American Legion Auxiliary of South Dakota
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National News

Highlights from National Director Ben Henricks

Membership eligibility announcement generates exceptional engagement: The new eligibility language drove more than 9,600 clicks through September's ALA eNews, nearly 17,000 views of the related blog post, and significant social media activity. The response demonstrates tremendous interest in the opportunity to welcome additional family members into the Auxiliary.

Membership renewal and ALAMIS improvements continue: The first 2027 mailed renewal notices went out Sept. 15, and staff continued addressing issues and improving the upgraded ALAMIS system. Two new units were also chartered during the reporting period.

Development advances member benefits and veteran support: A new partnership with Consumer Cellular expands member benefits while creating an additional source of non-dues revenue. The updated Veteran Projects Fund Grant Guide is also complete, and preparations are underway for Veterans Day of Giving.

National C&B updated: The Fall 2026 edition of the National Constitution & Bylaws is now available online, incorporating amendments from the 2025 National Convention, 2026 mid-year NEC meeting, and 2026 National Convention.

For the full report from Ben, please go to the State website at https://sdlegionaux.org/national-news

Department News

With the final Fall District Meeting in the books, President Patrice is looking to the Christmas Gift Shops and Mission Training. Are you planning on going to assist the Christmas Gift shop at Fort Meade?If so, please contact Joanann Georinger at (605) 717-6900. Are going going to Mission Training in Omaha on November 14? Be sure to register and get your hotel room.

Included with this newsletter you will find information about a new opportunity to recognize people in our communities. Check out the Hero Spotlight. Look around your communities and submit a hero.

Did you know that there is a Veterans Day of Giving? This year if you donate to the ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund every dollar will be matched (up to $3,000) to the ALA Foundation Board of Directors. The Veteran Projects Fund helps eligible ALA entities address newly identified needs of veterans in communities across the country.

Does your Unit use ALA MIS? ALA MIS stands for American Legion Auxiliary Member Information System. Units can use this system to run member reports, update member information, and/or pay for Unit memberships, depending on user level.If you do use it, there is a weekly ALA MIS Office Hours zoom meeting every Tuesday at 12:00pm MT where you can ask question hear tips on using ALAMIS.

The updated 2026 Department Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Policies have been uploaded to the website. Please be sure to check them out. Additionally, with the new eligibility, the Unit Constitution and Bylaws template is also available online. Please be sure up update your Unit governing documents. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair, Deb Metzger.





Unit	District Dues	Paid?
Bell Fourche	$2.10	
Bison	$10.85	
Box Elder	$14.70	
Buffalo	$14.70	Paid
Bullhead	$0.70	
Dupree	$9.10	
Eagle Butte	$25.20	
Faith	$7.00	
Isabel	$24.85	Paid
Lead	$8.75	
Lemmon	$20.30	
Little Eagle		
McIntosh	$15.05	
McLaughlin	$1.40	
Piedmont	$43.40	
Rock Creek	$4.55	
Spearfish	$26.95	Paid
Sturgis	$19.25	Paid
Timber Lake	$15.75	Paid

District News

Veteran's Day is just around the corner. Are you assisting a school with a Veteran's Day program? Are you doing a something special for the veterans in your community? If you have something planned, please be sure to report it in Community Service!

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has a new program called Operation Outdoors.This is a program to help connect veterans with outdoor experiences in South Dakota state parks. I have attached a flyer regarding the program to this newsletter.

Lin Poppy, Deputy Representative at Forde Meade VA, has retired her position. I would like to thank her for her many years of hard work. Andrea Surwill of Sturgis Unit 33 has volunteered to step in as Deputy Representative.Lets give her a warm welcome!

With the change of gender neutral wording for eligibility for membership, there have been some other changes to awards and programs. One such instance is Little Miss Poppy has been changed to National Poppy Ambassador. I may be a bit biased, but I think the picture National used for the announcement is pretty great. For those of you who don't know, that's my son Charlie. If you don't currently patriciate in this program, I encourage you to do so.

The instruction video on how to use the Smile Program will be added to the home page of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. The video has been sent to our webhosting company and should be available to watch by the end of the week.

Along with this month's Progress Report, you will also see the PUFL credits have been issued. If you have any questions about the PUFL credits, please don't hesitate to reach out to Department Secretary Amy Howard.

