



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## *Embracing our Veterans*

Happy Easter to everyone,

I have been traveling to Spring District meetings that started at the beginning of March and remaining meetings late March and into April. I have also attended 4

Legion 105th B-day celebration in Gettysburg, Sioux Falls, Custer, Hartford and will be attending Spearfish celebration March 23rd, depending on weather. Sharing some information with you that our new Dept Secretary Kayla Kennedy is doing a great job. Please be patient with her as she is still in the learning process.

Our Dept Treasurer Carol Edwards has resigned from the Treasurer position, Legislative Chairman and Dept Fundraising Committee. Thank you, Carol, for doing a great job as our Treasurer. We will miss you.

As a reminder, the State Convention is June 20-23, 2024, in Pierre SD at Ramkota. Our National Auxiliary President Lisa Williams will be attending our Convention, and we will be celebrating our 25 year Past Dept President Serita Douthit.

Patsy Madsen  
Department President



## **Past Presidents 25 Year Banquet tickets**

Mail to: Diane Sullivan  
2117 Lancaster Loop  
Pierre S D 57501

Make checks payable to Unit 8 American Legion Auxiliary make note for 25 year member Banquet deadline May 15. Cost is \$30.00



Happy April and welcome spring! April is the month to focus on the Children & Youth Programs. Does your unit have a special project planned to celebrate the Children & Youth in your community? Maybe your unit could host a party or picnic to celebrate the beginning of spring. Members could volunteer some time to help out at schools or for youth activities at churches. Units can collect supplies for local schools or baby items for a woman's shelter. Maybe your unit could present the Military Child Table Setting Ceremony. One project that **EVERY** Unit can participate in is Purple Up Day on **April 15!** Just wear something **PURPLE** that day to support Military Children. Don't forget to include your junior members also!

As your Department C&Y Chairman, I am highly encouraging every unit to nominate an outstanding youth for either a Good Deed Award or a Youth Hero Award. What a great way to promote the great things our youth can do! Nomination forms can be found on the National Website ([alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)). Don't forget to take pictures when presenting these awards and include them in your year end report!

Another way to promote Children & Youth in April is donating to the Child Welfare Foundation. Any and all donations are appreciated and help to award grants to youth oriented organizations. Please send donations through the Department Secretary so your unit gets credit.

Remember year end reports are due soon. There is a C&Y questionnaire on the website to assist your unit. I'd like to close with this thought - Remember **BE THE ONE** who is willing to help our Children & Youth!

Theresa Maeschen

Department of SD Children & Youth Chairman

Celebrating Purple Up Day or have activities promoting military children use these hashtags on your social media .

#MOMC and #MonthoftheMilitaryChild for discussion throughout the month of April

#PurpleUp for promotion and celebration of Purple Up Day in your area. All year long, use #MCEC when you recognize military-connected kids

### April Calendar

- U.S. Air Force Academy Day - April 1
- Gold Star Spouses Day - April 5
- Gold Star Wives Day - April 5
- Army Day - April 6
- National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day - April 9
- Air Force Reserve Birthday - April 14
- **Purple Up for Military Children Day – April 15**
- Army Reserves Birthday - April 23
- National Military Brats Day - April 30

Year End reporting due to District Presidents by April 15th! Visit [South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary \(sdlegionaux.org\)](https://sdlegionaux.org) for questionnaires

### Spring District Meetings

**April 6—District 8—Yankton –TBD**

**April 7 - District 7—Sioux Falls**

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

**April 13—District 1—Lemmon -TBD**

**April 14 — District 2— Martin**

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



### April Prayer

Submitted by Jill Lamer

**Dear Lord,** we lift up the children of our military personnel in prayer.

Be near to those who are missing their deployed parent, and help them understand that their parent loves them, even if they are far away.

Bless them with an abundance of love and support and calm any fears they have about their parent.

We also pray for the families who support our military and **endure sacrifices** so that we can be a proud and free nation. Let us salute the spouses, parents, siblings, and especially the children of our military personnel. May God's grace and protection be upon them all. Amen.

## In Loving Memory

- Unit 103 Astoria Clara Brown - 02/23
- Unit 103 Astoria Sherry Roth - 08/22
- Unit 114 Volga Gladys Lee - 05/23
- Unit 135 Gettysburg Jackie Borszick - 05/22
- Unit 135 Gettysburg Norma Marks - 01/24
- Unit 14 Wessington Springs Janet Kolousek - 01/24
- Unit 164 Spearfish Beverly Carr - 01/24
- Unit 169 Winner Sherri Bolander - 12/23
- Unit 172 Edgemont Joyce Hey (Martinson) - 05/23
- Unit 18 Mitchell Clara DeWald - 02/24
- Unit 207 Stratford Kathryn Ellingson - 02/24
- Unit 229 Big Stone City Mary Ann Ulrich - 02/24
- Unit 240 Martin Janis Goetzinger - 01/02
- Unit 311 Piedmont Sue Anderson - 11/23
- Unit 311 Piedmont Barbara McKinney - 10/23
- Unit 50 Sisseton Margaret Thuringer - 01/23
- Unit 71 Hot Springs Diane Gross - 11/23
- Unit 88 White Ardell Madisn - 01/24
- Unit 88 White Christine Woodard - 11/23

