



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

Honor Our Heroes!

Remember!

Brrrrrr it has been cold. Now for warmer days. Spring is just around the corner. Well Mid-Winter is behind us. There were many highlights of the weekend. As a Legion family we hosted Debra Albers, Northwestern Division National Vice President from Nebraska. The Legion hosted James Kellog, National Vice Commander, and the Sons of the American Legion hosted their National Commander, Joseph Navarette. All three of them brought their message to the joint banquet. We had fun and informative sessions by Leadership, Constitution and Bylaws, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth chairmen and many participated in "Be the One" training. Also in February, I had the opportunity to attend Legislative Day at the Capitol with our Girls State Governor, Hannah Heiman. March is Community Service Month. Our program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility and our commitment to community, state and nation. The Community Service Program is how our members demonstrate who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Please remember to have your Unit Member of the Year nominees to your District President's by March 15. The State winner may go to the National Convention in Tampa, FL. March will start our Spring District Meetings. Elections will be held in odd number districts. Please think about holding a district office; we are all here to help one another to succeed in this organization. Plan to attend your district meeting. The district meetings are where the units come together and share with others all the wonderful things they are doing for the veterans, families and military. In other words, it is time to "Toot Your Horn" and to listen to what other units are doing. You can get new ideas. The district meetings are the last big gatherings, and we are nearing the end of another Auxiliary year. That means the Department Convention will be upon us. The Department Convention will be held in Huron, June 19-22. Now is the time to make plans to attend. Keep your membership coming in. We are very close to being at the 85% national goal by March 15th.

With our secretary's resignation, we had to make some adjustments within the department on a temporary basis. Per our constitution/bylaws, the treasurer fills the role of the absence of the secretary. Well we are searching for a treasurer and have a pro-tem therefore we don't have a backup. Regina Whipple stepped up and is currently serving as secretary pro-tem until we fill the position. There is a team of 4 others that are keeping things going. One gets the mail and processes it in the office, another is working on last year's proceedings book, one is doing the minutes from Mid-Winter and the office assistant is processing membership and coordinating activities. The office address, email and phone are remaining the same. The phone is being answered as calls come in and the mail is being picked up, opened and processed daily. Membership is still being scanned and sent to the office assistant and checks that are sent in are recorded and deposited weekly.

I am so proud of how everyone has pulled together for the good of this great organization, The American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota.

Department President

AnnaMae Warnier



A Tribute to longtime member Patricia Huls



At our February meeting, Frank J Brune #140 in Salem draped the charter in honor of longtime member Patricia Huls. Her sister-in-law MaryRae Skoglund, also a local member of our unit, shared some of the accomplishments and honors Pat received in her many years of service as an officer at the local, district and state level as well as serving as a Medical Director for Girls' State. Pat also attended 24 National Conventions and visited almost every local unit in South Dakota.

Pictured below are local president Shawn Giesler, MaryRae Skoglund, treasurer Michele Eichacker and chaplain Lynn Gottlob. The ladies are shown wearing one of Pat's American Legion Auxiliary T-shirts and Sweaters.



March Calendar

Girls State Applications Due March 1st
 Poem/Essays Due to District March 15th

Navy Reserve Birthday March 3rd
 Hug a GI Day March 4th
 Daylight Savings March 9th
 K-9 Veterans Day March 13th
 American Legion Birthday March 15th
 St. Patrick's Day* March 17th
 Rosie The Riveter Day March 21st
 National Vietnam War Veterans Day* March 29th

March is Month of the Military Caregiver

Girls State Orientation May 4th 1-2:30pm
 (hosted by Unit 15, Sioux Falls, 1600 W Russell St)
 Department Convention June 19th -22nd
 (Huron SD)



*Fly the Flag

March Prayer

Dear Almighty Father,
 Give love and patience to families who wait for the safe return of their loved ones and who are serving at the armed forces of their country. In faith and hope we turn to you for comfort. Grant that we may trust in your mercy And send an angel to sustain us as we wait for their return. In Jesus name I pray. Have a blessed March.

Sharon Broghammer
 SD ALA State Chaplain

In Loving Memory

- 0256 New Underwood Alma Crosbie - 10/24
- 0256 New Underwood Joan Racicky - 01/25
- 0083 Timber Lake Nyla Jean Opp - 10/24
- 0274 Corsica Darlene Bye - 12/23
- 0033 Sturgis Agnes Case - 10/22
- 0154 Montrose Sherry Wicks - 01/25
- 0038 Miller Doris Jury - 01/25
- 0038 Miller Judith Higgins - 12/24
- 0169 Winner Florence Kirkpatrick - 02/25
- 066 Lemmon Dorothy Wells - 12/24
- 0272 Pollock Gloria Fuhrer - 01/25
- 0147 Buffalo Sharon Jenkins - 10/24
- 0064 Wilmot JoAnn Michelson - 01/25
- 0172 Edgemont Herrietta Ritzman - 12/24

District Spring Meetings

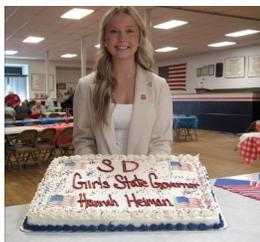
- District 3 March 15, 25 Winner
- District 6 March 16, 25 Plankington
 9 am-12am Pancake Breakfast 1pm Meeting
 Plank Inn , Plankington
- District 5 March 22, 25 Volga
 Meal 11:30 am 1pm meeting
 Community Center, Volga SD
- District 4 March 23, 25 Cresbard
 1pm meeting, Lunch to follow
- District 8 March 29,25 Tabor
- District 7 March 30, 25 Garretson
 11am Social, 12 pm meal, 1pm Meeting
 American Legion Hall, Garretson
- District 1 April 5 ,25 Spearfish

