

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

VFW AUXILIARY

CONVENTION REPORT BOOK

JUNE 19-22, 2025

PIERRE, SD

PRESIDENT COLLEEN MILLER FOLAND



DEPARTMENT OF S.D. VFW AUXILIARY
COLLEEN MILLER FOLAND
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
UNITED IN SERVICE FOR VETERANS
YEAR END REPORT 2024-2025

1. June 8, 2024, Installed as Department President
2. July 2024, I Participated in the Woonsocket 4th of July Parade
3. July 14, 2024, I Assisted the Mitchell VFW AND Auxiliary with serving breakfast to a National Guard Unit.
4. July 20, 2024, I Participated in the Mitchell Rodeo Parade.
5. July 26-31, 2024, I Attended the National VFW Auxiliary Convention in Louisville, KY as a delegate.
6. August 10, 2024, I Participated in Scotland Scotty Days Parade with the Scotland VFW Auxiliary.
7. August 13-15, 2024, National VFW Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant official visit to Pierre S.D. Greeted President Brenda with a flag Corp at the State Capital followed by a tour of Capital and local area around it. Visited the FARR House, Hosted a barbeque dinner at the Pierre American Legion for VFW Post and Auxiliary members from across the state as well as local veterans' groups in Pierre. They had several presentations by various groups serving veterans and families as well as great food and fellowship.
8. August 21-25, 2024, I Assisted the Mitchell VFW Post/Auxiliary with Corn Palace Bingo and Food Booth Fundraiser.
9. September 6 & 7, 2024, National VFW Auxiliary Café Event at the National Home in Lansing, Michigan. I led the S.D. delegation in the parade around the grounds and participated in the program.
10. September 15, 2024, Department Representative at District 10 meeting, Veterans Park, Sturgis S.D.
11. September 19, 2024, Official visit Hot Springs, VA and State Veterans Home, Hot Springs, S.D.
12. September 26-29, 2024, Fall Conference VFW/Auxiliary, Chamberlain, S.D.
13. October 6, 2024, Department Representative District 1 meeting, Elk Point, S.D.
14. October 10, 2024, Official visit to Ft. Meade VA Hospital, Sturgis, S.D.
15. October 10, 2024, Attended the Rapid City Auxiliary meeting and did the District 10 inspection for Kay.
16. October 13, 2024, District 7 meeting, Tyndall, S.D. I as Sr. Vice President conducted the meeting as Pro tem for Jan Ende's, District 7 President.
17. October 18 & 19, 2024, Attended Big 10 Meeting in Indianapolis Indiana, with Karen Sharp.
18. November 27, 2024, assisted with decorating the veterans tree at the State Capital.
19. December 27, 2024, Official visit Sioux Falls VA Hospital.
20. January 11, 12, & 13, 2025. Legislative Conference, Pierre S.D.
21. January 24, 2025, Participated in Shoot for the Cure Benefit, Plankinton, S.D.
22. February 1-6, 2025, National Midwinter in Cancun, Mexico.
23. February 22, 2025, Attended and Testified at National Hearing, Rapid City, S.D.
24. March 29, 2025, Stand Up For Women Veterans Booth, Sioux Falls, S.D. with Kim Vennard.
25. April 6, 2025, District 7 meeting, Scotland S.D. I conducted the meeting as Sr. Vice President Pro Tem for Jan Ende's, District 7, President.
26. April 13, 2025, Department Representative at District 6 meeting, Redfield S.D.
27. April 26, 2025, Participated in a Salad Luncheon joint fundraiser for Mitchell VFW Auxiliary and Ladies of the Moose. The recipient was Helping With Horsepower who assists veterans with equine therapy.
28. May 26, 2025, Lay a wreath with Department Commander Glynis Collier at the National Cemetery, Sturgis, S.D.
29. May 28, 2025, I attended a luncheon at the Sioux Falls VA CLC and assisted veterans.
30. May 30, 2025, I attended a Ribbon cutting and open house at the Sioux Falls VA Hospice House.
31. June 17, 2025, I Donated baby items and assisted with a baby shower at the Sioux Falls, VA.

32. I visited 15 Auxiliaries across the state as well as had many phone conversations with auxiliary members during the year.
33. I participated in several community events and worked in primary and general elections.
34. The year was filled with some heavy duty decisions that I as President had to deal with concerning National Bylaws Infractions. I learned the bylaws well and made the best decisions I could in the cases. I as President had to follow all applicable bylaws or break the bylaws personally for failure to follow them.
35. I thank all of the S.D. VFW Auxiliary members for their unwavering support for veterans, families and communities this past year.

Colleen Miller Foland
Department President

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S INVENTORY
2024-2025

- 3 – White Folding Tables 2ft x 4ft (for Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, and Chaplin positions)
- 1 – White Folding Table 3ft x 3ft
- 1 – Blue Folding Table 2ft x 4ft

Plastic Milk Crate #1 – 4 Small Flag Bases (for color bearer flags)

Plastic Milk Crate #2 – 3 Large Flag Bases (bottom of bases labeled for American Flag, VFW Auxiliary Banner, and Patriotic Instructor Flag). NOTE: Need new pole for Patriotic Instructor Flag (CoA approval) – make sure to bring base and eagle to ensure new pole fits appropriately!

