



NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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The Message (American Legion Auxiliary) Inserted On Pages 7-10

Minot to Host Winter Conference

The 2025 Winter Conference will be hosted by Minot's American Legion William G. Carroll Post #26 on January 24-26, 2025, to be held at the Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot.

This year, National Vice Commander James Kellogg from Minnesota will be our guest speaker for the banquet on Saturday.

James Kellogg was elected as a National Vice Commander of The American Legion during 105th National Convention in New Orleans on August 29, 2024.

Kellogg served as an aircraft radio repairman in the U.S. Air Force from 1969 to 1973. Following his military service, Kellogg returned to his home in Minnesota and began farming. He has been a member of American Legion Post 146 in Adams, Minn., since 1977 and has held numerous post offices including commander, chaplain and executive board member. He also serves on the honor guard. Kellogg was awarded a life membership after serving as a district commander.

He has served as a department (state) commander, vice commander, historian and sergeant-at-arms, in addition to numerous chairmanships and committee assignments.

A member of ANAVICUS and the Knights of Columbus, Kellogg served at the national level on the American Legion National Security Council. He also

serves on his county's Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Corn and Soybean Growers.

Married since 1970, Kellogg and his wife Brenda have four children, Lynn, Eric, Edward and Luann, and 12 grandchildren. All are Legion Family members. His daughter, Luann, is also an Air Force veteran. The family enjoys hunting, fishing and boating.

On Friday at 2:00 pm, National Midwest Liaison Nick Arnett from National Headquarters will have a membership booth and will be available to help with questions on membership.

The State High School Oratorical Contest Finals are on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 pm with Department Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Weyrauch overseeing the contest.

If you want to pre-register for the Winter Conference, mail your Advanced Registration and Banquet ticket form with added meals on Saturday and Sunday on the order form on page 16. The price of the pre-registration banquet ticket is \$30 and increases to \$35 after January 8th. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk and is on a first come first served basis so order your tickets in advance. Advanced Registration forms will not be accepted after January 16, and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

The Legion Family receives a discounted room



National Vice Commander James Kellogg

rate with the Minot Grand Oasis Hotel. Please call the hotel directly to make your room reservation by calling 701-852-3161. Discounted rates are available through January 9, 2025, by 5:00 pm.

ND American Legion Training

By Mamie Havelka, Department Commander

The ND American Legion Training has completed training at all the District meetings. Instruction/training was on annual awards and Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). The awards are due the end of December so send them in soon. The CPRs, done by every Post, are due in the Spring. 100% is the goal!

An instruction/training session, for Legionnaires, was held at Minot in October. It was an RSVP

event due to seats available. There was a full house. A plethora of topics: MyLegion online, conduct a meeting, hat etiquette, Honor Guard – rifle and ammo, Post Adjutant duties, department, and post awards and more. It was an overwhelming positively received event. After action comments were to have more sessions. More events are in the works, as well as requested events. Take the opportunity to come to

or request an event. One on one, the committee will consider requests.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman Steve Anderson, (701)370-0073, email – usmcanderson7797@gmail.com, Commander Mamie Havelka – (701)340-1621, mamie.havelka@gmail.com or Headquarters Sarah Kim – (701)293-3120, info@ndlegion.org





Greetings to the American Legion Family,

I have to say upfront that the weather has been surprising this fall and as we move into the winter season the snow so far has stayed away. I want to thank and commend the East Region Districts for the District meetings they hosted. Wyndmere, Hatton and Park River did a great job of organizing the meetings and setting up their respective facilities. Well done!

It was great to meet and greet the membership of the Legion family. I enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to making new friendships within the Legion family. The emphasis does need to be on family whether we are in the legion, auxiliary, SAL or riders. We are family.

I hope to see the posts seriously considering starting a SAL squadron at their posts. We are seeing a decline in membership due to attrition. Veterans are getting older and passing on. The World War II generation is virtually gone, and the Korean generation is not far behind. It has been fifty years since Vietnam. If we hope to see our local posts survive and flourish, we need to think of those who would fit the Sons of the American Legion requirements.

Just one more thought, please pay attention to your Consolidated Post Report. You all do things during the year that support the four pillars of the American Legion. Take note of them when they occur so it does not become a burden at the end.

I wanted to mention the upcoming Winter Conference that will be held in Minot. I hope that each Post will consider attending the conference. It is an interesting time with the opportunity to see how the Legion operates. I would also like to give a heads up that it is never too early to start thinking about the Spring District meetings. It is always easier to get location, dates and times nailed down early and will free up the planning process for the host post.

I also want to wish all of you the best for this holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander



Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

Here we are again, on the eve of a North Dakota winter and the days just seem to get shorter and shorter and thus go by faster and faster. Before we know it, we will be in Minot for the 2025 Winter Conference.

