



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*

## “Honor Our Heroes!” “Remember!”

Our ALA has a lot of things that are happening in South Dakota. Your Unit meetings for fall are well under way. The District meetings are underway. Please try to attend your District meeting. The 6th District is Sept. 28, 3rd District is Sept. 29, 5th District is Oct. 20, 7th District Oct. 26 and 8th District Oct. 27. Soon after that will be our Christmas gift shops (Nov. 17-20 at Ft. Meade and Hot Springs; Dec. 2-3 in Sioux Falls). Please plan to make your donations to the gift shops soon. We are also privileged to have our National President, Trish Ward visiting our department during the West River gift shops, Nov. 17-20. All ALA members are invited to join us for the evening meals on Nov. 18 in Spearfish (Spearfish) and/or Nov. 19 at Crazy Horse Memorial (Custer). More specific details will be coming soon. Please plan to be a part of giving a warm South Dakota welcome to our National President. Hopefully you are working membership!!! Renew! Recruit! Rejoin! Dorothy (Rose our membership chairman) from the Wizard of Oz is trying hard to get all of our Munchkins (members) to Emerald City for 100% membership in 2024-25. Our Department membership goal is 9279. This is the lowest goal we will ever have. So, Follow the Yellow Brick Road! I wanted to also tell you the Essay and Poetry Themes! The essay theme comes from National: “What does America the Beautiful Mean to Me” (regarding Veterans and our Military). The Poetry theme comes from me: “Honor Our Heroes”, (all of those who serve us)! During your first meetings many of you discuss the Obligations Form, that came out in the Unit Mailing. The top 4 are mandatory. Those are costs that the Department has to pay every year. The non-mandatory and Auxiliary Program donations help the Department to serve Veterans and their families. This is what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about. Please give generously. Again, my Department Project is the SF VA Hospital. They are building a new hospice center. There are many needs to furnish this center. One main need is two reclining, heating, massage chairs. With your help this will become a realization. Then we will be purchasing Bluetooth headset and radios so the patients can listen to music. We need to take care of our Veterans during their final days or months they are with us. Please, invite me to your Unit activities. I would love to meet each and every one of our members.



Honor Our Heroes!” “Remember!”

Your Department President, AnnaMae Warnier

### SGT Terry Rada of Geddes honored at SD Fallen Hero Bridge

**Geddes Deiman Gray Legion Post 56 and Auxiliary hosts SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication for US Army SGT Terry G Rada. A large crowd was in attendance August 10 at the Geddes Multi-Purpose Center including his brother Gary Rada, Geddes. The bridge is South of Geddes on Pease Creek. SGT Rada was**

a 1966 graduate of Geddes High School and then a graduate of the Universal Trade School, Omaha, NE, in auto mechanics. He was employed as a mechanic until he entered the Army on April 10, 1968. SGT Rada completed his basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and advanced training at Ft. Ord, California. On October 17, 1968, SGT Rada arrived in Vietnam and was attached to Company D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. SGT Terry Gene Rada died of wounds received in combat on June 9, 1969. He was killed in action in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. His parents were August and Norma Rada and a brother, Gary Rada.



Photos:

Family members, Gale Pederson, Scott Dimick, Gary Rada, Loren Pederson

from left --Maureen Dufek, Pres & Eileen Carda, Historian with photo of Norma Rada, Gold Star Mother (deceased)



### Poem & Essay Themes 2025

**Essay** (What America the Beautiful means to me)

**Poem** (Honor our Heros, All that served us)

### National President Visit

National Auxiliary President, Trish Ward, (Kansas) will be visiting South Dakota November 17th – 20th. She will be attending the Christmas Gift Shops at Ft. Meade on Nov.18th and Hot Springs on Nov. 19th



Oct 1 Monetary Donation due to Gift shops  
 October 13th: US Navy Birthday  
 October 14th: Native American Day/Columbus Day  
 October 26th: Day of the Deployed  
 October 26th Make a Difference Day  
 October 31st—Halloween

### District Meetings

**District 5:** Oct 20th, White –Lunch 11am, 12pm meeting  
**District 7:** Oct 26th, Dell Rapids—Social 11am, 12pm Meal, 1pm meeting –Methodist Church next to Legion. Legion address 408 Orleans Ave  
**District 8:** Oct 27th, Wagner Post Home, 11 am Social, 12pm lunch, 12:45 meeting