1 – 6 Foot Blue Carrying Bag that includes:

- 1 – American Flag on pole with Eagle
- 1 – VFW Auxiliary Banner on pole with topper
- 1 – Patriotic Instructor Flag (3ft x 5ft) with pole (to be replaced) with Eagle
- 5 – Color Bearer Flags (2ft x 3ft) with poles and toppers

1 – Large Blue Fold-Over Carrying Case that includes:

- 1 – Department Auxiliary Charter (CoA approval to purchase glass to protect Charter)
- 1 – Silver Tripod table stand for Charter
- 1 – In Memoriam Banner Charter Drape
- 1 – Plain Black Charter Drape
- 2 – Official Charter Drapes
- 1 – Black Bible in Blue Case
- 2 – Blue Alter clothes with gold fringe in Blue Case
- 1 – White Bible in Maroon Case
- 1 – White and purple Memorial Alter cloth in Maroon Case
- 1 – Personal Bible
- 1 – Loose American Flag 2ft x 3ft
- 1 – Loose POW/MIA Flag
- 1 – White Cloth 2ft x 2ft
- 1 – Swivel Rod 21in x 38in
- 1 – Small flag stick (no flag attached – CoA approval to dispose)
- 1 – Wooden Gavel
- 1 – Lucite Gavel

1 – Large Blue Tote that includes:

- 2 – Department President Car Magnets
- 12 – Department Chair covers: 3 blank, 9 labeled (President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Conductress, Chaplin, and Guard)
- 7 – Page ID Badges in small brown box used at Convention
- 3 – Off-White Table Skirts
- 2 – White Table Cloths 34in x 34in x 28.5in
- 1 – Table cloth with Auxiliary Emblem 5ft x 12ft

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S INVENTORY (Continued)
2024-2025

1 – Large Blue Tote that includes (continued):

- 1 – White and purple Memorial Alter cloth
- 1 – Green wreath for VFW Joint Memorial Service in small cardboard box (yellow flower to be added at a later date specifically for this service - different than the one used for Auxiliary Only Memorial service)
- 1 – White whicker basket for Auxiliary Member Only Memorial Service
- Small cardboard box that contains the following flowers for the Auxiliary Only Memorial Service:
 - 6 – Red Flowers
 - 7 – White Flowers
 - 1 – Yellow Flower

Items disposed of in the proper manner between President Pam Vissia and President Colleen Miller Foland due to items being in a state where they could no longer be used:

1 – 5ft x 1ft x 6in Black Hard Case used to store flags of Auxiliaries that have closed and includes:

- 6 – silk American flags on poles (printed stars)
- 1 – cloth American flag on pole (stars embroidered – not printed)
- 3 – Brown leather flag harnesses

YEAR END DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

I attended the Department Convention in Sturgis and started out the year being installed as Senior Vice President.

- I, along with Nancy Worth, at the request of Department President Colleen Foland, began mentoring the Custer Auxiliary in July and continued to do so every month except December. This auxiliary has made excellent progress in going from what should have been a suspension to fully functional and thriving. I was honored to be the installing officer for them in May.
- I served as Department Hospital Chairman
- I served as the VAVS Representative for both the Hot Springs Veterans Administration and the MJF State Veterans Home.
- I served on the South Dakota Veterans' Cemetery Support Council for the Black Hills National Cemetery
- I accompanied Department President, Colleen Foland on her hospital visits to the Hot Springs VA DOM and CLC, the MJF State Veterans Home, the Rapid City Community Based Outreach Center and the Fort Meade VA Hospital.
- I accompanied President Colleen to the Rapid City official visit.
- I traveled to Scotland to conduct the District 7 official visit.
- I attended the Black Hills National Cemetery Memorial Day service and took photos for President Colleen and Commander Glynis Collier.
- I traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to attend Senior Vice President training, accompanied by Department Secretary, Amanda Schwarz.
- I attended the Legislative Conference in Fort Pierre and will attend the Department Convention in Pierre in June.

It has been a tough year for our department but I am proud of what we accomplished together and my wish is for a brighter next year. Thank you to every Auxiliary and Auxiliary member who worked hard to make this year a success.

Sincerely,

Sue Jones, Department of South Dakota Senior Vice President 2024-2025

KAREN SHARP
Jr. Vice President
Chief of Staff
Extension and Revitalization Program

YEAR END REPORT 2024 –2025

I was elected at Department Convention in June 2024 and was appointed Chief of Staff and to the Extension and Revitalization Program by President Colleen Foland.

I attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, KY, in July 2024.

September was Fall Council in Oacoma when I assisted the President as Chief of Staff and gave a school of instruction as part of the Extension and Revitalization Program.

Big Ten was in Indianapolis, IN, in October which I attended with President Foland.
I was the official visitor to District 4 meeting in Watertown, SD.

I attended Veterans Day programs in November.

January was the Legislative Conference in Pierre, SD.

In February 2025, I attended the National Midwinter Conference in Cancun.

I was the official visitor for District 10 in Spearfish, SD, in April.

I attended the VFW National Home and Jr. Vice training at the National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI, May 2025.

The last month has been spent finishing planning for the 2025 SD Department Convention.

I submitted the required promotions to Department members and the National Chief of Staff Betty Arnold wherein I gave some instruction on procedures.

I assisted President Foland with her requests, visiting and helping Auxiliaries with their needs, and helping District Presidents and members with any questions or requests.

I thank the members and President Foland for giving me this opportunity and many memories.

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CHAPLAIN
YEAR END REPORT 2024-2025

I have sent out 50 cards (sympathy, get well and birthday) for the year 2024-2025. I also gave out 41 card packets to our Auxiliaries and District Chaplains.

Each packet included get well, sympathy and birthday card.

Margaret Greenfield

Dept of SD Auxiliary Chaplain
20539 401st Ave

Huron, SD 57350
(605)350-5254

margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Conductor Toni Huber
Annual Report 2024-2025

*Thank
you!*

for allowing me to be your SD Auxiliary Department Conductor. The year has been enjoyable and filled with learning opportunities. I believe the SD Dept. Officers are some of the top ones in the Nation and strive to do what is best for every district, auxiliary, and individual member. In my opinion the teamwork when conducting conferences or the State Convention is key in hosting a successful event. As Conductor I found assisting President Colleen Miller Foland and other officers with various situations and needs, the setting up and taking down at the different events, and interacting with so many people from various auxiliaries as I carried out my position as truly enjoyable duties. Furthermore, my responsibility to ensure the US Flag and Banner at all times received the highest respect, due their symbolism of Americanism, was a task I undertook with dedication and pride.

