R Chairman Susie Clyde
Children & Youth Chairman Theresa Maeschen
Education Chairman Jan Seibel

4:00 PM Adjourn
6:00-8:00 PM Sip & Paint Party- Cody Room – *Pre-registration required!*

Sunday, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

8:00 AM Non-Denominational Service
10:30 AM SD American Legion-State Finals-High School Oratorical Contest

****In place of a Silent Auction there will be Wine Pull Fundraiser. Details at the Registration desk.****

Senior Poppy Contest

Categories: Centerpiece, Corsage, Wreath, Display/Wall-hanging

1. A Senior member may enter any or all of the categories.
2. All entries must use the American Legion Auxiliary poppy-large, small, or a combination.
3. The white label of the small poppy must be removed.
4. Accessories, greenery and filler may be used BUT the poppy must be predominant.
5. Each entry must have the following information attached behind or under the arrangement, hidden from immediate view of the judge.
 - a. The member's name and Auxiliary ID number
 - b. The name and number of the Member's Unit
 - c. The category for the entry
6. All work must be done by the Unit member entering the contest.
7. Entries will be judged at Mid-Winter and should be checked in by 8:00 Saturday.
8. Entries will be judged using the following criteria:
 - 25% Labeling, proper materials, following directions
 - 50% Predominance of the Poppy
 - 25% Design and creativity—Use of the Department President's theme for the year will be taken into consideration.

2024 Mid Winter ZOOM Invites

Friday Morning Finance Meeting

Time: Feb 16, 2024, 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646732921?pwd=UTJySmJoaUlzcDdYSkVOM2RYeUFIUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 4673 2921
Passcode: 035684

Friday Morning DEC Meeting

Time: Feb 16, 2024, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89805760683?pwd=ZnJlTFZLRFEvR3pUJWdJpdmQ3dlhKdz09>

Meeting ID: 898 0576 0683
Passcode: 411081

Friday Afternoon Session

Time: Feb 16, 2024, 01:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87693377183?pwd=VE1ldzkWU2lHVHlOZkQwbG9sYVE3UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 9337 7183
Passcode: 019445

Saturday Morning Session

Time: Feb 17, 2024, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134705282?pwd=VFd2eXU2eVBYWE1zZXZyRS9GTmo0UT09>

Meeting ID: 821 3470 5282
Passcode: 298424

Saturday Afternoon Session

Time: Feb 17, 2024, 01:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82748351916?pwd=WDVFMXFEySElKTk0M0lLNXhKzFnZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 4835 1916
Passcode: 322060

Junior Poppy Contest

Categories: Centerpiece/Display, Corsage, Tray Favor, Wreath

1. A Junior member may enter any or all of the categories.
2. All entries must use the American Legion Auxiliary poppy-large, small, or a combination.
3. The white label of the small poppy must be removed.
4. Accessories, greenery and filler may be used BUT the poppy must be predominant.
5. Each entry must have the following information attached behind or under the arrangement, hidden from immediate view of the judge.
 - a. The member's name and Auxiliary ID number
 - b. The name and number of the Member's Unit
 - c. The category for the entry
6. All work must be done by the Unit member entering the contest.
7. Entries will be judged at State Convention and should be checked in by 8:00 Saturday.
8. Entries will be judged using the following criteria:
 - 25% Labeling, proper materials, following directions
 - 50% Predominance of the Poppy
 - 25% Design and creativity—Use of the Department President's theme for the year will be taken into consideration.



Safe Travels!

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

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Department of South Dakota

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BE IN THE KNOW

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email at southdakotaala@gmail.com

Visit the SD ALA Website at
www.sdlegionaux.org

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,

Former Seneca resident was National Miss Poppy

By Jody Moritz

Although sixty years have passed, the fond memories of being the National Miss Poppy junior division winner have not faded for Kim (Heller) Vennard of Sioux Falls.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored the contest. At the time, Vennard was a junior member of the Whitney-Roseland American Legion Auxiliary Unit 163, which disbanded several years ago and her membership, was transferred to the Foncannon Unit 102 of Faulkton. She is still a member of the Faulkton Unit although she lives in Sioux Falls. Vennard is the daughter of the late Milton and Arlene Heller. She is a 1977 graduate of Faulkton High School. She is an auxiliary member through the military service of her late father.

