



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*

## Honor Our Heroes!

## Remember!

Christmas greetings to each and every one of you. Wow, this has been a very busy month. Our Christmas Gift Shops are completed – thanks to all of you who made this a joyous occasion for our veterans through your generous monetary donations, gift items and your assistance with the selection, wrapping and mailing of these items at no cost to our veterans. Our National President, Trish Ward visited South Dakota during the West River gift shops. She enjoyed visiting with our Veterans, helping them shop, and she wrapped many gifts. Thank you to Spearfish, Custer and Hot Springs Units for hosting Trish in the evenings. She enjoyed meeting the South Dakota American Legion family members, seeing Mount Rushmore, the Geological Center of the United States in Belle Fourche and Crazy Horse. The Christmas Party Tour began on December 9th at the SF VA, the next day HSC in Yankton and then we traveled West to Hot Springs Home and VA Hospital. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Fort Meade party but Patrice Sorensen, 2nd VP was able to carry on in my stead. I was able to help place wreaths at the Black Hills National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. The Gift shops, Christmas Parties and laying of wreaths are all ways to “Honor Our Heroes”. I am humbled by all these activities and visits with Veterans and Unit members. Please don’t forget the Veterans in your local nursing or assisted living centers. Paul and I are taking presents to the four Veterans in the Alcester Care Center this next week. Membership has been coming in hot and heavy. South Dakota has been the top of the Northwestern Division and in the top 6 or 7 in the nation for several weeks. Keep following the Yellow Brick Road to your Unit goal. Make sure you mark your calendars for the Mid-Winter Conference, February 14-16. Friday morning, we will start with Finance and DEC meetings. We will be having breakout sessions on Leadership, Constitution & Bylaws, VA&R, Children & Youth for you to attend. I am excited that “Be the One” sessions will be a Legion family session. Sunday morning you can plan to attend the Non-Denominational Four Chaplains Service, and the Oratorical Contest, State Finals. Northwestern Division National Vice President, Debra Albers from Nebraska will be joining us for the weekend.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone who reads the Legionette a **Joyous New Year.**

**AnnaMae Warnier, Department President**



Greetings from Department Headquarters. Have you seen the new Facebook Page for the Department of South Dakota? Our Facebook Page is where you can see the weekly membership updates, information on meetings, and information from National Headquarters that may be of interest to our members. The Department has a wonderful Social Media team, and we try hard to stay on top of what is happening to bring you information as quickly as possible. Give the page a Like or Follow to receive posts in your feed. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has been using the new updated forms. I would like to remind all Units that when sending mail to Department Headquarters, such as membership or obligations, please do not address it to anyone’s attention. If you send unit communications to Department Headquarters, with attention to a particular person, those communications might not make it to the correct person in a timely manner. An example would be sending membership attention to the Department Treasurer. All monies go to the Department Secretary and the Secretary reports it to the Treasurer. The address to send correspondence to is American Legion Auxiliary of South Dakota, PO Box 983, Mitchell, SD 57301.

Membership reminders will be sent out by National Headquarters based on members who have not paid as of January 3, 2025. If you receive a reminder and you paid your dues to your Unit, please contact your Unit or Department Headquarters with questions. Department Mailings are being sent in the mail to all Unit Presidents. These mailings are sent out at the end of each even numbered month, if your Unit President is not receiving the Mailing, please contact Department Headquarters. We are also emailing the Mailings to each Unit President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you have not received it and would like to, please contact Department Headquarters.

There are several different ways you can contact Department Headquarters. Phone: (605) 461-3389. Email: [southdako-taala@gmail.com](mailto:southdako-taala@gmail.com). In person: 417 N Main Street, Suite 103, Mitchell, SD 57301. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about anything. Thank you, Kayla Kennedy, Department Secretary

Facebook Page: [\(1\) American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota | Facebook](#)

Facebook Group: [\(1\) South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary | Facebook](#)

### January Calendar

New Years Day January 1st  
 Martin Luther King Jr Day January 20th

### Upcoming Events

Mid-Winter Conference February 14th-16th  
 Send in your nominations

### January Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Give our auxiliary members, veterans, service-man, and their families hope and faith in you. Help us enter the new year relying on you as we carry on through loss of loved ones and illnesses in 2024. As dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear our health, our family, and our friends in Jesus name I pray. Amen.