At the Fall Conference meeting I brought to the organization's attention the need to replace two of the US Flags, their poles, and the need for two toppers -an eagle and a spear. I made a motion to have them replaced and the motion passed. These new items are making their grand appearance at the State Convention.

In the Fall I traveled to Huron as the representative for the Department visitation for the District 6 meeting. I thoroughly enjoyed District 6 and the visit I had with members from various auxiliaries. The group was upbeat and filled with such positive ideas to ensure veterans and their families receive everything possible the group can provide to them. I encourage Districts and Auxiliaries to seek each other out for support and ideas. In the world of technology being connected is oh-so- easy to do. One thing that I would suggest is that the SD Auxiliary website include phone numbers and emails of SD members to increase the ease of contacting each other.

Furthermore, throughout the year I interacted with other officers and felt everyone's goal was basically the same: to do our utmost in continuing to support and encourage the South Dakota members to participate in the various programs; plus, promoting members to be the Best American he/she could possibly be. What a tremendous goal! And, of course, I believe Department Officers are striving to ensure this happens in South Dakota!

As I reflect back, I have had a good year and I will take what I have gained and proceed forward with another avenue in the VFW Auxiliary.

Best Wishes for an Outstanding State Convention!

Toni Huber

SD Dept. Conductor 2024-2025

DEPARTMENT GUARD YEAR END

I would like to thank President Colleen for entrusting me with this position mid-year when the position became vacant. While I have not had duties to attend to up to this point, I would like to remind everyone that you should keep your Membership Card with you at all times. There are many posts across the nation that require validation of membership upon entry. I encourage you to visit and support our Posts across the country while on vacation.

Remind your Auxiliary Guards to do their due diligence in securing the door during meetings and not allowing people to just enter at will. There should be no one entering the meeting during opening ceremonies.

If you have questions, you can refer to the Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation Manual (found on Malta) or the Podium Book. Below is an excerpt from Building on the Foundation.

Guard All Levels

(Refer to Article VIII, Sec 818)

- Always wear a welcoming smile, greet with enthusiasm and assist with any directions or questions.
- The Guard is the first member members and guests see when entering the room. Make a great first impression.
- Take your place at the door of the room in which the meeting is held.
- Admit only those who are entitled to attend.
- Do not leave your position at the door while the meeting is in session unless relieved by someone appointed
by the Presiding Officer to fill the station.
- Announce to the President any guest wishing to enter the meeting.
- May admit members between each individual Officer election. Familiarize yourself with Booklet of Instructions Election Procedure.

Kim Vennard, Department Guard

SD VFWA

DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S
YEAREND REPORT 2024-2025

I was elected and installed as the SD Department Treasurer at the SD Department Convention held at Spearfish, SD in June, 2024. Immediately after the Convention I attended the first Council of Administration meeting for the year 2024-2025.

In September and October respectively, I attended the Fall Council of Administration meeting at Oacoma, SD and the District #6 Fall Meeting.

I attended the February, 2025, Spring Council of Administration meeting held in Pierre, SD in conjunction with the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers of the Year awards.

In April, I attended the Proposed Budget meeting for the year 2025-2026 held in Redfield, SD. Thanks to Colleen Miller Foland, Budget Chairman, and the Budget Committee, the Proposed Budget was balanced and will be presented at the Department Convention to be held in Pierre, SD in June.

We also held District #6 Spring Meeting in Redfield, SD in April.

I have corresponded with Auxiliary members, Treasurers and Presidents, District President's, Department Chairmen, National Headquarters, and line officers as needed to answer their questions and help in any way that I could.

I have taken care of the correspondences, taxes, IRS forms, transmitted all dues sent through the state of SD and directed all monies to National Headquarters, sent monies to the VAVS Reps for transmitted vouchers as they spent funds on the residents in the VA facilities, and paid all appropriate invoices as they came due.

It is a large amount of scanning and am still in the process to scan all membership applications into a digital system. Once we have them scanned and backed-up we can eliminate many of the file cabinets and binders and have an easy access to all membership applications.

It has been a pleasure to work with all Department Officers, Auxiliaries, and Treasurers this past year, and look forward to working with each of you in the coming year. I Thank each of you for the work you have done and continue to do for your auxiliaries, our Veterans and their families!

SD VFWA DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S INVENTORY

1 HP Laptop	1 Dell Desktop Computer (used for history information)
1 HP Printer, Copier, Scan	1 Canon portable printer
1 Vankyo Projector	1 10 drawer file cabinet
1 4 drawer letter size file cabinet	2 3 drawer files
Copies of all forms pertinent to this office	

1 suitcase, checks, envelopes, postage stamps, miscellaneous supplies, binders, and all documents required by National that Department keeps on file.

Loyally,

Nancy Chester, SD VFWA Department Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
SECRETARY YEAR END REPORT 2024-2025

First, I would like to thank President Colleen Miller Foland for having the confidence in me to appoint me as her Secretary for the 2024-2025 year. In all honesty, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. This position has been a lot more work than I had anticipated and has given me the biggest learning curve I have had in a long time. I appreciate all the people that reached out to me and told me that if I needed any help that they would be there for me. It means more to me than you'll ever know. I haven't had to reach out to too many people yet, but I'm sure I will!

For the current year, I attended Fall Council in Oacoma, Legislative Session in Pierre, and I will be at State Convention in Pierre. Being the Secretary of these meetings has given me a unique perspective and I have truly enjoyed every minute of it! There have been a few bumps throughout the year, but they have helped make me stronger.

Like I said, this year has been a learning experience. This year, the Secretaries were invited to attend the Senior Vice training in Kansas City in March. During that training, I found out from National there are multiple resources to help Secretaries with their duties, which are available in MALTA and I have included these references in this report. Please share this information with your Secretaries! There is a lot more to this position than meets the eye!