All of our West Region fall meetings went very well and we even had a couple of joint meetings that were all well attended. Each meeting was followed by training conducted by our NEC Anderson and Department Commander Havelka. Interested members were given information on the awards programs and Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs).

These sessions were just a small sample of what Commander Havelka had planned for late October. A group of 25 Legionnaires got together on a Saturday afternoon in Minot and had 4 hours of additional training on those two subjects conducted by NEC Anderson and Teri from ND Legion HQ, also navigation of MyLegion.org was also conducted by Sarah from ND Legion HQ. I covered how to conduct a meeting. We also discussed how to maintain Legion weapons and ammunition. Great discussion on proper etiquette and protocol for different functions and gatherings with Legion members present was also had. Commander Havelka and myself are making arrangements to have another training session in the Southwest Region hopefully in December, date and location still TBD. We will send out and announcement as soon as possible once that is decided. Future sessions are also being discussed. We know there is a need for training and we are trying our best to help facilitate that need.

I will continue to try my best to serve this organization to the best of my abilities, but I would be remiss if I didn't include and thank all of you, for all you did, are doing and will continue to do in the future to honorably serve our nation.

Many of us have been out of the official uniform for a long time but we know the time we served was precious. No matter if you served 2 years (or less) or 20+ years. That time mattered to someone, and our nation is better place for it.

Never hesitate to Be the One and have a great 2024 holiday season.

Jason Anderson
West Region Vice Commander

ACOVA Representatives

By Don Herrly, Dept. Adjutant

Each year our Department is asked to present two names to the Governor for their review to select one individual to be appointed to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA). The ACOVA is comprised of fifteen appointed veterans, three from each of the five principal veteran organizations, ND Veterans of Foreign Wars, ND American Legion, ND AmVets, ND Disabled American Veterans and the ND Vietnam Veterans of America. There are four additional members on the board that are non-voting members of the Committee. The individuals are appointed to serve a three-year term.

If you are a member of The American Legion Department of North Dakota and you are interested in serving as one of our representatives on the ACOVA, please submit a letter of application to Department Headquarters and include a short biography. Include your military service, civilian occupation, relevant education or schools attended, and why you think you would be a good candidate to be our representative. You have the option of including a resume if you desire.

It is imperative to understand that The American Legion and these appointments are not political positions, so please do not include any party affiliation or political positioning.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee who will conduct interviews with qualified applicants during the Winter Conference in January. The committee will select two candidates for Department Executive Committee approval to be submitted to the Governor's Office. We are only allowed to submit 2 names for consideration and the Governor's Office makes the final decision of who is appointed to serve a 3-year term.

The ACOVA usually meets four times a year, but more often if needed, especially during the legislative session. This committee works closely with the ND Veterans Coordinating Council, and both are responsible for preparing and presenting bills to the legislature that would affect veterans.

If you are interested in a position on this committee, submit your information by regular mail or email, to arrive at Department Headquarters no later than one week prior to the Winter Conference on January 24-26, 2025.



As we are getting ready for the snow that will be coming sooner than later, make sure your snowblower, shovels and tires on your vehicle are in good shape. Also make sure to have a winter survival kits in all your vehicles.

The Central Region have completed all our District meetings. We had a good attendance at all the Meetings. It is time for our District Vice Commanders to start looking for their replacements so when we have our spring district meetings you will have someone to take your place. Also, I will not be running for Central Vice next year so if you have someone in your District that would be ready to step into my position let me know.

Winter Conference will be here before we know it. It is in Minot at the Grand Oasis Hotel on January 24th to the 26th. I would like to see more attendance from our region. A lot of work goes into it from our Department Headquarters. You meet a lot of legionnaires from around the State who attend and also a lot of good information at the meetings.

The National Convention in New Orleans was great. The meetings were long but good info was handed out. The food was so good I think I gained a few pounds for sure.

There has been some spam emails going around from our Commander and Commander Elect, do not respond to them. Our leadership will never ask you to go pick up gift cards for them or ask for money.

I want to thank the Districts in my Region for the great support and thank the District Commanders for the job they are doing. When things settled down, I would like to do some Post visits. I will let the Post know before I show up.

Jacob Volk
Central Region Vice Commander

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

North Dakota Boys State

By Garrett Anderson, Deputy Director Recruitment

Hello Legionnaires. It is that time of the year again for North Dakota Boys State where the recruiting process will be hitting the ground running so that we (you and the Boys State Staff) can inform the young men of the state about the amazing program you sponsor.

By this time, our mass mailer should be out or is just about to go out. This mailer informs a good number of potential delegates that have been identified as students that could benefit from being involved with the Boys State program through their participation in school activities, but this mail might not reach all of the students that could be amazing candidates for the Boys State program. This is where I need your help, talk to those in your communities that you know that have a high school Junior in their lives

about applying on the ND Boys State website at to attend Boys State in June. I would love to expand our school visits with you and a member of our past delegation to talk about the program. Boots on the ground end up doing a lot for our recruitment efforts.

