

## Hazelton to Host 2023 Convention

Joseph E. Appert American Legion Post #126 of Hazelton, Auxiliary Unit #126 and the ND American Legion, are preparing for the American Legion Department Convention on June 23-25, 2023, in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center.

On Thursday afternoon, June 22, the DEC meeting begins at 4:00 pm. On Friday, registration starts at 1:00 pm and closes at 5 pm. Friday afternoon will be committee meetings with the Joint Opening Session starting at 7:00 pm with remarks from National Chaplain Mark Antal.

Saturday morning, June 24, registration begins at 8:00 am and closes at 3 pm. Committee meetings in the morning with the Legion General Session starting at 1:00 pm. A social at 5:30 pm with the Department Convention Banquet at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker for the banquet is National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus. At 7:30 pm the dance will begin with the ND American Legion State Band. On Sunday, June 25, registration begins at 8:00 am and will close at 9:00 am. A Joint Worship Service will begin at 9:00 am led by National Chaplain Antal followed by the Joint Session. Hope you can make it to the convention.



Glenn Wahus National Vice Commander



Mark Antal National Chaplain

## THE AMERICAN LEGION WASHINGTON CONFERENCE - JOIN THE FIGHT

The Washington Conference took place in Washington D.C. beginning Sunday February 26, 2023, and culminated on Wednesday March 1 with the legislative presentation of The American Legion before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and the Testimony of National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola.

The North Dakota delegation representing The American Legion Department of North Dakota was led by Vernon Laning, District 7 Commander and consisted of...

**Bryce Crosby – Department Sergeant-At-Arms**  
**Clarence Carroll – Department Commander-Elect**  
**Brad Huber – Central Region Vice Commander**  
**Kenny Wiederholt – Past Department Commander**  
**Marlene Boyer – Auxiliary Northwestern Division National Vice President**  
**Rose Laning – Auxiliary Department Chaplain**

The ND delegation arrived on Sunday and settled into our rooms with an opportunity for dinner and a nightcap or two before beginning the busy schedule on Monday. Monday started early with the induction of myself (Clarence Carroll) into the ANAVICUS (Army, Navy and Air Force veterans in Canada and The United States). A special Thank You to Bob Krause for nominating me for membership in this prestigious organization. The rest of the day we divided and conquered with the responsibility of attending assigned meetings centered on the four pillars of The American Legion in preparation for our legislative visits on Tuesday. The evening ended with the entire

delegation sitting down for dinner at Farmers Fishers Bakers Restaurant in Washington, DC. Appropriately, and in the spirit of representing North Dakota, Farmers Fishers Bakers is owned by Farmers Restaurant Group, a collection of restaurants majority owned by more than 50,000 American Family farmers of the North Dakota Farmers Union led by Mark Watne and two lifelong restaurateurs, Mike Vucurevich and Dan Simons. The food was phenomenal, and I highly recommend it the next time you find yourself in Washington DC.

Tuesday began with a cool brisk walk to the train station for a confusing ride into the Capitol area. A special shout out to Bryce Crosby for reconnoitering both the route and the process of getting tickets, without Bryce we would have all been lost. Our first meeting was with Representative Kelly Armstrong in the Rayburn House Office in the morning followed by meetings with Senator John Hoeven in the Russell Senate Office and later Senator Kevin Cramer in the Hart Senate Office in the afternoon. Speaking completely bipartisan; We are extremely fortunate in the state of North Dakota to have such promilitary/veteran representation at the federal level. Without exception we were greeted with respect and given the opportunity to express the legislative priorities of The American Legion. All of our Members of Congress expressed their unwavering support, and continued friendship with The American Legion.

A few notable occurrences: At breakfast in the Rayburn House Cafeteria, we were approached by The 16<sup>th</sup>

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, James Honea, who simply wanted to Thank us for our service. This exchange was especially appreciated by Brad Huber as he shared about his service in the Navy with the most senior enlisted person in the Navy. Also, at the request of Senator Hoeven, we had the opportunity to meet and take a photo with Air Force General Thomas A. Bussiere, Commander Air Force Global Strike Command. This photo was also shared on Senator Hoeven’s social media pages. Also of historical significance, the delegation paused for a photo at The Washington Hilton designated a National Historic Place commemorating the location where President Ronald Reagan was shot on March 30, 1981. After his recovery, President Reagan visited the hotel several times afterwards.

Unanimously, our time spent on Capitol Hill representing the Department of North Dakota was extremely productive. Thank you for your membership and your service to The American Legion! Without you and your support none of this would be possible.

For more information on The American Legion Legislative Priorities please visit [www.legion.org/washingtonconference/legislativepriorities](http://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/legislativepriorities)

For a copy of National Commander Troiola’s Testimony please visit [www.legion.org/publications/226221/national-commander-troiolas-testimony](http://www.legion.org/publications/226221/national-commander-troiolas-testimony)

From the Desk of Clarence L. Carroll III, American Legion Department of North Dakota, Commander-Elect



National Historic Place for President Ronald Reagan



Rayburn House Office – Representative Kelly Armstrong



Hart Senate Office – Senator Kevin Cramer



Russell Senate Office – Senator John Hoeven



# ND State Legion Band

As we head into our 99<sup>th</sup> year, the planning for our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary has started, and our main goal is to attend the National Convention in New Orleans in 2024. Since there is no longer a parade at the National Convention, we will instead be competing in the Senior Band competition – a new experience for us! Because funding is no longer provided for our band through the American Legion Department of North Dakota, we have had to rely on the generosity of the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, Legion Posts that still have gaming funds available and individuals that find what we do to be worthwhile.

For those of you that maybe don't know, the State Legion Band is comprised of 35 members from across the state with three members that continue to come back from

their current homes in Colorado, Texas and South Carolina respectively. These musicians comprise an amazing total of 671 years of service to the band - an average of 19+ years per member and are an incredibly dedicated group of musicians and people. People ask us how much rehearsal time we have, and the answer is one hour a year on Saturday morning of the State Convention. Our band is one of only two state level sponsored American Legion Bands in the country – yours here in North Dakota and the band in South Dakota.

We are asking that if there is anything you can do to help us get to New Orleans, it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to again showing the rest of the American Legion world what we can do. Thanks for your consideration and we hope to see you at the Convention!

## Donations and Memorials Received from – March 2022 - June 2023

William Haug, Grand Forks - Undesignated  
Watford City AmLeg – Undesignated  
Williston AmLeg – programs

Memorial Donations Designated to Legion Programs or Funds in Memory of:

**Raymond Paulson, George Bakke, Jon Hanisch, Colin Moe, Gerald Hinricksen, Curtis Throntveit, Elman Braaten, Donald Nielsen, Barbara Poekes**  
Crosby American Legion Auxiliary – State Band

**Fred Barth, Hebron**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated

**Marjean Boe, Turtle Lake**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated  
Minnie Flynn, Dunseith – Undesignated

**Dennis Dockter, Bismarck**  
Alison Knudsen-Larson-Smith, Mandan – State Band

**Don Eberhardt, Galesburg**  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State

**George Fick, Vergas, MN**  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State

**Christopher Hanson, Fargo**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated

**Helmuth Hilz**  
Steven Hilz, Canyon Lake, CA – Undesignated

**Myron Huettl, Fargo**  
Jane Bittner – Undesignated

**Milt Kane, Valley City**  
M/M Curt Twete, McVile – Undesignated  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State

**Suzanne Kime, Grand Forks**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated  
ND Past Dept Cmdr's Club - Undesignated  
Jeff Hall, Bottineau – Undesignated  
LuAlice Stockert, Mandan, State Band  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State  
M/M Curt Twete, McVile – Jr. Law Cadet

**Craig Kokkeler, Baxter, TN**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated  
Shelley Barth, Fargo – Undesignated  
Marcus Jensen, Bowling Green, OH – Undesignated

**Eddie Kopperud, Denver, CO**  
Suzanne Schultz, Fargo – Undesignated

**Daniel Kouba, Michigan**  
Gwen Sobolik, Park River – Undesignated

**Evan Lips**  
M/M Jeffry Cahill, Bismarck – Baseball

**Duane Lundby, Grenora**  
Marlys Aubol, New Town – Undesignated

**Doris McDonald, Fargo**  
Yvonne Moore, Fargo – Boys State  
E. Kent Shirley, Fargo – Boys State

**William (Salty) Mangnall, Horace**  
M/M Kelly Cooper, Cogswell – Undesignated

**Mitch Olson, Fargo**  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State  
M/M Carroll Quam, Wahpeton – Boys State  
M/M Doug Damman, Fargo – State Band  
Monna Rae Morse, Fargo – State Band  
M/M Steve Blazek, Fargo – State Band

**Myrna Ronholm, Jamestown**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated

**Allen Ruzicka, Lankin**  
M/M Curt Twete, McVile – Boys State

**Floyd Semenko, Williston**  
M/M Carroll Quam, Wahpeton – Boys State  
Jeff Hall, Bottineau – Undesignated  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated  
ND Past Dept Cmdr's Club – Undesignated  
Minnie Flynn, Dunseith – Undesignated

**Theola Stetson**  
LuAlice Stockert, Mandan – State Band

**Vance Stueness, San Tan Valley, AZ**  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State

**Jean Sweeney, Fargo**  
Yvonne Moore, Fargo – State Band

**Albert Tuma, Larimore**  
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated  
M/M Carroll Quam, Wahpeton, Boys State  
Jeff Hall, Bottineau – Undesignated  
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State



Greetings to North Dakota West Region,

I am honored to have this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of all the members of the American Legion Family, Department of North Dakota, West Region. Through your tireless efforts, you have made us the #1 Region AND Districts in the Department. Again, as your West Region Vice Commander, thank you one and all for making the West Region (and me) look good. Now, on to the good stuff.

Through your tireless efforts, you have made a significant impact on the lives of the veterans in our community. The American Legion has been at the forefront of advocating the rights of veterans, providing support to those in need and fostering a sense of community among our veterans.

Your dedication to this mission has not gone unnoticed. Your hard work, compassion, and willingness to go above and beyond expectations have helped us make a significant impact on the lives of our veterans. Your commitment has created a positive and supportive environment, making the American Legion one of the most respected Veterans' organizations.

I am proud to say that our achievements are a result of your hard work and dedication. Your tireless efforts have led to impressive results, from providing essential resources to our veterans to hosting successful fundraising events. Your passion and commitment have made a lasting impact on the lives of the veterans we serve.

