



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

Oh my, this is the last Legionette article that I will write. It is bittersweet. It has been an honor serving as your Department President. I will miss traveling around the state. In my travels I met so many veterans and heard their stories. I tried my best during this year to serve our Veterans, Active Military and their families. I saw how all of our members, units and the department served all of them in our state and even beyond our borders. I need to say a huge THANK YOU to all the members of the Department of South Dakota for serving our Veterans in so many ways.



Reports are due... Thank you to all the Units who sent reports (Unit impact report) to their District Presidents. Thank you to the District Presidents that have already sent their Impact reports to me. There are several District Presidents reports that I know are still coming. Also, the Department Chairmen are to report to their NW Division Chairmen and National Chairmen. Please make sure these are finished. The National and NW Division Chairmen contact our Department Office and me when your report is missing. I am currently packing to attend Girls State. I attended last year for the entire week, and I attended on Auxiliary day in previous years. This is an exciting week. We see the young ladies from all corners of South Dakota grow in confidence, responsibility, knowledge and leadership. It is a time to promote the Auxiliary programs, the meaning of the poppy, patriotism and our form of government. My thoughts are starting to focus on the Department Convention. The actual convention is Saturday and Sunday, June 21-22. BUT the Finance Committee and the Department Executive Committee are meeting on June 20, all are invited to sit in on these meetings. They will also be zoomed. The committee responsible for selecting two new members to the finance committee for the next 3 years will interview the four candidates on June 19th in the early evening. The schedule is on the ALA South Dakota website. Congratulations to all the District Unit Member of the Year recipients. Best wishes to you at the Department Convention. Also, congratulations to the newly elected District Presidents and officers. A special thank you to all the outgoing District Presidents and officers, it has been a pleasure to work with each of you.

This has truly been an awesome year for me, and I thank all of you for your support and encouragement. I want to take the time to thank all the District Presidents, Department Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputy Hospital Representatives, Gift Shop Chairmen, Christmas Party Chairmen and Department Officers for all your help throughout this past year. You all did a fantastic job “Honoring Our Heroes” “Remembering”.

AnnaMae Warnier, Department President

Endorsements 2025-2026

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

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Fundraiser



Unsold tickets and collected funds with ticket stubs should be turned into Susie Learing prior to the Department Convention. Winners to be determined at Convention 2025

June Calendar

June 6: D-Day—Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France

June 12: Women Veterans Day

June 14: Army Birthday

June 14: Flag Day

June 15: Father's Day

June 8 –14 National Flag Week

June 27: PTSD Awareness Day



June 20th –22rd—Department Convention, Huron SD

June Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Continuous blessing our veterans and servicemen for their service to our Country. Remember to fly your flag on Flag Day June 14th and Happy Father's Day to all our fathers on June 15th for taking the time to raise our children. May Almighty Father bless you all in Jesus' name I pray.

Amen

Sharon Broghammer
SD ALA State Chaplain

I am looking forward to seeing you at Huron for the State Convention. I would greatly appreciate prayers for the Department Presidents prayer book. Please email or mail them.

In Loving Memory

9 Milbank; Elaine Hallberg - 03/25
12 Yankton; Amanda Johnson - 04/25
15 Sioux Falls; Gayle A Craik - 03/25
31 Lead; Pauline West - 12/24
40 Webster; Shirley Naessig - 03/25
42 Arlington; Linda Tilley - 03/25
42 Arlington; Lisa Haar - 03/25
53 Canton; Lois Ulrickson - 04/25
76 Veblen; Karen Borgen - 04/25
83 Timber; Lake Wendy Plummer-Carr - 04/25
102 Faulkton; Ardyce Hadrick - 04/25
110 Wessington Springs; Delores Swartz - 03/25

Gold Star Sister

132 Springfield; Lorraine DeJong - 03/25
136 Chester; Elizabeth Tammen - 12/24
142 Tripp; Betty Wormsbecker - 04/25
152 Menno; Mariette Rames 45770 - 04/25
164 Spearfish; Janice Furrow - 04/25
169 Winner; Alice Hartford - 04/25
169 Winner; Rose Rush - 04/25
194 Parkston; Joyce Mechtenberg 45743 - 03/25
274 Corsica; Edna Sprecheer - 03/25
311 Piedmont; Shirley Mallow - 02/25
311 Piedmont; Mary Hertel - 02/25



Sturgis Mayor Declares May 23, 2025 as "Poppy Day"



Sturgis Mayor Kevin Forrester signed an official proclamation Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 declaring May 23, 2025 as "Poppy Day" during a meeting of the Sturgis American Legion Auxiliary at the Veterans Club. The proclamation recognizes the red poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices made by military personnel in service to the United States. The American Legion Auxiliary annually distributes the memorial flower to honor those who served and to remind Americans of the cost of freedom.