When Vennard won the junior title, a Doland girl, Kathy Roberdeau, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leo Roberdeau won the senior title. The Doland Unit 69 sponsored her. That meant that South Dakota and specifically District 5 had two national winners. Both the Faulkton and Doland Units are now a part of District 4.

Neither of the girls had to be present at the National Convention when they were named the winners. A committee at the National Convention in Portland, Ore made the decisions based on scrapbooks compiled about their promotion of the memorial poppy, newspaper articles and artwork.

The late Lorraine Buechler compiled Kim's scrapbook. Her book was mounted on red and all pictures were in color. Some of the distinguished people who appeared with the girls were: Gov. Nils Boe, Rep. E. Y. Berry and Jimmy Dean. Each of the girls received a \$25 prize and a poppy charm.

Another fascit of the story is that Kim and Kathy reunited years later and have recalled their joint win. Kathy Alwin now also lives in Sioux Falls. Both still participate in service to veterans.



Article
Kathy on left
Kim on right



Current photo
Kim on left
Kathy on right

Auxiliary member celebrates 100th Birthday

Marcella Bartmann, a 32 year member of the Ruste-Waul American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 154, Montrose SD celebrated her 100th birthday on January 16th, 2024.



Serving Thanksgiving Dinner



On Wednesday, November 15, 2023; four members of the Gertje-Van Lith American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229 helped serve the Thanksgiving meal at the Big Stone City School for the students and their families.

Members that helped served were:

Suzann, Gloria Doris and Sue





HSC Christmas Party

HSC Christmas party was held on 12/05/23



Unit 88, White SD

January 17, 2024 the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 88 of White, SD held their monthly Community meal. Despite cold temperatures we served 23 guests and 10 shut-ins. The free will donations for the meal were ear marked for our scholarship fund.

We also had our 1st donation drive benefitting the Brookings County Domestic Abuse Shelter in Brookings. Through the generosity of our little community we received \$200+ in hygiene products and \$400+ (est. Market value) of new and used women's and children's clothes.

Weekly Bingo at Piedmont American

Gwen gets you your bingo cards, and also is one of several who makes half-time luncheon for our money maker every week from April thru 1st-week of May..Always a fun time for our community



Did you check the new on-line ALA academy class?
Visit <https://alaacademy.alaforveterans.org/>
You must log into your ALA Account

Don't miss out on amazing information, articles and training; sign up for your member portal account [Members \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org)



Understanding the Differences Between National Security and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

★★★★★ (3)

Do you find yourself wondering if an activity falls under ALA National Security or Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation?



MyAuxiliary Member Portal

Members whose dues are current can create an account to log in to the MyAuxiliary Member Portal on the national website to pay member dues and update their name, mailing address, phone number, and email address at any time.

The member portal is also where members can find members-only content, including forms, national committee information and documents, policies and procedures, training information, how-to resources, and download recruitment tools.

If log-in assistance is needed, email ALAMIShelp@ALAforVeterans.org.

Log In

Create Account

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.

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

Openings on the ALA Department Finance Committee

The South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary is looking for members interested in serving on the Department Finance Committee. The duties of the Finance Committee are to oversee the general financial policy of the organization and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures.

This is a three-year term. Interested candidates need to submit a letter of interest along with a resume by May 1, 2024, to:

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 529
Clear Lake, SD 57226

Important Dates to Remember

Unit Member of Year –Due to District President - Feb 21st

Girls State Registration. Applications for ALA SD Girls State & Journalism City will be due to the director by March 1, 2024.

Unit winners of Poems and Essays to District President by March 15th

Dept. Scholarship Applications to Jan Seibel, Dept. Education Chairman, by March 1st

National Scholarship Applications due March 15th – First to Unit and then to Jan Seibel by March 15th .

Essay and Poems due to the District President by March 15th