Through your efforts, the American Legion in North Dakota has become a beacon of hope for our veterans. You have created a sense of community among our veterans, providing them with the support they need to thrive. Your efforts have shown that when we come together as a community, we can accomplish great things.

So, on behalf of our community, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. You are the reason for our success, and we could not have achieved it without you. Keep up the excellent work, and let's continue to honor and support our veterans together.

Thank you for all that you do.  
**George Petermann**  
West Region Vice Commander



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### AMERICAN LEGION

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## MAMIE HAVELKA

For Commander Elect of the Department of North Dakota

**Legionnaire Havelka's American Legion positions held include:**

- Post 1 Commander Loyd Spetz Post No. 1
- Department Credentials Committee Chair: four years
- Department Judge Advocate: three years
- Department Membership Chair: one year
- Department Executive Committee: four years

Served for 33 years in United States Air Force, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant paralegal in the Judge Advocate General Corps in Pacific Air Command having received the Air Force wide Paralegal of the Year Award.





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## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

RON MATTHEWS- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



Happy Summer to everyone. I know it was a long winter, but I hope everybody made it through.

The new membership year is just around the corner and with the New National Commander will come new membership goals. Now is the time to rally and find the members who have not renewed their membership for the year, or the previous years.

We need to make working on renewals our main priority. If recruiting is about having an organization worth

belonging to, retention is about leadership. All of us come from a world where challenges must be met head on. It is time to roll up our sleeves and put a personal touch on renewals by calling or visiting our members who have not yet renewed. Remember that membership is every person's job! Just because you are a past Commander or past officer you should be making calls to your buddies and getting them to renew.

Boys State, Girls State will be happening in June. If

you haven't found anybody from your area to go, it is not too late for them to get registered. Make sure to make it out to see a Legion baseball game this summer. The Athletic committee will be working on girl's fastpitch softball for the 2024 year.

National Commander Troiola will be celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup> in Park River this year. Come visit with the great people in Park River.

Hope to see everybody at the Convention in Bismarck.

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



### Hypertension: Is it worth filing for?

Since the implementation of PACT Act, one of the most filed for disability claims has been hypertension. Veterans are often shocked when they receive their rating decisions and see a grant with a percentage of only 0%. This brings up the most common questions we, as Veteran Service Officers, have been asked of "Is it worth filing a claim for hypertension" or "why did I file this claim for hypertension when I was only granted 0%?"

Ratings for hypertension are based upon a veteran's diastolic or systolic pressures at the time of the compensation exam. If a veteran does not meet the criteria listed for a 10% or higher rating, they will be provided a 0% rating, which is still service connected and subject such as receiving medication through the VA at no cost to them.

The rating criteria for hypertension is listed here and outlines what veteran's need to show in order to receive a

higher rating.

- 60% Diastolic pressure predominantly 130 or more
- 40% Diastolic pressure predominantly 120 or more
- 20% Diastolic pressure predominantly 110 or more;
- OR Systolic pressure predominantly 200 or more
- 10% Diastolic pressure predominantly 100 or more;
- OR Systolic pressure predominantly 160 or more;
- OR history of diastolic pressure predominantly 100 or more who requires continuous medication for control.
- 0% Diagnosed disability with no compensable symptoms

If a veteran disagrees with the rating they have received, they are able to appeal this decision within one year of the decision or file an increase after the one-year decision date. If the veteran chooses to file an appeal, we encourage the veteran to provide medical documentation supporting their

request for a higher evaluation for hypertension.

Veterans may also look at secondary conditions related to their hypertension. Some common secondary conditions may include kidney disease or stroke. These conditions may increase a veteran's service-connected benefits even though their primary service connection may only be 0%.

In the end, it is always the veteran's choice as to whether they feel it is worth filing the claim for hypertension. While it may not increase their payment, it could protect medication benefits or additional service-connected benefits later on.

To learn more about PACT Act benefits or to file a claim for benefits, please contact your local County Veteran Service Officer: <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso>

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## POP TAB COLLECTIONS

I wish to thank all the posts, units, squadrons, and individuals who have shown appreciation for the Ronald McDonald House by donating pop tabs for this worthy cause. Please plan to bring your pop tabs once again to the Department Convention in Bismarck on June 23-25, 2023.

Kenny Wiederholt

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# MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

MAMIE HAVELKA - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Greetings to All and hope to see you at the Convention in Bismarck. The membership team including you, membership team ND American Legion. First of all, THANK YOU, each and every one in working hard to keep ND in the top positions of the National membership level. We have been holding our own.

**NOW:** We need to keep working on membership. There are still several hundred 2022 members who have not renewed. With the work that has been done, and to continue our renewing efforts, we can be successful. “Veterans Serving Veterans” is important to our ND Legion, this will continue to grow or know we have given it our BEST! With that we will be able to continue serving our programs and our veterans.

Renewals - renewing online is becoming more and

more popular. Please remember to have your membership card when renewing online. By using your membership number, it will ensure that your renewal is an accurate and smooth process. The membership year starts 1 July 2023 and goes through 30 June 2024. Paying your dues in the Fall will put you in good standing and you will not receive any more renewal notices until the following fall.

**Paid up For Life (PUFL)** - PUFL is a lifelong membership plan of The American Legion which ensures you receive all the benefits of Legion membership for life. PUFL membership can be completed either in one payment giving you an immediate savings - or charged over 12 equal monthly payments (do not miss a payment). Once you fulfill your membership dues, you will not be charged another dime in American Legion membership dues. The

application and the process can be found at [legion.org](http://legion.org) under the “member” drop down menu.

Enjoy the upcoming Summer and the best to you! Arn and I thank you for all you have done this past membership year. The tough has gotten tougher and we still are getting tougher.

For more information please contact:  
Mamie Havelka, Membership Chair - (701)340-1621, [mamie.havelka@outlook.com](mailto:mamie.havelka@outlook.com)  
Arn Havelka, Assistant to Membership Chair - (701)340-2965, [ajhavelka@outlook.com](mailto:ajhavelka@outlook.com)  
All District Commanders’ names, phone numbers and emails are on page 3.



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## The Future of the ND Legion "Veterans Serving Veterans"

TO: ND American Legion Posts  
DATE: 5 May 2023  
FROM: Mamie Havelka, Legionnaire  
SUBJECT: Future of ND Legion - Update

First and foremost: **Thank you** each and every one that have donated to Department Service Office Expenses (DSOffice). Your donations and support have been instrumental! And appreciated!

Most all Posts by now, know that our membership dues no longer cover the costs and expenses of the Department of ND American Legion (Dept of ND AmLgn).

Having coordinated with Attorney General (AG) Gaming of ND, Deb McDaniel, Gaming Administrator, our DSOffice expenses are 100% for veterans with medical needs and meets the eligibility code, D-50, established by the AG. Therefore, gaming DONATION/TRUST/FOUNDATION money can be used.


**IMPORTANT:** The DSO, located at Fargo VA is a position of which the Dept of ND AmLgn hires and pays the salary and any incurred expenses of the DSOffice expenses. It is a misconception that the DSO expenses are paid by the VA. We, Dept of ND AmLgn pay all expenses. DSO is: “Veterans Serving Veterans”. The application for gaming funds, below, is ready for you to use. All Posts MAY contribute, but this form is required by AG for gaming donations and for your record.

Thank you again,  
  
**Mamie Havelka**  
ND Legionnaire  
(701)340-1621

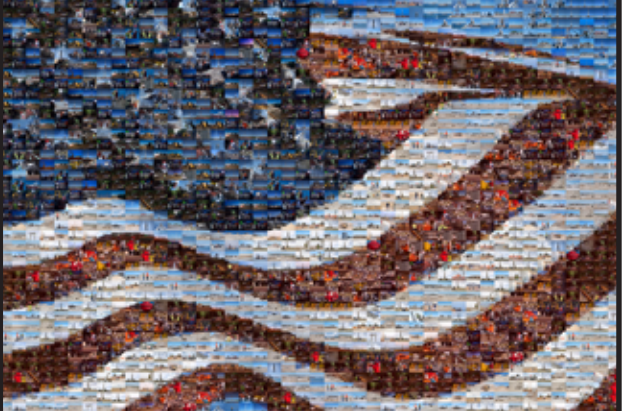



**APPLICATION FOR GAMING FUNDS**  
NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
GAMING DIVISION  
SFN 9801 (11-2017)

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds The American Legion Department of North Dakota		Contact Person for Applicant Ronald Matthews		Telephone Number (701) 293-3120	
Mailing Address PO Box 5057		City West Fargo	State ND	ZIP Code 58078	
Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds:					
To cover the expenses of the Department Service Office in assisting veterans with medical needs.					
Write "DSO" in the memo line of the check					
Applicant agrees to retain <u>documentation of the use of the funds for three years</u> from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.		Signature of Applicant 		Date	
Amount Requested \$	Request is: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved \$	Check Number	Check Date
				Eligible Use Code	—

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

**STEVE ANDERSON - CHAIRMAN**



### DEC Meeting

March 24, 2023

All Vets Club, Steele, ND

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a salute and the pledge of allegiance. The prayer was offered by DEC Weyrauch.

Financials were reviewed and presented by Derrick Childs.

Americanism Chair presented a written report to the DEC to request the purchase of the book "Major; A soldier Dog".

Athletic committee is looking into adding girl's fastpitch softball as a program for the year 2024.

Boys State committee encouraged members to help get the word out and get into the schools.

Membership committee reported on membership. Have been working hard to get post 500 members into the local posts. Have already transferred 297 into local posts and have renewed 346 expired members.

Mike Weyrauch gave an update on the National Oratorical contest.

Commander Brown spoke on the VA&R walks and encouraged all districts to have a suicide awareness walk.

Trish Hodny reported on the last foundation meeting and the need for training all officers.

Legion Riders will have 4 scholarships in May and the

possibility of having a statewide ride.

Judge Hodny reviewed the fiduciary responsibilities of the DEC and recommended sending out the by-laws and other documents to the newly elected officers.

Discussion was held on V360 fundraising programs and also the possibility of having Congressional Reps meeting with the DEC.

The reimbursement policy for all volunteers was discussed with the currents rates. No exception.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM

Next meeting will be held in Bismarck during the convention.

### RE-ELECT Sven Mickels For East Region Department Executive Committeeman



Many of you know first hand that when something needs to be done, Sven is there ready to pitch in. If you want opinions, inputs or additional ideas, you can count on Sven to jump right in if you let him.

Sven Mickels is a 43 year active, involved and dedicated legionnaire. Sven has been a past Post Commander, Past District Commander, Past Pemina County Vice Commander, Past Department Vice Commander and Department Americanism Chairman from 1990-2003 and Past President of the North Dakota American Legion Press Association.