## In Loving Memory

- 0013 Wakonda Jill Haver - 05/24
- 0021 Hurley Janice Erickson - 05/24
- 0038 Miller Helen Fawcett - 04/24
- 0042 Arlington Dyleen Henrikson - 06/24
- 0050 Sisseton Betty Peterson - 06/24
- 0050 Sisseton Gail Benson - 03/24
- 0050 Sisseton Luella Eggers - 07/24
- 0120 Isabel Bonnie Boysen - 03/24; Past Dist 11 President
- 0120 Isabel Matty Lou Doan - 07/24
- 0137 Warner Alice Holler - 05/24
- 0140 Salem Genevieve Blindert - 05/24
- 0169 Winner Adeline Vavra - 05/24
- 0169 Winner Sherri Bolander - 06/24
- 0180 New Effington Jill Errett - 07/21
- 0220 Herrick Debbie Hot - 07/24
- 0220 Herrick Myrna Beauchamp - 05/24
- 0229 Big Stone City Eleanor Nickolauson - 05/24
- 0229 Big Stone City Mary Ann Ulrich - 07/24
- 0267 Grenville Sharon Monshaugen - 06/23
- 0311 Piedmont Jeanette Howe - 06/24
- 0311 Piedmont Joan Paris - 06/24

### Spearfish Unit 164 celebrates some outstanding achievements



2023-2024 Most Outstanding NW Div Unit VA&R  
 2023-2024 Most Outstanding NW Div Community Service  
 2024-2024 Most Outstanding NW Div Public Relations  
 Brand Ambassador Sandra Nauman



Patrice Sorensen, AnnaMae Warnier, Micheline Nelson, Annette Johnson and Julie Malcolm

### October Prayer

*Almighty Father, with fall approaching change of seasons give our active servicemen, veterans, and their families time to embrace fall colors of trees and embrace the beauty of this time of year. In Jesus name I pray*  
 SD ALA State Chaplain  
 Sharon Broghammer



### Creating A Patriotic Mural



Legion Auxiliary member, Jennifer Loosmore, from Unit 48 in Rosholt is an artist who is always looking for a new palette to paint, so she decided to give their swimming pool a new makeover before a music event at their farm. Also painted on the side of the pool is a list of family members who served in the Armed Forces.



Junior Aux. members  
 Mya & Laiken Loosmore enjoying the “makeover”.

### Groton Unit 33



Tami Zimney, Unit 33 President accepted the 2023-2024 Most



AnnaMae Warnier, Tami Zimney, Jan Seibel, DeAnne Hoyle



[\(20+\) South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary | Facebook](#)



## There is no place like membership

Submitted by Rose Kraft

District 8 is "Leading the Way" this beautiful fall day with 19.74% in membership. Top unknit headed down the yellow brick road in membership in Unit 3 Chamberlain at 70.83%. We have thirteen units over 40% membership. What a great start.

As I have been traveling to District Meetings there have been some questions. I would like to share the answers with all since you may have the same questions. First, yes, the membership renewals are in the mail. They left Indianapolis on September 15<sup>th</sup> in a bulk mailing. This means only so many go out each day. National Headquarters are getting results coming in and are hoping they are in everyone's mailbox by the beginning of October. This does create a problem as members who have paid their dues already this year will get a renewal notice. SO PLEASE, if someone sends you a second check or asks if they have paid, please check your records. I know this is an inconvenience but there just doesn't seem to be an answer to make such a bulk mailing go easier. Next came the conversation of Honorary Members. What a great idea! Many units pay for their members once they reach a certain age, have been a member for a certain period of time, or are in an assisted living or care facility. The proper way of doing this is to put in your standing rules the guidelines your unit would like to follow, this way they are there for the future generations of your unit. Following this you send a letter to Department Headquarters wishing to have your member listed as an honorary member of the American Legion Auxiliary. What this means is they will not receive any renewal notices, and your unit will be responsible for paying these dues each year. What a great way to honor those who have laid the path for your local unit. There was a question on if a member did not pay their 23 -24 dues do they have to pay them prior to paying their 24 – 25 dues. The answer is no, if they miss a year of paying dues their continual years of membership starts over. If you are sending in dues other than 24 – 25 please make sure you have them marked. Thank you! Lastly, many of you have heard of the options for ALAMIS in your home unit. There are three levels for this service. View, which means you can see which members have paid, their information and who is listed as your unit leadership. Next, is Write, which means you can see the above and change any misinformation from the spelling of a name, to address changes, add phone numbers or emails. Lastly, is Full Access, with this you are able to do all of write rights plus pay your membership online. You will need to have a debit or credit card and request these options from the Department Headquarters. A necessary form is on the Department Website to fill out when making these requests. There is a fee attached for each of these from \$10 - \$15 - \$20 and each unit may have two people with rights, and each would need to pay the fee.

Looking forward to continuing to see so many of you at the next five District Meetings and together we will continue to Lead the Way with there is no place like Membership.

