



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## *Embracing our Veterans*

Spring is around the corner. I am looking forward to this. We had our Mid-Winter Conferences in Deadwood SD, February 16-18, 2024, at The Deadwood Lodge. It was a successful conference with around 200 attendees.

We held a Wine Cork Pull fundraiser in which we had 35 bottles of wine donated along with other items such as t-shirts, caps, mugs, etc., donated by several other casinos. Thank you Carol Edwards and Patrice Sorensen for getting these donations and thank you to those who donated wine and the grand prizes.

A Sip and Paint party was held Saturday night with 12 attending. We painted a poppy picture. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

A Four Chaplains ceremony was held Sunday.

As a reminder Spring District meetings will begin in March and April. District Presidents will put information in their newsletter on when and where these are being held.

Thank you,

Patsy Madsen



## **Lets Welcome our New Secretary**

*Kayla Kennedy*



Kayla is from Unit #120, Isabel. She is eligible under her grandfather who was a WWII Army Vet. Additionally, she is eligible through her husband who is a Navy vet. Kayla has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1989.

\*New Dept. Secretary starts March 1\* Kayla Kennedy,  
Dept. Headquarters 23782 136th St., Firesteel SD 57633  
Office number: 605-461-3389 southdakotaala@gmail.com

## *Welcome Custer Unit #46*

Custer Unit #46 received their charter at the Mid-Winter Conference in Deadwood



Signing the charter was Department President Patsy Madsen and Secretary Pro-tem Carol Edwards



SD American Legion Auxiliary President meets Miss USA South Dakota

## *Faulkton Unit Celebrates 102 year old member*



Beth Bowers is their oldest unit member at 102 years old. She was at their recent monthly meeting,

Because she is 100+ the unit is gifting her membership



### March Calendar

- Send in nominations
- Sponsor or attend legislative programs
- March 3— Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 4— Hug a GI day
- March 5— Navy Seabee Birthday
- March 10—Daylight Saving Times Begins
- March 13—K-9 Veterans Day
- March 15— American Legion Birthday
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 21—Rosie The Riveter Day
- March 29—National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- March 31—Easter



### In Loving Memory

Unit 15 Sioux Falls Lila Bailey - 01/24 ; Sharon Smithey - 02/24  
 Unit 15 Sioux Falls Darlene Fletcher - 02/24  
 Unit 23 Garretson Nelda Hovven 1/24  
 Unit 25 Madison Janice Johnson - 12/23  
 Unit 26 Stickney Mary Podharadsky 12/23  
 Unit 42 Arlington Shirley Knutson 1/24  
 Unit 83 Timber Lake Dorothy Opp - 11/23  
 Unit 115 Platte Darlene Bakken -2/24  
 Unit 128 Hudson Phyllis Winterfeld - 01/24  
 Unit 147 Buffalo Shirley Lathan - 01/24  
 Unit 152 Menno Darlene Aisenbrey - 01/24  
 Unit 154 Montrose Mary Lounsbury -8/23; Lois Griffith -2/23  
 Unit 210 Mt. Vernon Marlene Gerlach - 11/23  
 Unit 229 Big Stone City Marcie Olson - 05/23  
 Unit 242 Brentford Pearl Elderedge 2/24  
 Unit 250 Castlewood Wilma Ching - 11/23  
 Unit 250 Castlewood Dorothy Schooley - 10/23  
 Unit 250 Castlewood Delores Bohls - 01/23  
 Unit 272 Pollock Crystal Appel - 02/23; Mildred Ratigan-05/22  
 Unit 272 Pollock Joan Crook - 08/22; Rita Lunney - 05/23  
 Unit 274 Corsica Luceille Noteboom - 02/24  
 Unit 274 Corsica Mardell Dockendorf - 01/02  
 Unit 500 Genny Haar 10/24

### Spring District Meetings

#### March 2—District 5—Webster

Meeting 1pm—First Baptist Church, Social prior to meeting at the Izaak Walton Center

#### March 3—District 4—Groton

Social 1 pm, Meeting 2pm , Meal to follow Groton Post 39

#### March 16—District 3 —Pierre

Social 11:30am, 12pm Lunch, 12:30 meeting

#### March 17—District 6—Plankinton

Breakfast 9am –1 pm ; Meeting 1:30pm Plankinton Post

#### April 6—District 8—Yankton –VFW –209 Cedar St

#### April 7 - District 7—Sioux Falls– Alliance

Breakfast 9am-12 pm \$8; Social 12pm; Meeting 1pm

#### April 13—District 1—Lemmon -Post Home

Social 1:30 mtn, Lunch 12 pm mtn, Meetings 12:30pm

#### April 14 — District 2— Martin

11am Social; 12pm Lunch; 12:45 pm Meeting



Are you someone that would be interested in attending ALA SD Girls State 2024 as an Auxiliary Staff/Volunteer? Please share this link with anyone in your local unit that you think would be interested!