Mickels is a Viet-Nam Era Veteran, he entered active duty with the United States Air Force (USAF) on June 28th, 1972, On July 7th, 1999, he received his second honorable discharge from the USAF Reserves.

Your joining us in supporting Sven Mickels in his quest to become our next Department Executive Committeeman from the Eastern Region will be very much appreciated.

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

**MARK ANTAL - NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**



Technology is a wonderful thing. Facebook, E-Mail and electronic payment has been a great help in our daily living. Technology also has its headaches. Have you ever had your credit card hacked? Have you had someone assume your identity on Facebook? A person takes a picture you have posted and opens an account on Facebook and then sends out friend requests using your name and your picture. They are fishing for your friend's personal information. How frustrating! And how wrong is that?

That is not how God works. God knows you. He knows everything about you, for he has created you. You are made in his image. God's Word says, "And even the very hairs on your head are all numbered." (Matthew 10:30) For some people that may be an easy task. But the Father knows every little detail about your very being. King David wrote Psalm 23. He exclaims with great assurance, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The rest of the psalm is one of the most loved passages of the entire Bible. It is my favorite passage and has carried me through some very dark times in my personal life. Jesus Christ carries this thought to a deeper level. In John 10: 2-5 11 and 14. "The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his

sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listens to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them because they know his voice. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

There are many voices out there calling for our attention. Do you know his voice? The Father knows you and wants you to hear his voice. Follow him through reading his Word. He will lead and guide you through the darkest valley. The good news is this; he has laid down his life for you. Because he lives so shall you.

The Department convention is soon upon us. I look forward to seeing all of our North Dakota Legion family in Bismarck. The convention is a time of renewing friendship and making new friends. I cannot express to you what a joy it is to wear the red cap of the National Chaplain with two words under the emblem of the American Legion, NORTH DAKOTA. It is a tremendous honor to serve as YOUR National Chaplain.

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**Senator Curt Kreun**

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# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# The Message

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047  
701-253-5992 • [www.ndala.org](http://www.ndala.org) • [facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA](https://facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA)

## Honor Flight Fundraiser Receives Strong Support

Fourteen different hotdish flavors were served up for the community during the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN fundraiser hosted by Cavalier American Legion Auxiliary Unit 11 and Cavalier Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) students. Thanks to the generosity of community members who brought hotdishes, donated silent auction items, or came out to eat, over \$3,500 was raised. This money helps pay for future flights of veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit war memorials in their honor.

Attendees were given a "flight" of hotdish samples to taste and ballots to vote for their favorite flavors. Veterans also were given a separate ballot to put their own stamp on their favorite options. Hotdish samples included French BLT, breakfast hotdish, chicken alfredo, lasagna, mac and cheese, chicken taco, burrito bake, wild rice and bacon, pizza, potato pizza, chicken wild rice, Lebanese beans, dairy potatoes, and more!

Members of Lavern J. Thompson Post and Unit 11 of Cavalier support programs for veterans and families of veterans, as well as active duty, national guard, and reserve personnel. For this event, they worked in tandem with Cavalier FBLA students to make the fundraiser happen. The students were honored to be able to interact with area veterans, learn about their stories of service, and hear of their personal connection with the Honor Flight. This was the first fundraiser in the area held for Honor Flight. "We met a lot of veterans and heard about their experiences which were extraordinary," said FBLA member Emersen Helgoe. "They told us the trip was one of the best days of their lives."

For more information about Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN and how to donate visit <https://www.veteranshonorflightofndmn.org>



Jason and Caleb Muth with their People's Choice Selection – Reuben Casserole



Community support for the Great Hotdish Bake-Off

## Thompson and Scranton Support Americanism

Central Valley High School and Thompson Auxiliary Unit 181 partnered together for all students to participate in the 2023 Americanism Essay Contest. The Auxiliary read through essays from the students of Central Valley and picked a winner to receive a \$50 award as well as advance on to state. They also selected three honorable mentions to advance to state. The essay title was "What does patriotism mean to you?". There were three different classes with requirements of 350 to 500 words in their essays. The first place awards were given to Kaileb Johnson, Megan Ensign, and Jacob Brandt. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Emily Smith, Brynley Lessard, Joseph Thompson, and Collin Higgins.

Scranton Public School grades 7-12 participated in the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay contest. The students wrote 43 essays. Auxiliary Unit 151 judged the essays. We were amazed at the writing talent of the students in our small school. The winners were forwarded to our North Dakota Department Americanism Chairman.

Articles submitted by Thompson Unit President Bridget Pearson and Scranton Unit President Terry Freymiller



Thompson Auxiliary members, essay winners, and educator from Central Valley High School



Scranton Auxiliary members reading essays

## Donnybrook Celebrates Birthday and Honors Flag

On Sunday, March 2, 2023, Clarence McCormick Auxiliary Unit 195 of Donnybrook sponsored a joint event to celebrate charter birthdays. The post was 103 years old and the unit was 102. A celebratory meal prepared by unit members was served along with birthday cake and enjoyed by all who attended. Sharing stories, memories, and camaraderie along with the food and beverages made the day even more special.

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, the Donnybrook post and unit held a 'flag burning' ceremony at Berthold Public

Schools. Post Commander Danny Michel, Vice Commander Dean Poppinga, Chaplain Russell Bott, and post members Coyne Quigley, Jeff Jones, and Curtis Graff participated. School staff members and students from preschool through high school were invited to attend. Thirteen of the students read the meaning of each fold as the flags were placed in the fire pit. As the ceremony concluded everyone was invited to sing 'God Bless America.'

Article submitted by Marilyn Bott, Unit 195



Birthday Party - Seated L-R: Jody Olson, Emilie Seime, Patsy Anderson. Back Row L-R: Unit President Karen Quigley, Mary Ann Michel, Karen Trail, Marilyn Bott, Roxanne Quigley, Carolyn Graff



Students and Educators at flag ceremony

## Welcome to Department Convention 2023

Georgette Dorval, President of William C. Blair Unit 144 of Belfield is serving as Chairman of the 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention to be held in Bismarck on June 23-25. Meetings will take place at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center located at 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Georgette along with members of Unit 144 and Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 of Hazelton welcomes the American Legion Family.



Georgette Dorval

They will serve as registrars and greeters when you arrive. Come join us as we celebrate 102 years of service for the American Legion Auxiliary. Enjoy your stay in Bismarck!

## BISMARCK

### American Legion Auxiliary Department of ND 102nd Convention

**Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center  
Bismarck, ND**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (may be revised without notice)**  
Changes will be available at [www.ndala.org/2023-department-convention/](http://www.ndala.org/2023-department-convention/)

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

9:00 AM	Department Finance Board Meeting – Diane Kraemer, Chairman
10:00 AM	Auxiliary Registration Opens (closes at 5:00 PM)
11:00 AM	District Presidents (Incoming and Outgoing – exchange books and flags) Meet with Gloria Covert, President-Elect
1:00 PM	Auxiliary Department Executive Committee Meeting
2:30 PM	National Convention Meeting – (Auxiliary members/delegates/alternates planning to go to National Convention)
3:00 PM	Incoming Department Chairmen – (Meet w/Gloria Covert)
4:30 PM	District Officers Flag Rehearsal (for Joint Session)
5:30 PM	Auxiliary Installation Rehearsal - Department Officers, District Presidents
7:00 PM	Joint Opening Session

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

8:00 AM	Auxiliary Registration resumes (registration closes at 12:00 PM)
8:00 AM	Auxiliary Opening Session
11:00 AM	District Presidents (meet & greet with District Commanders)
12:00 PM	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon
1:30 PM	Auxiliary Session Resumes
5:30 PM	Convention Social
6:30 PM	Department Convention Banquet
7:30 PM	Dance

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

9:00 AM	Joint Memorial Service
10:00 AM	Auxiliary Session Resumes
12:00 PM	Installation of Department Officers
12:30 PM	Installation of Department President (2023-2024)
1:00 PM	Close of Convention



## Department President

Greetings to my Legion Family.

As I write my final article as your Department President, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation. We all talk about how time goes by so fast. It doesn't seem like it has been almost a year since I was installed. Even if it started off a little rocky, it has been a year of fond memories. Time truly does fly. To not forget anyone, I will not mention any names. First, I would like to thank my mentors who have guided me throughout the year. You have always been there for me, whether it be by email, text, phone calls, and sometimes in person. With your continual knowledge and dedication to our American Legion Family, you have helped me in ways I cannot put into words. I succeeded because of you. You always made me feel that I was important, you took time out of your busy schedules to assist me, and assured me that there were no wrong or dumb questions. You gave me the courage to stand up for what is right, to always fight for our veterans and their families. You gave me strength and courage when I needed it most and to stand up for myself. You helped me in ways that you are probably not even aware of. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am stronger because of you.

Those of you who have always had my back, thank you. To a special friend who always listened, never judged, who lent a listening ear, and offered compassion, and gave me strength. Sometimes we just need someone we can be ourselves with and who is willing to listen to us and cry with us when needed. I am blessed to call you "friend" and will always treasure that friendship.

To my District Presidents and Chairmen, working beside you has been a true joy. District Presidents, thank you for everything you have done and continue to do within the Legion Family. You each helped me do my job. To my Chairmen, I could not have done my job without each of you doing yours. The reports, scholarships, and writings have all been top notch. I could not have picked a better team to work with. Each of you continue to amaze me with your undying dedication to our Veterans and their families.

To our Department Secretary, Marcy. Wow, where do I begin? You have been my rock, my go-to person. I always knew that when I contacted you that you would be able to help me. You make the job of every Department President a little easier because of your knowledge and willingness to help everyone. We all know that the office of Department Secretary is not an easy job with long hours, stressors, and many deadlines. Yet, you make it look easy. You truly are the best, and our Department is lucky to have you. Keep on shining!

The Spring District meetings have been amazing despite

all that snow. Overall, we had good turnouts, good food, and I especially loved the camaraderie and the laughter. To our Department Commander, Dan Brown, I could not have asked for a better person to work with. You have taught me so much. It has been a wonderful year working with and beside you. One of the things Commander Brown talks about is that we may not all get along, nor agree on everything, but we are the American Legion Family. We are in this together. I can say that we haven't always agreed on everything, but our hearts have always been in the right place. Our dedication to our veterans and their families is the best.