Last year we hit a great accomplishment of increasing our attendance at Boys State and I would like to continue that trend. To achieve that I need your help, something as simple as requesting information to give to a potential delegate or having them connect with myself does more than you can imagine. So spread the word and thank you all for everything you have done to make the ND Boys State program a possibility.

You can reach me at (701)-799-0306. Boys State website ndboysstate.org.

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COMMANDER COMMENTS

MAMIE HAVELKA - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Season's Greetings Everyone!
 Fall District meetings are finished and a huge "Thank you" to those that made them a success, despite lower than desired attendance. Also, we added, for the first time, a training/information event at the end of each meeting for those able to attend. These events were well received, and our Legionnaires would like to have more. Our District meetings, as well as the Post visits, were very inspiring. We are proud of the accomplishments of all the Post events. It is very enjoyable to see how the NDAL Posts interact with their communities. It was noted that the more community involvement the larger the American Legion Family growth. To observe how this unfolds is fascinating. There is more interest in joining the Legion Family to become a part of The American Legion Family. North Dakota is very patriotic and notices the wonderful things we, NDAL Family, do that stems from the Four Pillars. Yes, we are "Proud to Belong"
 Winter Conference is in Minot, January 2025. Let us all plan to attend and show how The American Legion in the great state of North Dakota does things. The office staff are already working hard on setting up this event. The winter conference is also the time that Legionnaires step up and start their campaign for the coming year. This year we will have, from National Membership guest, Nick Arnett, who will be highly active during the entire Conference. Please help make him feel welcome. Another special guest will be National Vice Commander James Kellogg, be sure to take time to visit with him. He enjoys hearing about what we do in NDAL.

CPR's (Consolidated Post Reports), my challenge is 100% this year. The District Commanders have the authority to contact the Post if needed and get these submitted.

My Commander's project is two-fold: 1. Future of NDAL Long Term which includes solvency and training/instruction events. 2. Be The One; Service Dogs of America, Jud, ND and focus on mental wellbeing. Be The One is also a National American Legion campaign, there is more information and training on the National website. The "Be The One" focus, I predict will be with The American Legion forever. In that light, continue carrying out "Buddy Checks" especially this time of year.

Training/Information Event: As stated earlier there was training after all District meetings with a successful outcome. In October, the Training Team completed a session that was an RSVP event in Minot, and we had to turn folks away. This event was open to all Legionnaires, topics included MyLegion (membership, transmittals, renewal letters, etc.), how to conduct a meeting, Honor Guard rifle and bullet care, Adjutant duties, awards and so much more. There will be more training in the future as that was the number one request by the attendees. Personalized training is also available if schedules permit. Topics for other future session would be appreciated.

Again, I wish everyone a joyous and blessed holiday season. I am always just a phone call, text, or email away – (701)340-1621, mamie.havelka@gmail.com.

Mamie Havelka, NDAL Commander
 "Proud to Belong, Forever Strong"

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ADJUTANT'S CORNER



DON HERRY - DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

“Silver bells, silver bells. It’s Christmas time in the city. Ring-a-ling, hear them sing.

Soon it will be Christmas day. Strings of streetlights Even stop lights. Blink a bright red and green. As the shopper’s rush home with their treasures.”

It doesn’t seem possible that I am sitting here putting together words for the December issue of the ND Legion News Adjutants Corner. That means that I have been given the amazing gift of having served another year as your Department Adjutant.

It’s an amazing gift because you continue to put your faith in me to fulfill the duties of this office. It’s an amazing gift because my health continues to allow me to do this job. It’s an amazing gift because my wife continues to support me by allowing me the time from what would otherwise be our retirement years to continue to serve.

It’s an amazing gift because this job allows me the opportunity to associate with the greatest group of people anywhere, my fellow veterans and our families. I will refrain from naming the amazing people and mentors that

are no longer with us, because there is not enough room to name all of them. I am thankful that I have the amazing gift of knowing and serving you.

I want to thank you for the gift of your membership so that we can continue to serve all veterans, their families, our communities, and to provide opportunities for our youth via Boys (Girls) State, American Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, etc. None of this would be possible without the continued gift of your membership dollars and donations.

I was deeply moved by something Past National/ Department Chaplain Mark Antal talked about during the 2024 Department Convention Worship Service. He spoke of walking through the Arlington National Cemetery and looking down at a headstone that had the simple inscription “If not me, who?” As we prepare to go into 2025 it is not a secret that our membership is declining and thus the revenue that allows us to operate is also declining. It is no secret that attendance at Post, District and Department functions is declining. It is no secret that it is challenging

to fulfill our leadership positions.

In addition to all the amazing gifts that you have already given, I am going to ask you for a little more. I am going to ask if you have not paid your renewal membership dues, that you do that now. I am going to ask that you stop putting off asking that veteran you know to join us and help support our mission. Don’t be embarrassed by your patriotism. I am going to ask when your next Post, District, Department meeting is held, instead of blowing it off that you attend. I am going to ask when it is time to fill the leadership roles in our organization that you once again step up, even if you have done so before. Because “If not you, Who?”

