



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*

## Honor Our Heroes!

## Remember!



Greetings fellow American Legion Auxiliary members. Thank you! Thank you, for putting your confidence and trust in me as South Dakota's Department President. I will do my best with God's help to fulfill the duties of this office.

A couple of big priorities are communication and education. You can always email, text or call me. I will always try to listen and to communicate with you, our members. I will do my best to answer your questions, direct you to the person that can answer them or find the answer myself.

Education about our programs is a big area where we can all improve. I am asking our Department Chairmen to hold one or two virtual meetings to inform Unit chairmen and members about their program and deadlines. We may think we know most information, but it is always good to refresh and relearn. I have learned and relearned so much in the 25 years I've been a member. I still have a lot to learn. Education and communication walk hand in hand with each other.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet YOU, our members. If your Unit has an event coming up this year, please email or call me about it. Contact me as soon as you know the date and time so I can get it on my calendar. If possible, I will try to attend and support your Unit.

The month of September we start our membership drive. You should have your Unit goals. Fall District meetings start. I look forward to seeing everyone. School will be back in session which brings to mind "Give 10 to Education" or the "Backpack program". Also, Junior Activities is the program we highlight this month. Please try to involve and mentor the under 18-year-olds. They are vital to our organization.

My theme is "Honor Our Heroes!" "Remember!". We need to remember our Veterans no matter what their stage in life may be. My project is to help furnish the newly built SF VA Hospice House. It is scheduled to be finished in October. There will be 10 rooms in the house for hospice care Veterans.

Thank you for your support  
AnnaMae Warnier

### Our New Department Treasurer

#### Christine Patnoe

Department Mailing Address:

PO Box 983

Mitchell, SD 57301

[sdala.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sdala.treasurer@gmail.com)



### 2024-2025 Department Officers



Lf to Rt –first row : Christine Patnoe, Treasurer; Kayla Kennedy, Secretary; Patrice Sorensen, 2nd Vice; Susie Learing, 1st Vice; AnnaMae Warnier, President; Mary Jo Stier, NEC; Regina Whipple, Historian; Sharon Broghammer, Chaplin; Kim Anderson, Parliamentarian

Lf to right– Back row: Hope Smith, Sergeant at Arms, Deb MacDonald, District 2 President ; Marla Mosiman, District 3 President; Deanne Hoyle, District 4 President, Mary Jo Boner, District 5 President; Linda Holmes, District 6 President; Joyce Smith District 7 President; Karen Richelieu, District 8 President; Robin Hempel Asst Sergeant at Arms

### 2024-2025 Legion Family Officers

Lt to Rt:

**Shane Lamer**, SAL Detachment Commander

**AnnaMae Warnier**, ALA Department President

**Kevin Morello**, AL Department Commander

**Fred Nelson**, American Legion Rider Liaison



## September Calendar

June 2— V-J Day (Victory Over Japan)

Patriot Day—September 11th

Constitution Day –Fly your Flag –September 17th

Air Force Birthday—September 18th

Air National Guard—September 18th

National POW/MIA Recognition Day—September 20th

Detachment Commander Shane Lamer's Homecoming –September 21st

Gold Star Mothers Day—September 29th

## District Meetings

**District 1:** Sept 15th, Box Elder

**District 2:** Sept 14th, Wall –Social 9am (mst) Wall Golf Course Meeting 10 am , location TBD

**District 3:** Sept 29th

**District 4:** Sept 22nd, Redfield TBD

**District 5:** Oct 30th, White –Social 11am, 12pm meeting

**District 6:** Sept 28th Lake Preston—Social 11am, meal 12:30pm, Meeting 1:45pm, Funeral Home next door to Legion

**District 7:** Oct 7th, Dell Rapids—Social 11am, 12pm Meal, 1pm meeting –Methodist Church next to Legion. Legion address 408 Orleans Ave

**District 8:** Wagner TBD

## September Prayer

Almighty Father keep a hedge of protection over our active servicemen at this time. Give their kids and family peace and contentment while they wait for their return home. Give their Kids ability to learn throughout the school year. Have a great Labor Day weekend and great year SD ALA auxiliary members. Thank you for your service to our veterans, servicemen, and their Families