I would like to do a "Shout Out" to all units that achieved 100% or more in membership this year as well as signing up new members. We all know that getting new members is not always an easy task. Our first step is to introduce ourselves, explain what we are about and ask them to become new members. Sometimes we may need to sign up the spouse who is a veteran to the American Legion to get his spouse and children to join our Auxiliary. Always carry applications with you or keep them in your vehicle so they are readily available. Many units this year have signed up new members. Kudos to them. We all need to work together to recruit new members. It is a team effort.

I would like to leave you with some quotes and things to think about.

### "Thoughts from a New Member"

I see you at the meetings, but you never say hello. You're busy all the time you're there with those you already know. I sit among the members, yet I'm a lonely gal. The new ones feel as strange as I; the old ones pass us by. You folks urged us to join and talked of fellowship, you could just cross the room, you know, but you never make the trip. Could you just nod your head and smile or stop and shake a hand, get over your mom's good intentions, then sit among your friends? Now that I understand. I'll be at your next meeting, and hope that you will spend the time to introduce yourself, I joined to be your friend.

A leader's role is greatly diminished without their team because no one can do everything alone, and know one knows everything. You don't become successful on your own; you have to rely on really good people. – **Leadership First!**

**Sandra Petermann**



*Sandra Petermann*

## Department President-Elect

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

First of all, I would like to thank the host Districts for the great hospitality that I experienced when I attended your meetings!

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Our dues renewals for the next year start being pushed out in July to the members that have email addresses. The paper renewals are in the mail in September. Your dues for the next year need to be paid by December 31 in order to remain a current member. Your dues are not considered paid until they reach the National office database. If your dues are not paid, your membership is not current, and you will be a guest at your next meeting or event. And that means you do not have member privileges such as voting or making motions at your meeting. If you happen to have insurance through the Auxiliary, it could lapse because your dues are not current. Your dues are important to your unit as is your membership.

Dues are important to the Department as well. Dues are what makes the Department function, so it is important that they are collected in a timely manner. Please DO NOT HOLD dues, process them right away.

ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) is a great resource for your unit to function easily. One or two members are eligible to have access to ALAMIS. A request needs to be sent to the Department office with your name, email address, and unit number. There are numerous reports that are helpful for membership. You have access to update a member profile, paid, and unpaid memberships to mention a few. There is a fee involved depending on which access you would like. For further information you may contact the Department office or me.

Just a reminder that all unit mailings and The Message are archived on our website: [www.ndala.org](http://www.ndala.org).

A big shout out to all the units that achieved 100% or better this year!! You are 'ROCKING' membership.

Thank you to all the members that take the time to engage with our veterans, youth, and community. You all portray our mission so very well!!

**Gloria Covert**



*Gloria Covert*

## Department Secretary

Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

What is that bright white light in the sky? It seems to be warming the earth and helping the grass and flowers grow once again.

I want to thank all those Auxiliary members, units presidents, and district presidents for sharing with me their stories and reports throughout the year. It made my jobs as Chairman for Public Relations and Legislation as well as your Department Secretary exciting and notable. Thank you everyone!

The Department Office is once again preparing for the Department Convention. Our oldest grandson and his fiancée are getting married that same weekend and we will miss the event. We will miss seeing and visiting with all of you, but our thoughts and good wishes will be with you for a successful and fun event. Wonderful, talented people have stepped forward to make sure everything runs smoothly. Thank you ladies!

This year's Department Convention will be held June 23-25, 2023, at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center located at 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Bismarck. Yes, it is the former Ramkota, a familiar venue to many of you. I hope you are already making plans to attend the 2023 Department

Convention. Make your hotel reservations as soon as possible as there is a cutoff date for the special room rate. Registration and tickets for the banquet and parley luncheon can be found elsewhere in this publication.

Thank you to our hardworking Department Chairmen for working with the Poppy, Education, Americanism, Past Presidents Parley, Girls State and all other Auxiliary sponsored programs. The names of students who qualified for scholarships and awards will be noted elsewhere in this publication.

This is the first year in some time that the Department sponsored awards to the top winners in the Department's Americanism and Poppy Poster Contests. Thank you chairmen for making this year special for the students and the Department.

Take care of yourself and others.

**Marcy Schmidt**



*Marcy Schmidt*

## Department Treasurer

Spring has finally sprung! A long-awaited season this year!

Speaking of Spring...it is also the time to report to the IRS your nonprofit status.

This is done by simply filing a 990-N report before May 15 (for units that are under the \$50,000 threshold and operating in the calendar year). If you do not operate over the typical calendar year, your 990-N is due 'the 15th day of the 5th month at the end of your tax year.'

**There are a number of North Dakota units that have had their nonprofit status revoked due to failure to file in the past years. Are you wondering about your unit's status? Is your unit compliant?** Recently, a list with the status of every unit was sent to all District Presidents. Information on what units need to do to become compliant was also sent. Please contact your District President to find out where your unit currently stands.

All chartered American Legion Auxiliary entities are permitted by the National organization to use the name and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary and must comply with the national legal requirements for use of same. As an independent operated nonprofit organization, ALA entities must duly report to the Federal government via the applicable series of IRS Form 990 as well as their respective state governments.

**What are the consequences of having the tax-exempt status revoked?** This means your unit is no longer exempt from federal income tax, cannot receive tax-deductible donations, and is subject to corporate income tax on annual revenue. You may be subject to state tax, and you are also unlikely to be considered for grants.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at [treasurer@ndala.org](mailto:treasurer@ndala.org) or Kelly Harrier, National Membership Director at [kharrier@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:kharrier@ALAforVeterans.org) for assistance. When you are all done, you can sit back and relax!

I hope to see you at the 2023 Department Convention in June. Enjoy your summer!

**Sonnie Otto**



*Sonnie Otto*

## Department Chaplain

I was listening to the evening news this past week and heard that New York City had recently advertised for a new position in city government and has now hired – a rat czar. The official title is Director of Rodent Mitigation, and the position pays between \$120,000 and \$170,000. New Yorkers are getting increasingly fed up with the disgusting creatures.

In the dark alleyways and basements of our hearts, the devil wants to create an environment where all kinds of nasty thoughts, attitudes, habits, and addictions like to lurk and multiply. No matter how hard we try to live a godly, righteous life, Satan tries to tempt us into living a life apart from God. However, it is the Lord who knows how to shine a bright light into the hidden rooms of our hearts. "On the day I called, you answered me; you increased strength within me." Psalm 138:3.

God, who began His work in us, will definitely work to bring it to completion as stated in Philippians 1:6 "I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

We may struggle and grow tired of fighting our battles,

but remember, God is a faithful God and will never start something and not finish it. We need to work and get rid of the sin in our lives so we can live with increasing holiness while we wait for the day when we will be pure, perfect and sinless before God – beyond any reach of temptation. Have faith in our God and believe that what He started in your life, He will bring to completion. "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. Lord, your faithful love endures forever." Psalm 138:8

Lord, increase our faith in You. Thank you for shining your light in our lives and helping us to grow and become perfect in You. As we cry out for help in all areas of our lives, give us the strength to live a victorious life so we will worship and serve You perfectly and forever! In Jesus Name, Amen.

**Rose Laning**



*Rose Laning*



## Department NEC

By the time you read this spring should be here and summer on its way. There are just a couple of things I want you to be aware of. First - a question for you with something to think about: "What do you do with your time and talent for this organization?"



Tammy Ryberg

Be aware of what is on the internet, especially 'unofficial' Facebook accounts and pages. If you are unsure of which accounts are official and managed by the National organization, go to [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) and find the list of the official pages and groups for Facebook.

The American Legion Auxiliary has a new logo design. The brand of the blue and yellow circle is still the brand and both logos can be used to represent the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember to wear the brand or logo at events you attend or which are sponsored by the American Legion Family. Show people in your community that the American Legion Auxiliary is alive and well.



Membership is the responsibility of all Auxiliary members of the unit, district, and Department to help grow our organization. As a member, officer, or chairman be available to help other members, potential members, your community, but most especially our veterans and their families. Always be looking for an opportunity to help in your community and then help chair or work an event to ensure its success.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 2023 Department Convention in Bismarck!

**Tammy Ryberg**

## Americanism

Hello Auxiliary members,

As many others have mentioned, spring is finally here. After such a lengthy time of snow and cold it is wonderful to see the leaves return and the early daffodils blooming.

I was honored to be the Department Americanism Chairman this year. What a wonderful program. I learned a lot and was thrilled to read some wonderful essays from the Americanism Essay Contest. The hard work, skill, and love of country was evident in the students' writing. We have some very talented and patriotic youth that I am confident will be great assets to the workforce and country in coming years.

The Americanism Essay Contest this year had the title: "What does patriotism mean to you?" The contest was open to youth in grades 3-12, including home-school and special-needs students. As the chairman, I had the tough decision of choosing one winner from each class category. What a job! The essays were all well-written and completed with purpose. The Department winners received a certificate, a \$25 gift card, and a chance to compete at the National level of the contest. Look for a call-out box elsewhere in this issue for a list of the Department essay contest winners.

Ten units sponsored submissions at the Department Level. I am grateful to Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt for including the essay contest in a unit mailing and school mailing in December. We got full school participation from several high schools in history/social sciences classes where they had the essay become part of the curriculum. There were also several elementary school classes that participated as well. The Auxiliary units in these areas stepped up and judged at least 50 essays each on short notice from me. I am so pleased at the participation of the local Auxiliary units, the educators, superintendents, and most of all, the students. Way to go!! You all did this with a hearty "Yes. How can I help?" attitude that was amazing.

Proudly wave your flag and honor your veterans at upcoming Memorial Day events and summer parades.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

**Shauna Dubuque**

**Americanism Chairman**

## District 2

Hello District 2 Auxiliary Members.

Looks like spring is finally here. Along with spring comes the District Meetings.

The District 2 meeting was held in Park River on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The day was a little cool but that did not stop 27 members from attending. Thank you to all who came out for the meeting. It was nice to see all of you. Thank you to Department President Sandra Petermann, Department President-Elect/Membership Gloria Covert, and Parliamentarian Diane Kraemer for attending.

Sandra spoke about the Winter Conference and membership. District 2 has 2 units at 100% and 2 at over 100%. Keep up the good work! She also discussed the National dues increase that will take effect for dues year 2024.

Diane spoke about the Constitution and Bylaws. She had an example to share with units to help them get theirs set up. If your unit needs a sample copy, please feel free to contact me.

Gloria spoke on membership. She emphasized staying connected with members and encouraged units to sign up for American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) computer access. It is a good way to keep track of members.

At our Fall District Meeting, members donated funds to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund for the victims of hurricanes in Florida. We received a letter from National President Vickie Koutz thanking our District members for the donation to help other Auxiliary members.

