



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

Honor Our Heroes!

Spring District meetings are over, and Unit Member of the year has been chosen. I truly enjoyed the District meetings. Thank you to all the host Units. I was impressed by all you do for our veterans, children and their families. Congratulations District Presidents for doing an excellent job and to the new officers who stepped up to help lead their districts!

Unit reports should have been sent into the Department Chairmen and District Presidents. BUT if you have just finished your reports, please send them on to the appropriate chairman and your District President. Hopefully every Unit tooted their horn with narratives and lots of photos. I heard at the District meeting many amazing things every Unit is doing.

Department Convention in Huron is just around the corner. Convention will be June 20-22, 2025, at the Crossroads Hotel & Huron Convention Center located at 100 4th St. SW Huron, SD. Thursday, June 19th the interviews for vacancies on the finance committee will take place, TBA. Friday, June 20th at 8:30 am will be the Finance Committee meeting followed by the Department Executive Committee(DEC) meeting. ALL members are welcome to attend both of these meetings. It will be at the DEC meeting that the 8 items will be presented for recommendation to the convention floor. There are 26 items that will be presented to the DEC and voted on Friday. Make sure your unit has made known to your District Presidents how you feel about these possible standing rules changes. Please remember to bring your copies of the amendments from the Unit Mailing to convention as there will be no extras available. The year isn't over yet so get those members renewed and sent into the Department.

Reach out to those members who haven't renewed by giving them a phone call or stopping to visit them. Personal contact goes a long way. Membership is very important! There will be no silent auction at the convention.

This year we will be selling raffle tickets. One half the proceeds will be given away, first prize is 25% of proceeds, second prize is 15% and third prize is 10%. The 50% we keep will go to the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary programs which support veterans. Talking about the Department Convention makes me realize that this year has flown by very quickly. I have really enjoyed traveling around the state and meeting with so many of my American Legion Auxiliary sisters and brothers.

Remember!



Con't

I've attended unit parties, fundraisers, baseball games, unit member recognitions, bridge naming, Veterans Community Project, Christmas gift shops, and parties, Auxiliary birthday, SONS birthday, Legion birthday, Wreaths Across America, all 3 National Cemeteries, VAVS meetings and so much more. The year is quickly coming to a close but there are a lot of things to still be done. Looking forward to having Loyalty Day, Girls State teas, Military Spouse Appreciation, Arm Forces Day, Maritime Day, Poppy Day, Girls State, Memorial Day and many I have missed. It looks like a very busy time between now and convention

Have a great spring.

AnnaMae Wariner Department President

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention June 20-22, 2025

Agenda in Brief June 20, 2025

June 20th Friday Dakota RM A B E F

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
 8:30 AM Finance Meeting
 DEC will commence 30 minutes after the Finance meeting
 11:30 - 12:30 PM Lunch Break
 12:30-5:00 PM DEC Meeting
 6:00 Joint Banquet

June 21, 2025 Saturday Dakota RM A B E F

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
 7:40 AM Line up Officer and PDPs
 7:55 AM ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS |
 8:00 AM Call to Order by Huron Unit #7 Dakota RM - A B E F

OFFICIAL OPENING

INVOCATION
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 PREAMBLE
 NATIONAL ANTHEM
 ROLL CALL OF UNITS
 WELCOME TO DISTRICT 6
 RESPONSE
 READING OF CALL TO CONVENTION
 CONVENTION RULES
 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

10:00 AM JUNIOR MEETING Salon 1 Room

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS
 REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
 NOMINATION and Voting OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS and NW VP
 (2 minute introduction and 2 minute response)

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch Break
 1:00pm Convention Reconvenes

GREETINGS FROM AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
 GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENTS
 INTRODUCTION OF HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES AND CHAIRMEN DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN REPORTS

PRAYER

4:45 AM District Presidents and Chairman (Incoming and Outgoing) Orientation and material exchange
 MANDATORY ABEP_Room
 6:00 PM No Host Cocktail/Social
 7:00 PM Joint Banquet

June 22, 2025, Sunday Dakota RM A B E F

8:00 Reconvene Convention

HAND SALUTE INVOCATION
 ROLL CALL OF UNITS
 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS (FINAL READING)
 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
 INSTALLATION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, DISTRICT PRESIDENTS
 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH-NEW PRESIDENT
 FAREWELL SPEECH-OUTGOING PRESIDENT
 ANNOUNCEMENTS
 CLOSING REMARKS CLOSING Prayer- New Chaplain
 Retiring the Colors
 Immediately after there will be a Finance Meeting and DEC Meeting