PODIUM EDITION BYLAWS AND RITUAL:

BYLAWS:

Section 812 – Secretary, Duties (All Levels)

Section 812A – Auxiliary Secretary

BOOKLET OF INSTRUCTION:

Secretary Minutes

Record Retention Guide

BUILDING ON THE VFW AUXILIARY FOUNDATION:

Guidebook 1 – Officer's Duties

Guidebook 1 – Resources

Thank you again President Colleen for your trust and all other Auxiliary members for your support!

Respectfully,

Amanda M Schwarz, Dept of SD Secretary

Dept of South Dakota Secretary Inventory:

- Travel bag with wheels
- HP laptop w/ power cord
- external hard drive
- HP 148fdw printer w/ power cord and USB connector
- Snowball Ice Blue Microphones brand w/ USB retractable cable adaptor kit
- cream-colored extension cord
- 3 unopened reams and 1 open reams copy paper
- reusable Walmart bag
- 1 open package and 1 unopened package of Avery 18160 address labels
- 1 open package Avery 5160 address labels
- 7 large mailing envelopes
- 10 miscellaneous blank VFW Auxiliary cards
- CD 2020 Podium Edition National Bylaws
- CD 2019 National Convention Proceedings
- VFW Microfiber Cleaning Cloth
- 10 things that look like collapsable plastic cups (I have no idea what they actually are)
- Binder that includes: 1 full book of stamps, 1 book of stamps w/ 2 stamps used, and information for the 2023-2024 year.
- mini stapler, staples, and staple remover
- 3"x3" Sticky Notes and 1-7/8" x 1-7/8" Sticky Notes
- highlighters

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Americanism
Annual Report 2024-2025

Hard to believe twelve months have gone by so quickly for my year as the Americanism Chair. I appreciate the 32 reports I received being sent in on a timely manner and found the reports to be interesting to read. My hope is that I did provide a resource for auxiliaries to use as you went from month to month on your Americanism journey. Personally, I found the SD VFW Auxiliary website a valuable tool that provided access to the monthly bulletin for any auxiliary member that used the website. Thus, I encourage all auxiliaries to seek out using the website more for your Americanism Program Guide as July begins.

This year I am pleased to announce that 10,005 United States flags were distributed by 22 auxiliaries. Way to go! Furthermore, I must praise two auxiliaries that reached the highest goals for the state of SD by distributing 3000 United States flags each, thus totally 6000 flags. Amazing to have a tie and with such high numbers of flags. I challenge all auxiliaries to strive to increase your flag distributions next year.

Hats off to the Auxiliaries that displayed such a variety of displays of American Pride. The reports were filled with 54 different actions various auxiliaries used to show their pride and increase others patriotic knowledge. Cheers to every auxiliary for increasing patriotism in your community. Participating in parades and distributing flags was a favorite for many of you and is truly a positive way to promote patriotism. Also, visiting schools to explain flag etiquette, having presentations in which you showed students how to correctly fold a flag and teaching the meaning of the folds ensures the youth are taught the value of this American symbol.

Additionally, thinking out of the box to promote Americanism ranged from filling yards with flags, celebrating Loyalty Day by distributing sweet treats throughout the community, on election day providing Youth Voting, decorating tables for various groups for patriotic holidays, creating bulletin boards honoring military servicemembers and veterans, plus several set up one or more POW/MIA-Missing Man tables in the communities, and there were even more. The SD Department is proud of the auxiliaries that illustrated such dedication in displaying Americanism.

Thank you for doing your part in spreading patriotism. Without a doubt, what you do positively impacts others. Set your goals higher for next year and do more to promote Americanism!



SD Department VFW Auxiliary

Americanism Chair 2024-2025

Toni Huber

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota

Auxiliary Outreach

It has been a pleasure to serve as the 2024-2025 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman. I did find that there is still quite a bit of confusion as to what qualifies under this program. Since I will be serving in that capacity again in 2025-2026, I will do my best to better explain the program to Auxiliary leaders and members.

Here are the highlights of the Auxiliary Outreach accomplished i:n 2024-2025

All 35 South Dakota Auxiliaries reported

25 Auxiliaries participated in this program (remember, Auxiliaries are not required to work on ALL National Programs)

Auxiliaries partnered with a total of 106 organizations other than VFW & Auxiliary

Volunteer hours totaled 7,396

Nancy Worth

PO Box 47

Piedmont, SD 57769-0047

Nworth1971@gmail.com



BUDDY POPPY ANNUAL REPORT

Three articles for Buddy Poppy and a joint article for Buddy Poppy/National Home were posted. The joint article was on the awards for the National Office. The award forms were also posted with the article to make it easier for everyone to obtain the form without having to login to Malta; the article noted that the

forms were also posted there.

For our School of Instruction at Fall Council 2024, I had requested each auxiliary to bring at least one example of how Buddy Poppies were used on or for something. Quite a few items were displayed on my table at Fall Council.

One item that was brought by the Lemmon Auxiliary was really unique. It was a Buddy Poppy mascot table decoration made from a vintage teacup and saucer and named Buddy. That item was put into an article that was later posted.

The third article promoted various ways to distribute Buddy Poppies.



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

VFW NATIONAL HOME ANNUAL REPORT

Three articles for the VFW National Home and a joint article for Buddy Poppy/National Home were posted. The joint article was on the awards for the National Office. The award forms were also posted with the article to make it easier for everyone to obtain the form without having to login to Malta; the article noted that the forms were also posted there.

In July I posted that the Department would be having a jingle contest for the National Home's 100th birthday. The winner would be announced at our Legislative Conference in January and would be awarded a \$20 prize.