Thank you to the units that turned in their 2022 Impact Reports. Enjoy your spring and summer and I am looking forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in June.

**Shelley Schuster**  
**District 2 President**

## Constitution & Bylaws

### URGENT!

Members, I am urging you to work hard to update your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws and your Standing Rules. The Department's governing documents were approved at the 2021 Department Convention. A deadline for units to complete their Constitution and Bylaws was set for Winter Conference 2022. That deadline has long since passed and I am still waiting to hear from 125 units.

If you have not yet submitted your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws and need further guidance, please feel free to contact me for a sample copy or guide. I can be reached at 701-772-1839 or by email at [dianekraemer@gra.midco.net](mailto:dianekraemer@gra.midco.net).

I would like all North Dakota units to be completed by June 1, 2023.

**Diane Kraemer**  
**Constitution and Bylaws Chairman**



## Education

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Believe it or not, spring is coming – not soon enough for most of us!

I have had the honor of reviewing scholarships. It has been difficult to narrow the selection to three (3) \$500 Department Education Program Scholarships. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarship. The committee selected Mason Christianson from Langdon, Logan Gronvold from Barton, and Dylan Schadegg from Steele.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Department President Sandra Petermann and Auxiliary member Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College instructor, for helping with the scholarship selection process. Two scholarship packets were sent to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Isabella Ferderer of Gwinner, ND, was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Department selection; and Katelynn Kovarik of Fisher, MN (Paul Farup Unit 147, Park River, ND), was the Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members Department selection. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in May.

We wish to congratulate all these students on their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academics and their communities. Please continue to support the youth in your area and promote both scholarships and educational opportunities.

KEEP IN MIND FOR NEXT YEAR, the National Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship is designed to reward Junior members who retain Auxiliary membership after they turn 18. It specifically targets Auxiliary members who are current college students. Do not lose track of your Juniors after they graduate from high school. Another scholarship that members of the American Legion Family can apply for is the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship. Applicants need to have kept up Auxiliary membership for the previous two years and current year and be returning to the classroom. Encourage them to apply! They are the future of our great organization.

For those attending ALA Flickertail Girls State and Boys

## District 4

Our District 4 Spring meeting had a nice turn out for both Legion and Auxiliary members. Department President Sandra Petermann was one of our guest speakers and spoke on the fact that the Department is considering raising dues. Sandra also spoke of the 2023 Department Convention to be held in Bismarck on June 23-25. NW Division Vice President Marlene Boyer spoke on her trip to Washington D.C. for the 2023 Legislative Conference and lobbying for veterans. Department President-Elect Gloria Covert spoke about the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) and what a huge resource it can be, especially for tracking membership. ALA Flickertail Girls State will be held at the UND campus June 11-16 in Grand Forks.

We are looking forward to the Legion's birthday parties, Impact Report deadlines, Americanism essays, Poppy posters, Poppy Day on May 26<sup>th</sup>, and Memorial Day celebrations.

Major Steve English was Post 250 guest speaker at their birthday party. He spoke of his time in Poland and the overwhelming number of packages that arrived for the care of the Ukrainian people. His children wanted to do something for the Ukrainian people and that is how this project came to be.

We are all looking forward to nicer weather, the snow is melting, and the color green is showing through. It is starting to feel like spring has finally arrived.

We were sad to hear that Alfred Steiger, a resident of the North Dakota Veterans Home at Lisbon, has passed away. Alfred was responsible for assembling nearly a half million poppies since he began the project in 2002.

Unit 250 of Gackle lost two of their members this spring, Arlene Rudolph whom we honored at our District meeting, and Darlene Elsner. Darlene had been Unit 250 President for several years and she will be missed by all who knew and worked with her.

Sharon Ludwig, Unit President of New Rockford, is recovering from a serious farming accident and had been hospitalized for over 100 days. Please keep Sharon in your thoughts and prayers.

Make your plans now to attend the 2023 Department Convention in June and be sure to make your hotel reservations by May 22.

God bless our Veterans.

**Jane Schoonover**  
**District 4 President**



## ALA Flickertail Girls State

**June 11-16, 2023**

**UND Campus**

**[www.ndgirlsstate.org](http://www.ndgirlsstate.org)**

**701-314-2460**

State, there is the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current sessions of the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program and are a direct descendant of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion. Those applications are due no later than the FIRST day of the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program, using the online application. Check out <http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung> so the students know what information they need to have when going to Girls/Boys State to apply.

I am looking forward to receiving education reports from units through District Presidents. Some units sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications to be sent to the Department. Other units donate funds to local colleges, universities, and high school foundations. Several also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs. Units donate funds to local libraries in recognition of National Education week; bring food to schools to celebrate educators and staff; provide funds to help students with lunches and to help teachers with classroom supplies; and scholarships to send students to International Music Camp.

There is likely much more that units and Auxiliary members do to support education within their communities. I just may not hear about it in reports or otherwise. Thank you to all who support our youth, our communities, and our veterans through education and outreach. You all truly make a difference.

Thank the educators in your community! Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

**Peggy Moran**  
**Education Chairman**





102nd Annual Department Convention – June 23-25, 2023



Auxiliary Registration Form

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Bismarck, ND  
(hotel formerly known as Ramkota)

Hotel Direct Phone: 701-660-8063

Deadline to make hotel reservations is May 22, 2023.

Please use this order form for Auxiliary Registration and to order Convention Banquet tickets and Past Presidents Parley Luncheon tickets.

- Advanced Department Convention Banquet Tickets – **June 1, 2023**, is the deadline for the \$35.00 (advanced price). Orders after June 1 are \$40.00 per ticket.
- The Auxiliary Registration fee is **\$15.00** per person. Advanced registration by **June 5, 2023**, would be appreciated.
- Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - **\$20.00** per person. Order PPP tickets by **June 5, 2023**. Limited number tickets may be available on-site.

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration \$15.00	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - \$20.00	Convention Banquet \$35 by June 1 / \$40 after June 1	Total Amount Submitted

Make Check Payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept of ND

Mail Payment to American Legion Auxiliary Dept of ND, 1801 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave N., Room 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047

In Memoriam

District 1

Gladys Nornes, Finley

District 2

Carol E Miller, McVille  
Agatha Granlie, SLM, Park River  
Marlys Miller, Minto  
Colleen Langowski, Minto  
Carrol C Elgin, Michigan  
Diann M Bratlie, Forest River

District 3

Margie L Porter, Cando  
Dorothy Rader, SLM, Cando  
Elsie Weiker, Cando  
Vera Lee, Cando  
Marcella Risovi, Maddock

District 4

Myrna A. Ronholm, SLM, (Past Department  
President 2019-2020), Jamestown  
Arlene Rudolph, Gackle  
Darlene B Elsner, SLM, Gackle

Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL

District 5

Lorna Ohlhauser, SLM, Washburn  
Ann B Hellmuth, PUFL, Napoleon

District 6

Inga Kvelstad, Mohall  
Adelaide Vig, Mohall

District 8

Cornelia P Kelly, HLM, Dickinson

District 9

Vivian Lineth, Watford City  
Marcella Storseth, Williston  
Debra Iverson, Tioga  
Judy L Bostow, Noonan

District 10

Marian Millerhagen, Forman  
Helen Herman, Forman  
Mavis Stibal, Lidgerwood

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

Endorsements

Department President – Gloria Covert  
(bio, not endorsement)

Gloria, whose eligibility is through her father, a World War II veteran, has been an Auxiliary member since 1981. Gloria is a long-time member of the Rolla unit, serving in the capacity of unit officer and in chairmanship roles, as well as serving as District 3 President. She is currently serving as a member of the Department Finance Board and is the current Department President-Elect and Membership Co-Chairman.

Department President-Elect – LoAnn Dick

Endorsed by – Unit Secretary Pamela Graf of Theodore R. Zech Unit 180 Richardton

Theodore R. Zech Unit 180, Richardton, North Dakota proudly endorses Loann Dick for the office of Department President-Elect for 2023-2024. Loann has been an active Auxiliary member for many years not only as a unit member but also serving as District 8 President and Department AEF Chairman. Currently Loann is serving as the Department's Vice President and Membership Co-Chairman. We believe that Loann Dick is an excellent candidate for Department President-Elect and will continue to serve the Department and its members with distinction.

Department President-Elect – Candace Berg

Endorsed by - Sidney Britsch Unit 268 York

Sidney Britsch Unit 268 York endorses Candace Berg for the office of Department President-Elect for 2023-2024. Candace joined the Auxiliary as a junior member under the eligibility of her father, Harland Berg, a Vietnam veteran. During her years as a junior member, Candace served as the trumpet player (bugler) for Memorial Day programs until graduating from high school. Candace is active with the York unit as well as the Devils Lake Neathery-Simenson VFW Auxiliary, having served as a flag bearer, unit secretary, unit chaplain, and several chairmanships.

Candace is also involved with Ramsey County 4-H, serving as the treasurer and a 4-H leader. She emphasizes community service projects with her group that are veteran-focused, such as learning the meaning of the US flag, flag folding, honoring businesses and homes who display the U.S. flag, putting together veteran food and supply packages, and helping with veteran and patriotic holiday services.

Candace currently lives and works in Devils Lake and is the proud parent of 3 children and a menagerie of pets. She is a licensed foster care parent, and in her spare time she enjoys volunteering at White Horse Hill National Game Preserve, sketching, photography, genealogy, watching hockey, exploring nature, and spending time with loved ones.

We believe that Candace is an excellent candidate for Department President-Elect and will serve the Department and its members with distinction.

Department Secretary – Marcy Schmidt

Endorsed by – Unit President Carol Wolf of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo

Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 of Fargo proudly endorses Marcy Schmidt for the office of Secretary of the Department of North Dakota. Marcy's eligibility comes through her husband Fred's service in the US Army, a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict. They are the proud parents of two children and four grandchildren and make their home in Fargo.

Marcy is an active member of Unit 2 and is always willing to assist in unit projects supporting our veterans. She has served on the unit level as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, and as co-chairman for the Girls State committee. Marcy has served on the Department level as Historian and AEF Chairman and currently serves as Department Secretary, and Legislative Chairman.

We as a unit are proud to continue our support of this wonderful Auxiliary member. We endorse her without reservation for the office of Department Secretary.