Ruth Mechling, affectionately known as "the Poppy Lady," has been involved with Poppy Day for decades.

"I started working at Fort Meade in the late '50s, and I've been helping with Poppy Day ever since," she said. "The poppy was first recognized in 1922, in honor of the blood that was shed. It's important to recognize our fallen heroes, and all Veterans."

Piedmont Auxiliary 311 Hosts Legion Birthday

Piedmont Aux. Unit 311 hosted the 106th birthday party of the American Legion with a great soup supper and dessert bar on March 6. A middle school group "WEB" (Where Everybody Belongs) helped serve.



District 6 Member of the Year

Sang Conzemius of Unit 18 in Mitchell was chosen District 6 Member of the Year at the District Meeting. Pictured with District 6 President Linda Holmes and Department President Anna Mae Warnier.





Membership News

Submitted by Rose Kraft

It is June, and many units are saying they are done with membership for 2025. Some are saying why should we continue to ask. It is simple, membership continues 365 days a year. We are always Leading the Way for the American Legion Auxiliary throughout membership.

Some are confused as to the dates for membership. This is very understandable as there are many dates in the membership year. Your membership is from January of the given year to December. If you are new and pay your 2026 membership dues in September, you get four months free of charge. The beginning of recruitment for the new year begins after July 1 for renewing members and September 1 for new members. Again, this gets confusing. You will only receive two renewal notices through the postal office, one will come mid to late September, and the second one will come the middle of February. No other renewal notices will be sent from the National Headquarters. I hope this helps clarify a few things.

Let us see who has been leading the way in South Dakota! Forty-six Units “Led the Way” and reached their 100% goal or more! Congratulation to Bullhead Unit 324, Murdo Unit 75, Wagner Unit 11, Custer Unit 46, Armour Unit 52, Vivian Unit 157, Hitchcock Unit 84, Irene Unit 193, Brandon Unit 318, Milbank Unit 9, Coman Unit 278, Wakonda Unit 13, Gregory Unit 6, Roscoe Unit 259, Alcester Unit 86, Fort Pierre Unit 20, Rosholt Unit 48, Conde Unti 148, Stratford Unit 207, Lemmon Unit 66, Nunda Unit 105, Wolsey Unit 59, Egan Unit 97, Artesan Unit 47, Eureka Unit 186, Platte Unit 115, Onida Unit 79, Columbia Unit 58, Raymond Unit 209, Garretson Unit 23, Chester Unit 136, Belle Fourche Unit 32, Draper Unit 301, Presho Unit 89, Dallas Unit 91, Groton Unit 39, Orient Unit 178, Pollock Unit 272 In Strandburg Unit 171, Chamberlain Unit 3, Mitchell Unit 18, Iroquois Unit 280, Madison Unit 25, Trent Unit 122, Canistota Unit 162 and Worthing Unit 177! Wow, great work Auxiliary Units!

Next to making goal is to have 100% renewal. I understand that we are in small communities, and we have asked everyone, and this is why our Department Awards those with 100% renewal. Those who have 100% renewal for 2025 as of convention will have their current goal number as their goal for 2026! So, if you are a unit that has one or two members to renew, send them in prior to June 13th. Our class of **Leaders**. Who have led the way with 100% renewal are: Unit 2 – Tyndal, Unit 3 – Chamberlain, Unit 5 – Plankinton, Unit 16 – Gann Valley, Unit 20 – Fort Pierre, Unit 32 – Belle Fourche, Unit 47 – Artesian, Unit 52 – Armour, Unit 58 – Columbia, Unit 59 - Wolsey, Unit 60 – Clark, Unit 79 – Onida, Unit – 80 Britton, Unit 84 – Hitchcock, Unit 86 – Alcester, Unit 104 – Revillo, Unit 105 - Nunda, Unit – 122 - Trent, Unit 166 – Emery, Unit 171 – Standburg, Unit 177 – Worthing, Unit 178 – Orient, Unit 179 – Kennebec, Unit 186 – Eureka, Unit 187 – Fairfax, Unit 193 – Irene, Unit 194 – Parkston, Unit 207 – Stratford, Unit 209 – Raymond, Unit 267 – Grenville, Unit 274 – Corsica, Unit – 275 – Java, Unit 292 – Tulare, Unit 301 – Draper, Unit 315 – Box Elder, and Unit 324 – Bullhead.