## ALA ACADEMY LIVE

*Lunch & Learn*



**Celebrating  
National Poppy Day®  
in your communities  
April 18 at noon ET**

Reserve your spot for this webinar on April 18 at noon Eastern 

<https://cvent.me/yPI8RP>

## 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



## The Great American Membership Race



Submitted by Rose Kraft

Mother Nature is playing with us as to what time of the year it is. However, hardworking, mushing American Legion Auxiliary members understand the importance of this time of the year. We have celebrated the American Legion being 105 years old, we have finished up with poems and essays, and while the poppy posters are being created, we are planning our distribution of poppies for Memorial Day. With all of this said, there is still one very important mission we need to continue to work on, that is MEMBERSHIP!

The number game begins now, we are at 8259 members for 80.31% our goal is 10284. But, more importantly we want one more than we had last year. This means we need 918 members renewed, rejoined, or recruited. Did you know we have 1261 members who have not renewed? What if we got each of these former members to pay their 2024 dues?

I believe in you, we all believe in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, we all believe in supporting our Veterans and our Military and for these reasons I believe each of you will reach out for one more member.

While you are thinking about how you can help reach our membership goal remember, "The key to success is to focus on goals, not obstacles." We all can say I have asked everyone, then why can someone new move into your community and find numerous new members. Remember our mission, service not self, and working for the betterment of our community, children, military, and veterans. I believe in you, let's watch the numbers grow.

## South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Apparel

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

We are still working through the approvals on some clothing items but keep checking.

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



## Operation Homefront Needs and Services

Submitted by Harry Boner

It was great to visit with so many of you during the 104th Midwinter Conference of the American Legion, Department of South Dakota, in Deadwood, SD in February. There were many folks interested to learn more about Operation Homefront and how they could do more for this program. There are many Posts, Units, and Squadrons surrounding Ellsworth AFB that have been able to come and help with the yearly backpack distribution program, which is sponsored by Operation Homefront (OH). This event is held at many military bases during the last weekend in July every year. Operation Homefront also distributes school supplies and toys collected from the Dollar Tree every year. Both of these programs take financial donations, volunteers, and coordination to ensure successful events. There will be more information to come on these two programs in the April newsletter.

In addition to these two highly successful programs, there are also temporary assistance programs, spouse appreciation and support programs, and scholarships opportunities for children of our active-duty and National Guard service members that are or have been deployed on Title 10 orders. See the requirements and types of assistance available below.

Critical Financial Assistance – Eligibility

Documents Required:

Copy of deployment orders for enlisted, title 10 orders for National Guard, documentation of all household income, line of duty documentation or other official record of a wound, illness, or injury being sustained in the line of duty.

Typical use of Financial Assistance:

Auto Payment, Auto Repair, Child and Dependent Care, Critical Baby Items, Dental, Essential Home Items, Food Assistance, Home Repairs\*, Medical, Moving and Relocation, Rent and Mortgage, Travel and Transportation, Utilities, Vision Care, Other.

In conclusion:

I am sure you will agree that helping our young service members in times of need can be a game changer during desperate times. Many of us can recall how difficult life can be in times of need, as we have been there. Your time and consideration to volunteer or support Operation Homefront is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Harry Boner at 605-691-4571.

Remember, April is Children and Youth month. You can help to support our young service members' families by collecting school supplies for distribution, holding a family fun day, or even make financial donations to Operation Homefront and/or other Youth and Children programs that you support.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

## LEGIONETTE

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**BE IN THE KNOW**

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**Hartford Initiates New  
Members**

Urban-Hanson Unit 118 Hartford Am Le-  
gion Auxiliary on Tuesday, February 6,  
2024 held New Member Initiation with six  
new members standing L to R; Shelly Stut-  
son, Tracy Edberg, Sara Rasmussen, Joey  
Edberg, Orrie Renstchler and Jodi Kelly.  
Seated Unit President Roxanne Whalen

**White Unit 88 serves Community  
Meal**

submitted by Cynthia Stoebner

Unit #88 served their monthly community meal  
on 03/20/24 for 24 guests and 11 shut-ins.  
Always a pleasure to serve with these mem-  
bers and many more not pictured.

