



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## *Embracing our Veterans*

Hello members!

Well, it is super hard to believe that my term is almost over, and State Convention is just around the corner. We have completed our Spring District meetings, with travels to different Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units across South Dakota. I want to thank everyone for the good meetings, hospitality, and great food. I think I may have gained some weight! LOL! Our Dept Fundraising Committee has a raffle event in the planning stages. The raffle will begin at our State Convention in Pierre which will run from June 2024 to June 2025. More details to follow. State Convention is June 20-23, 2024, in Pierre SD at Ramkota. The Dept Executive Committee and Finance meets on Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. The official Opening of Convention begins on Friday through Sunday. Our Auxiliary National President Lisa Williams will be attending our Convention.

Hope to see you there.  
Patsy Madsen  
Department President



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION BANQUET ORDER FORMS

American Legion Family Joint Banquet  
Friday, June 21st, 2024  
Ramkota Conference Center, 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre

No Host Bar 6:00 pm  
Banquet 7:00 pm  
Transportation to and from the banquet is available.  
Please ask at the Registration table when you pick up your tickets.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)  
Adults \$35 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)  
Children \$20 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)  
Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks or money orders out to: American Legion Pierre Post 8

Please Send ticket requests to:  
Convention Banquet Tickets  
ATTN: Mike Wells, Convention Finance Chairman  
PO Box 621  
Pierre, SD, 57501

**Advanced Ticket for the Auxiliary Banquet**  
**Honoring Sereta Douthit (1999-2000)**  
Saturday, June 22, 2024

**Menu - The Classic Buffet**

Baked Chicken with tossed salad, Chef's choice starch, vegetable, dinner rolls, 4 prepared salads, Chef's choice dessert, coffee, and water. Cost is \$30.00

Make checks payable to Unit 8 American Legion Auxiliary  
Mail to Diane Sullivan  
2117 Lancaster Loop  
Pierre, SD 57501.

Deadline to order is June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
No tickets will be available at the event.

Number of Tickets Requested \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for special dietary needs.   
Please list need: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advertising/campaigning in the Department Convention Booklet will be \$100 for a full page. They are due to Jim Goodman by May 15th. He can be reached at 605-222-7053 or pierrepost8@midconetwork.com Attn: Jim Goodman.

Heather Kruger is looking for interested Junior members to be Department Convention Pages. If interested, please contact Heather at lost\_in\_love54@yahoo.com. Questions can be directed to Heather or Kayla at southdako-taala@gmail.com



South Dakota Department of the American Legion Auxiliary  
Position opening for  
Department Treasurer.

**Qualifications:**

- The person applying for the position should be an American Legion Auxiliary member or eligible to become a member.
- Have a strong background in QuickBooks, bookkeeping and accounting, reconciling bank statements, process payments, adhere to a budget, do financial reporting of monthly income, expenses, and deposits.
- Learn the warrant system, scrutinize the warrant, and be prompt with payments.
- Must have 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 members.
- Attention to detail, strong organizational and time management skills, work under minimal supervision.
- Attend meetings as requested (Mid-Winter Conference in February, Department Convention in June, and Finance and Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings in July) and any other meetings, in person or virtual.
- Approximately 15 hours a week. The person applying will need to be able to be bonded. Bonding will be at the organization's expense. A background check will be completed.
- Ability and willingness to fill in for the Secretary if needed.

Please submit a Resume' and references postmarked by May 15, 2024.  
Submit to:|

Barb Vetter, PDP and Hiring Committee Chairman  
101 7<sup>th</sup> St. E  
Cresbard, SD 575435  
Or  
Barb Vetter  
barb.vetter@venturecomm.net

## May Calendar

### Month of

### National Military Appreciation

### National Caregivers

8th	—	Victory in Europe Day
12th	—	Mother's Day
18th	—	Armed Forces Day
27th	—	Memorial Day

Poppy Posters are due to Jane Benzel by May 15th  
Little Miss Poppy entries must be electronically sent in to National by 5:00est June 1. The cover sheet must be attached. Please cc Jane Benzel