Endorsements

Hot Springs Unit # 71 is proud to endorse Jane Benzel for the position of North-western Division National Vice President
 Irene Unit # 193 and Wakonda Unit #13 are proud to endorse Susie Learning for the Department President for the year 2025-2026
 Piedmont Unit # 311 is proud to endorse Patrice Sorensen for the Department 1st Vice President for the year 2025-2026
 Alcester Crowen-Nilson Unit # 86 is proud to endorse AnnaMae Warnier for Department Chaplin for the year 2025-2026.
 Canton Unit # 53 is proud to endorse Noelle Bonjour for Department Chaplin for the year 2025-2026
 Mitchell Unit # 18 is proud to endorse Sharon Broghammer for Department Historian for the year 2025-2026

Girls State Governor Open House

The 2024-2025 South Dakota Girls State Governor, Hannah Heiman, is from the Clark School District. The Clark American Legion Auxiliary and Raymond American Legion Auxiliary hosted an open house to honor Hannah and recognize all of the Clark High School Boys and Girls State participants. All of them were introduced and talked a bit about their experience. Speakers included Clark Mayor Keri Kline, Clark School Superintendent Travis Ahrens, and District 5 Auxiliary



Keep selling your Raffle tickets



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South Dakota American
 Legion Auxiliary

There is no place like membership

Submitted by Rose Kraft

Oh, the Yellow Brick Road is hot with membership! Renew and new members come in every day! This is exciting news for this time of year. What else is so exciting is the number of members who are paying back dues for 2024, that they had missed for some reason. This would be a reason for every unit to reach out and ask those who had not paid in 2024. Today, their WHY, can be the reason to join this year. All you need to do is ask.

We are 102.15 members away from our 85% Department Goal by March 15. This would mean membership would need to be in the postal mail no later than the 9th of March. You may scan a copy of what you are putting in the mail and email it to the department headquarters, southdakotaala@gmail.com we would trust that you put it in the postal mail and we would receive it soon. This would guarantee that we would have it placed in ALAMIS on time to help us reach our goal. I am on a mission of contacting all the units that are under 70%. Remember, juniors do not receive a renewal notice in the mail, so please look at your unpaid members and pay that \$2.50 for each of those juniors! You should be hearing from your District President to see what we can do to help reach out to these members. Remember five no's and one yes is a success. After March 15th, we will be calling units under 90% membership. I know this is the year the Department of South Dakota is going to reach their 100% goal. I plan on being at the Spring District Meetings, you can always bring me memberships then. Where do we stand now, 39 units have made it to Emerald City. District 4 is leading the way at 86.78%, followed by District 5 at 85.24, District 8 comes in at 85.15 and District 7 is right behind at 85.01. Will one of the districts be at 90% in the next Legionette? Will we have 50 units at 100% or better? Will we have met your Department Goal of 85%? These are all great questions, that only you have the answer to and that is, please work on the membership mission, grab your basket and head down the yellow brick road to pick up those last memberships. Enjoy this beautiful not Spring weather while we have it and Recruit, Retain, Rejoin and Renew the memberships for the Department of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary! Yes, continue to send all correspondence to PO Box 983, Mitchell, SD 57301.

"If you have positive energy, you will always attract positive outcomes." Steve Backley. I positively know you will not disappoint.

Mid-Winter Conference not so candid portraits



Hope Smith & Sharon Broghammer



Susie Learing & Patrice Sorensen



Phil & Kim Anderson



Virgil & Regina Whipple



Leroy & Patsy Madsen



Mike & Rose Kraft



Laurel Stringer
Teresa Huntimer



Fred & Micheline Nelson



1st Vice Susie



President AnnaMae, NEC Mary Jo, Legionnaire Dave, NW Div Vice President Debra Albers



Heather teaching Laurel & Teresa "Diamond Art" The favorite activity for the juniors



Red Friday

THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

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BE IN THE KNOW

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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 ad-
dresses and deceased members,
contact Department Headquarters..**

More pictures from Mid-winter



Senior Poppy Contest Entries



Members showing off their Poppy
Contest Hat Entries



2nd Vice Patrice
giving presentation on



Working Hard



Theresa Maes-
chen giving her
presentation on
Child & Youth



Hanging out
after all the
events



President AnnaMae



Kate discussing
items during finance
meeting



Members at large

American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota 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 payment, adhere to a budget, do financial reporting of monthly income, expenses and deposits. Additional reporting may be required for the Mid-Winter Conference, Convention, Budget meeting and Department Executive Meetings.
- Learn the warrant system, scrutinize the warrant, and be prompt with payments.
- Follow security procedures to protect financial information and members' data.
- 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, Finance meeting and Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting in July), two audit meetings (April and October) as well as any other meetings, in person or virtual.
- The Treasurer will be the backup for the Department Secretary in their absence.
- Person applying will need to be able to be bonded. Bonding will be at the organization's expense. A background check will be completed.
- The position is a salaried position based on approximately 15 hours a week. The Treasurer can work from home or in the department office in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Please submit a resume and references postmarked by April 15, 2025.

Submit to:
Linda Holmes
700 S Montana St
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-770-6228

Email: linda.holmes14@icloud.com

