



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*

## Honor Our Heroes!

## Remember!



Spring has officially arrived. With spring those of us who are part of the Legion Family think of Spring District Meetings. By the time you read this I will have attended four District Meetings. The start of the meeting didn't seem like spring. On Saturday, March 15 we started out in a full-blown blizzard but the further west toward Winner we drove a little better it became. Winner hosted the Auxiliary Third District Meeting. The turnout was a little slim due to the weather conditions. I enjoyed listening to the highlights of the Unit's year. There was an election of officers. Mary Jo Stier is the new District President and Marla Mosiman is the new District Vice President. My chauffeur, Paul drove us to Chamberlain for that night and then on to Plankinton for the Sixth District Meeting. The day started with a wonderful pancake breakfast. The Auxiliary had a great turn out on a sunny day. Some of the topics discussed were Girl's State orientation and table sponsorship, possible dues raise, the cost of the Legionette and most importantly the District Unit member of the year was announced. Again, each Unit talked about their special activities. There is only about three months left in this Auxiliary year. If you would like me to visit your Units Spring activities send me an email or give me a call. If at all possible, I will visit your Unit. I would like to remind everyone that April is Children and Youth Month. Please plan a special event to include your Junior Members. Remember Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards - they are a great way to say, "Thank You"!! Applications for the awards are on the Auxiliary website [http:// www.sdlegionaux.org/](http://www.sdlegionaux.org/) under the Children and Youth and can be submitted there as well. This is also the Month of the Military Child. Purple Up for Military Kids is April 15. If you know any military children, your unit may send them some cards and letters or take them out for pizza. Extra encouragement for them is always helpful. Remember End of the Year Reports are due to the District Presidents by April 15th. I'm sure we will have a lot to report. I know many of you have been very busy this year - now is the time to get credit for what you do!! If you need help with a report, contact your District President; or reach out to one of our Past Department Presidents for assistance. Unit Presidents please send the reports on time. District Presidents must forward their report and they are compiling all the units in their district and that does take time. As you compile your year-end reports include any monetary donations, dollars raised, time spent on the activity and Veterans served. The State Convention is in Huron June 20th - 23rd. For those wishing to make hotel reservations at the State convention the room block is under The American Legion State Convention. For reservations call (800) 876-5858 or (605) 352-3204 or email [reservations@crossroadshotel.com](mailto:reservations@crossroadshotel.com). The Best Western is the overflow. The phone number for Best Western is (605)352-2000. The April mailing has a lot of information regarding the State Convention. This information is sent to the Unit President only, so Unit President PLEASE be sure to share this information with your members.

"Honor Our Heroes" "Remember" AnnaMae Warnier, Dept. President

## Happy April and Happy Month of Children & Youth Programs!

What does your unit have planned to celebrate the youth in your community? Maybe you could host a party or picnic to celebrate spring arriving or a special Easter activity. Members can volunteer at schools or church youth programs. Presenting the Military Child's Table is a great activity at schools, libraries or community centers and you can leave it up for the month! Or all units can participate in **Purple Up for Military Children on April 15**. Just wear purple that day and encourage students to wear purple also. I also encourage units to get local government officials to make a proclamation in April for Month of the Military Child. A sample can be found on the national website. SD units have done well with presenting Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards thus far. But I am encouraging you to keep searching for those exceptional youth in your communities and reward them with this recognition. All nominations must be submitted online to National Headquarters. Don't forget those pictures when presenting these awards and include them in year-end reports. If your unit has not had a chance to make a donation to the Child Well Being Foundation (CWF) please consider it. Our goal is to donate more than the Legion! Donations must be received by May 1 and please send them to SD Department Headquarters earmarked for that purpose. The SD ALA has been chosen to participate in a project called Project Stuff Sack. We have received 50 cinch bags that we need to fill with fun items for children. We will then donate them to children who may be at homeless/women's shelters, hospitals, social service organizations, or wherever there are children who may need a little "pick me up". I am asking units to donate either items for the bags or make a monetary donation towards the project. We will be filling them and distributing them at the convention in June. More details are included in your district newsletter or contact me with questions.

Year-end reports are due soon. Your unit received a C&Y questionnaire to assist you in reporting on your activities. Remember to BE THE ONE to help our Children and Youth.