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate Commander Havelka and her dedication to providing much needed training opportunities. We had a good number of people staying after the District meetings to attend training and 25 people traveled to Minot to attend a training session on a Saturday. Until next time, “Keep your powder dry and may God Bless a strong and free America!”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



CLARENCE L. CARROLL III - CHAIRMAN

I am drafting this article only 24 hours after celebrating Veteran’s Day. I hope you all found the opportunity as I did yesterday, to pause and reflect on your military service and recognize and appreciate those you served with. THANK YOU for your service!

Your Executive Committee met on Saturday September 28th in conjunction with the Department homecoming for Commander Havelka, President Dick, and SAL Commander Sauerwein at Bismarck AMVETS. As Chairman I called the meeting to order at 1:04pm with proper respect given to our national colors.

A Consent agenda was approved containing approval of DEC minutes from 6/20 and 6/23, Confirmation of Lucinda Bolyard as Membership Chair, Confirmation of Cathy Keogh’s appointment as band manager and VA&R committee chair, and Confirmation of Russ Kroshus as District 5 Commander.

Derrick Childs gave the financial report through the end of August. Income is up and expenses are lower apart from the legion band. Their expenses were higher due to attending the National Convention

Dan Sauerwein reported that the detachment recruiting is ahead of schedule, and they are on goal for achieving “triple-nickel” in 2025.

Steve Anderson gave the report for Legion Riders. Tioga and Manvel are both starting new chapters. Steve also reported on upcoming NEC meetings in Indianapolis and his requirement to conduct an annual audit of the Department.

Commander Havelka reported on the activities of the DSO, noting that her workload, and more notably, her accomplishments were equal to or greater than other DSOs nationally. Commander Havelka also noted that Summer was 1 of 6 DSOs recognized at National Convention.

Allan Magnuson reported on the activity of VA&R and added that the suicide awareness walk in Tioga raised over \$1,200.

Your DEC received a presentation from Jordan Hassler with BEK TV on his plan to contact American Legion Posts to highlight what Legionnaires are doing to serve their communities. The concept/proposal entails interviewing members at no cost but charging a fee to the post for the

public service announcement. There is no obligation for posts to participate, and 15% of baseline revenue would be donated back to The American Legion.

We conducted an annual review of the Personnel Policy Manual with only a few minor housekeeping changes and a discussion about why the DEC in the past decided for the DSO to report directly to the DEC and not the Adjutant.

We also discussed how our investment accounts with Steifel are not in line with The Department’s Investment Policies. I mentioned that as an investment professional and owner of a Registered Investment Advisor (firm) that I would like to take over managing The Department’s investments. A motion was approved to allow Commander Havelka to form a committee to rewrite the investment policy.

Commander Havelka commented that she was sending prayers for Allan Magnuson and asked to be updated on his health. She concluded that training at District Meetings has been successful to date and information on National’s post building grants has been discussed.

I adjourned the meeting at 2:16pm.

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American Legion Post 290

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Well, we have just survived another election cycle in our country, and the vitriol on both sides was intense. Now we'll have the pointing fingers as to why one side lost, and the power trips for the side that won. (Lots of "friendly fire," to reference my last article.) The political back & forth is bad and I believe we are all tired of it. We just want to enjoy the holidays with our family. November is supposed to be the month of Thanksgiving, December the month of giving & January the month of new beginnings. As we enter these holidays, one of the best ways to wash ourselves of all the mess from this past year is through giving thanks for all that we have today. No matter how little we have, there is always, always something for which we can be thankful. We can be thankful for our North Dakota American Legion family. Like all families around the holidays, we can have our squabbles. But those can be forgiven because, above all things, we are family. We are "Proud to Belong," and our Legion family will be "Forever Strong," as long as we work together to accomplish our common goals. We can be thankful for our fellow brothers and sisters in arms who have also given of themselves for our country, and we

can be thankful for our High Commander who gives us all things.

Christmas is a time when many of us celebrate God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ, the one who came to live amongst us, taught us the way to God, and sacrificed his life for us, just as we laid down our lives for the country we love. In John 15:13 Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." We give our minds, our might and our money to that which we love. Around Christmas we give to our families, we give to our causes, and we give to the American Legion because it is our ND Legion family with causes that work toward the betterment of our country. We give because we desire to show our love and appreciation to all we hold dear. Our commander has a goal to create a fund to help keep the ND American Legion strong for years to come. Giving to that fund and giving our time to raise money for that fund is a great way to show our love and appreciation for all our Legion family has done and will continue to do with our love and support. It is something new and, as we face a new year, it gives us hope for the future.