**Applications are due March 15th - and those selected will be notified by April 5th!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [tiffany.french@k12.sd.us](mailto:tiffany.french@k12.sd.us)!

[2024 American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State Staff Application \(google.com\)](#)

### March Prayer

Submitted by Jill Lamer



Gracious God, we humbly come before You in prayer today to offer our immense gratitude for the blessing of these selfless volunteers in our lives. We are filled with wonderment at their tireless dedication and benevolence.

May Your Spirit bless them with continual guidance as they faithfully serve others. We beseech You to bestow upon them resilience, daring, and fortitude. Let joy, peace, and satisfaction be upon the good

### 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





Congratulations to nineteen units who have RENEWED 100% of their membership and to Strandburg for winning the \$50.00 drawing. We have just returned from Mid-Winter where we passed out eleven \$25.00 checks for meeting the department 100% goal by December 7th. These incentives can be you next year!

With this being said we have 1586 members who have not renewed their 2024 memberships. These men and women are members that are not in good standing and are unable to hold an office or vote at a meeting. We need to focus on the NOW. We currently have 7883 members which is 75.65% and needs to be to 85% by March 15th. This means we need 859 members sent into the department headquarters now. Do you have memberships sitting in your home? The following units are at 50% or less in membership: Tyndall, Mellette, Hot Springs, Watertown, Dell Rapids, Centerville, Fort Pierre, Erwin, Aurora, McLaughlin, Bison, De Smet, Eagle Butte, Blunt, Canova, Bullhead 324, Woonsocket, Bullhead 82, Little Eagle, Rosebud, Bonesteel, and Plankinton. This is 738 members that are unable for the Auxiliary benefits through your membership. Have you called, texted, emailed, or went to visit these members to gather their dues? They have a person who they joined under; it is important to keep our memberships up to date, so our Veteran services continue to be strong in South Dakota.

It is also time to send into the department headquarters the name of your 2025 membership chairman, and what the cost of your dues will be for 2025. With this document make sure you include the mailing address you want the dues to go to, a phone number and an email. This information makes communication extremely easy between membership and the department. Even if this information is the same from years past, please send in the information so headquarters may make sure ALAMIS has the correct information.

Speaking of ALAMIS, you will hear me speaking about the levels of usage your unit may have. It is in the best interest of your unit to have a member have ALAMIS access. The basic level is view level, in this unit you can go online and see your membership and the address, phone numbers of your members. The next is review level, here you can go in and fix spelling, add address changes, phone numbers of email addresses. Lastly, is full usage. With full usage you will be able to do all the above along with entering membership dues and new members. Your unit will need to have a debit or credit card for payment of these membership dues; however, you would no longer be sending these into the department headquarters, saving time and money. This is an extremely easy process, and you go through a short training session over the phone, and I will be talking about this when I visit this fall. I would recommend you do not register for full service until this coming Fall. Please have a conversation among your unit at the possibility of you being a unit signing up to do this.. it will not be mandatory.

I am extremely excited, looking forward to watching the memberships being turned in as each unit takes another run at personally talking to the 1586 members who have not renewed. Remember your why that you renew, rejoin and recruit membership. Thank you for all you do.

### Mitchell American Legion Auxiliary Unit #18



The Mitchell Unit #18 in collaboration with Shoe Sensation is on a mission to offer top notch slippers to deserving veterans. Donations make a difference, providing comfort and warmth to veterans admitted to the Sioux Falls VA hospital.



### Cupid strikes at Piedmont ALA Unit 311



Valentine's were made, stuffed animals and candy were taken to the 16 residents of the Friendly Horizons Care Center for Valentines Day. They were thrilled to get these from us. Additionally delivery was made to 2 patients at the care unit in Summer-set.



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LEGIONETTE

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### BE IN THE KNOW

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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 reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members,



## VA&R CHAIRMAN RESPONSES TO A CALL OF NEED

VA & R Chairman Susie Clyde received a call from the Rapid City Outpatient Clinic, Ft Meade and said that the organization that had been supplying coffee and other things called and reported that they were no longer able to help. Susie immediately sent out an e-mail to the Finance Committee and they agreed it would be a good thing.

In two days, Susie went to Sam's Club and Walmart and purchased as much as they had and took it to the clinic. Susie reported, "If you could have seen how excited Tom and his assistant



were when I pulled up with a carload of supplies your hearts would have melted. They were amazed at how quickly we got it to them and they said that the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary members were all saints for doing this as they had NO coffee for the last two days.

I was only able to get them 1000 coffee pods, but I will pick up 1000 more when I get back from Sioux Falls next week. We got 2500 coffee cups, stir sticks, sweetener, sugar packets, and creamer. (my car was packed to the max)

This is something we may want to look at in the future with some of the other clinics around the state.

Tom sent some states on the Pennington County veterans, along with this "Thank You"

Thank you all once again for allowing this to happen...It was a VERY GOOD DAY!!!!