Theresa Maeschen  
Children & Youth Chairman

## April Calendar

April Fool's Day	1st
Gold Star Spouses Day	5th
National Former POW Recognition Day	9th
Air Force Reserve Birthday	14th
<b>Purple Up! Day</b>	<b>15th</b>
Easter	20th
Army Reserve Birthday	23rd
National Military Brats Day	30th

### April is Month of the Military Child

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 )	

## District Spring Meetings

**District 1 April 5, 25**  
Spearfish

Meal 11am Meeting 12 pm

**District 2 April 6, 25**  
Hot Springs

Social 12 pm Meeting 1 pm

## In Loving Memory

58 Columbia Beverly Shaw 03/25  
76 Veblen Gladys Christensen - 12/24  
76 Veblen Betty Lynn Hilleson - 02/25  
18 Mitchell Norma Wilson - 01/25  
18 Mitchell Shirley Pueppke - 02/25  
229 Big Stone City Ruth Hanson - 02/25  
240 Martin Joyce Goetzinger - 02/25

## April Prayer

Dear Almighty Father,  
How blessed is the day when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God. Draw us forth God of all creation be there for our soldiers  
In active duty during this Easter season give them peace and strength to fight for our country's freedom. Give the families peace and contentment while they wait for their safe return home. Almighty Father thank you for bringing your son, Jesus to Earth to save us from all our sins and answering prayers in Jesus' name I pray.  
May all of our SD ALA members and family have a bless Happy Easter.  
Sharon Broghammer  
SD ALA State Chaplain

## Endorsements

Hot Springs Unit # 71 is proud to endorse Jane Benzel for the position of Northwestern 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  
Britton Unit # 80 & Frank J Brune Salem Unit # 140 is proud to endorse Rose Kraft for the Department 2nd 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

Submitted by Rose Kraft, Membership

**There is no place like membership**

Dorothy and I are so excited! Our basket of memberships continues to come in, even NEW members. We are also so excited at the number of members who did not pay in 2024 and HAVE paid for 2025!

Because of you, and all your hard work, we met the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline with more than 85%. No worries, now we are working at being a department at 90% membership. Why does this matter? The more members we have, the more voice we have at the national level. I was told the District Presidents like to watch the race to see who is the furthest down the Yellow Brick Road. The magic number today is 88+%, in 4<sup>th</sup> place we have District 4 at 88.02%, 3<sup>rd</sup> place is District 8 coming in 88.2%, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is District 3 at 88.21% and Leading the Way is District 7 at 88.38%. Such close numbers, who will hit 90% first? **Congratulations members! Great Work!**

In the mailing that you received around March 24<sup>th</sup>, there is the form for updating your 2026 Membership Chair and Dues form. This form is extremely important, as this is the information that is placed in ALAMIS as to how much your dues are and to whom do they get sent to. **THIS NEEDS TO BE INTO THE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** For sure no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. Any updates after this may come as an expense to your unit. What do we need to do now? Simple, continue to check your monthly progress chart and see that your numbers and the department numbers are the same. Update any addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for all your members. We are still working on each unit to have 100% membership renewal. Continue to reach out to those members who haven't paid their 2025 membership dues.

“Striving for success without Hard Work

is like trying to Harvest Where You Haven't Planted? David Bly.

Where have you not planted your membership seed? It is not too late to plant it now, continue with your hard work, you will harvest those members, and your unit will bloom even more into an amazing unit.

It is never too late, get those last members NOW.



**NOW HIRING****Department Secretary****Qualifications & Job Duties:**

- Manage the department headquarters currently located in Mitchell, SD while supporting our mission for the organization.
  - 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 leadership.
  - Attention to detail, strong organizational and time management skills, work under minimal supervision.
  - Maintain all monies received at the department headquarters, make deposits, and provide the treasurer with information as needed.
  - Maintain all record books that are needed to carry out the work of the office.
  - Proficient in Word and Excel.
  - Responsible for ensuring that all appropriate state and/or regulatory taxes are filed.
  - Open all mail, answer phone calls, maintain calendar and appointments, make room arrangements, and fill other related job duties.
  - Attend meetings as requested. Send and give notices of all meetings, take meeting minutes, and act as Secretary of the Executive & Finance Committees.
  - Ability to work some weekends and have dependable transportation.
  - Maintain and present a clean and professional office atmosphere.
  - Department Secretary is a salaried position with hours as needed to complete duties.
  - High School diploma and office experience preferred.
- Position open until qualified candidate is hired.

Please direct questions to or submit a written letter of interest along with a resume and job references to:

Deanne Hoyle  
P.O. Box 578  
Ipswich, SD 57451

[deanne.hoyle@gmail.com](mailto:deanne.hoyle@gmail.com)  
605 380-2650

**Department Treasurer****Qualifications & Job Duties:**

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, booking and accounting, reconciling bank statement, process payments, adhere to 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 Meeting. 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 leadership. 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. 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, to:

Linda Holmes  
700 S Montana St  
Mitchell, SD 57301

[linda.holmes14@icloud.com](mailto:linda.holmes14@icloud.com)  
605-770-6228

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LEGIONETTE

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**BE IN THE KNOW**

Department Secretary SDALA Headquar-  
ters

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)

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mail them. **For reporting an error on  
names or addresses, change of ad-  
resses and deceased members,  
contact Department Headquarters..**

**Congressman Dusty Johnson Visited the Sturgis Vets Club**

On Wednesday, March 19, Congressman Dusty Johnson visited the Sturgis Vets Club and presented Vietnam War pins and US House of Representative Challenge Coins to those that served in the Vietnam War. Several veterans share their stories of service. The ceremony was hosted by Meade Sturgis Post 33 and a reception was provided by Meade Sturgis Unit 33.



