



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

Honor Our Heroes!

Remember!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to spend time during the holidays with family, friends and your favorite Veterans.

Wow, half of the year is gone! Membership has been amazing. South Dakota is over 80%. We have been leading the Northwestern Division and Northwestern Division has been leading the nation. It is on to 100% membership. Remember Rosie the Riveter, "We can do It".

Mid-Winter is quickly approaching. Plan to join the Legion Family in Oacoma Feb. 14-16. The Northwest Division National Vice President, Debra Albers will be joining us for the weekend. She is a very knowledgeable leader. Check out the revised schedule. The Leadership, Constitution and Bylaws, VA & R, Children and Youth will be presenting on their programs. Bring your questions, join us to learn more about these programs. We are calling the Juniors to join us Saturday afternoon. Heather Kruger, Juniors Chairman is planning a joint project with the senior members. Something else new is the Poppy Bonnet/hat contest. The contest rules were in the last Unit mailing. If decorating a hat isn't your thing, consider making a centerpiece. They can be made with large and small poppies. Both contests need to reflect the theme for the year, "Honor Our Heroes" "Remember". Make plans to stay through Sunday's Oratorical Contest. You will not be disappointed. I regret to inform you that I received notification from Christine Patnoe, our Department Treasurer of her resignation. Christine's last day with the department was December 31, 2024. A hiring committee has been selected by the Department Executive Committee (DEC). They are in the process of getting a job description. The DEC met in a virtual meeting and voted to appoint Hope Smith as treasurer Pro-tem. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the MidWinter conference. This is a learning time, so if you have new members, please encourage them to come and get involved.

Blessings on each of you

AnnaMae Warnier



There is no place like membership

Submitted by Rose Kraft

Where are you on your path along the yellow brick road? As you read this article the department is somewhere around 400 members from meeting our 85% goal. Why is this so important? We, the Department of South Dakota, would like to be recognized with a Department Merit Medallion Recognition and one part of this is to be 85% membership goal by March 15th, we are going to meet this goal at Midwinter. With 29 units at 100%, we have District 4 leading the path down the Yellow Brick Road at 84.05%, however right on their tail is District 5 at 82.13%, District 6 at 82.09% and pushing tightly behind all of them is District 7 at 81.89%. As you can see just by turning in your membership you can push your district to the front of the goal. Which District will be the first one to reach 90%? Is it yours? What can you do to make this happen? At this time, we have four groups of members, leading the groups are the units who are at the 100% or more membership – each of these units will receive recognition from our National American Legion Auxiliary with a 100% membership ribbon award. Following this group are those who are above the 75% membership and just have a few more to renew or rejoin – they will be turning these in very soon to Department Headquarters. Next, we have the units who are above the 50% - we know you are working on membership, and I am positive there will be a large change in your membership numbers this next month. Finally, we have the units under 50%, these are the units of concern and during our Midwinter meeting the leadership of our department will make a plan on how we can reach out and help each of these units. So, please, now is the time to make those phone calls, go for those visits, gather those dues and turn them in. Some of you may feel these membership numbers are just unreachable. According to Steve Garvey from Success.com, "You have to set goals that are almost out of reach. If you set a goal that is attainable without much work or thought, you are stuck with something below your true talent and potential." The American Legion Auxiliary is so fortunate that national allowed us to have a percentage increase in membership vs giving numbers, as when they give us numbers each unit ends up finding multiple more members. We want to show national that we, the members of the departments, can reach these goals and keep the membership numbers at a plateau in membership. As we move into February, remember the loved one that is your WHY YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION, look at your family, your friends, your neighbors, do they have a loved one that can join this great organization that serves our Veterans, Active Military, Communities and Children and Youth, remember, **JUST ASK!**

February Calendar

Groundhog Day	02/02
Four Chaplains Days	02/03
Valentines Day	02/14
Presidents Day	02/17
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	02/19

Upcoming Events

Mid-Winter Conference	February 14th-16th
Girls State Applications Due	March 1st
Poem/Essays Due to District	March 15th
Girls State Orientation	May 4th 1-2:30pm
(hosted by Unit 15, Sioux Falls, 1600 W Russell St)	

District Spring Meetings

District 3	March 15, 25	Winner
District 6	March 16, 25	Plankington
District 5	March 22, 25	Volga
District 4	March 23, 25	Cresbard
District 8	March 29,25	Tabor
District 7	March 30, 25	Garretson
District 1	April 5 ,25	Spearfish
District 2	April 6, 25	Hot Springs

February Prayer

Almighty Father,

May you bless our veterans, serviceman, their families and everyone affected by the California Fires at this time. May He keep all of them in His loving care. May He grant them strength, courage, and perseverance at this time. For in everything you seek and share His love is always with you.