The funds come from the VA&R fund that everyone donates to and the quarters from the Units go in every year for the number of members each Unit has. Like I said at Mid-Winter...VA&R is not just about the hospitalized veterans, it is about all the veterans and if we can help at the clinics to make life a little better for the veterans while they are there we should see what some of the clinics need! "

## Legislative Day

On Monday January 22, 2024 Legislative Day was held at Pierre State Capital. On this day a Commemoration for the ALA Girls State Governor Sophie Spier of Sioux Falls SD and Boys State Governor Gavin Pischke of Hartford SD was held in the afternoon in both the Senate and House Chambers.

Both of them had the opportunity to meet Governor Kristi Noem and Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden. Each of the Girls State Governor Sophie and Boys State Governor was given the opportunity to sit at Governor Kristi Noem's desk.

SD Dept. Auxiliary President Patsy Madsen had her picture taken with



Mid-Winter Conference

Mid-Winter was held February 15-18 at the Lodge in Deadwood.



Friday, ALA members supported the RED program by wearing something red to Remember Everyone Deployed, an ALA National Security mission.



Sergeant of Arms Kathleen Geiman



Finance Chairman Kate Aulner



Department President Patsy addressing the assembly at the Joint Session



Registration Table— Thank you to the ladies that who assisted throughout the conference



NEC Mary Jo and Department President Patsy hard at work



Members taking in the information



Public Relations Chair Jill and Membership Chair Rose



Members working hard



Poppy Chairman Jane announcing Senior Poppy Contest Winners



1st Vice AnnaMae on Leadership



VA & R Chairman Susie



More members working hard

Mid-Winter Conference



Theresa Forbes - Chief Experience Officer at Ft, Meade and her associate gave a great presentation about how things worked and what was new at the VA Center



Children & Youth chair Theresa Maeschen giving her report



Girls State Chairman Tiffany French



Membership chairman Rose Kraft



Education Chairman Jan Seibel



The Fundraiser was a great success! A great creative way to raise some funds. Thanks to all who did the work and to those who donated the wine



Treasurer/Interim Secretary Carol, Department President Patsy and District 1 President Patrice announce the winners of the cork pull



The Wink Cork Pull Display



If you were lucky and had your cork drawn, you got to choose one of these Cork Houses. A Veteran, Larry; that did maintenance at the Lodge and had to quit because of his disabilities makes these on the side to earn extra money, If you did not get one and are interested contact Carol Edwards

# Senior Poppy Contest



Centerpiece:

1st place—Sheri DiRito Garretson Unit 23

2<sup>nd</sup> place—Carolyn Cook Hot Springs Unit 71



Wreaths

1st place--1st place—Amber Lawlar Spearfish Unit 164

2<sup>nd</sup> place—Carol Edwards Sturgis Unit 33



Display/Wall hanging:

1st place—Amber Lawlar Spearfish Unit 164

2<sup>nd</sup> place—No entries



ALA South Dakota Girls State is looking for individuals or groups who may be interested in sponsoring a table during our banquet! Cost per table is \$250. This can be sponsored by an individual, group, "In Memory of", etc. - additional information can be found on the application.

To sponsor a table, please complete the attached form by May 1st - and submit the form and payment to Tiffany French, ALA SD Girls State Director (address on application).

\*Application is also available on the SD ALA Facebook page

### American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State

#### Banquet Table Sponsorship

Thank you so much for your interest in sponsoring a table during the American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State programs banquet! The banquet will take place Friday evening – the final night we are all together during the session. This is a time for all of us to gather and celebrate the past week's events, and your willingness to sponsor a table will make this experience even more memorable for the delegates. The cost to sponsor a table will be \$250/per table.

If you are interested in sponsoring a table – please complete the following information below and send back to ALA South Dakota Girls State Director Tiffany French no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for your support in making the American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State program a success!

Tiffany French & Meghan Grassel - ALA SD Girls State Director and Assistant Director

Please complete the following information completely – tables can be sponsored by American Legions & Posts/Members, American Legion Auxiliary Units/Members, "In Memory of" a Veteran/Individual, local businesses/organizations, or individuals within a community.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_

Group (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this table being sponsored in memory of someone? Please provide the name(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_

We want to give recognition to those sponsoring a table – please provide information about who or whom the table is being sponsored by or for.

(For example, for a Veteran – years of service, branch, notable accomplishment, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We would also like to include a photo on each table to recognize those that are sponsoring or the table is being sponsored for, please email a photo to: [tiffany.french@k12.sd.us](mailto:tiffany.french@k12.sd.us) no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payments for the \$250/per table to: ALA South Dakota Girls State

Please submit application and payment to:  
Tiffany French - ALA SD Girls State Director  
1945 Wildcat Lane - Custer, SD 57730

### Committee Position Opening

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

### ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Lunch & Learn



### Month of the Military Child

Webinar

March 15 noon ET

REGISTER NOW

Check out this 45-minute webinar

Want you will learn:

Ways to celebrate and honor military kids

How to continue honoring military children throughout the year

Register now

<https://bit.ly/4bKh4TH>