This fund, this new beginning, can open up all kinds of potential like a blank canvas. "There is something beautiful about a blank canvas, the nothingness of the beginning that is so simple and breathtakingly pure. It's the paint that changes its meaning and the hand that creates the story. Every piece begins the same, but in the end they are all uniquely different." Piper Payne, Mastering Engineer and author. My wife is a watercolor artist and whenever she begins to paint, she isn't quite sure how it will turn out, especially with watercolor because the paints bleed together and react with the paper in different ways depending on how wet or dry the paper is at that time. It always looks like a mess at the beginning, and an amazing piece of art at the end.

As we begin this new year, may we be thankful for all that we have, for our brothers and sisters in arms, for our great nation and for our eternal Commander in Chief. May we give of ourselves for our ND American Legion family and the causes in which we believe, and may we begin this new year with hope and grace, letting the new things take shape and grow for the betterment of our country. God bless you all this season.

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Are We Missing Out on The Matching Money?

By Harvey Peterson, Foundation Chair

As of today, November 12, we have received \$39,145.79 that are TO BE MATCHED, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR. With only 32 days left until December 14, that leaves us short \$30,854.21 to reach the \$70,000 in donations offered to be matched by our anonymous donor(s).

This matching offer is the first of its kind for the Foundation. It is too good an opportunity to miss out on. If you personally are interested or know of a person or Post that may be able to help, please contact them about this

offer and the deadline, December 14!

We all are receiving requests for donations this time of year (all year?). There were 8 in the mail today - in one day! I'll do what I can - will you?



The Future of the ND Legion – Update

Seasons Greetings NDAL Legionnaires,

When I was growing up on the farm/ranch, my dad, Roy Lininger, instilled in me a value of which I strived to live by, an expectation I put upon myself. "If you can do better than best, then BEST is not good enough."

This value applies to The American Legion Department of North Dakota's (NDAL) Department Service Officer (DSO), Legionnaire Summer Kristianson. Her focus and work with our North Dakota veterans is noticed at the National level. At the National Convention in New Orleans 2024, she was recognized by name as one of six of the Best DSO's in the Nation. This is a high honor and by NDAL recognition is observed. There is more! Summer recently attended the Inaugural DSO Symposium conducted by National American Legion in Leesburg, VA from Oct 20-25, 2024. And still more! At the DSO Symposium Summer received DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE. IN Recognition of Exceptional Knowledge, Proficiency and Unwavering Commitment to Serving Veterans and Their Families, 2024. It would be difficult to say it better than that. I deeply appreciate all of Summer's accomplishments and the good it does for all North Dakota Veterans. There is so much more to share, but that will wait for another time.



DSO Summer Kristianson

In support of NDAL DSO, I take this opportunity to "Thank You" to all who have supported our DSO expenses with your contributions. Your support goes to our NDAL DSO expenses, which is 100% in support of veterans. This purpose is commended, and your pride in our DSO is evident by your appreciation and giving to the DSO Expenses. Thank you again!

Our donations, right now, are falling short to the end of the year. Anybody can give, but if you have gaming, you can use the below form for donations from your gaming trust/donation/foundation account.

Have a blessed Holiday Season and God Bless,

Mamie Havelka
Legionnaire
NDAL Commander
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 ND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
 GAMING DIVISION
 SFN 9801 (6-2023)

Organization: _____

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds The American Legion Department of North Dakota	Contact Person for Applicant Don Herry	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:

Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.

1. American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)

2. American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)

Applicant agrees to retain documentation of the use of the funds for three years 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Request Approved	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date	Eligible Use Code
	<input type="checkbox"/> Request Denied					

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



LUCINDA BOLYARD - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Greeting My Fellow Legionnaires.

This year has been one heck of a ride. Another election for our Commander in Chief has come and gone. I must think that no matter whether your candidate of choice won or not, we are still stronger together. This reminds me of the Veterans Day Programs that many communities put on every year. The camaraderie with fellow veterans is so amazing.

During this year's programs, I met a fellow veteran who told me that he never really thought much about joining a veteran's organization such as the American Legion because of his short time in service. But as it was, his local American Legion Post reached out to him, and he joined. He was welcomed as a brother in arms.

As we approach the end of 2024 and the Holiday Season is fast approaching, we can be proud of ourselves for exceeding the 65% goal for November, as we are sitting at 70%. However, the goal for December is 75%. With the fantastic work I have seen everyone doing, I believe we could be at 100% by 31 December.

As everything continues to increase, including the price of groceries and gas, we can be sure that our dues will increase over time. I recommend looking into the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) option of renewing dues. You have the option of a one-time payment or payments over a year. Once you have paid for a PUFL, you will not have to worry about your dues increasing or dues being paid every year.

Continue reaching out to members from Post 500.

Sometimes, we all need a friendly voice to talk to. Doing Buddy Checks gives us that opportunity, not just for our fellow veterans but also for ourselves, to talk, visit, and catch up on old times. With the Holidays ahead, that may just be the best gift you can give this year.

