District 4 November, 2025 Newsletter

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SD ALA website: www.sdlegionaux.org

November Calendar

Veterans Day
November 11th

Ft. Meade Gift Shop
November 15-17th

American Education Week November 17-21

Thanksgiving
November 26th

Other District Officers:
Jeannine Jilek,
1st Vice/treasurer
605 228-4876

Jan Seibel,
2nd Vice President
605 448-3002

THANK YOU to the members representing 4 units who attended the District 4 meeting in Leola on the 24th. Also, Thank You to Department President Patrice Sorenson and all of the Department Chairs and Officers who attended and provided valuable information. This newsletter includes some of the information presented at the meeting.

- **Veterans Day:** Previously known as **Armistice Day,** this important holiday began on November 11, 1919, proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson to mark the first anniversary of the end of World War I (which officially ceased hostilities at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918). As ALA members, let us promote our mission which *honors the sacrifice of those who serve by uniting to make a meaningful impact for veterans, military and their families and communities*.

- **Unit Mailings:** We are aware of the delay in receiving the fall Department mailings which were sent to the printer in mid-September. We are hopeful that unit presidents will receive them soon. In the meantime, most forms are available on the state website or you can contact me and I can print them and mail them to you. The obligations form should receive your prompt attention once received. This form can be sent in more than once throughout the year with your donations, but mandatory obligations should be paid now based on prior year membership.

- **E-mail vs. USPS mail:** With the high cost and delays of postal mailings, the Department is researching options for distributing information. We are asking **all units** to complete the survey being sent with this newsletter letting us know the best way for receiving information. This is a survey ONLY. From the results, we will determine best practices for disseminating future information.

- **Membership dues:** Hopefully your unit is well on the way to renewing all of your previous memberships. Make sure to send any dues collected to the state office by the 15th of each month or report them on the ALAMIS system so that they are included in that month's progress reports. ***CONGRATULATIONS COLUMBIA & ORIENT UNITS ON ALREADY RENEWING 100% OF YOUR MEMBERS!***



- **Operation Greenlight:** The National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers invite you to join Operation Green Light by displaying a green light from November 4-11th. "Green is the color of hope, renewal and well-being. The simple action of changing a porch light to green or displaying a different green light is intended to spark a national recognition of veterans and let them know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

- **National Education Week**: National Education Week is November 16-20 this year. ALA units are well known for assisting and ensuring that students and teachers have the supplies necessary to make learning successful. Any donations are appreciated, but this is an ideal opportunity for units to participate in the Give 10 to Education program. In celebration of 20 years of this program, the national president has asked units to consider Giving 20 this year. Give 20 to Education means members donate sets of 20 items. (20 notebooks, 20 boxes of tissues, etc.) Remember to report your donations to Education Chair Jan Seibel. Reach out to her with any questions you have regarding the ALA education programs: seibelj@venturecomm.net or find information under the programs tab of the SDALA website.

- **Hometown Heroes:** Department First VP Rose Kraft is encouraging units to recognize Hometown Heroes from their communities and areas. More information is included on a separate attachment with this newsletter.

- **Amazon Smiles:** You can now earn funds for the American Legion Auxiliary when you shop on Amazon. President Patrice is working on a "how to" video which will be posted on the Department website. You will have the choice of earning funds for the SD Department, SD Girls State or your unit. (An account will need to be set up for your unit before you can select it. Accounts for the Department and Girls State have already been established.)

- The national ALA joins forces with Wreaths Across America (WAA) to build a stronger awareness of the mission of WAA which is to **Remember** the fallen, **Honor** those who serve, and **Teach** the next generation the value of freedom. The 2026 Wreaths Across America Day is December 19th. On that day, more than 2 million wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves across local, national, and military cemeteries, as well as veterans' memorials and historic sites. SD Auxiliary and Legion members and units are encouraged to sponsor wreaths for SD National Cemeteries and to assist in placing wreaths. The easiest way to sponsor wreaths is on-line at **https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org**. Click on the sponsor wreaths tab and follow the steps to choose the number of wreaths you want to sponsor and the location you would like them placed. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you need the mail in order form.



Wishing you and your family a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!