Sharon Broghammer, SD ALA State Chaplain

### In Loving Memory

- 4 Mobridge - Elsie Wohl - 11/24; Iris Schumacher - 07/24; Ruth Roesler - 5/24
- 25 Madison- Imogene Ellis - 11/24
- 33 Sturgis - Betty Voorhees - 12/24
- 40 Webster - Bonita Dolney - 12/24
- 53 Canton - Alta Goodman - 01/24
- 64 Wilmot - Doris Christianson - 11/24
- 76 Veblen - Gladys Christensen - 12/24 – 102 Yrs Old
- 100 Selby - Lorraine Kightlinger - 11/24
- 102 Faulkton - Beth Bowar - 12/24—103 Yrs Old
- 169 Winner - Betty Johnson– 12/24; Ruth Benedict - 11/24
- 191 Eagle Butte - Cora Haskell - 07/24; Ettie Mae Whirlwind Horse - 10/24
- 199 Garden City - Carol Buckwald - unknown
- 249 Delmont - Lillian Weiting - 5/24
- 264 Bowdle -Lila Bachman– 11/24
- 267 Grenville - Delores Lesnar– 12/24

### Celebrating 105 Years Strong



Brady-Munson Unit #129, Waubay celebrated their 105th birthday at their December meeting.



Keep Selling your raffle tickets.



### 2025 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Cedar Shore Resort & Conference Center, Oacoma, SD

#### Thursday, February 13, 2025

5:30 p.m. Past Department President's Supper – Organizer Joyce Smith

#### Friday, February 14, 2025

7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens - Bridges Conference Center Reception Area  
 8:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting - Wetlands-River Run  
 10:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting - Wetlands-River Run  
 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own—Taco Bar Option (\$20)  
 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary Session  
 • Department President AnnaMae Warnier Report  
 • Secretary Kayla Kennedy Report  
 • Treasurer Christine Patnoe Report  
 1:30 p.m. Breakout Session #1:  
 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation-Wheeler - River Run  
 Children & Youth - Breakwater  
 2:45 p.m. Break  
 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session #2:  
 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation-Wheeler - River Run  
 Children & Youth - Breakwater  
 4:15 p.m. Adjourn  
 5:30 p.m. No-Host Cocktails- Bridges Conference Center Reception Area  
 6:30 p.m. Joint Legion Family Banquet- Wheeler/Oacoma  
 8:30 p.m. Hospitality Rooms – Cedar Shore Resort Hotel

#### Saturday, February 15, 2025

7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens- Bridges Conference Center Reception Area  
 8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session- Hale/Oacoma  
 10:00 a.m. Junior Meeting - Missouri Winds (Behind Restaurant/Bar Area)  
 10:00 a.m. Breakout Session #3:  
 Be the One Training - Wheeler/Oacoma  
 Constitution & Bylaws - Wetlands-River Run  
 Leadership - Breakwater  
 11:30 a.m. Breakout Session #4:  
 Be the One Training - Wheeler/Oacoma  
 Constitution & Bylaws - Wetlands-River Run  
 Leadership - Breakwater  
 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own—Burger Bar Option (\$20)  
 1:30 p.m. Breakout Session #5:  
 Be the One Training - Wheeler/Oacoma  
 Constitution & Bylaws - Wetlands-River Run  
 Leadership - Breakwater  
 3:00 p.m. Juniors join Senior Members for joint activities  
 4:30 p.m. Adjourn

#### Sunday, February 16, 2025

8:30 a.m. Non-Denominational Service Four Chaplains - Hale  
 10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – Oratorical Contest, State Finals – Hale (Board Room for Judges)

### 2025 MID-WINTER LUNCH & BANQUET TICKETS

Friday, February 14th Lunch: \$20/person  
 Taco Bar Lunch Buffet

Saturday, February 15th Lunch: \$20/person  
 Burger Bar (Beef Burger or Grilled Chicken Breast) Lunch Buffet

Friday, February 14th Joint Banquet: \$30/person  
 Roast pork loin with loaded baked potato, house salad, vegetable Du Jour and dinner

Ticket requests for all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members must be received no later than February 1, 2025. No tickets will be sold at the event. Tickets can be picked up at the conference registration table. One check can be made for the total lunch and banquet ticket costs. Please make checks payable to Potter Post #3.