**Proclamation for Madison SD**



Madison Mayor Roy Lindsey, also a member of the Post 25 American Legion, presented the Auxiliary with a Proclamation naming April as Month of the Military Child Month and April 23rd as Purple up for Military Kids Day for the City of Madison SD.



Pictured left to right: Lori Lindholm-Secretary ; Darlene Thompson- Chaplin; Lisa Lee- President; Madison Mayor Roy Lindsey; Carol Larson-Johnson- Vice President; Linda Walker- Treasurer

**Arvilla Bergseth Celebrates her 100th Birthday**



Arvilla Bergseth. A 48 year member of the Gertje-Van Luth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229, celebrated her 100th birthday February 17th at Fairway View Neighborhood in Ortonville Minnesota.

Unit members present at her party were (L to R)

Phyllis Lieb, Doris Schneff, Sharon Smith, Sue Christensen, Suzann Harmoning and Gloria Arndt.

Arvilla is seated by the flowers given to her by the Auxiliary



## Department Legislative Chairman, Micheline Nelson, attended the Washington D.C. Conference

I would like to express my gratitude to National President Trish Ward and National Legislative Chairman Sally Rossman for the chance to participate in and gain insights from the American Legion's legislative advocacy at the Washington DC Conference. National Commander LaCoursiere described the American Legion as "the voice and face for veterans in their communities." The conference brought together four commissions that explored legislative priorities in-depth, acting as integral pieces of a puzzle that collectively enhanced the legislative priorities of the American Legion Family on behalf of our veterans. The American Legion's primary focus is to conquer "the War Within." This initiative puts a constructive approach on the "Be the One" mission aimed at reducing and ultimately eliminating veterans' suicide. During the Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) meeting, the opening speaker, Derek Blumke, stressed the importance of "Courage to heal: Empowering veterans through mental wellness." His presentation critiqued the VA's approach of overmedicating, which obscures the underlying issues. He strongly suggested the documentary "Medicating Normal" by Angela Peacock, an Army veteran. His recommendations are in line with the American Legion's goals to destigmatize mental health support for veterans and broaden access to mental healthcare, including alternative therapies. A veteran's battle with the War Within is far from over without proper reintegration into society, which necessitates a modernized Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and adequate employment through initiatives like the GI Bill, Veteran Rehabilitation Education (VRE), and the Yellow Ribbon program. Moreover, addressing veteran homelessness, which affects over 35,000 veterans, and promoting affordable housing via the VA Home Loan Guarantee Program, which offers no-down-payment loans, are essential.

Brigadier General David "Mac" MacEwen, Director of the Veterans Justice Commission, spoke on "From Service to Second Chances: Advancing Justice for Veterans." He highlighted that around 20,000 veterans are incarcerated, and data across states is inconsistent due to varying definitions of veterans. Despite having only fifteen minutes to present, his message about transitioning to re-entry was impactful, leaving many wishing for more time to delve into the Veterans Justice Commission's recommendations. The VE&E meeting began with research-based discussions on mental health and its link to veteran suicides, calling for retraining of all VA prescribers and mental health clinicians. Ivan E. Denton focused on employment and training. Following the brief presentation by the Council of Criminal Justice, three panels shared real-life stories and experiences to shed light on issues of housing and homelessness, opportunities beyond the uniform for student veterans, and pathways from service to veteran entrepreneurship. The selection of speakers and panels effectively conveyed the American Legion's legislative priorities.

In his address at the National Commander's Rally, National Commander LaCoursiere emphasized six out of twenty-five priorities: (1) lethality of the U.S. Armed Forces; (2) the war within; (3) balance in community care; (4) ending veteran homelessness; (5) modernization of the Transition Assistance Program; and (6) quality of compensation & pension examinations.

This experience provided me with valuable insights into the American Legion's legislative priorities. – submitted by Micheline Nelson

### Valentine's Project for Veterans

Junior members Mya Loosmore and Cheyenne Braaten from Unit 48 in Rosholt invited children of military families to help with a Valentine project for veterans. They made window clings and decorated heart cookies then delivered to veterans in the community.



**PURPLE UP!**  
for military kids

April 15, 2025

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**BE THE ONE**