Again, I have to say how awesome everyone is doing this year on membership, and you should be proud of yourselves. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or information, or just to visit: Lucinda Bolyard, Membership Chair: (256) 605-9113, Email lucinda.bolyard@gmail.com or reach out to Arn Havelka, Assistant to the Membership Chair: (701)340-2965, Email ajhavelka@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

A Way to VA Healthcare

No one likes leaving the house when they don't feel good. VA can now assist with medical advice virtually. This includes making appointments, speaking to a nurse, meeting with a medical provider, and assisting with prescriptions.

Why is virtual care so important? From October 1, 2023, through September 15, 2024, the Fargo VA Healthcare System saw 10,656 emergency care notifications for 5,889

veterans (outside of the Fargo VAMC). This care cost approximately \$32,816,000. Many of these visits could have been treated using a virtual care appointment and research supports the care received through the Fargo VA is better than care in the community. Virtual care allows the veteran to stay at home when he/she is not feeling well while still receiving needed care.

Next time you or your veteran feel like you are needing urgent/emergency care call or chat with VA Health

Connect first! The number to call is 833-983-0492.

Note, this is not for verified emergencies such as heart attack, stroke, or compound fractures.

If you have any questions about VA Health Connect, please reach out to a Veteran Service Officer near you <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso>

Legal Services of North Dakota



Jeffrey Diemert

Bismarck, ND – Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND) is proud to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Diemert as a staff attorney dedicated to veteran representation. A 15-year veteran and current member of the North Dakota Army National Guard, Diemert brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving

his fellow veterans.

A lifelong resident of North Dakota, Diemert joined the Army National Guard in 2009 and later earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2017. Before his recent hire, he practiced general law and served as the prosecuting attorney for the Spirit Lake Tribal Court.

In his new role, Diemert will operate under the Veterans Justice Program, as well as the Legal Services for

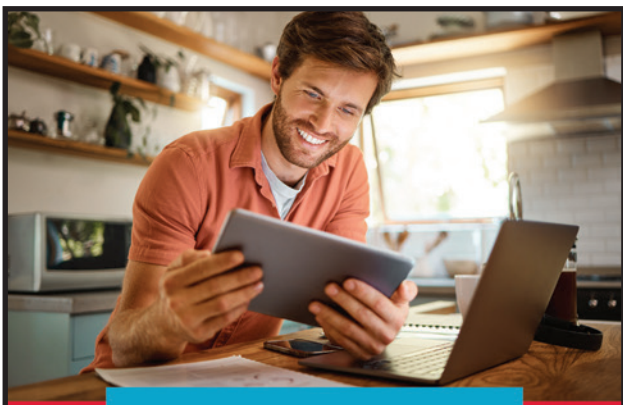
Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant. This initiative allows LSND to provide crucial legal assistance to veterans who served at least 24 months of their initial obligation and were discharged under terms other than dishonorable.

"This grant enables us to support veterans facing a variety of legal challenges," Diemert said. "We can assist with issues ranging from VA benefits and family law to employment, consumer law, and limited criminal defense related to homelessness."

Diemert emphasizes the importance of understanding the broader scope of the grant. "Many veterans might see 'homeless' in the title and think it doesn't apply to them. However, we've helped clients who weren't traditionally considered homeless but still faced significant legal challenges. We encourage all veterans to reach out, regardless of their current housing situation."

Veterans in need of legal assistance are encouraged to contact LSND at 1-800-634-5263. Those over the age of 60 can call 1-866-621-9886. More information and resources can also be found on their website at www.LSND.org.

With Diemert on board, LSND continues its mission to provide accessible legal services to North Dakota veterans, ensuring they receive the support they deserve.



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The Message

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Ward to Visit Winter Conference

National Auxiliary President, Trish Ward, will visit the Department of North Dakota and will be a guest at the 2025 Winter Conference to be held in Minot, North Dakota, January 24-26, 2025.

President Ward is a member of the Department of Kansas John P. Hand Unit 250. She is eligible for membership through her father, John M. Brusati, a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and her grandfather, Edmund S. Lindberg, a U.S. Navy veteran.

President Ward has served in several Unit, District, Department, and National positions including: National Chair of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Leadership, Legislative, ALA Girls Nation, Public Relations, Membership committees; served as Central Division National Vice President; National Executive Committee member; American Legion Auxiliary

Foundation Board of Directors member; and served on the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Team.

The Ward family is a proud American Legion Family that shares a passion for engaging in activities that support the mission of the Legion Family. Trish's husband, Steve, is currently National Executive Committeeman for the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas. Together, Trish and Steve bring children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to The American Legion Family experience.