### Sturgis Unit 33



Members of Sturgis Unit 33 took a break from the regular meeting schedule in August and toured the Ft. Meade Museum and learned about the history of Ft. Meade from their Membership Chairman Jessica Kusser who serves as the Director of the Museum.

### Sioux Falls Unit 15 Hospitality Committee



Serving lunches for veterans' funerals is such an honor. The Unit 15 Hospitality Etc committee headed by Kay Stephenson is so professional. Thank you ladies for all you do. Assisted today by Sharon Peterson and Barb Hayes

### Sioux Falls Unit 15 2024-2025 Officers



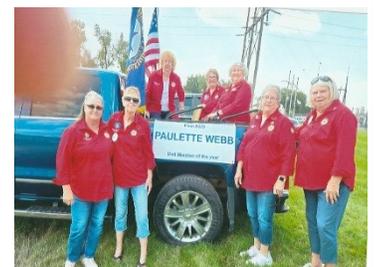
*Sitting*  
President, Deb Metzger  
First vice president, Kasey Jacobsen  
Second vice president, Vicki Branco

*Standing*  
Past President Kelly Heazlett  
Secretary, Nancy Andres  
Treasure, Kathy Datche  
Chaplain Marva Petit  
Executive board Roxann Zenobi,  
Sue Peters, Nancy Renner  
Historian Judy Hill  
Past president 2022 Susan Panning

### Ortonville Corn Fest

Members of the Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229 took part in the Ortonville Corn Fest on August 18th to showcase our Unit member of the year Paulette Webb

*Pictured*  
*Standing:*  
Vikay Tillman, Dawn Baronhardt, Phyllis Lieb, Gloria Arndt  
*Sitting:* Janice Hinders, Sandy Rice and Paulette Webb



### BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquarters

Dept. Headquarters  
PO Box 983

Mitchell, SD 57301  
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..

#### 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) 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.

#### Gertje-VanLuth Unit #229

Unit #229 held their August meeting at the Doughet Park in Big Stone City. District 5 President Mary Jo Boner and 2ndVice Diane Cummins attended the meeting.



### Good Deed Award Spearfish 164



During the Creekside Elementary monthly assembly, Sam Johnson and Josie Honeyman, received their National American Legion Auxiliary Good Deed Awards, presented by the Spearfish Unit 164 Children & Youth Chairman, Connie Wagner. Created in 2002 by the National Children & Youth Committee, the awards are presented annually throughout the year to recognize the helpfulness of youths under age 18. In the past three years alone, more than 1,000 Youth Hero and Good Deed awards have been presented to deserving youth in our nation. A good deed... Sam Johnson, Creekside Elementary then 4th grader, saw a problem and came up with a solution. She noticed one of the slides at Creekside was damaged and had been for quite some time. Instead of complaining she came up with a plan. First, she ran for Student Council at Creekside, using the damaged slide as a campaign platform. She won a spot on the Student Council then went to work. She approached her dad, Tate Johnson, with the problem and shared with him that she had promised to fix the slide. The two of them went to work on a solution. After several planning sessions and consultation with local auto-body shops and Tate's own crew at Ainsworth Benning they came up with a plan. They removed the damaged section of the slide, filled the hollow core. then covered the damaged area with an epoxy that would cure into a smooth finish. After testing the repair they did not feel it was strong enough to last long under continual use by Creekside students so they adjusted the plan and form fitted a piece of plexi-glass to increase the strength of the damaged area. The last step was to replace the repaired section and test it out. Thanks to Sam and her tenacious attitude the slide is back in working order. Sam had help from her father Tate, classmate Josie Honeyman and community member Wayne King whose grandchildren attend Creekside. Next on the agenda is to see if she can get a zip line installed on the Creekside playground.

*Pictured:* Josie Honeyman, Connie Wagner, Sam Johnson, Principal Dan Olson

*Second picture:* Sam Johnson showing the damaged slide.

#### Heroes, Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk

Three members of Unit 114 that participated in the third annual 2.2 for Heroes, Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk. Sponsored by Burrows-Young Post 114.



Upcoming ALA Academy Live Webinar:

SO...YOU'RE A DEPARTMENT CHAIR — NOW WHAT?

October 17 at noon ET

<https://cvent.me/gDN0Mo>

Grand River Arts Council to Receive \$10,000 Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant  
American Legion Family #66



The Grand River Arts Council (GRAC) is one of 41 organizations nationwide selected to receive a Creative Forces® Community Engagement grant. A matching grant of \$10,000 will support “More Than Marching - Activities for Left and Right Feet,” a series of western dance classes that will bring military-connected individuals and their families together with members of the public at the American Legion Brattvet Green Post 66.