As you can see, we have had many members work on the mission. With this being said, there are many units that were so close to meeting their goals. As we are finishing our theme of “**There is no place like Membership,**” our units are very much like Dorothy and her friends. You all have courage as you go out and try new things. You all have a heart that shows love for our Veterans, Active Military, Children and Youth and Communities. Finally, you are all intelligent and dedicated men and women to the American Legion Auxiliary Missions.

It is my honor to lead you down the path of membership and to celebrate as each of you reach your goals. “Make time to celebrate your accomplishments, no matter how big or small.” I hope to see many of you at the convention in Huron in June.

Poppy Lady

Judy Headley, chairman of Rames Bender Post 152 American Legion Auxiliary of Menno, was invited to read *The Poppy Lady*, by Moina Belle Michael, to 26 third and fourth graders of the Menno Public School on Thursday, May 1.



The students were attentive but were excited to share that they had grandfathers, dads, brothers and other family members that were veterans. Ms. Headley then explained how the poppy used currently during May – Poppy Month, is constructed by veterans and is made of paper. The

students left with a poppy of their own and several pages from the Poppy Coloring Book.

June is PTSD Awareness Month

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling
- Educate yourself and members on the “BE the One” Campaign
- Display resources at your post home or in your community



Resources can be found at [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org)

For Urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and press 1 for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7. You can also text 838255

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Auxiliary Department of South Dakota

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BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary SDALA
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-
dresses and deceased members,
contact Department Headquarters**

**If Elected, Homecoming for
South Dakota Department
American Legion Auxiliary
2025-26 President
Susan (Susie) Learning
Saturday, July 26, 2025
11:00am Social, 12:00 Lunch
with a program to follow.
Hall Thompson Post 193 Home
Main Street, Irene, S.D.**

Girls State and Boys State Orientation

On Sunday, May 4, 2025. As past SD American Legion
Auxiliary President Patsy Madsen and also a member of
Gregory Unit 6, presented the Girls State Orientation for
Gregory unit and the surrounding areas of Burke, Winner,
Fairfax, Colome.

There were 11 girls in attendance.

Also, Gregory Legion Post 6 held the Boys State Orienta-
tion at the Gregory post home, Larry Madsen--Legion
Americanism Chairman and member of Gregory Post 6 did
the orientation for 3 boys. Also, in attendance were other
members, along with Post Commander Greg and Sandy.
Thank you, Gregory Unit 6 and Gregory Post 6, for hosting
the Girls State and Boys State Orientation

**Fun day at Sunset Manor in Irene!**

Six veterans who live at the Sunset Manor facility in Irene attended the party in their
honor on April 24, given by the American Legion Auxiliary #193. The veterans shared
some of their service-related experiences, and the auxiliary members added stories
from their experiences as wives and mothers of veterans. It was a special time to hon-
or some of our valued citizens – our veterans



L to R: *Veteran* David Vrondran, Susie Learning, Karen
Richlieu, Carol Hansen, Keli Stelley, Cleo Waters, *Veteran*
Lloyd Tooley, Vickie Brockmuller, *Veteran* Bob Graham.



Lloyd 'Hap' Tooley provided
entertainment at the piano.

Department of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary**Americanism Essay Contest 2025 Winners**

Class I: 1st place: Charles R / Onida / Unit 79 / District 3
2nd place: Sebastian P / Willow Lake / Unit 60 / District 5
Class II: 1st place: Macie J / Howard / Unit 145 / District 6
2nd place: Berkley B / Cottonwood / Unit 250 / District 5
Class III: 1st place: Madison H / Bristol / Unit 58 / District 4
2nd place: Portlyn J / Mitchell / Unit 11 / District 8
Class IV: 1st place: Brady B / Ortley / Unit 129 / District 5
2nd place: Brooklyn H / Ramona / Unit 105 / District 7
Class V: 1st place: Odessa C / Buffalo / Unit 147 / District 1
2nd place: Kaelyn U / Arlington / Unit 42 / District 6
Class VI: 1st place: Hannah H / Wagner / Unit 11 / District 8
2nd place: Nikolai W / Lake Preston / Unit 63 / District 6

Americanism Poem Contest 2025 Winners

Class I: 1st Evelyn H / Alexandria / Unit 41 / District 6
2nd Kaeson O / Madison / Unit 105 / District 7
Class II: 1st Vada E / Letcher / Unit 93 / District 6
2nd Alayna W / Marion / Unit 235 / District 8
Class III: 1st Huntley O / Groton / Unit 39 / District 4
2nd Fox P / Miller / Unit 38 / District 3
Class IV: 1st Bryce A / Wilmot / Unit 64 / District 5
2nd Maggie S / Tabor / Unit 183 / District 8
Class V: 1st AdeLynn H / Winner / Unit 146 / District 3
2nd Dillyn D / Iroquois / Unit 280 / District 6

70 Year Member Recognized



JoAnn Ganschow was recognized for her 70-year membership in ALA at the Wakonda Memorial Day Program. She is pictured here with her daughters-in-law, granddaughter, and 2 great-granddaughters, all ALA members.