In Jesus name I pray. Amen

*SD ALA State Chaplain*

*Sharon Broghammer*



## National Scholarship Winners

**Spirit of Youth Scholarship: Mackenzie Kaiser**

**Non-Traditional Scholarship: Katherine Stier**

**Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship:**

**Shanna Clyde**



## In Loving Memory

0006 Gregory Lynn Zeller - 05/24  
 0006 Gregory Mary Pavlis - 06/24  
 0014 Wessington Springs Darleen Higgins - 05/24  
 0014 Wessington Springs Lily Rogers - 05/24  
 0015 Sioux Falls Avis Priest - 07/24  
 0015 Sioux Falls Mary Lou McAtee - 12/23  
 0037 Bryant Dorothy Evenson - 07/24  
 0038 Miller Betty Nesby - 07/24 Past Dept Pres.  
 0038 Miller Lorraine Augspurger - 05/24  
 0041 Alexandria Lois Heiter - 05/24  
 0062 Humboldt Wanda Artz - 07/24  
 0071 Hot Springs Helen Anderson - 04/24  
 0083 Timber Lake Carol Crance - 07/24  
 0083 Timber Lake Cherry Lippert - 06/24  
 0083 Timber Lake Katherine Schlosser - 06/24  
 0088 White Geraldine Schmidt - 06/24  
 0118 Hartford Lillian Matthies - 07/24  
 0129 Waubay Dorothy Eidet - 07/21  
 0138 DeSmet Annie Hylland-Moeller - 06/23  
 0138 DeSmet Donna Stewart - 03/24  
 0140 Salem Delores Jackson - 07/24  
 0142 Tripp Dorothy Friman - 07/24  
 0151 Mellette Mary Wedemann - 03/24  
 0152 Menno Betty Guthmiller - 07/24  
 0169 Winner Adeline Vavea - 05/24  
 0171 Strandburge Susan Spangenberg - 05/24  
 0180 New Effington Opal Evenson - 07/24  
 0199 Garden City Veta Aker - 06/24

## Gold Star Mothers Day

September 29th



The term gold star mother had its origins with the service flag that dates back to 1917 and is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the immediate family of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The service flag is comprised of a white rectangular field within a border of red.

While a blue star is placed in the center of the white field. If the individual symbolized by the blue star is killed while serving, a gold star is superimposed on the blue star – thus, the term gold star mother.

## There is no place like membership

Submitted by Rose Kraft

As we begin our new year, and our National President is from Kansas you just think of there is no place like membership. Add this to the sunflower state, we will find our inner strengths to renew, rejoin and recruit membership and shine as bright as a summer sunflower with our membership.

Remember each person you meet is a person from the Wizard of Oz, they use their brain for new and creative ideas, their heart is full of compassion for our Veterans and active military. Lastly, they have courage, they just ask, they are the "Be the One" to take time to talk to the Veterans and be a listener. You have Dorothy, your membership chair, along with the help of the Munchkins, who are willing to follow the yellow brick road to the goals of membership.

Nationals have been truly kind and listened to the members. Our department goal is a percentage of where we were last year. I have been asking for this for a couple of years and they listened. Now it is time for us to show them we appreciate it and become a 100% department. To do this, every unit needs to turn in their memberships! If you want to earn money for your unit, have all your memberships turned into the department headquarters by December 7th. Many of your goals are the same as last year or one member more. Some of you will see that your goal is a smaller number than it was last year but still needs a little growth. As a department we have done great to find new members, however, we need to retain our current memberships.

At the fall district meetings, you will hear about full ALAMIS rights. You will want to be there to hear the great news and how easy it is to use.

So, it is time to be off to find the membership, the greatest membership of all. Just follow the yellow brick roads to each of your current members to gather their dues for the upcoming year 2025 and then remember to turn in your memberships now! Remember there is no place like membership is the great organization of the American Legion Auxiliary and the department of South Dakota.



*In Loving  
Tribute*



*LaVina W. Meier*

LaVina Meier became a member of the Long Lake Legion Auxiliary Post #276 in 1973. During her time as a member, she held the office of Music Chairperson for 38 years, Sgt. Of Arms 3 years, Parliamentarian 7 years, Chaplain 7 years, Secretary/Treasurer for over 10 years and Treasurer for 4 years. LaVina was dedicated to the Auxiliary. She had vast knowledge of many things regarding the Auxiliary and even shared some of her recipes for the meals that the Auxiliary served at the Memorial Day Program, Polka Fest and Turkey Shoot. LaVina also played French Horn in the Long Lake Band for over 50 years. Sadly on March 24, 2024 we lost LaVina. The Auxiliary will always remember her kindness, patience, generosity and selflessness.

LaVina was the true meaning of Patriotism and will be missed by many

Did you know that the time you spend time visiting veterans at any of the five VA facilities in South Dakota is eligible for hours that can be reported to your hospital reps to be included in the Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation – American Legion Auxiliary volunteer hours? As hospital rep at Ft Meade, we sit down and have an annual review with the coordinator and file a report with National. Since Covid, we have been able to be active in the facilities. I am sure that these hours are being reported on our individual service hour sheets but are being missed at the facility level. I have been encouraged to try and improve our auxiliary volunteer hours.

I am urging each of us to report our time visiting veterans in any of the VA facilities to send your hours monthly to your hospital rep. Let's get those hours reported so our actual impact can be included in how the Department of SD is helping our veterans.

Ft Meade VA – Patrice Sorensen - patrice.sorensen@ yahoo.com

Sioux Falls VA – Gloria Bonjour - uffdaacres@gmail.com

Human Service Center – Susie Learning - learingsusie@gmail.com

Hot Springs VA – Susie Clyde - sd.veterans@goldenwest.net

State Veterans Home – Karen Phelan - precpretz@msn.com

By reporting our hours to the facility, I hope that we are able to improve our reported hours by 80% in the upcoming year.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

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### BE IN THE KNOW

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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..