Creative Forces®: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs that seeks

to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers. “Hosting dance events open to the public at the local Legion club fosters a sense of community and belonging. It provides an inclusive space where veterans can interact with neighbors, bridging the gap between veterans and the general public, and promoting mutual understanding and support.” - Julie Goeres, Grand River Arts Council Board Member. The Grand River Arts Council will be holding monthly country western dance lessons September 2024 through February 2025 at the Lemmon Legion Club taught by dance instructor Cindy Kahl. Live music mini-dances will be offered the same night so attendees can continue to practice the skills they have just learned. Military and military connected individuals along with their families and community members attended the kickoff event on September 21st, 2024 at the Lemmon American Legion Post 66. The Brattvet Green Unit 66 American Legion Auxiliary celebrated their 100th anniversary with music from the Dakota Country Band, (Black Hills, SD). The “More than Marching” project is made possible through matching funds from the following organizations; American Legion Brattvet Green Post 66, Rolling Plains American Legion Riders Chapter 66, American Legion Auxiliary Brattvet Green Unit 66, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 66 (SAL), Lemmon Municipal Tax BBB Board, Placemakers, Lemmon VFW Post 2969, and Lemmon VFW Post 2969 Auxiliary.

## Yankton Unit 12



Katie and Bernie Hunhoff of The South Dakota Magazine, were guest speakers of the American Legion Auxiliary on Tuesday. They related that this is the 40th year for publication of the SD Magazine and there is a plan to print a Special Edition to commemorate the last 40 years of stories and pictures about the folks of South Dakota. Over the years, stories about many unknown people and places have been written. For example, there was the story about a hermit who lived without simple life's necessities or luxuries, yet was great help and friend to his neighbors. After reading the stories, people were moved with compassion and sent him many helpful gifts. Also the life story of Q.C. Miles, who returned from WWII with PTSD (yet unidentified at that time) and was able to turn his life around. He coached in Gann Valley and was a huge help to students there dealing with racial injustice. Katie told about South Dakota Humanities and South Dakota Arts sponsoring the annual Festival of Books, which is being held in Brookings September 21-22. The Humanities Council also sponsors the One Book South Dakota, and this year's selection is “Little and Often” by Trent Preszler who has South Dakota roots. His author tour included a presentation at the Yankton Community Library on July 2.

## Public Relations Reminder

Public relations is an important part of telling the story of your unit's activities in your community. Wear the American Legion Auxiliary BRAND at all of your Auxiliary events including fundraising events, Veterans Day, Memorial Day programs, distributing poppies in your communities, and whenever you are representing the American Legion Auxiliary. Let people in your community know who we are and why we matter. In addition to wearing the American Legion Auxiliary BRAND, consider utilizing ALA designed posters, coloring books, poppy cans, and a whole host of branded items available on the American Legion Auxiliary website. Don't forget to check the PR Toolkit, also on American Legion Auxiliary website.

### Members representing South Dakota at the National Convention in New Orleans

South Dakota members attended the National Convention In New Orleans August 22– 28th. The meetings started out with the flair of New Orleans . Between meeting, members enjoyed visiting the WWII Museum, Bourbon Street, the French Quarter and many other fascinating spots and some amazing food. What to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary and make amazing memories? Considering join us next year in Tampa Bay Florida



Delegates and Alternates ready for the first meeting

Marlene Eimers Honored at the ALA Luncheon



ALA Unit Member of the Year Luncheon

The South Dakota Delegation



All dressed up for the Commanders banquet

AnnaMae being sworn in as Department President

### Legion Family in action, supporting Children and Youth Activities

A new school year is here and volunteers from the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, and VFW members from several Post in the Black Hills were present to assist with the Back-to-School Backpack Distribution event held on Ellsworth AFB on July 27th. Over 600 military children, their parents and other loved ones were interacted with while our members distributed over 400 donated backpacks by Operation Homefront. In mid-August, Operation Homefront also asked for assistance from our Legionnaires with school supply collections from various Doller Trees in South Dakota. Volunteers from various Post assisted with the collection of these school supplies. Backpacks were purchased from Children and Youth fund, the school supplies were loaded into them and distributed to various schools in Brookings and Hamlin County. Having financial stability is important to young service member families as it can be difficult to afford the basic school supplies needed for their children. Volunteering time, resources, or funds to support the well-being of our veterans and the children of your young veterans can be the change they need for a brighter future.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Harry Boner

American Legion, Department of South Dakota  
Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Dakota  
2025 Children and Youth Chairperson

[hb.boner@gmail.com](mailto:hb.boner@gmail.com)