At the School of Instruction at Fall Council 2024, the jingle contest was promoted at my table with a poster and handouts for each auxiliary that stopped at the table. The winner was the Charles E. Thorne Post 2038; they received their prize during the Legislative Conference for an excellent song. The words were written for the tune "Happy Days are Here Again" by Deb Fahey. She and several members of the auxiliary then recorded themselves singing the song, which was a hit with those in attendance. An article was posted announcing the winner, and the lyrics were also posted.

The Centennial Garden information was written about and posted along with the Flyer, the order form, and the clip art. That same article also promoted the regular National Home Brick Campaign.

It was also suggested to host some sort of local celebration for their auxiliary and/or their VFW post for the 100th birthday of the National Home.

Penny Galinat
2024-2025 Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman
1114 N. Hwy. 14 #3
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-9586 – plgalinat@yahoo.com

"Through a Child's Eyes"

There's Gnome one like our Veterans for Protection, Security and Peace on Earth!

The theme of Christmas at the Capitol 2024 was "Through a Child's Eyes". Our SD VFW Auxiliary template was a Gnome with a sign in one hand & holding a flag & dog tags in the other. Each auxiliary could choose information to put on their ornaments, such as: Veterans' Names, Military Branch, Photo – They could put as much information as they wished, and any size type, but it had to fit in the template. Each Auxiliary was limited to 20 ornaments.



24 Auxiliaries participated, sending in 459 total ornaments, plus 2 POW/MIA ornaments were added:

Aberdeen-8, Beresford-20, Brandon-20, Brookings-20, Canton-20, Custer-21, District 6 Auxiliaries-96 (Huron, Gettysburg, Miller, Redfield, Turton), Lemmon-20, Mitchell-19, Parkston-20, Pierre-20, Plankinton-20, Rapid City-15, Scotland-20, Sioux Falls-20, Sturgis-20, Tyndall-20, Webster-20, Winner-20, Yankton-20.

The SD Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary tree, with its white lights, was visible from the main floor. The tree topper (right) was a gnome

with a dog tag and flag. Two notebooks could be found beneath the tree, containing lists of veterans' names, not just the names found on the ornaments. Near the tree, located on the third floor, were two benches where visitors could view the tree, look at the lists of names, and just enjoy the serenity of the season, and the smells of the nearly 100 trees in the capital building.

Countless hours and some expense goes into this cherished task. Thank you to all who create ornaments, compose lists, travel to Pierre to help decorate, and to those who dismantle the tree and sort the ornaments for returning to their respective auxiliaries. Auxiliary members, thank you, for your remarkable response to this project which **acknowledges our veterans and is recognized and viewed by thousands each year!**

Sincere Gratitude to all Veterans and their Families for your service and sacrifices!

Deb Fahey 2024 Capitol Christmas Tree Chairperson

Reminders for Our Next Capital Christmas Tree: Post name, not just post number, on back of each ornament. Viewers don't know your post #. Cut ornament out entirely. Send ornaments to arrive by the due date. Do not send in more ornaments than instructed. Can send in fewer, but no more, please. Send in list of all Veterans' Names that you would like listed in the Books, with an asterisk next to the names of veterans on ornaments. The list can be mailed with the ornaments or emailed to me. The notebooks are located under the tree and many people sit on the benches near the tree to look at the lists of veterans' names. Each auxiliary has its own list of names in the notebook.

Day County Coyote Hunt December 2024

Congratulations to Patti Mitchell for another successful Coyote Hunt to raise money for the Veterans of South Dakota. This year there were 24 teams, 6 women registered, 2 youth under the age of 16. 73 coyotes, 2 fox and 3 porcupines were brought in.

A HUGE thank you to all the teams that brought in Diapers and wipes to support our Veteran Families in the State.

Congratulations to Dominic Plunkott and Adam Imberi .. the First Place team.

Congratulations to Kenny Reeves who was awarded a Lifetime Membership to the VFW in Spearfish SD.

Thanks to Toni VanCleave for taking photos!!

Day County Coyote Hunt. Military Gun donated by Skip Dolney. Winner was [Bane Mitchell](#)



VFW Auxiliary - Department of South Dakota

Dec 22, 2024 · 🌐



Day County Coyote Hunt FIRST place Winners. 22 Coyotes WoW.



VFW Auxiliary - Department of South Dakota

Dec 22, 2024 · 🌐



Day County Coyote Hunt. Presenting South Dakota Commander Glynis with a special gift. 📎



VFW Auxiliary - Department of South Dakota

Dec 22, 2024 · 🌐



Day County Coyote Hunt presenting Past VFW commander Rick a special gift. 📎



VFW Auxiliary - Department of South Dakota

Dec 22, 2024 · 🌐



YEAR END HOSPITAL REPORT

In my opinion, South Dakota did very well in the Hospital Program this year.

To put this into perspective, during the 2023-2024 year we had 212 Auxiliary members volunteering 1356 hours and sponsored volunteers contributed 5424 hours. Those hours are valued at \$29.45 per hour by the Veterans Administration and were worth \$199,871.00. When you add in the \$8760 the Department spent at the five facilities, plus what the Auxiliaries spent on goods of \$34,822.40 and an additional \$15,286.00 on in-kind donations. So last year we donated a grand total of \$258,739.40.

For 2024-2025 we had 183 Auxiliary member volunteering 17,689 hours. These hours are valued at \$29.45 per hour by the Veterans Administration so that would amount to \$520,941.05. In addition, sponsored volunteers contributed 1452 hours for an additional \$42,761.40. In total South Dakota Auxiliaries contributed \$42,753.14 dollars of cash and goods this past year. This means we provided \$606,455.59 to veterans in South Dakota. In addition, the Department of South Dakota donated \$8760 dollars to the five facilities we sponsor within South Dakota. This is a grand total of \$615,215.59 for the year. This is an increase of \$356,476.19 or 238% more contributions over last year.

Way to go. I know many of these extra hours were members and friends sewing for our veterans. Many hands make light work and many small contributions add up quickly.