In Jesus name I pray,

SD ALA State Chaplain
Sharon Broghammer



There has been some confusion about dates when poppy items are due. Unit reports are due to District Presidents by April 15. Then District Presidents need to have that compiled information to Jane Benzel, Department Poppy Chairperson by May 1st. **POPPY POSTERS DO NOT GO TO DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, THEY ARE DUE DIRECTLY TO POPPY CHAIRMAN JANE BY MAY 15th.**



In Loving Memory

12 Yankton; Dorthea Blaka –12/24; **48 Rosholt;** Elaine Bapp – 11/24; **56 Geddes;** Leona Horst –12/24; **66 Lemmon;** Dorothy Wells – 12/24; **71 Hot Springs;** Rebecca Benton – 05/24 ; Mavis Moen – 05/24; **100 Selby;** Nancy Kindel – 01/25; **105 Nunda;** Lena Klassy – 12/24; **131 Valley Springs;** Joanne Swenson – 7/24; Verna Bendt – 11/22; **140 Salem;** Patricia Huls - 12/24 (*Past Department Officer*); **193 Irene;** Peggy Nyhaug - 12/24; **183 Tabor;** Carol Kloucek - 11/24 (*45 Yr Member*); **209 Raymond;** Mary Hurlbert - 12/24 (*71 Yr Member*); **255 Bison;** Rose Martin – 10/24; **500 Dept HQ;** Edith Dailey - 01/25 (*Past Department President 1974-75*); **500 Dept HQ;** Arlene Job - 07/23

Endorsements

Hot Springs Unit #71 is proud to endorse Jane Benzel for the position of Northwestern Division National Vice President

Nominations

- Susie Learing is running for Dept President
- Patrice Sorensen is running for Dept 1st Vice
- Noelle Bonjour is running for Dept Chaplin
- Sharon Broghammer is running for Dept Historian

Edith Dailey, In Remembrance

Edith Dailey was SD Dept President in 1974-1975. Edith choose "Farm" as her theme and gathered the Golden Harvest throughout the year. Edith opened the Bicentennial year by presenting Gov. Kneip with a Bicentennial Plaque. Gov. Kneip proclaimed Nov 11th as American Legion Auxiliary Membership Day. She won a membership challenge with Commander Clarke where she received a gavel and plaque. Herrick and Renner were chartered making SD the 11th Goal Department in the Nation. Edith's President Project was to refurbish the Game Center at Ft. Meade Center with new tables and chairs, game tables and chairs for watching T.V. Edith would have been 102 years old on February 14.



Unit Member of the Year

Submitted by Joyce Smith PDP

The Unit Member of the Year nominations need to be into the District Presidents by February 28, 2025. to the Department Past President Parly Chairman Joyce Smith by May 1, 2025. National needs our applicant by June 1, 2025. Remember when you nominate a candidate it is all the amazing things the member did this year, from June 2024 through when you report the accomplishments, Each Unit can send an applicant to their District President. The winner of each District will be announced at each District Spring meeting. Remember, each District winner should try and come to the Convention in June. Unit Member of the Year Requirements should be on the SD ALA website.

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
8:00 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting - Wetlands-River Run
9:20 a.m. Break
9:30 a.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting - Wetlands-River Run
12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own—Taco Bar Option (\$20)
1:15 p.m. Auxiliary Session

- NW Division National Vice President Debra Albers
- Department President AnnaMae Warnier Report
- Secretary Kayla Kennedy Report

2:00 p.m. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation- Wetlands - River Run
2:45 p.m. Break
3:00 p.m. Children & Youth - Wetlands - River Run
3:45 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 #1: (with Legion)
Be the One Training - Wheeler/Oacoma
11:30 a.m. Break
11:45 a.m. Constitution & Bylaws - Wetlands-River Run
12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own—Burger Bar Option (\$20)
1:45 p.m. Leadership - Wetlands-River Run
2:30 p.m. Juniors join Senior Members for joint activities - Wetlands-River Run
4:00 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)

NW Division Vice President to visit Mid-Winter Conference



Debra Albers will join us at the Mid-Winter Conference Feb 14-16th. Debra is a member of the Department of Nebraska; Davenport Unit 335. She is eligible through her Father, Paul Straube Sr; who served in WWII. Debra is married to Tregan Albers, an Ohioa SAL member. They have 2 sons, one granddaughter and 3 grandsons. Debra graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor of Science degree in home economics, family and consumer sciences with endorsements in health and physical education. Debra retired in 2014. Please welcome Debra to the conference.

Hot Springs Unit 71 honored the residence of the Domiciliary to a Prime Rib meal between Christmas and New Years. After the meal, the residence serenaded us with Christmas carols and each received a gift of a blanket from the Unit. A great time was had by all!



SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

National Security Chairman Patsy Madsen

Did you know that you can submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers Award NOW?

And right up until the June 1, 2025 deadline! The nomination form is live [Salute to Servicemembers Award](#)

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National Guard/Reserve. Recipients will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention and will be invited to attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that goes beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. Our US servicemembers are exemplary examples of our nation, but when you find one that also goes above and beyond - both within the military and as an integral part of the community where they are they are stationed - they are more than admirable and should be acknowledged for this.

NOMINATION ELIGIBILITY: An enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS: The nominating person submits a narrative discussing reasons for the nomination. A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Dept. of Defense photograph), Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included. The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted electronically by JUNE 1, 2025, 5:00 P.M. EDT. The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at the National Convention, then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

FROM NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN:

This year, the National Auxiliary has made it much easier to submit for the Salute to Servicemember Award! An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, to effectively telling the story of why they feel this person is "head and shoulders" above their peers and worthy of this award. A simple narrative (no more than 1000 words), a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements! The goal is to have at least one submission from every Department and ensure that every branch of the military is represented – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve.

BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquarters

Dept. Headquarters

PO Box 983

Mitchell, SD 57301

email at southdakotaala@gmail.com

Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

South Dakota Legionette. (Form on the website) Send your news and pictures to the editor at sjlamer@outlook.com or mail them. **For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, contact Department Headquarters..**

Children and Youth Activities, Sharing the Christmas Spirit

With the holidays just behind us, I wanted to share a story on recent Children and Youth activities in the State. Some of the gifts children received Christmas Morning were donated by the Dollar Tree, in partnership with Operation Homefront. Operation Homefront contacted me, requesting volunteers from The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, to help collect donated items from a few stores in the state, and to help distribute those items to Veterans with children at home. I was able to pick up a few hundred items from the Brookings



Dollar Tree and those items will be distributed at Ellsworth AFB in July of 2025. The Aberdeen Dollar Tree had donations of 25 boxes containing over 900 items for this toy drive. I would like to extend a very appreciative Thank You to the Dollar Tree, their employees, and the Communities of Aberdeen and Brookings for their time, generosity, and support of this program. I would like to thank Steve

Nemmers, Children and Youth chair Henry Artz for collecting those items. Additional thanks to Legion Post 24 members, Charles Aldentalder, Curt Preszler, Carrie Johnson, and Doug Roggow, who stepped up to help with the repackaging of these items for distribution. Steve contacted the Aberdeen VA CBOC to arrange the delivery of about half of the gift bags to the CBOC for Veterans with children at home. Steve also worked with the Department of Social

Services in Aberdeen to drop off the remainder of the gift bags for the disbursement to local foster children in need in the northeastern part of South Dakota. I commend Post 24 on their great support of Children and Youth within their community and district. Remember, the support of our Children and Youth in South Dakota is vital for those veterans' families in need. I have heard of a few Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons Squadrons, and Legion Rider Chapters within the State that have held fundraisers in support of Children and Youth activities. Thank you for your support.



Remember to share your stories. Be proud of your accomplishments. Help inspire other Post Families within the Department of South Dakota to start the discussion about how they can help to support our veterans' families in need..

Respectfully submitted by, Harry Boner, The American Legion, Department of South Dakota Children and Youth Chair

Promoting Education



American Legion Post #100 of Selby donates dictionaries to Selby Area's third graders each year. Auxiliary members Sandy Weinziril (far left) and Yvonne Helm (far right) had the honor to present the dic-

From the Desk of the Historian

Submitted by Regina Whipple

Department Historian

The history of our Unit and Department are very important. We often need to look back to find information on who or what happened in earlier times. As the Department Historian I am asking that EVERY Unit please send me your history. This report/history should include events and activities that your unit promoted or sponsored. Also, we need to encourage our Junior Units to send a history. I challenge all Junior Units to send in a history. I am offering \$10.00 to every Junior Unit that sends in a history!!!! If anyone has any questions, please contact me. **Histories are due to me by April 30, 2025.**

Regina Whipple

SDALA Dept Historian
605-695-0138

mail: 1808 4th St NW
Watertown, SD 57201



JOB OPENING

We currently have an opening for a Department Treasurer. Job description will be available soon. Interested candidates must be familiar with QuickBooks.

Past Department President Parley

Notice by Joyce Smith

The Past Department President Parley will meet February 13, 2025 in the Restaurant at Oacoma, SD at 7:00 pm

Volunteer Recognition



A Volunteer Recognition meal was sponsored by the Hot Springs VA. These ladies were recognized for their commit-

Pictured are Angie Koch, Susie Clyde, Carrie Alm, Carol Harvey, Karen Phelan, Jane Benzel, and Judy