Ticket requests should be sent to:  
 John Payer  
 25120 344th Avenue  
 Chamberlain, SD 57325

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Price	Number of Tickets	Cost
Friday Lunch Buffet	\$20	X	=\$
Saturday Lunch Buffet	\$20	X	=\$
Friday Banquet	\$30	X	=\$
		Total	=\$

## There is no place like membership

Submitted by Rose Kraft

Dashing through Christmas and the Holiday Season is almost done, possibly a few more gatherings with loved ones and friends. We can never take this time for granted as you do not know what tomorrow will bring. Our department continues down the path to membership with almost being 75% membership as we end 2024. We have been enjoying national attention as finishing in the top of the Northwest Division in membership and the top ten Nationally. This is all because of you. The best Auxiliary gifts I have received this Christmas is the number of rejoined members along with the number of people who had not paid in 2024 paying in 2025. Every week I am rejoining someone. Kayla keeps Facebook busy with recognizing all the units as they reach their 100% membership goal. If you are not one of the 735 members who belong to South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Facebook group, join now. Search this title, ask to join and the powers that be will invite you in. So much information for all to share and enjoy! Leading the way in the District Race is Unit 4 with 78.50% membership. But don't get too comfortable at the top as you have three more units that are less than 1.29% behind you. A few items we need to take care of, if your dues have not been paid when you are reading this article, you are a member that is not in good standings, this means you have no vote, locally, district or department wide. Please check your leadership rosters to be sure all your leaders are members in good standings. We have 31 units under 50% membership, most likely their leaders have not paid their 2025 dues. Please be Dorothy, continue down the path, pick up each of these leaders to help you along the way and get the membership dues paid! Also, Junior Membership renewal notices are not sent out by nationals. If you have juniors in your units and their dues have not been paid, please contact them or their family members to get these paid. Along with this, do you pay dues for any of your members? Some units have gifted membership to individuals as honorary members, or they pay the dues for members over a certain age or that have been members for a certain number of years or those in nursing homes or assisted livings. If you are one of these units, please have these dues paid immediately. The Department 500 Unit is at 68.97%, I would like to see every unit above this number. We have 23 Units over 100% and 118 units above the 68.97% goal, this is out of 185 units. This leaves 13 units over 50% but not yet to the 68.97%. The goal you are working for now is 100% renewal by January 31st. This will put you in for a \$50.00 drawing at Mid-Winter on February 14th. Would love to see all of you follow the yellow brick road, contact each of your members on your list personally, and reach this goal of 100% renewal. If you need a list of unpaid members, you may get this from me or Kayla, at the Department Headquarters. As you ring in the New Year, continue to be the leaders you are. Take advantage of each of these beautiful South Dakota winter days and continue to work the American Legion Auxiliary Membership Mission. Because of you, we are closer and closer to our goals every day, and for this I say Thank you for all you do



### Celebrating American Education Week

Members of the Rames Bender Post 152 American Legion Auxiliary were at Menno Public School on Thursday, November 14th for their annual "Give Ten to Education" Project, which included presenting dictionaries to 16 third grade students in Mrs. Rachel Massey's class. Later two will be presented to third graders at the Jamesville Colony and six to those at Maxwell.



Auxiliary members Rita Hoff (shown in the photo far left) and Joan Nusz (far right) made the presentation. Before presenting the dictionaries, Nusz asked them what word they would want to look up when they get their gift. A quick reply, "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" (even this writer has to Google it.) Earlier in the week, Auxiliary Chairman Judy Headley presented a \$50.00 check to the school to be used for teacher classroom supplies – at their discretion. American Education Week is November 18 – 22, happening the week prior to the Week of Thanksgiving. Each day of the week has its own theme, during which we celebrate our public school community and honor the team of people who work in our nation's schools. This includes everyone from the bus driver and classroom teacher to the cafeteria worker and administrative staff, plus countless others

### Unit 4 #178 Orient American Legion Auxiliary

Held it's Annual Santa Comes to Orient, November 30, 2024. Approximately 30 bags of fruit, candy, toys donated by a local business man were handed out to children from the community.

A local man volunteers his time each year



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## BE IN THE KNOW

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mail them. For reporting an error on  
names or addresses, change of ad-  
dresses and deceased members, con-  
tact Department Headquarters..

## Alexandria American Legion Auxiliary Clothing Drive

Alexandria American Legion Auxiliary  
President Pat Aylward presented cloth-  
ing items collected during the November  
sharing drive held at Alexandria Ace  
Hardware to Hanson County Child Pro-  
tection Team members Lisa McManus  
and Deb Wollman. Our group was noti-  
fied earlier that the County Health Nurse  
was in need of children's socks and un-  
derwear. We collaborated with the local  
Ace Hardware owners, utilized local  
newspaper and social media, encourag-  
ing the community to help fill the need.  
The response was awesome.