Convention Reminders

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at

The State Convention!

Wear **R.E.D** On Friday

Bring a copy of your Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

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 PO. Box 578 Ipswich, SD 57451
605 380-2650

deanne.hoyle@gmail.com

Memorial Day Poppy Garden

Montrose Unit 154 “grew” a Poppy garden during the month of May to Honor and Remember our heroes. The Poppy’s were metal garden stakes that were purchased for loved ones. Following the Memorial Day program, loved ones could come “pick” their poppy and take home to plant in their garden.

Top Picture: Wreath Bearer Sophie, Wreath Bearer Kelsie ; Miss Poppy Evelyn, Wreath Bearer Tess and Helper Rosie

Bottom Picture: Unit 154 Members Jill, Barb, Jolene, Claire, Janel, Kathy and Erin



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

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention**June 20-22, 2025****Agenda in Brief****June 20, 2025, Friday Dakota RM A B E F**

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
8:30 AM 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 - Sergeant-at-Arms Hope Smith, Chester Unit #136
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Robin Hempel, Chester Unit #136
Officers and PDPs

8:00 AM Call to Order by Huron Unit #7 Dakota RM - A B E F**OFFICIAL OPENING - Department President AnnaMae Warnier, Alcester Unit #86****INVOCATION- Sharon Broghammer, Mitchell Unit #18****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- First Vice President Susie Learning, Irene Unit #193****PREAMBLE- Second Vice President Patrice Sorensen, Piedmont Unit #311****National Anthem – All Sing****ROLL CALL OF UNITS-Department Secretary Pro Tem Regina Whipple, Martin Unit #240****WELCOME TO DISTRICT 6 - District 6 Linda Holmes, Mitchell Unit #18****RESPONSE - District 7 President Joyce Smith, Chester Unit #136****READING OF CALL TO CONVENTION - Department Secretary Pro Tem Regina Whipple-Martin Unit #240****CONVENTION RULES Debra MacDonald, District 2-Hermosa Unit 303****CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS-First Reading - Patrice Sorensen, Second Vice and Chairman and Committee****10:00 am JUNIOR MEETING Salon I Room****PERSONAL PAGES - Jill Lamers, Montrose Unit 154; Micheline Nelson, Spearfish Unit 164****REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS -(verified delegates) Dept Secretary Pro Tem Regina Whipple, Martin Unit #240****REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS****NOMINATION and Voting OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS and NW VP - (2 minute introduction and 2 minute response)****12:00-1:00 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 - Department Chaplain Sharon Broghammer, Mitchell Unit #18****4:40 PM RECESS****4:45 PM District Presidents and Chairman (Incoming and Outgoing) Orientation and material exchange MANDATORY ABEF_ 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 - Department Chaplain Sharon Broghammer, Mitchell Unit #18****ROLL CALL OF UNITS- Department Secretary Pro Tem Regina Whipple, Martin Unit #240****REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS (FINAL READING) - Dept Secretary Pro Tem Regina Whipple, Martin Unit #240****CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (FINAL READING AND VOTING)- -Chairman Patrice Sorensen and Committee****NOMINATION of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention****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**

2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET TICKETS

A deli buffet will be served on Friday, the 20th, and Saturday, the 21st, at noon. You will have the choice of smoked turkey breast, roast beef, or Bavarian ham. Accompanied by sliced Swiss and American cheese, sliced tomatoes, pickles, and assorted breads. Served with the chef's choice of deli salads and a soup of the day. Tickets will be \$20 per person each day.

Friday night Joint banquet buffet will be roast top round of beef with Au Jus or Chicken Almondine, mashed potatoes and gravy, Italian pasta salad, and green beans. Side salad and dinner rolls. The ticket cost will be \$35 per person.

Ticket requests for Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members must be received by June 5th, 2025. No tickets will be sold at the event. Tickets can be picked up at the convention registration table. One check can be made for the total lunch and banquet ticket costs.

Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 7. Ticket requests should be mailed to:

Lloyd Timperley
P.O. Box 205
Huron, S.D. 57350
(605) 352 7896

Name _____

Address _____

Food allergies _____

Table with 4 columns: EVENT, PRICE, NUMBER OF TICKETS, TOTAL COST. Rows include FRIDAY LUNCH, SATURDAY LUNCH, FRIDAY JOINT BANQUET, and a TOTAL row.