Thank you to every Auxiliary and Auxiliary member and friend who took the time and spent their money to make this happen for our veterans.

Sincerely,

Sue Jones, Department of South Dakota Hospital Chairman 2024-2025

Year End Report 2024-2025

Legislative Chairman
Margaret Greenfield
20539 401st Ave
Huron, SD 57350
(605)350-5254

margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com

State: South Dakota

1. Did you promote, participate and/or host or co-host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without your VFW Post.
Yes, I had 20 of 35 Auxiliaries promote.
2. Number of times Auxiliary members contacted their legislators on veteran's issues by any means (example: emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.) **876 contacts to legislators**
3. Number of Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators (example: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greets, etc.) **117 members attended events to interact with legislators**

Membership:

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for working so hard on membership and to President Colleen for appointing both of us as membership co-chairmen.

This past year we held training at the fall council and were very well received and excited to share our ideas.

Leah submitted the General orders and submitted to the National ambassador and received glowing reviews from all her reports she sent in. Leah does an awesome job.

We will continue to strive to reach 100% in membership by the end of June.

It has been a fun year and thank you members for what you do for our organization. Please continue to reach out to your current and new members and include them in all activities.

Thanks for a wonderful year.

Leah Rollag & Pam Vissia

Membership Co Chairmen

Department of South Dakota
VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Chair
2024-2025

Thank you for having me as your Department Scholarship Chairman for a second year. This year went so much smoother. I am sad that I won't be Scholarship Chairman for a third year, but you will be in good hands next year.

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for using ScholarsApp for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships as this was our second year implementing this program. I heard that no paper or electronic applications were sent from Local Levels to District Levels, so that was super amazing! The Local Levels did receive quite a few paper / electronic applications, but it is a learning process for the students as well. Those that did utilize ScholarsApp did a fantastic job navigating and asking questions. There are still a few kinks that need to be worked out on ScholarsApp, but overall, I am so proud with how great everyone worked with the program. Thank you to all the scholarship chairman and judges that participated with these two programs this last year in all capacities. We couldn't have done it without you! And, of course, we couldn't have these programs without the students. There were so many participants; it was hard to keep track of how many total applicants there were overall. They all did such an amazing job!

The Department of South Dakota Continuing Education Scholarship did not receive any applications. Based on the feedback I heard from Auxiliary members, it was due to the change in the age qualification that was changed from 18 to 21 by National Headquarters last year.

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest had no submissions.

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest had no submissions.

A total of 29 Auxiliaries completed the Department year end reports. I'm very impressed that there were only 6 Auxiliaries that didn't complete the report. Thank you for taking the time to complete and return them. I know they aren't our favorite thing to do, but I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the participation and reading about the different ways the programs were promoted.

The Department of South Dakota only had 1 VFW Auxiliaries that submitted the National Scholarship year end award application. Brookings will move on to National Headquarters.

Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication. I know that there are also nonmembers that also helped with these programs. Please let them know that the Department of South Dakota appreciates their participation in and support for the VFW and Auxiliary. The VFW Auxiliary wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of the members and the support of the nonmembers.

Have a great State Convention everyone!

Amanda M Schwarz, Department of SD VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Chair

Web Administrator

It has been an amazing year trying to figure out the web page, update it from the template that was assigned to us. (there are still things that need updating). Please know that I am just a volunteer and have other things going on in my life.

This next year, I will be trying to enter more photos on the web page. IF YOUR AUXILIARY chooses to send me photos, please make sure they are landscape. It is much easier to get them uploaded to post.

PLEASE make sure all your members have access to the Members Only page. Volunteer hours are entered in this area. All auxiliaries should be updating their information at a minimum each month. I am always willing to help you and walk you through the process over the phone, if needed.

Kim Vennard, Web Admin

SD VFWA

EAST RIVER VAVS REP

What an amazing year we had. We have donated supplies for the memory unit, games to rec therapy, personal hygiene products, clothes (our latest purchase being 28 pairs of crocs and 24 pairs of athletic shorts). Please keep in mind, all donations must be new.

Each Wednesday through Sept 11, the VA sponsors an outdoor picnic for the patients. This is an AMAZING event for the Veterans. They so appreciate getting out, being able to talk to someone new and it is such a rewarding experience to volunteer for. If your auxiliary or only a few of you would like to volunteer, please contact me for more details. I know the Second and Third Wednesdays of the month have coverage.

The new Hospice Unit has opened. It is an amazing facility and a great location for our Veterans who are transitioning to their new life. If you are able to devote time, the VA is always encouraging more volunteers to step up for "No One Dies Alone". Let's make sure our Veterans are not alone. If you are interested in the training, please contact me.

Looking for Auxiliaries that would be interested in assisting (either physically or monetarily) with providing some type of Fall Festival/Carnival. I am still working out details, but need to know who would be willing to assist.

Kim Vennard, East River VAVS Rep

SD VFWA

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of South Dakota

Youth Activities

Youth Activities is such a wonderful program. It allows us the opportunity to enlist assistance from our young folks while also helping to instruct them in all we do for Veterans and their families.

Here are our closing statistics for 2024-2025:

- All 35 South Dakota Auxiliaries reported in this program.
- A total of 137 youth groups were worked with during the program year.
- Total number of youth Auxiliaries worked with through the program year was 6,520.
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations awarded – 69.
- 13 Auxiliaries participated in Patriotism through Literacy donating 313 books.

Illustrating America participation:

- Only 15 Auxiliaries promoted the Illustrating America Art Contest. (I know it is difficult to get programs into our schools, but persistence helps.)
- There were a total of 100 entries submitted in the three age groups. Only 3 Auxiliaries hosted awards ceremonies for their participants.
- A total of 11 art entries were forwarded to Department level.
- Total dollar amount of awards presented by Auxiliaries, Districts and Department is \$690.00.