Department Treasurer – Sonnie Otto

Endorsed by – Unit President Shirley Herbel and Unit Secretary Charolette Wanner of Matthew Brew Unit 3 Dickinson

American Legion Auxiliary Matthew Brew Unit 3 Dickinson, ND endorses Sonnie Otto for the office of Department Treasurer for 2023-2024. Sonnie's eligibility comes via her husband, Todd Otto a Gulf War veteran. Sonnie has been an active member of the Matthew Brew unit since 2016 and is currently serving as treasurer of the Matthew Brew Unit 3. Sonnie has served as Department Treasurer since 2021. Her work is above reproach, efficient, timely and accurate. We believe that Sonnie is qualified and is an excellent candidate for office of Department Treasurer and will continue to serve the Department and its members with distinction.

Department Chaplain – Rose Laning

Endorsed by – Unit Treasurer Lualice Stockert of Vernon V Isaacs Unit 78 Stanton

Vernon V Isaacs Unit 78 Stanton proudly endorses Rose Laning for the office of Department Chaplain for 2023-2024. Rose, a State Life Member, has been an Auxiliary member since 1993. Her eligibility comes through her husband, Vernon Laning's three years of service in the US Army during the Vietnam war. At the unit level, Rose has served as President, Girls State and Americanism Chairman and currently serves as Department Chaplain.

Rose has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Knife River Indian Foundation at the Knife River Indian National Historic Site at Stanton since 1991 and assists the park with youth programs and concessions when possible. She is active in her church serving as a youth leader for 14 years, pianist for 43 years and worship leader for 13 years.

The Vernon V. Isaacs Unit 78 is proud of Rose's service and feels that Rose will continue to do exceptional service as Chaplain of the Department of North Dakota.

Department Historian – Andrea Neshem

Endorsed by – Unit President Carol Wolf of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo

Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 of Fargo proudly endorses Andrea Neshem for the office of Historian of the Department of North Dakota. Andrea is a long-time member of the Unit 2 and currently serves as the Department Historian. She makes her home in Minot, ND and stays active in her community as well as in the Auxiliary.

We as a unit are proud to continue our support of this wonderful Auxiliary member. We endorse her without reservation for the office of Department Historian.

\*This list is current as of publication. Further nominations may continue to be brought forward\*

2023 Education  
Program Scholarships

Department Winners

Mason Christianson - Langdon High School  
Logan Gronvold - Rugby High School  
Dylan Schadeegg – Kidder County High School

2023 Parley  
Program Scholarships

Department Winners

McKaylee Kalstrom - Bowman County High School  
(Grace Holmes MD Nursing)  
  
Brooklyn Lewis - Central Cass High School (Parley  
Nursing)  
  
McKaylee Kalstrom - Bowman County High School  
(Parley Nursing)  
  
Catherine Hanson - St Mary's Central High School  
(Parley Nursing)

2023 Americanism  
Essay Contest

Department Winners

Adlyn Neumiller - Class I (Grade 3/4)  
Washburn Unit 12

Clara Olafson - Class II (Grade 5/6)  
Cavalier Unit 11

Kiley Mausehund - Class III (Grade 7/8)  
Scranton Unit 151

Megan Ensign - Class IV (Grade 9/10)  
Thompson Unit 181

Blake Pierce - Class V (Grade 11/12)  
Scranton Unit 151

Sonora Stoltzfus - Class VI (Special Needs)  
Scranton Unit 151



## District Reports



**Jon Veile**  
1<sup>st</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 1,

I have to ask, has it quit snowing yet? While I hope to get a chuckle from some of you, I know that it has not been a winter where one can find any enjoyment out of the constant barrage of winter storms and roads closed and all the other fun activities that seem to follow the white stuff falling from the skies. When I was working with the Hope Post as a date for our spring district meeting, it was felt by some that we would be in the field and we should try to have it earlier. It was decided to go with April 1<sup>st</sup>, April Fool's Day and what a day it was. We were able to have the meeting despite bad roads from a storm the day before. My thanks go out to the Hope Post 18 for their hospitality and flexibility. They were gracious hosts. My thanks also go out to those who were able to attend the meeting.

I hope that the posts in this district have made plans for Memorial Day for the remembrance of our fallen comrades who have passed on and have given us the responsibility and privilege of paying our respects to those who have gone on before us. I have to say when I started placing flags in cemeteries that did not have anyone remembering those who had gone before, I found myself deeply moved by the discoveries I made. Civil war veterans, Spanish American war, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Some were waggoneers, some were in the artillery, Navy, Air Force or some were only listed as had died at a military installation. I thought to myself, and I want to pass it on to you that maybe their families are gone but we, in the American Legion, are their family, and we need to remember our comrades in arms who defended our freedoms in ages past and now we need to honor them for their sacrifices.

I also would encourage the posts in our district to send delegates to the summer convention that will be held in Bismarck. It is your Legion and your participation counts. Best wishes for the summer and I hope to see you all in Bismarck.



**Erica Claus-Numsali**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 2,

Hi everyone. This is a somber article because this will be my last article as your District Commander. I have learned a lot from the posts that I have visited, and from those that I was able to call and check up on when I wasn't able to visit them in person.

April weather certainly took us for a loop when Mother Nature couldn't tell us when the snow would stop. There were some flooded areas, but thankfully not like last year.

A follow-up with the cooking competition in Cavalier. There were ten FBLA members and seventeen legion members that provided the food for the competition, and over 100 people participated in the tasting of the delicious food of which they were able to raise \$3,500 for the Honor Flight. Way to go! Thank you for the support to help the veterans go to Washington, D.C.

For April, we had our Spring District meeting in Park River on April 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 posts and 42 members that attended to which there were awards for Early Bird, 100% membership, Children and Youth and Americanism. Congratulations. For the Auxiliary, there were 12 posts, 27 members and two guests. We also would like to congratulate Duane Kram who was selected to be our next Vice Commander. Congratulations, Duane. After the meeting, we were served yummy sloppy joes, beans, cookies, and coffee. Thank you, Park River, for hosting such a wonderful and important event.

Right after the District meeting, Tim and I went straight to Thompson to help with the Smoker fundraiser that was hosted by the Men's Club of Thompson to raise funds for the wrestling club. The Legion helped with serving beverages to 225 people. We had such a wonderful time there chatting with and serving the people.

As we approach Memorial Day in May, there will be several events that will take place. Many of you will be placing flags on the graves of our departed veterans. Know that what you do for them is such an honor to do each and every time. Thank you so very much. I will be helping Grand Forks on Friday with the flags and Saturday with poppy distribution, Sunday morning with Edinburg placing flags, and Monday with the ceremony in Grand Forks and a speech in Lankin. Monday will also be flag retrieval. If you are able to, please help your local community.

In June, Grand Forks will be hosting the Fishing Derby in Larimore. It is anticipated that there will be over 50 children attending, in addition to five Legion members volunteering. Don't forget Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a lot of Legion baseball tournaments. If you know of any towns that are participating in Legion baseball stop by and support them.

Speaking of baseball events, Inkster will be hosting their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legion Team on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the old Inkster Hall with doors opening at 0900. There will also be lunch served, the ceremony, and a short parade. There are six members remaining: Vern Schanilec, Ernie Schanilec, Benny Lucht, Ivan Lucht, Lee Ferguson, and Lloyd Omdahl. It would be so wonderful to see you there and have a huge turnout for this once in a lifetime event.

Also, our summer convention is the last weekend of June in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center. There, I will be handing the flag to my Vice Commander, Jay Nesdahl. Jay, you will be a great Commander to this incredible District.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the guidance, camaraderie, trust, and bond that I will never forget through the visits and phone calls. Thank you so very much for allowing me to be your commander. I look forward to seeing you again in the future.



**Jacob Volk**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 3,

It is hard to believe that a year is already almost gone. It has been a busy year visiting posts in District 3. I enjoyed going from post to post visiting with Legion members.

At our District 3 Spring Meeting, we had a great turn out with almost 70 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL members attending. I would like to thank York for setting up and hosting the meeting. The Auxiliary cooked and served the best meal we could have every asked for, Thank You Auxiliary for doing that.

Our Department Convention is coming up on June 23-25, 2023, in Bismarck. Hope to see everyone there. Looks like spring finally made it, it has been a long stormy winter. I hope nobody is being flooded out if you are and need help, let Robert or myself know we will do what we can to help.

At the convention I will be replaced by Robert Wishart as District 3 Commander. I will be running for Central Vice Commander. I would like the support from District 3, 4, and 5. Have a good and safe summer.



**Jon Metz**  
4<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 4,

I am not much of a writer as you can tell from my absence in the last two papers. Please forgive me for that.

I am glad, as I'm sure many of you are, that spring is finally here!! I want to say "Thank You" to all who were able to make it out to the Spring District meeting we held at the All Vets Club in Jamestown on March 23rd. And I want to invite everyone to plan to attend the State convention and next Fall's District meeting. A big "Congratulations" to all the Posts that received awards at the spring meeting, keep up the good work. At the spring meeting I said I would serve another term and Randy Entzminger was elected to the District Vice-Commander position.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you would like me to visit your Post. On March 24th Post 250 in Gackle had the American Legion Birthday Party and we had Major Steve English speak about his time serving in Poland last year and about all the care packages sent to him for the Ukrainian refugees. His presentation was amazing! Thank you District 4 for all that you do!!



**Major Steve English**

### Greetings from District 5,

I think winter might be behind us! Looking at my yard, the 7 to 8-foot snow piles are gone. Amazingly, there is no runoff.



**Ron Dykema**  
5<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr

We had our 5<sup>th</sup> District Spring Meeting on March 25 at the Bismarck AmVets hosted by Garrison Post 49 and Bismarck Post 1. A very good meeting and turnout – only two posts didn't have representatives. There were 24 Legionnaires in attendance. We did find a 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander – Janette Fetch from Bismarck Post 1. I think she will do a terrific job as District Vice Commander and next year as 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander. They unanimously made me 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander for another year. I will try to do a good job for all of you.

The Department Convention is coming up fast on June 23, 24, and 25. It will be at the Bismarck Hotel in Bismarck, ND, and will be hosted by my home post Hazelton Post 126. I'm hoping for another good representation from 5<sup>th</sup> District and the rest of state as Bismarck is centrally located.

Hope to see you at Bismarck. Enjoy the rest of spring and summer and be safe.



**Allan Magnuson**  
6<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 6,

This is my last article as your District Commander, and I am a little sad about not being your District Commander at the end of June. I want to let you all know I was extremely proud of all of you that attended the spring district meeting.