### September is Suicide Awareness Month

Info provided by The Columbia Lighthouse Project



**On average in the United States, an estimated 20 veterans die by suicide each day.**

One recent federal government study found that the suicide rate among U.S. veterans who served on active duty between 2001 and 2007 was about 50% higher than the rate for their civilian counterparts. And in 2012 and 2013, more active duty U.S. service members died by suicide than in combat; only accidents, including transportation-related incidents, killed more.

Combat-related stress, family separation, mental and physical ailments, financial or relationship difficulties, and transitions back to civilian life are factors that can challenge a veteran's mental health. Yet men and women who serve or have served in the military may feel they are jeopardizing their careers or showing "weakness" if they admit to having problems, making it difficult to identify who is at risk for suicide. Download the app so you always have the information handy.

**THE COLUMBIA PROTOCOL:  
COLUMBIA SUICIDE SEVERITY  
RATING SCALE (C-SSRS)**

**JUST ASK. YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE.  
Scan the QR code to download the app.**

ANDROID USERS



IPHONE USERS



### Suicide Prevention Training

Veterans Administration **S.A.V.E Training** is an hour long course to help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran or non veteran in crisis and experiencing suicidal thoughts. Q&A will follow after the training at 2pm

**Saturday, October 5th, 2024**  
1:00pm -2:30pm  
Madison VFW Post 2638  
510 S Washington Ave, Madison, SD 57042  
Please RSVP by September 27th to [ala.unit25sd@gmail.com](mailto:ala.unit25sd@gmail.com) with Post/Unit # and how many attending.

- S** Know the Signs that indicate a Veteran might be thinking about suicide
- A** Ask the most important question of all— "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
- V** Validate the Veteran's experience
- E** Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help

Sponsored by:  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Unit 25 Madison, SD

### Collecting for a PURPOSE

Winner American Legion Auxiliary have collected over 50 used belt buckles which will be given to winners at the Special Olympics rodeo Aug. 24 at the Central States Fair in Rapid City. Pictured from left are Judy Wilcox and Liz Farley. Monument Health in Rapid City sponsors the rodeo. The auxiliary will continue to collect buckles through 2025. Those buckles will be used for next year's Special Olympics rodeo.



### 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.



### National President Lisa Williamson attends Convention

Nat'l President Lisa Williamson attended the State Convention held in Pierre. She was welcomed at the airport and escorted to the hotel from the Legion Riders, Auxiliary, SAL and AL.



President Williamson spoke at the banquet on "Be The One" and attended the convention meetings. She had the opportunity to ride on the motorcycles with the Legion Riders and take a small tour of the river with the SAL Commander's car



### New officers of the Arlington American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42

L to r  
Gerri Murphy, Secretary; Barb Zeller, President; Penny Rinderneck, Treasurer; Naomi Johnson, First Vice; Lynette Diaz, Chaplain



Highlighting recent events and plans in the works for this year! Arlington American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 raised funds and donated \$1,000 to the Veterans Tiny Home project in Sioux Falls; -organized and did a community service breakfast for over 200 bicyclists that stayed overnight in Arlington; -have plans to host a Halloween party for kids at the post home in October; TBD;-have plans to be involved in Santa Holiday Gift Workshop in December - more info coming! TBD

### Arlington American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 Host Breakfast for Bicyclists

Unit 42 did a community service breakfast for over 200 bicyclists that stayed overnight in Arlington;



### Hudson ALA Unit #128

Our young friend, David Richter, is shown here with our auxiliary's Co-Chairmen of Children & Youth Cheryl Kruid and Karen Evanson. David, son of Ryan (Legion member) and Connie Richter, has had several surgeries during his young years. David was presented with our auxiliary's caring blanket and a stuffed dog which he named Chase, his protector Hugs for David!



### South Dakota Department Member of the Year

Marlene Eimers from the Redfield Unit #92 was selected to represent South Dakota at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Congratulation Marlene



L-R NEC Mary Jo, Sept President Patsy, Marlene Eimers, Nat'l President Lisa

### Custer County Parade Unit 303— 1st Place Ribbon

President AnnaMae and Paul made a trip out to Hermosa to attend the annual Custer Co Fair events that Post/Unit #303 are involved with.



L-R Paul Warnier, ALA President AnnaMae Warnier, AL Commander Kevin Morello, Deb Morello



Sturgis Unit 33 celebrated "Christmas in July" with the Veterans at Ft. Meade on July 6. The Veterans were so surprised to have a visit from Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause. Members of the Unit entertained them with Christmas Carol's while handing out balloons, ice cream and cup cakes. The Veterans questioned the sanity of members and asked if they knew how to read a calendar!

Volunteer Services said they never seen so many smiles and laughter and asked the Unit to make this an annual event.