**Department Opening**

**We currently have an opening for a  
Department Treasurer. Job descrip-  
tion will be available soon. Interested  
candidates Must be familiar with  
Quickbooks**

**LOIS WIESE selected as Garretson  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEM-  
BER OF THE YEAR**

The Garretson American Legion Auxilia-  
ry is honored to select Lois Wiese as our  
2024 Member of the Year. She was recent-  
ly honored for 70 years of service to the  
Auxiliary. Her current activities in the

Auxiliary include serving as historian, serving bingo at Palisade  
HealthCare as well as helping judge Americanism poems and essays  
for our local school. She currently works with a Legion work team for  
serving breakfast and doing valuable preparation work which she has  
done for over 20 years. In past years, she has held offices of secretary  
and chaplain.

Lois had an outstanding teaching career in Baltic and Larchwood be-  
fore retiring in 1996. She received a "Teacher of the Year" award in  
1995. Following her retirement, she continued to do some substitute  
teaching in Garretson. She has served Zion Lutheran Church as Presi-  
dent of the ZLCW as well as doing service work, serving on com-  
mittees, and attending bible studies.

Lois' husband, Owen, served in Korea and for many years in the Army  
Reserves and retired as a Colonel.

Lois is highly respected for all her fine family and friends' relation-  
ships as well as for her excellent cooking. She is noted for sending  
cards to many people to lift their spirits. In conversation, she shows  
much interest in other peoples' lives and activities as she shares her

**Cynthia Stoebner White Unit Member  
of the Year for 2023-24**

On Feb. 12, 2024, members of Higgens-Jessen,  
Unit 88 American Legion Auxiliary, White SD  
chose to nominate Cynthia Stoebner for Unit  
member of the year for 2023-24.

In 2015, Cindy applied for membership in Unit  
88 underneath her Father, Herbert Lokken who had served in the  
Army. She remained inactive member status while living in Sioux  
Falls. Cindy was a Registered Nurse specializing in Cardiovascular  
Nursing for most of her 40-year career. Upon retiring, she moved  
back to her hometown of White, SD, and became an active member  
in 2019. She has served as Chaplin, 2019-2020, Poppy Distribution  
Chair, 2020 - present. With the cooperation of the local business  
Corner Gas and Goodies our Unit efforts have been greatly en-  
hanced. We show our appreciation by updating their US flag each  
year. Co-President, 2022-2023, President, 2023- present  
Being new to Auxiliary, "I like to immerse myself and see what is  
involved in other member roles." Cindy has also attended District  
meetings and State Convention for more experience.

This January, Cindy encouraged our involvement in starting our 1st  
annual donation drive to support the Brookings County Domestic  
Abuse Shelter. We are planning on this being a yearly event.

Submitted by Charlotte Mickelson-Sec Connie Nelson - 2nd Vice President



## Madison Unit #25 Member of the Year

Typically, when a unit elects a new president, that unit has been well-established. Most of the unit's projects carry on from one year to the next, so while the new president can bring in new ideas, there is a routine that she can follow. But what happens when an inactive unit decides to become active again? That presents challenges for a newly elected president unlike those of a new president for an already active unit.

Those challenges are exactly what Madison Unit #25 President Lisa Lee rose to and overcame. Having only recently joined the American Legion Auxiliary herself, Lisa began this year unsure of what all a unit could do and should do. Without the benefit of an immediate past unit president, Lisa sought advice and mentorship from outside her unit. From there, she began some intense brainstorming and found projects galore for her unit to do. Under Lisa's leadership, this year alone the Madison unit has helped their Legion post with many activities, including getting the flags up for Memorial Day. Lisa found several parades for the unit to be in, showing the community that they are once again active. They had a presence at Downtown Madtown, which Lisa and her unit used as a recruiting opportunity for membership. Lisa also got the unit to do a project for Make a Difference Day, participate in the local school's Veterans Day program, do Valentines for Veterans, and, under her leadership, the unit got the community involved with Project Green Light. The Madison Legion post is grateful to Lisa for getting the Madison Auxiliary unit to be a presence at post picnics and run the food stand at their annual poultry party. Lisa herself has supported the post by going with Legionnaires for Vets in the Classroom opportunities. Lisa has been a huge asset to the American Legion family in Madison, and we are honored to recognize her as our Unit Member of the Year.

## Department President Patsy Celebrates American Legion



March 15th Sioux Falls SD Post 15, 105th Birthday. Dept President Patsy with members of Unit 15. Awards were also presented for achievements within the unit.



March 12th Custer SD Post 46. 105th Legion Birthday. Picture of District 1 VP Deb MacDonald, Dept President Patsy and Custer Unit 46 President Dawn Murray.



Picture of WWII Veteran and his wife a Vietnam Veteran cutting the cake



March 10th Gettysburg SD Legion Birthday celebration. Picture of Unit President Joane Goeringer, Mary Mae Wager, Dept President Patsy, District 3 President Marla Mosiman.

Picture Kermit Wager, Mary Mae's husband, received an award for being with the Honor Guard for 60 years.



## Gregory American Legion 105th Birthday



Celebration was held at the March Meeting.