## A Ton of Cans...and Counting!

The Hall-Thompson American Legion Auxil-  
iary Unit 193 has collected and recycled 2,163  
pounds of aluminum cans since May! "Cans  
For Vets" is our unit's fundraiser with all pro-  
ceeds to benefit local veterans and veteran  
organizations. So far, Christmas gifts have  
been purchased for seven veterans who are  
residents of our town's skilled-nursing facility.  
Because of the volume of cans collected, our  
City Council authorized a permanent can col-  
lection bin for our town, which was construc-  
ted by the Commander of our Post 193 Ameri-  
can Legion. Thank you to the residents of  
Irene and surrounding towns for their generous  
donations to two great causes...our veterans  
and our environment! Save your cans and  
make a difference!

In the photo, left to right, are Keli Stelley, ALA SD Ameri-  
canism Chair, with generous can donors William, Maver-  
ick and Abbie Gustad.



## Americanism

Submitted by Keli Stelley, ALA Department of  
South Dakota Americanism Chairman

Happy New Year! Let's start 2025 with purpose and patriotism as we serve the veterans, children, and fellow citizens in our communities. January is Americanism month so please share a flag etiquette program with your unit, school, and/or community. Encourage them to fly their flags every day and watch for tattered flags that need replacing. Thank you to the many units who have already visited schools and classrooms to promote our Essay and Poem Contests. The Essay theme is "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?" The Poem theme is "Honor our Heroes (and all of those who serve us!)" Deadline to Auxiliary Units by March 1, to District Presidents by March 15, and to Department Americanism Chair by April 1. Our Legionette articles have showcased many Americanism events. I encourage you to report these and all other Americanism activities to the Department Americanism Chairman by April 30, always including these details: how many veterans and Auxiliary members participated, how many dollars and hours spent. We love photos! Kudos to the Yankton and Clear Lake units for mid-year reporting. I hope to meet many of you at Mid-Winter Conference next month. Please try to attend our Department's Oratory Contest and support these gifted young speakers in grades 9-12. They are our future leaders. Don't forget to support your Post in their Americanism projects such as baseball, youth trooper academy and shooting sports. We truly are an American Legion Family!

### Clip and Save:

Here's a quick reference guide from National on when to fly the flag:  
The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on:  
New Year's Day - January 1  
Inauguration Day - January 20  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - third Monday in January  
Lincoln's Birthday - February 12  
Washington's Birthday - third Monday in February  
National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29  
Easter Sunday - (variable)  
Mother's Day - second Sunday in May  
Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May  
Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) - last Monday in May  
Flag Day - June 14  
Father's Day, third Sunday in June  
Independence Day - July 4  
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27  
Labor Day - first Monday in September  
Constitution Day, September 17  
Columbus Day - second Monday in October  
Navy Day - October 27  
Veterans Day - November 11  
Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November  
Christmas Day - December 25  
Birthdays of States (date of admission)  
Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

### Wagner Awards Continuous Membership Milestones

At our November meeting we handed out our continuous membership milestone awards. Pictured are Pam Bastemeyer ( 45 years), Alyssa Mathis (President), Margie Stone (25 years) and Bonnie Soukup (20 years). Other members who were not present but who received awards included: Rita Krcil (5 years), Amber Longe (5 years), Jaiden Longe (5 years), Eleanor Andersh (15 years), Leigh Anne Larson (15 years), Kimberly Rogers (15 years), Jolene Link (20 years), Talia Olson (20 years), Sylvia Beeson ( 25 years), Judith Cihak ( 25 years), Carol Kunz ( 25 years), Janelle Bastemeyer ( 35 years), Stephanie Carlson (35 years), Mary Kuhlman (35 years), Mary Jo McCoy ( 35 years), LaRae Roger's ( 35 years), Judy Nedved (40 years) and Barbara Wiechmann (45 years). Thank you all for your time and service to our organization.



### HONORING OUR LOCAL HOSPITALIZED VETERANS



On Monday, Dec. 2nd Susie Learning, SD ALA 1st Vice President and Karen Riche-lieu SD ALA 8th District President traveled from Irene to volunteer and help at

the Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital Christmas Gift Shop, where Veterans may shop for themselves and their families. Susie commented that the Veterans were overwhelmed when they entered the Auditorium and saw all of the gifts available and several asked "Where does ALL of this come from?" Of course it comes from the SD ALA VA&R (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitations) program. In the holiday spirit, AnnaMae Warnier, SD ALA President and Susie greet and register each Veteran as they are brought from their rooms. A Huge "Thank you" to ALL who Volunteer to make this happen.