I want to thank the county VSO's Lynn Price from Renville County, Jim Davenport from McHenry County, and Heather Thompson from Bottineau County for making a very successful session in Kenmare, ND, on June 10 to help 15 veterans understand what they can file for and to understand the new PACT Act and how to go about starting a claim with the VA. We will be having another session on Wednesday the 28th of June in Bottineau starting at 6pm for veterans in the surrounding area to get information and help with claims with the VA.

I am hoping that at the State Convention I will be elected to the West Region Vice Commander position by all four districts in the West Region.

I thank all legionaries for the support they have given me during my two years as District Commander for the 6th



**Vernon Laning**  
7<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 7,

Well, I think winter has finally left us. So now all the outside projects are starting up as well as some very important holidays. Both Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day provide our Legion Posts an opportunity to get out in front of the public and let them know our proud heritage. Our veterans have given so much and sometimes people need to be reminded.

March had its share of activity. I attended Hebron's 104<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration which was fun as well as filling thanks to the potluck meal. Then we held our Spring District Meeting in Mandan on March 18 and contrary to my last article, the Mandan Post 40 hosted the meeting at the Mandan Eagles club. Although elections were scheduled, no one stepped up for either the Vice-Commander or Commander positions so at this point it looks like I'll continue as District 7 Commander for another year. The Vice Commander position is still open for any interested legionnaire.

Regarding our membership goal, we did not achieve the desired 100% by the middle of April. However, our district did have the best percentage in the state at 95.17% which slightly edged out several other posts that had 94% or better. Congratulations, but we really need to push for more members, especially younger veterans.

As always, if your post is having a scheduled meeting, I'd appreciate a heads-up so I can try to attend. Or if you are having an activity that I can assist with, please let me know. The best contact method would be my email address at [vlaning@bis.midco.net](mailto:vlaning@bis.midco.net).

With that, I'll sign off. I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in Bismarck this year on June 23-25. Don't forget to get your registrations in for the banquet too.



**Alan Fehr**  
8<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr

### Greetings from District 8,

Thank you for allowing me to be your District Commander this past year. It is the best job in the American Legion!

Congratulations to Posts who were successful in recruiting and thank you to the Posts who completed their CPR reports. Hopefully, you have a full slate of officers for the year and are ready for your summer activities.

Jason Anderson will return as your District Commander for the coming year and Ed Dick will once again be your District Vice Commander. It will be a good year with two experienced individuals. They will assume their duties this summer at the Department Convention.

The Department Convention will be in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center on June 23-25, 2023. Department Conventions are always a lot of fun and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

I hope you have a great summer, filled with fun and family time.

If we can help, please reach out to me or Jason. I can be contacted at: [AlanFehr\\_NDNG@usa.com](mailto:AlanFehr_NDNG@usa.com)

**Have You Paid Your 2023  
Membership Dues?**



# SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

**DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER**



## Finish Strong and Plan for the Future

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! We are almost at the end of the 2023 membership year, but there is still time to get renewals in and new members recruited. We are hitting our membership targets by the dates. I want to encourage you to keep up the recruiting, but do not forget your renewals, as this is an area we can improve in. As of our early May report we are at just over 92% with 979 of our goal of 1056. Folks, I want us to hit 1110 members by June 15, which would put us at 105% of goal, which is only 131 members away. Let's push hard and finish strong.

As we wrap up the year, I want to encourage Squadrons to submit your Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) if you haven't already done so, as well as your annual Squadron Data Report (SDR). As you hold elections for officers, please make sure you send the officer report form to Department HQ, so we can have updated points of contact for each Squadron. To the rest of the membership, please log into MyLegion.org and update your contact information, especially your email address, so we can keep in contact with you. We only have maybe 25% of member emails and I promise we will only send you news on Detachment virtual Zoom calls, and other important news related to Detachment activities to keep you informed.

Our Detachment calls are going on and are a chance for you to hear from us and us to hear from you in between our Convention and Winter Conference. They are held via Zoom and if you are not already getting emails from me via our email list, please let me know if you are interested and I can send the information to you. Calls are on the third Thursday of the month at 7PM Central/6PM Mountain. At April's call, the officers discussed Convention ideas and starting to develop a five-year plan for the Detachment.

Speaking of the Convention, I want to invite all SAL members to come to Bismarck June 23-25 for the Convention. We will have our business meeting, including election of officers, and we are hoping to have a couple of other activities planned for you all. We especially want to see new members and members from our newer Squadrons attend and make new friends.

Regarding Detachment officer elections, if you have dedication and ambition, and are a go-getter, please consider serving as an officer at the Detachment level. We are a great team and would love to grow with you and continue the work. Please do not feel intimidated, as we are here to help guide and mentor you. Same with being a Squadron officer, please do not be nervous, reach out with questions, we are here to help.

The Detachment is exploring starting a project that the Squadrons can help with that will benefit children in our state facing a parent deploying with the military or facing another traumatic situation. We are exploring getting involved with Operation A.L.F., a Detachment of Wisconsin program that provides comfort puppies, named ALF (for American Legion Family) to children. The puppies are \$10 each and feature a red T-shirt with all the Legion Family emblems on them.

This project will complement the wonderful comfort teddy bears that Legion Children and Youth Chair Don Weible administers. I encourage Squadrons to help with Don's project too, and for an enterprising SAL member that is passionate about our Children and Youth programs to consider stepping up as the chair on the SAL side to work alongside our Legion Department chair. This is a great opportunity for Squadrons to work in their communities to raise funds to get the puppies and distribute them to a local hospital, as well as first responders, and also nearby

military units to provide for families facing deployment, illness, or other hardship, where a child needs comfort. More information will be sent as we get started on this endeavor.

One other item that we are exploring is the establishment of District officers, specifically Commanders, as well as Region Vice Commanders for the Detachment to help serve as an extra level of communication between the Detachment officers and the Squadrons, so if you know of motivated up and coming leaders that would be good candidates, please forward their names to us and consider attending your District meetings and making your presence known to the Legion Family. We will work with the Department to see how to make these changes reality in the future as part of the five-year plan we are developing.

If you are interested in being a delegate to National Convention in August in Charlotte, NC, please reach out to myself, or one of the other Detachment officers. Last year was my first time attending a National Convention and it is truly an awesome experience that I would encourage members to attend if possible. You get to meet so many members from around the country and it is a great learning opportunity. Let's have a full slate of delegates this year.

Again, as your Squadron does activities, please take pictures and send me information on it, as I am happy to include it in this column. As we head into the summer season, please remember our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers and see if there are ways your Squadron can meet any needs.

In closing, please feel free to email me at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com with questions, or call/text me at 218-791-3804. Thank you for all you do for the Sons of the American Legion and keep up the great work.

For God and Country.

## Quilts of Valor

CHI Health at Home & Hospice along with Missouri River Quilts of Valor both of Bismarck, had the privilege of awarding a Quilt of Valor to Emil Sprenger at his home. Emil served in the United States Army from June 20, 1946, to October 20, 1947, in Japan. His rank was E-3 (PFC). His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Rifleman. Emil's primary duty location was Japan, where he was an

MP (Military Police) in Occupied Territory 669. He is the recipient of Army Occupation Medal Japan, WWII Victory Medal, and WD CIR 118-46. Emil's memberships include American Legion – McClusky, Amvets – Bismarck where he was a founding member and the VFW.

Mr. Sprenger, thank you for your service!



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# POST EVERLASTING

The following North Dakota Legionnaires have been reported by their respective posts to have died and been transferred to the Post Everlasting.  
*“Because of them, our lives are free; Because of them, our nation lives; Because of them, the world is blessed.”*

**Bismarck - Post #1**

Bauman, Clarence..... Unknown DOD  
Dilger, Anton ..... Unknown DOD  
Dockter, Gustave..... Unknown DOD  
Graf, Norman..... Unknown DOD  
Laundreaux, Louis..... 01/12/2023  
Pfannsmith, Kevin..... Unknown DOD  
Rowan, Robert..... Unknown DOD  
Sakariasen, John..... 03/26/2023  
Saude, Joel..... Unknown DOD  
Schuchard, Lyle..... Unknown DOD  
Thorstenson, Dale ..... Unknown DOD  
Wolf, Harold..... Unknown DOD

**Fargo – Post #2**

Grobe, Leo..... 10/27/2021  
Heyd, Lawrence..... 12/30/2021  
Joppa, Leonard..... 11/16/2022  
Huettl, Myron ..... 03/28/2023

**Grand Forks – Post #6**

Jordan, Clifford ..... 04/15/2023

**Buffalo – Post #10**

Sproul, John ..... 07/29/2022  
Johnson, John ..... 03/22/2023

**Jamestown – Post #14**

Bensch, Harold ..... Unknown DOD  
Herr, Raynard ..... Unknown DOD  
Kolrud, D..... Unknown DOD  
Yetterboe, Duane..... Unknown DOD

**Hope – Post #18**

Semrad, Victor..... 01/22/2023

**Wahpeton – Post #20**

Singelmann, James..... 11/10/2022

**Rugby – Post #23**

Olson, Jerry ..... 12/24/2022  
Rocheleau, Jerry .....  
Berndt Sr, Alvin ..... 01/15/2020  
Ekren, Leleand ..... 04/22/2023  
Hornstein, Boniface ..... 04/09/2023

**New Rockford – Post #30**

Hillebrand, Michael ..... 03/13/2023

**Oakes – Post #36**

Kelly, Timothy ..... 04/04/2023

**Bottineau – Post #42**

Thompson, Lyle ..... Unknown DOD

**Killdeer – Post #46**

Roll, Allen ..... Unknown DOD

**Bowman – Post #48**

Fulton, James..... 02/16/2023  
Schuh, Harold..... 05/03/2023

**Garrison – Post #49**

Zonk, Donald ..... 07/22/2022  
Iverson, James ..... 12/12/2022  
Hopkins, Kenneth ..... 04/01/2023

**Ashley – Post #53**

Miller, Eldo ..... Unknown DOD

**New England – Post #66**

Buzalsky, Gilbert..... 04/07/2023  
Dill, Willard..... 04/28/2023

**Mott – Post #71**

Colgrove, Bruce..... Unknown DOD  
Dill, Lynn..... Unknown DOD

**Crosby – Post #75**

Alcock, Jerry ..... Unknown DOD  
Bakke, George..... Unknown DOD  
Hanisch, Jon..... Unknown DOD  
Hinricksen, Gerald ..... Unknown DOD  
Moe, Colin ..... Unknown DOD