Nancy Worth
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Nworth1971@gmail.com

South Dakota Veterans & Family Support Year End Report 2024-25

Tammy Chase - Chairman

Department: SOUTH DAKOTA Number of Auxiliaries Participating: 30

Thank you to President Colleen for asking me to be your Veterans & Family Support Chairman for this year. Also, thank you to the Auxiliaries that worked to so hard to have a successful program. We have had 30 auxiliaries that were very busy during the year. Enclosed is the report I turned into the Nationals and a list of the projects that were reported on. Hopefully this will help other auxiliaries with ideas of things to do. WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION!

- 1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted, participated, hosted or co-hosted with their VFW Post activities for any VFW Program. (Examples: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance Program (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health awareness.)** 28

- 2. Number of Auxiliaries that provided direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families (Examples: meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)** 30

- 3. Approximate number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted.** 8989

- 4. Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families.** \$69092.47

- 5. Total number of hours volunteered.** 7506 hours

- 6. Did you remote, participate, host or co-host with your Post activities for any VFW Program listed**

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. Disaster Relief | - 3 Auxiliaries |
| b. Military Assistance (MAP) | - 9 Auxiliaries |
| c. National Veterans Service (NVS) | - 7 Auxiliaries |
| d. Unmet Needs | - 25 Auxiliaries |
| e. Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health | - 12 Auxiliaries |

- 7. Did you provide direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families (examples: meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc...)**

28 Auxiliaries

- Meals on Wheels for Veterans & families
- Made personal contact with shut-in's and those in distress
- Talked about Military assistance program at meetings – has some that were counseled individually for assistance
- Provided SFVA information at meeting
- Donated money to injured son of a veteran to help with medical bills
- Loyalty Day Poppy Dive & parade – give away bikes and scooter to the children of all ages.
- Collected and purchased diapers
- Helped get Veteran get to Dr appointment
- Community Veterans supper
- Visit members in nursing homes in different towns
- Visit Veterans & Aux members in hospital
- Donated quilts to vet center at SDSU
- Discussed Suicide Prevention and outlets at meetings
- Provided care packages to Veterans in Nursing Home
- Coffee with Vets – Meet the new Veterans Service Assistant
- Bake sales to raise fund for Veterans projects
- Flag Day program at nursing home
- Veterans Day program at nursing home & assisted living
- Provide veterans in home with certificates and pins and wooden flag stands
- Cards and gifts to auxiliary members in facilities
- Mowed lawn for a Veterans
- Provided care packages to Veterans in Assisted Living
- Holidays for Veterans - gifts to Veterans and families
- Knitt animals for the children at the National home
- Cards sent to Veterans & Auxiliary members (b-day, get well, thinking of you)
- Freedom Festival – awareness and donations for Midwest Honor Flight
- Santa at the post after Parade of lights – provide hot chocolate and cookies
- After Hours – Veterans Serviced at the VFW
- Cards sent to family members
- DAV Poker Run
- Gifts to Veterans for Veterans Day
- Veterans day programs and nursing and assisted living
- Talked about fallen sons and daughters of South Dakota
- Elemenary students wrote notes of thanks and encouragement to the Veterans that came to their program – students personally delivered the notes to the veterans
- Helped clean veterans home
- Visited Veterans widows
- Gave Veterans caregiver a few hours off
- Packages of holiday goodies given to Veterans that live alone
- Monthly treats at VFW meetings
- Auxiliary members attended the National Guard VTT webinar trainings (online)

- Quilts made by quilt group donated to Veterans
- Military appreciation night – served coffee & cookies
- Ad in paper for Veterans & Memorial Day
- Bridge re-naming ceremony
- Vietnam Veterans recognition
- Painted wooden hearts to share with guests about suicide awareness
- Advertised bottoms up in the newspaper – collected \$\$ & diapers
- Door signs for Veterans at nursing home
- Veterans Service and Unmet needs
- Suicide Prevention & Mental Health information was given to Aux and Post
- Stand Downs
- Bottoms up donation box at Post home
- Trays of favors donated each month to Veterans at SFVA
- Donated to homebound Veterans & facilities – quilts, cookies, and robes
- Provided lunch for EMT, Hwy Patrol, local police, fire department safety course
- Provided meals for Thanksgiving to 9 veterans/families
- Provided meal once a month for a veteran that is caring for 3 teenage grandchildren with developmental issues
- Article in local paper about homelessness
- Veterans and family members were given rides to appointments
- Assisting with honor flight
- Donate to Veterans/Military Family in distress
- Veterans picnic in park
- Calling Veterans
- Membership drive with veterans programs available
- Handed out Suicide Prevention fliers & held signs
- Donated flags to EMS, Fire Dept & FFA
- Painted poppy rocks with the scouts. Placed around town
- Plaques to Veterans in homes – had a program about the dress in Iraq and beliefs of the people
- Veterans Suicide Awareness Walk-Run-Bike-Drive
- Donated to VA hospital – trac phone cards
- Nursing home veterans Birthday party – monthly (provided treats)
- Represented Veterans & Families in Lighted Parade
- Donated cookies to veterans in facilities
- Provided donuts and cookies after military programs
- Organize & work at blood drive
- Purchased diapers for 2 families that have deployed family members
- Donate household and clothing items for Ft Meade
- Adopt-A-Vet
- Local scholarship from Auxiliary
- Plants to gold star families
- Angel Tree for gifts for Veterans in need for Christmas
- Visited with Veterans
- Donated lap throws, cath bags, cards cakes bars and cookies