Trish recently retired from Lumen, a global multinational technology and IT company where she served as a Senior Lead Project Manager. Since retiring, she now focuses on volunteering for The American Legion Family and spending time on her hobbies which include studying parliamentary law and Robert's Rules of Order. Trish possesses bachelor's degrees from both the University of Southern California and

the University of Kansas. She is also a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

When commenting on her time with The American Legion Family, Trish cites her favorite quote: "Follow your passion. It will lead to your purpose." She continues, "Serving our nation's heroes is my life's work, passion, and purpose."

(National and Department submission)



Trish Ward National Auxiliary President

Hankinson Supports Suicide Awareness Program

On July 24, 2024, members of American Legion Auxiliary Eberhard Unit 88 of Hankinson donned "BE THE ONE" t-shirts to raise money for this important suicide awareness program. The event was held at the local Farmers Market in Hankinson city park. We served foot-long hot dogs with all the trimmings, potato salad, chips, cookies and water for a free-will offering.

The beautiful weather brought many people out to support this important program and to spend time together visiting. More than \$600.00 was raised for the "BE THE ONE" suicide awareness project.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Berg



Medina Demonstrates Flag Etiquette

Adam Job Unit 245 of Medina conducted an assembly presentation on "Flag Etiquette" at the Medina Public School to 110 students in Grades 4 through 9 on Friday, October 4, 2024. In addition to students and faculty, several Legion and Auxiliary members were in attendance.

ALA member Mabel Cowell spoke about the importance of proper respect, display, and care of the American flag, as established in the United States Flag Code. She also talked about the history and design of the American flag. A flag-folding demonstration was then given by North Dakota Army National Guard First Sergeant Mitchell Cowell and Sergeant First Class Andrew Tanata. ALA member Ardella Rau explained the meaning of each of the 13 folds during the demonstration.

At the conclusion of the presentation, as the students exited the assembly, each was given a bookmark. It was designed by Mabel Cowell and featured the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article submitted by Mabel Cowell



Department President

Dear Auxiliary Members,
 I am excited to talk to you about what is going on in the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary! We have held all our Fall District Meetings, and it was such a joy to get to meet so many of you! You are all looking so well, and it was fun watching you getting to interact with each other, and sharing things going on in your different Units. That is such a wonderful place to get new ideas, solutions to things you are facing, and getting to meet new people, and make new friends, plus getting to see friends you haven't seen for a while. These are very special times!

Winter Conference is hot on our heels! It is coming on January 24 - 26 in Minot at the Grand Oasis Hotel. Our National President, Trish Ward, will be with us to share her vision, ideas, and solutions for our Units. It is her greatest desire to help us to revitalize our Units, our Districts, and our Department. She is from Kansas, and has seen in Kansas many of the same issues with which we are dealing in North Dakota. Things like small rural towns with few people to recruit, Units which were told to close down due to Covid, and now are struggling to get restarted, members who were once very involved, but now don't seem to want to come out to meetings or help with activities, and on and on. She believes these are issues that are common to much of the country, but she wants to reinvigorate us, inspire us, and set us on a joyful upward path that will help us support, inspire, and be of service to our precious, dearly loved Veterans. So, PLEASE COME TO WINTER CONFERENCE!!!! Bring as many of your members as you can possibly pack in your cars!!!! If you need someone to drive you, perhaps one of the Legionnaires will be willing to drive for you!!!! Just ask them!!!! PLEASE COME!!

MEMBERSHIP is one of our MOST IMPORTANT issues! We love our members and don't want to lose a single one of them! Often we forget to get the dues paid, so a kind reminder often helps. Maybe have a membership table set up at your meeting so it is a very visual reminder! Ask them if they have renewed. Send a reminder card. Have a Membership party where you share fun, goodies, and collect Membership dues! Make it fun to renew your membership! As of the 30th of October, the Department of North Dakota is at 43.08% Membership renewal. In

the Northwestern Region of 7 states: Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado,, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming we are in 6th place between South Dakota and Wyoming. Wouldn't you love to see us much further up in the list? So would I!!! Membership in North Dakota looks like this: Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 are all above 51.05%, while Districts 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are all in the 30th percentile. Come on Western North Dakota and Fargo area, LET'S CATCH UP, and maybe could you pass the Bismarck area and Eastern North Dakota in Membership? Let's try!!!! Let's make it a fun competition!!!!

I'm not sure if I have really told you what my President's Project is. My Project is TROOPATHON. It was called Move America Forward, but a few months ago they changed the name to TROOPATHON to make the purpose more clear. TROOPATHON is a company that sends Care Packages to our deployed troops all through the year. The packages used to go out on holidays and Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but now they go out year round. Our deployed military are out in far places in very hard conditions, and often feel alone, forgotten. The Care Packages are loaded with personal care items, treats, nuts, books, puzzles, whatever they can send to make a soldier, airman, sailor, corpsman, guardsman feel loved and remembered. My goal is for us to be able to send out as many packages to as many of our deployed military men and women as we possibly can. My pin is an eagle, and my theme is Our Veterans, Our Heroes, Our Freedom. Whatever money comes in from the sale of my pins and for my President's Project will go to send packages to our troops. I thank all of you who have bought my pin and hope that beautiful little eagle will bring you joy as you wear it!