**Cando – Post #79**

Wagenman, Harlan..... 02/22/2023

**Lidgerwood – Post #84**

Duba, Norman ..... 03/2023  
Wisnewski, William ..... 02/03/2023

**Hankinson – Post #88**

Nelson, Neil ..... Unknown DOD

**Portland – Post #93**

Brunsdale, John..... 03/27/2023  
Nelson, Donald ..... 11/15/2022

**Larimore – Post #97**

Tuma, Albert ..... 03/04/2023

**Hebron – Post #100**

Barth, Joseph ..... 03/04/2023

**Wildrose – Post #110**

Burtman, Jerald ..... Unknown DOD

**Hannaford – Post #113**

Gronneberg, Douglas ..... 04/30/2023  
Johnson, Helen..... 04/26/2023

**Hettinger – Post #115**

Dannenfelzer, Marvin..... 02/21/2023

**Grenora – Post #116**

Smith, Winfred ..... 02/17/2023  
Holm, James..... 02/28/2022

**Plaza – Post #119**

Gray, Brian..... 04/08/2023

**Parshall – Post #121**

Lindee, David..... 03/11/2023

**Maddock – Post #123**

Haugen, Keith..... 03/02/2023

**Turtle Lake – Post #133**

Bailey, Robert ..... 03/09/2023  
Faudskar, Chester ..... 04/18/2023

**Stanley – Post #134**

Dokken, Donald ..... Unknown DOD  
Nesheim, Mark ..... Unknown DOD

**Edgeley – Post #146**

Lagodinski, Jerry ..... Unknown DOD

**Park River – Post #147**

Henley, Frank ..... 04/20/2023

**Wyndmere – Post #153**

Solberg, Arthur..... 04/19/2023

**Granville – Post #155**

Harmon, Harold ..... 01/31/2023  
Kuhnhenh, Robert ..... 03/11/2023

**Lankin – Post #157**

Vondra, Morris ..... 03/15/2023

**Wilton – Post #163**

Hagen, Martin ..... 01/13/2023  
Ylitalo, Dennis..... 10/23/2021

**Milton – Post #179**

McLeod, Floyd ..... 10/2022

**Hazen – Post #189**

Knoell, Gerald..... 04/11/2023  
Dschaak, Leo..... 04/24/2023

**Gwinner – Post #191**

Klemetson, Roger..... 04/07/2023

**Woodworth – Post #205**

Dunphy, Don..... Unknown DOD

**Rutland – Post #215**

Lysne, Richard..... Unknown DOD

**Makoti – Post #230**

Petrick, Steve ..... 09/02/2022

**Rolla – Post #235**

Ryyth, Rudolph..... 03/29/2023

**Wimbledon – Post #236**

Lulay, Timothy..... 10/22/2021  
Samek, Bernard..... 08/14/2021

**Michigan – Post #238**

Foss, Philip ..... 12/07/2022  
Kallestad, Kenneth ..... 07/20/2022

**York – Post #268**

Jenssen, Larry ..... 02/04/2022

**Galchutt – Post #282**

Quamme, Roger ..... 12/22/2022

**New Town – Post #290**

Quale, Darrel ..... Unknown DOD  
Steen, Lee ..... Unknown DOD  
Turner, Robert ..... 04/14/2023

**Harwood – Post #297**

Gourde, Paul ..... 05/07/2023  
Rook, William..... 03/07/2023

**Manvel – Post #299**

Busha, John..... 03/18/2023  
Kvasager, Arvin..... 04/13/2023

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CREDIT UNION



# Local Posts in the News

Your local Post can be featured on this page in future issues by sending photographs and short stories to: North Dakota Legion News, P.O. Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078. All photos must be originals and cannot be clipped from local newspapers.

## Jamestown Post #14

On April 14, American Legion Post 14 conducted a flag folding ceremony for Mrs. Frey's and Mrs. Maus's fifth grade classes at Gussner Elementary. Legion members Dennis Mansavage, Mike Allmer and George Barnes engaged the class with questions about the history of the American Flag and presented them with each folding of the flag and presented information about what the folds represent. Some of the students happily participated in assisting the Legionnaires.



## Fargo Post #2



Thank you to the faithful volunteers at the Post 2 bike shop. A little-known project that has been going on for years is refurbishing bikes for those in need. Many of the bikes have been given out to Veterans. A huge thanks to long time Post 2 Legionnaire Will Hebert, Russ Able and Dan Gronlend. Also, thanks to Steve Parmer, not pictured, who is another volunteer for the bike shop who also finds those Veterans in need of a bike.

## Hope Post #18



On April 1, Post Commander Cary Fuglestad of Hope #18 presented Department Commander Dan Brown with a check for \$500 to be used for the Department Service Officer's expenses.

## Tioga Post #139

A welcome home supper for all Vietnam era Veterans was held in Tioga on March 31 commemorating the day 50 years ago when combat operations in Vietnam ended. Nineteen veterans received a pin and a proclamation. Also, three spouses of deceased Veterans were recognized as well.

Legion guests included Glenn Wahus American Legion National Vice Commander, West Region Department Executive Committeeman Mike Weyrauch, 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Lucinda Bolyard, 9<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander Scott Post and Ed Ennis, DAV Representative. Over 70 people attended the event.



## Dickinson Post #3

Dickinson Matthew Brew Post 3 communications officer Christie Chernich recently fulfilled her childhood dream of playing in a professional musical group when she was selected to perform with The Ringing Nativity, a professional handbell performance January 7 at The Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

Christie's story starts when she was 12 years old, and she joined the St. John Lutheran Church Handbell Choir with her mom. She quickly learned the rhythm of ringing and played until she graduated from high school. Her dream was to play in a military band, so she auditioned and made the Army Band. But after six months of work she didn't make the final cut. She then switched to the MOS 75H, or personnel services specialist. She served at Fort Hood, Texas then USAE Baumholder Army Base in Germany. Her musical career on hold, she never forgot her dream.

After her military career ended, she returned to Dickinson, again took up handbells and eventually joined the local American Legion, currently serving as communications officer and as a member of the Honor Guard. Last fall, she auditioned for The Ringing Nativity and was selected for the prestigious performance. The event cost her around \$2,500; Post 3 insisted on contributing \$1,500 to support one of their own.

Christie said future professional handbell ringing experiences are in her future now that she's achieved her dream. She would love to perform professionally again and travel while doing so. "It's come full circle," she said.



## Manvel Post #299



Manvel Post #299 with their 100% Honor Ribbons for 37 years, National Emergency Fund Donor for 12 years and a POW/MIA Ribbon.



# Local Posts in the News

## American Legion Honors Local Veteran for 50 years of Membership

A half-century ago, gasoline was 35 cents a gallon, the average cost of a home was \$15,000, and Richard Nixon was in the White House. The year 1973 was also the year one member of Post 262 in Belcourt, ND joined the American Legion.

Local Air Force Veteran, Commander Howard Longie was recently recognized by the highest levels of the national veteran organization for his half-century service to the American Legion. The post congratulated Howard on his

50 years of membership with the Lilley-Dionne American Legion Post 262. Thanked him for his service – not only as a 50-year member of the Legion but more importantly for his courage and selflessness in the defense of liberty.

Presented was a 50-year continuous membership star patch, American Legion 50-year Continuous Membership Certificate and Eagle/Flag Trophy with the engraving: “American Legion Post 262 Belcourt, ND; Commander Howard Longie; 50 Years Membership.



## Brocket Post #61



District 3 Commander Jack Volk had the honor of presenting Norman Peterson his 70-year continuous membership certificate. Norman is a member of Brocket Post #61. Congratulations Norman!

## 5TH DISTRICT SPRING MEETING AWARDS PRESENTATION / BISMARCK



BISMARCK POST #1



FREDONIA POST #260



HAZELTON POST #126



LINTON POST #54



WILTON POST #163



TURTLE LAKE POST #133



WING POST #65



WASHBURN POST #12







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## 104<sup>th</sup> American Legion Department Convention

June 23-25, 2023

Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center  
701-660-8063

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, June 22, 2023

4:00 pm DEC Meeting

#### Friday, June 23, 2023

10:00 am Foundation Meeting  
1:00 pm Registration (closes at 5:00 pm)  
1:30 pm Resolutions  
2:00 pm Department Veteran Service Officer Hours (until 6:00 pm)  
3:00 pm Legion Riders  
3:00 pm 40 et 8 Cheminot  
4:00 pm District Officers Flag Rehearsal  
4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting  
4:00 pm Band Practice Room  
4:30 pm Constitution and By-Laws Committee  
4:30 pm Past Dept Commanders Social and Dinner  
5:00 pm Credentials Committee  
5:30 pm First Time Attendees  
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

#### Saturday, June 24, 2023

8:00 am Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)  
8:00 am Color Guard Training Session  
8:00 am VA&R Breakout Session  
8:00 am Incoming Officers Meet and Greet with Incoming Commander and President  
8:00 am Athletic Committee  
8:00 am Americanism/C&Y Committee  
8:00 am Media Alliance  
9:00 am 40 et 8 Grand Promenade  
9:00 am District Officers/CPR's  
9:00 am SAL Meeting  
10:00 am Legion Training Session  
10:00 am VA&R Breakout Session  
11:00 am Credentials Committee  
11:00 am Boys State  
1:00 pm Legion General Session  
3:00 pm Regional Caucuses  
3:45 pm National Convention Meeting  
4:00 pm VA&R Breakout Session  
4:00 pm SAL Training Session  
5:30 pm Social  
6:30 pm Department Convention Banquet  
7:30 pm Dance (until 10 pm)

#### Sunday, June 25, 2023

8:00 am Department Veteran Service Office Hours (until 9:00 am)  
8:00 am Oratorical Committee  
8:00 am VA&R Committee  
8:00 am Incoming Officer Pictures  
8:00 am Registration (closes at 9:00 am)  
9:00 am Credentials Committee  
9:00 am Joint Worship Service  
Joint Session  
Legion Session  
Post Convention DEC Meeting  
Organizational Meeting (Newly Elected District and Dept Officers)

### Advanced Department Convention Banquet Ticket Order Form

Please reserve the following tickets for (Legionnaire's Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Under Post # \_\_\_\_\_ in District # \_\_\_\_\_ Located in \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price if RECEIVED By June 5th: \$35.00

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price AFTER June 5th: \$40.00

ALL advanced ticket orders must be received by the Department Headquarters by June 15th.

Banquet Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ (quantity) X \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (price) = \_\_\_\_\_ Total

TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Advanced ticket orders must be received at the Department office by the correlating due date to receive the \$35 (June 5th) or \$40 after June 5th. After June 15th, tickets must be purchased at the registration desk. A limited number of tickets are available and sold on a first come first served basis.

**Make Checks Payable to** American Legion Department of ND



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