- Donated \$100 to go towards chald to have the schools, cities, hospital and other organizations chalk the town for Suicide Awareness
- Vietnam War Veterans Day "Forever" observance
- Packages to deployed servicemembers
- Donation to veteran & family that lost home in the flood in late 2024
- Place flags out for memorial day weekend
- Pay dues for shut in members
- Socks for Veteran Donation Project
- Presented flag flying certificates
- Cleaned Veterans Homes
- Clothing drive
- Participated in National Guard Youth Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest
- Christmas Cards w/\$2 bill to shut in Veterans and widowed spouses (hand delivered)
- Lap throws for Veterans
- Christmas Cards to shut-ins
- Coyote hunt (work, donations, sell tickets....)
- Visited with Veterans and listened to their stories
- Money to SFVA for bingo
- Doanted to local cemetery to help maintain it
- Delivered Easter cookies to Veterans at home
- Mailed cards to Veterans on Veterans Day
- Worked with local police force to finger-print kindergarden children
- Flags donated to school
- Help/donate to homeless shelter
- Donation to PTSD dog training
- Donation to SFVA
- Donated to National home
- Donated to fire department
- Collected loose change and bills for National Home
- Snow removal
- Monthly meals served to Veterans
- Donation to Salvation Army
- Baked Goods sale - monetary fund to honor flight & aux projects
- Talked to elementary & middle school students about flag education
- Helped remove snow at veterans homes
- Donate to presidents project
- Distributed poppies
- Flowers and food for funerals of veterans and spouses
- Donate to SFVA walker bags, catheter bags
- Donated to local nursing home/assisted living bingo & other games, quarterly
- Feather Party in November with a turkey meal and bingo for community
- Served lunch after parades
- Cards to Veterans for all holidays and occassions
- Meals and baked items to homebound- monthly
- Donated hats, gloves & scarves to elementary school

- Donation to local food pantry
- Wreaths ordered and placed at grave sights for Christmas
- Donated state and American flag to a facilities
- Assembled poppy wreaths for deceased auxiliary members & placed at gravesites
- Honored parents by giving solar patriotic yard stake to display their support of their son/daughter
- Veterans Ball to raise fund for operation bottom cover
- Baby shower to collect diapers (all sizes) & baby wipes
- Donated wreaths for veterans gravesites
- Newsletters for auxiliary & post
- Recognized Star Family – blue star flag
- Auxiliary honored wives and veterans (military spouses day)
- Breakfast for active duty and families
- Holiday party/games/gifts for Veterans and families
- Quilts of valor
- Fruit Baskets for shut in Veterans for Loyalty Day
- Corn Palace Bing
- Picinic in the park
- Memorial Day open house – provided food
- Loyalty Day meal
- Holiday treats for Veterans
- Gift cards for Veterans to local restaurants
- Served root beer floats to Veterans at Ft. Meade
- Christmas for Veterans at 4 facilities
- Collected loose change and bills monthly and sent to National Home
- Stand up for women's veterans
- School hosted special meal for Veterans. Auxiliary made name tags and cookie for each veteran
- Serve food for Veterans Day
- Send cards and care packages to deployed member
- Gave diapers & wipes at Women Veterans Conference
- Distributed poppies at memorial day program
- Made & donated catheter bags
- Helped member with cancer (financially)
- Gift cards for veterans to get must have items
- Vietnam Veterans were sent thank you cards. Posted on social media, called and gave treats
- Helped decorate Capital Christmas Tree with hundreds of Veterans names on it
- State Fair – lined up and gave rides to veterans and families during SD State Fair – 20 years doing this service
- Posed Colors for Quilts of Valor presentation
- Donated money to the gold cart fund for State Fair
- Put Suicide Prevention information around town
- Provided support to family of a POW
- Donation to Veterans Home in Yankton
- POW/MIA table with solemn service

- Had music day/flag day with “old” music and cake for flag day at nursing home for Veterans and residence
- Gifts to veterans in nursing home and assisted living
- Help raise money for the local community transit to drive veterans
- Family Readiness newsletter for 1/147th FA Battalion (4 a year)
- Webinars the NGB – Volunteer Training Team (Auxiliary member is head of the volunteer team). Each webinar is presented 2 times a month.

Youth – Month of the Military Child – State Teen Panel and Guard Teen Panel; My Life in a Box – Being Prepared for Whatever Comes; Suicide Prevention; Recruit, Retain & Recognize;); Developing your Family Program; 12 C’s – Creating a Team with a Positive Attitude; Resilience and You; Development and the Family Program; Substance use 101; Lead with your Strengths;

-

8. Did you participate in the Operation Bottoms Up (donation or collection)?

22 Auxiliaries participated

9. Did you support the Day County Coyote Hunt (

This is a hunt that is open to everyone and we have an auxiliary member that organizes it. She has been doing this for 19 years. All the money raised goes to the local deployed with the National Guard Family Readiness Groups/Units. Some Family Readiness Groups do not have checking accounts so they will get them items that are needed, when needed. They have also started a scholarship program for children of SDNG members, and grandchildren (4 for \$2500) There is an anonymous donation made to pay for these scholarships in the Day County Coyote Hunt name. Judging is done by the DCCH committee.

12 auxiliaries participated

Miles donated – 6052.6

Hours donated – 1250

Money Raised - \$13,005

Stats for this years Coyote Hunt:

24 teams of 2 (48 people)

2 kids ages 9 to 15

6 women total participated

73 Coyotes

Posts/auxiliaries donated cash, time, food, hauled tables, chairs, sandwiches, chips, cookies, gift cards for prizes for the hunters.

10. What did you do for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health?

- Webinar for Suicide Prevention & Mental Health for all NGB and anyone interested in attending

- Made wood hearts to hand out for suicide prevention to get the conversation started.
- Participated in a suicide walk
- Put information about Suicide & Mental Health in newsletters
- Suicide Preventions flyers, ads in local newspaper, meetings, facebook, distributed around towns and businesses
- Stand downs for needy veterans and handed out pamphlets and promoted the 988 phone number
- Helped Veterans with car repairs
- Money donated to SFVA suicide prevention fund
- Donated \$500
- Talked about it at meetings
- Made donation to local suicide prevention/mental health group