Con't

May Calendar

May 1st Silver Service Banner Day
 May 8th Victory Day in Europe
 May 12th Military Spouses Appreciation Day
 May 11th Mother's Day
 May 13th Children of Fallen Patriots Day
 May 17th Armed Forces Day
 May 25-30 Girls State Week
 May 30th Memorial Day

National Military Appreciation Month
Month of the Military Caregiver

136 Chester Elizabeth Tammen - 12/24
 274 Corsica Edna Sprecheer - 03/25
 9 Milbank Elaine Hallberg - 03/25
 15 Sioux Falls Gayle A Craik - 03/25
 31 Lead Pauline West - 12/24
 132 Springfield Lorraine DeJong - 03/25
 83 Timber Lake Wendy Plummer-Carr - 04/25
 311 Piedmont Mary Hertel - 02/25; Shirley Mallow - 02/25
 76 Veblen Karen Borgen - 04/25
 42 Arlington Linda Tilley - 03/25; Lisa Haar - 03/25
 110 Wessington Springs Delores Swartz - 03/25



May Prayer

Dear Almighty Father,
 Bless all our families who have lost their veterans give them peace and contentment. Wrap your loving arms around our veterans and servicemen who have served or currently serving. We thank you for your service to our country. May you enjoy this month and know that you're honored everyday. Happy Mother's Day to our mother's who embraced motherhood in Jesus name I pray.

Amen
 SD ALA State Chaplain
 Sharon Broghammer

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 Learing 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 Eich 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

As we have just celebrated Easter in our homes and communities. We are enjoying the joy that Spring brings to us. Spring brings new beginnings; we are reminded of the hope and possibility that can help grow our Department Membership. This only can happen by you, yes you, taking a moment to contact a former member an expired member and water them with kindness, letting them know that they are missed in your unit. For many of us we are coming to the end of your "active" Auxiliary season. However, every day is a day to find a member. We need to get 90% membership and to do this we need every unit to turn in one member. Did you know that we have 46 units that are 100% or above. These units have 29 extra members beyond their 100%. (Apply thunderous applause here!) They have met the journey of the yellow brick road to Emerald City, extending our voice to our government of the needs our Veterans have. But unfortunately, we have the other end of the spectrum, those under 75%, 28 units of which we have three at zero! If these units would renew their members, this would be an intake of 410 members. You know where your unit is setting at this time, what can we, the leadership of the department, do to help renew these members? Going forward, I am seeing 2025 – 2026 year as a time where we the Department reach out to these units to help do a revitalization. Don't be afraid, embarrassed, or nervous if you are one of these units. We are a department and each one of our units is important. I hear stories from these units of what you do in your community, and this is very valuable. Now, we need to just get the membership numbers to go with all your hard work. As the Department of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, we want to surround ourselves with people who share similar values, mindsets, and goals. This is what you have done all year, now your unit leadership will begin making their plans on how they will meet and surpass the goals set forth for the next year. The countdown to the Department Convention is on, make plans to travel to Huron and partake in the leadership and make decisions for this organization. Hopefully, you will be inspired at least once to return to your community and continue to serve our Veterans, Active Military, Communities, Children and Youth through making a plan that will include an extremely successful membership year.



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
605 380-2650

Auxiliary Banquet
Saturday June 21, 2025
Honoring PDP 2000-2001
Marilyn Hobbs

This banquet is honoring PDP 2000-2001 Marilyn Hobbs.

In the Prairie Rooms

The meal will be:

Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Corn, Fruit Salad \$30.00

Auxiliary Banquet	Number of Tickets	\$30.00	TOTAL Cost

Any special dietary needs:

Name _____

Address _____

Your ticket/s will be at the registration desk.

Your Telephone/Cell Number _____

Please send order and check to:

Linda Holmes, District 6 President
700 S Montana St.
Mitchell, SD 57301

Military Child's Table



Linda Holmes, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 President in Mitchell, set up a Military Child's Table at the Mitchell Public Library celebrating the month of the Military Child.

Monthly Community Meals

Monthly Community meals offered October through March. Delivery to shut-ins included. Free will offerings earmarked for Scholarships and Girl State. "We have a hard working core group that makes light the workload."
C.Stoebner, White Unit #88 President



THE SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGIONETTE

Official Publication of the American Legion
Auxiliary Department of South Dakota

Published monthly except July and August at
Hartford, SD from September 2022, forward.
Printed by Western Mailer, Rapid City, SD 57701-
2917. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year. Dates
from September through June All copy must be in
the hands of the Editor by the 20th of each
month preceding current issues. We do not pay
for the postage cost of address changes.

BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA Headquar-
ters

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

Flag Respect Program

The American Legion Auxiliary Meade Sturgis Unit 33 along with Sturgis Riders Chapter 33 conducted a flag respect program at Union Center, SD for the students of Union Center, Elm Springs, Attail, Hereford and Opal. The riders were escorted to the school by Deputy Sherrif John Rhoden. The students were divided into three groups: K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade and 6th-8th grade; programs covered respecting the flags and proper technique for folding the flag. The students were given flags and American Legion Auxiliary coloring books about the flag. The schools were presented with new flags to replace their tattered ones on their flag poles at their respective school.

**District 5 Member of the Year**

AnnaMae Warner, State President and Mary Jo Boner, District V President announced District V Member of the Year to be Cynthia Stoebner from District V at the March District meeting held in Volga, SD. Aside from her role as President she chairs the Poppy Distribution, and Constitution & Bylaws, and assists the Education, Americanism, and Membership Chairs

Knots of Love

Two members of Donald A. Lewis Unit 148 of Conde, SD have been participating in a project to help our Veterans who are undergoing chemotherapy. Through "Knots of Love", and our VA Cap Drive, the aim is to send handmade beanies to men and women receiving treatment in VA hospitals across the country. The beanies offer more than warmth. They provide comfort, hope, and a reminder that they are not alone in their fight.

Vickie Kramp and Jane Worlie have been busy with their crocheting hooks making these colorful beanies for Veterans.

**Spreading joy at the State Veterans Home**

On Saturday, April 5th, five members of SD ALA Auxiliary Unit #179 accompanied American Legion Post #179 members to the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs to conduct bingo games for veteran residents. This is an annual Spring event. Auxiliary members baked 30 dozen cookies & bars for the veterans who attended the bingo games. Auxiliary members who went along to help (from left-to-right) were: Jane Kotewa, Karon Bishop, Carol Sundall, Ginger McManigal and Tami McManigal. About 60 residents played bingo.



Halloween Party

Unit 42, Arlington held a Halloween Party with games for the community kids. Fun was had by all.



American Legion Auxiliary Poetry Contest for District 4 Unit 100 of Selby



Three young men won the American Legion Auxiliary Poetry Contest for District 4 Unit 100 of Selby South Dakota. The judges really liked how they wrote about the Battle at Pearl Harbor and included family members of their own who were veterans. Pictured here are American Auxiliary members Sandy Weinzirl (left) and Yvonne Helm (right), who are standing with poetry winners Corb Vander Vorst, third place, Elias Russell, second place, and Alex Defender, first place.



Our big winner in the American Auxiliary Poetry contests of District 4, Post 100, is Alex Defender, who not only won first place locally, but won first place in his division in the State!! This is great news and we are so very excited and proud of him. **CONGRATULATIONS ALEX!** Presenting Alex with his awesome award are Auxiliary members Yvonne Helm (left) and Sandy Weinzirl (right)

Need some Christmas Cards?



Do you have a upcoming project that need Christmas Card for you Unit? Need a stash to send to our troops?

Unit 15, Sioux Falls has abundance of Christmas Cards and they are will to share . Please Contact

Sue Peters - POST 15 Administrative Assistant
605.336.3470
1700 West Russell - North entrance
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Convention Reminders

Raffle Tickets stubs and money are due to 1st Vice Susie Learning PRIOR to Convention

Remember to wear RED on Friday to support "Remember Everyone Deployed"

We will be stuffing sacks for the Children& Youth Project Stuff Sack. Project Stuff Sack is a pilot project launched by National ALA in 10 Departments throughout the organization. South Dakota has been chosen as one of those 10 Departments. Our department has received 50 sacks to fill with items for children. Your unit can purchase and donate items to stuff the sacks or make a monetary donation so items can be purchased. You can bring your donations to Convention in June or contact me to arrange a time for someone to pick-up your donation. Contact Theresa Maeschen at 605-770-7854 or maeschen2008@mit.midco.net with questions.

Poppy Posters

The contest cover sheet ONLY needs to be completed for posters being submitted to state level. The deadline for submitting posters is May 15th and they should be sent to Department Poppy Chair Jane Benzel.