### Wakonda Legion Auxiliary Holds Christmas

The Wakonda Legion Auxiliary held a Christmas meal for all Legionnaires, Auxiliary and spouses/guests on Monday, December 2, 2024 at the Wakonda Legion Hall. 68 guests attended and a meal of ham, turkey, scalloped potatoes, dinner rolls, salad bar and dessert bar were enjoyed by all. Following the meal, the Auxiliary led the crowd in a few games of BINGO and the lucky winners received cash prizes. President, Anna Mae Warnier graced our evening with her presence.



### Tabor Appreciation Meal

The Tabor American Legion Auxiliary serving our EMTs and Fire-fighters in Nov thanking them for making a difference in our community



### Mitchell Legion Family Presents Veterans Day Program at Nursing Home

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18, along with Post 18, of Mitchell presented a Veterans Day Program to 15 veterans residing at Firesteel Nursing Home. The program consisted of a history of the American Flag, explanation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", presentation of "The Ragged Old Flag", Flag Folding Ceremony, and Taps.



### Clay Kiser American Legion Auxiliary Unit #92



In November the Clay Kiser American Legion Auxiliary Unit #92 presented dictionaries to the third grade students in the Redfield Elementary School. The dictionary project is part of the education platform for the Auxiliary. Since this project was started the Redfield American Legion Auxiliary has distributed 1,084 dictionaries to third grade students in Redfield. Pictured above are Heather Morris and Richie Delacruz and the third grade class with their dictionaries.



American Legion Auxiliary members, who helped distribute dictionaries, pictured below are Charyl Beardemphl, Verleen Carter, Sandy Durfee, and Marlene Eimers with some of the third grade students who received dictionaries.

### Story about the Flag



Kalyn Ede and Brianna Haven's kindergarten classes meet together to have the story Meet Our Flag, Old Glory written by April Jones Prince read to them. Several of the Redfield American Legion Auxiliary Unit #92 met to read the story of our flag to the students. Auxiliary member Marlene Eimers read the story to the children. As she read the story, she discussed proper etiquette with the flag, where do we see the flag, and what do we do when we see the flag in various settings. The students were very good listeners, participated happily, and the auxiliary members enjoyed their time in kindergarten.

Pictured below is Auxiliary members Verleen Carter, Nancy Carter, and Marlene Eimers. Pictured to the right is Mrs. Eimers, Mrs. N. Carter, and the kindergarten class.



### Arlington Legion Auxiliary Shopping

The Arlington Legion Auxiliary Unit #42 invited children of all ages to shop for presents for their parents for just \$1.00. The presents were wrapped and tagged while parents waited, enjoying treats and coffee with Legion members. Children were able to choose a Christmas decoration on the way out. With the \$1 for each gift, the Arlington Auxiliary, in turn, purchased gifts for children on the local Angel tree, a great way to give back to the community.



### Auxiliary donates to Local Food Bank

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #42 decorated a Christmas tree in red, white, and blue to represent all branches of service and place at the local school. Canned good were collected and donated to the local food bank



**HSC Christmas Party– Reindeer Toss**  
 Reindeer antics took place at the HSC Christmas Party in Yankton.



**Gertje-Van Lith American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229**  
 Unit 229 had three members; Paulette Webb, Poppy Chairman; Doris Scheff, VA & R Co-Chair and Gloria Arndt, President deliver Christmas gifts to 19 veterans at Fairway View Senior Living and Fairway View Neighborhood in Ortonville MN on December 20th. Each Veteran received a mug with their name and branch of service printed on the mug. Inside the mug was tea, cocoa, candy and other treats. These Auxiliary members were Santa’s Elves!



**Alexandria American Legion Auxiliary**

The American Legion family is serving up Hot Chocolate and Cider for the Winterfest Activities



Kate Aulner, Marlene Warnke, Jim Kayser and Pat Aylward (first shift).

**Piedmont Unit 311**

Unit #311 enjoyed wrapping gifts for the Ft. Meade Christmas party held on December 16.



**Wreathes Across America.**

Charlene Kornmeyer from Unit 311 Piedmont laid wreathes for her father in law, her father and most recent, her brother who all served in the military. A very proud, yet emotional tribute.



**Girls State Delegate**

Wagner Unit had two special guests at their November meeting. Our 2024 Girls State Delegate, Presley Slaba and her mom, Mieke Slaba ate dinner with us before the meeting and then shared some of her experiences and thoughts about Girls State with us. Our Girls State Chairman, Pam Bastemeyer, presented Presley with her Girls State pin and a certificate.