June 20-23—Department Convention, Pierre SD

## In Loving Memory

**Unit 4 Mobridge :** Helen Cory - 01/24; Elaine Fuhrer - 02/24;  
Violet Lillestol - 01/24

**Unit 11 Wagner:** Norma Horner - 02/24

**Unit 12 Yankton:** Ethel Golden - 04/24; Betty Rhoades - 03/24

**Unit 24 Aberdeen :** Marjorie Campbell - 12/23

**Unit 42 Arlington:** Shirley Knutson - 01/24; Sandra Malone - 06/23  
Sheila Swenson - 12/23

**Unit 60 Clark:** Donna Hilsabeck - 03/24

**Unit 74 Brookings:** Leola Rust - 03/24

**Unit 132 Springfield:** Marcella Ludens - 03/24

**Unit 139 McIntosh:** Bertha Lensing - 11/21

**Unit 141 Langford:** Luella West - 03/24

**Unit 147 Buffalo:** Edna Seieroe - 03/24

**Unit 150 Avon:** Lillian Burfeindt - 03/24

**Unit 183 Tabor:** Sharleen Hovorka - 03/24

**Unit 184 Estelline:** Jacquelin Ward - 03/24

**Unit 186 Eureka:** Lona Hoff - 12/23; Eureka Helen Imberi - 12/23

Nila Kneopfle - 02/24

**Unit 229 Big Stone City :** Eleanor Nickolauson - 03/24

**Unit 280 Iroquois:** Richele Royal - 03/24

## May Prayer

Submitted by Jill Lamer

Thank you for Spring, the season of your expression of joy! Let every bloom remind me of your grace, Let each sunny day bring light to my soul. As we speing ahead let these months give birth to warm thoughts and kind gestures, Amen

## 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

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



## May is the Month of the Military Caregiver



### The VA Caregiver Support Line

The VA Caregiver Support Line is 1-855-260-3274, and is designed to help with resources, advice, and networking. All care providers are welcome to dial in to monthly telephone education groups, ask questions, and get help with self-care.

## 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

Aurora, SD Unit 230 endorses Wendy Henley for the position of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President

## Gregory celebrates their 105th birthday



## The Great American Membership Race



Submitted by Rose Kraft

It's a number game going on out there. We finished 2023 with 9045 members, we are presently at 8470 members. We have said goodbye to 133 members as they have joined the unit in heaven, and we have said welcome to 335 new members. So, if you do the math, you will see that our newly recruited members are a 251% difference between lost and new members. I have just pulled the list of nonrenewed members for 2024 and you will not believe this number is 1089 members. We have 31 units that have not renewed ten or more members for a total of 602 members. We need 575 members plus one to not have a membership slide this year! I am looking for members, especially PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS, to write some letters, make some phone calls. What were the units that greatly supported you while you were president, are they on this list? Would you be willing to try to contact them? All you need to do is text or email me and I will send you the list for your to choose one unit that you are willing to reach out to. If 50% of these members renew, we would be shy of the slide by just 21 members. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! I BELIEVE IN YOU. Add to this we are in a contest with Wyoming on who is going to get to 90% first, please, I think we can do this!

A few reminders, did you recruit 10 ten members? If so, did you put in for your recruit 10 award – I hear it is totally amazing! Next year we are going to be talking full access to ALAMIS for your unit. I will be visiting with members at the department convention and for sure will be presenting easy how to papers at the full conferences.

Now it is the time of the year where we get to enjoy the children zipping down the slide at the community park and soon, they will be "swooshing" down the slide into the pool. Let's enjoy these slides and not make the membership of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary a slide experience. I just joined 20 new members this past week, it is not too late for you to recruit, retain, rejoin, and renew members for this year! Mush on South Dakota, you can do this!

### Erin Lynn Chosen as District 5 American Legion Auxiliary Member of the Year

Submitted by Marsha Timm



Erin Lynn, daughter of Gary and Norma Lynn, was recently named as Member of the Year in the Elkton Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary. Erin is one of the hard workers in our unit. She is passionate about our organization.

Erin Lynn was also named as the District V Member of the Year.

Erin Lynn has served as Elkton's Unit Treasurer for five years. She also serves as Membership Chair. She is responsible for sending in all renewals, new memberships, and transfers. Erin also orders the emailed and mailed Legionette subscriptions. Miss Lynn also chaired the Poultry Party Lunch Stand. She coordinated the donations and work schedule. As Poppy Co-Chair, she orders new ones each year. As Girls State Co-Chair, she coordinates with the applicants for the needed paperwork. Erin is responsible for Cards and Gifts Erin donates to our Give 10 for Education collections for the local school each year, attends the Veterans Day Program. donates patriotic children's books for the unit to use during either Veterans Day or Poppy Poster time. She contributed food for the Auxiliary sponsored lunch for our Legion Family meeting in November and provides treats for the school staff during American Education Week. Miss Lynn takes her turn as a monthly hostess.

Erin is the Color Bearer for our local unit. After her mother's passing two years ago, Erin volunteered to take her place. She is the third generation of her family to carry our colors. Lately, the only time we have needed a Color Bearer is for the Community Memorial Day Program. Last year, she also gave a patriotic reading during the program. She donated food for the Community Potluck and helped with the clean-up as well. Over the Memorial Day weekend, our unit places small Auxiliary flags on the graves of deceased members in three area cemeteries. There are about 60 graves to decorate. Erin is a willing participant in placing flags on Friday afternoon and retrieving them on Monday afternoon.

# BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquarters

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

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

Visit the SD ALA Website at [www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)

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, contact Department Headquarters..

## Announcing the Garretson Unit Americanism Poems and Essays award contestant winners;

### Essays-118 participants:

Class I(grades 3&4) 1st Place-Mitchell Christensen, 2nd Place-Lincoln Collins

Class II(grades 5&6) 1st Place-Tenley Siemonsma, 2nd Place-Hailey Anderson

Class III(grades 7&8) 1st Place-Colton Buchholz, 2nd Place-Brielle Weir, 3rd Place-Breanna Smith

### Poems-17 participants:

Class II( grade 4) Coyer Buchholz

Class III(grade 5) Caylix Bucholz



## PUBLIC RELATIONS NATIONAL AWARDS



**New this year!** Units will be able to submit their nominations for all Public Relations awards directly to National. You will not need to submit them to your Public Relations Department Chairman. However, if you could please send a copy of the information to me, [sjlamer@outlook.com](mailto:sjlamer@outlook.com) so I can acknowledge all the units and members who were nominated. Awards are to be submitted at:

[National Awards Form \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

**ALA Brand Ambassador**—A member who achieves excellence in promotion of the American Legion Auxiliary with their use of social media, appearance in public wearing ALA-branded apparel, and other activities that showcase the Auxiliary’s unique branding through visual identity

**Unit Award: ALA Mission Focused Social Media Account**—Presented to units with active social media accounts that have maintained account focused on the mission of the ALA and conformed to the ALA Branding Guide

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Public Relations Program (per division)** - One unit in each division that earns media placement in their community

Additional information can be found on the National Website:

[Public Relations Committee Awards \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

If you need any assistance, please reach out to me at [sjlamer@outlook.com](mailto:sjlamer@outlook.com).

I know there are members and units that are worthy of these awards and hope you take the time to get your submissions in. The deadline for these awards is June 1, 2024 5pm est.



THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
LEGIONETTE

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Department of South Dakota

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## Hudson Unit #128—Anniversary

Proud to celebrate the 102nd year anniversary of our Membership Charter of April 17, 1922!



**PURPLE UP!** For Military Kids Table was set up at Buche’s Grocery in Oacoma, SD by Potter Post Unit #3 for the week of April 14-21, 2024



## National Poppy Day May 24, 2024

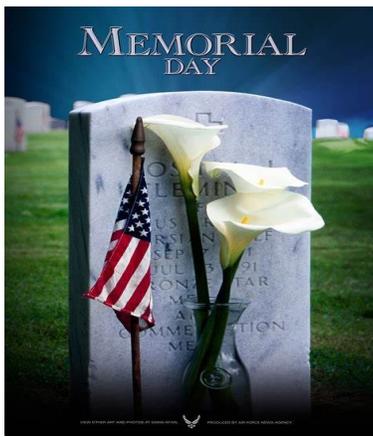


Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

Want to learn more? Visit the American Legion Auxiliary Website

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



### Honoring the Fallen on Memorial Day

Memorial Day, which falls on May 28 this year, honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originating from the Civil War, Memorial Day was officially declared a federal holiday in 1971 by Congress to be observed on the last Monday in May. Lastly, Memorial Day should not be confused with Veterans Day. Simply put: Memorial Day pays tribute to those who died *while* in battle, and Veterans Day honors *all who have served* in the military.

Here are some ideas you can do to Honor the Fallen:

#### Attend a Memorial Day Service:

Check with your local American Legion to see when services are being held. Out of town that weekend, check out the local American Legion in the closest town.

#### Place a Flag/Poppy at a gravesite:

Check to see if a group in your community has organized plans to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers. This is a meaningful way to pay homage to those who lost their lives in battle. Please review and adhere to cemetery guidelines.

#### Observe the National moment of Silence at 3 pm

Congress passed The National Moment of Remembrance Act to honor America's fallen heroes. Per the law, signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 2000, Americans – wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day – are encouraged to pause for one minute as part of an act of national unity.

#### Fly an American Flag

Flying an American flag is one of the simplest ways to celebrate Memorial Day. It doesn't matter how big your flag is or where you fly it – all sizes and locations are welcome. However, it is important that the flag chosen is an American Flag lowered at half-mast in recognition of those fallen while in battle.

#### Visit a War Memorial, historical site or museum

Consider visiting your local war memorial . Do a google search and see what is in your area or take a drive a visit a site in a neighboring town