I love you ALL, and can't wait to see you at Winter Conference!

For our beloved Veterans and our precious deployed,
LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

American Legion Auxiliary
2025 Winter Conference
January 24-26, 2025
(Tentative schedule/subject to change)
Grand Oasis Hotel – Minot
1505 North Broadway, Minot, ND
Hotel Direct Phone: 701-852-3161

Friday, January 24
 1:00 PMDepartment Finance Board Meeting
 2:00 – 7:00 PMAuxiliary Registration-Hotel Lobby
 3:00 PMDepartment Executive Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 25
 7:00 AM.....Breakfast
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration
 8:30 AM.....Joint Session
 10:00 AM.....Membership Workshop (Auxiliary)
 12:00 PM.....Lunch
 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM ...Oratorical Contest Finals
 4:00 PM.....(Tentative) National and Department President Reception
 5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet Social
 6:00 PM.....Winter Conference - Commanders Banquet

Sunday, January 26
 7:00 AM.....Breakfast
 9:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
 The Department Office has been very busy keeping up with membership and working on Unit mailing packets, Message articles, and archiving records when time allows.
 Thank you, Unit Membership Chairmen, you have done a great job getting dues in.
 As we prepare for the upcoming 2025 Winter Conference, you should be aware that the Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot has been undergoing renovations to better serve its customers. The hotel restaurant is also being renovated and at this time is closed. However, the Legion's Department staff has worked with hotel management to make our event the best it can be. I know it will be successful with perhaps a possible glitch or two.
 Please note that making hotel reservations and pre-

ordering meals is important this year due to this renovation. Information on the Auxiliary's tentative schedule and pre-registration and pre-ordering of meals can be found elsewhere in this issue.

If your unit is ordering meals and registering for more than one person, please send a list of those members along with your order sheet and payment.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Holiday season. See you at the 2025 Winter Conference!

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Chaplain

As we enter into the rush of the Christmas season, I like to set aside a few minutes to quiet my mind. I think back on the simplicity of the first Christmas because, to me, the Christmas story has had a fairy tale idea of what it was like in the stable that first Christmas night. My quiet time usually involves sitting in front of a manger set and thinking what it was like on that still evening long ago, in a humble stable with the traditional stable animals resting in the background. A little baby was born - the Son of God. While we may have considered this to be a quiet event, in actuality, the greatest event in history had just happened. The Messiah had been born!!

I always wondered what was going through Mary's mind. Had she wished her mother were there to help her through her first childbirth? She was not afforded the luxury of an epidural or heart monitors. The only ones who witnessed this birth were herself, her husband Joseph, and a few stable animals. However, she KNEW Jesus was virgin born. She knew she was the virgin whom Isaiah had prophesied would deliver the Messiah to the world. The angel had told her "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:32. She was walking down a road no one had ever walked before. A host of angels filled the skies and announced the joyous event to the shepherds telling them they had great news because "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

A Savior? For us lowly shepherds?? The angels told them "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." Luke 2:12 If I had been a shepherd, I also would have left for Bethlehem to see this baby who would be my Savior. When the shepherds left the manger, they went away praising God and spreading the news for this was truly a gift from God to man.

For ages, the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds. Do you know who I feel sorry for? The people at the inn who missed it. They were right next door!! They were too busy with their everyday lives to notice what was taking place eternally.

My reminiscing fills my heart with wonder and brings me into a more purposeful Christmas season, especially when I look at the little baby in the manger and think "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Reading scripture, we can see God's love woven throughout history as He continually reaches out to man. As difficult as this seemed for Mary & Joseph at the time, this was all part of God's plan.

"Look to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22.

Rose Laning



Rose Laning

Department Treasurer

Well, 2024 is ending, and we are approaching the season of giving. Our Units are embracing this concept through their yearly contributions. It has been so interesting for me to learn about who our Units are and where they are. I know that our various programs will be so grateful to all of you for your thoughtful donations. Please remember to get your contributions in as soon as possible if you missed the November 1st deadline. This allows us to get those funds out to the programs as soon as possible after the first of the year.

Speaking of thoughtful donations, Units, Districts, and Departments have been collecting funds in response to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund's (AEF) request for donations. These funds will help with the disasters caused by two back-to-back hurricanes that affected the southeastern United States. So far, \$1,119 in "extra" AEF donations have been made from our North Dakota Auxiliary members and Units!

I know there are many of you who are working diligently on making sure that your Unit is complying with state and federal registration and reporting requirements—thank you! I know that some Units are unsure of whether or

not they are going to seek to have their tax-exempt status restored with the IRS as it is a \$600 fee to do so. However, regardless of what your Unit decides to do with the IRS, your Unit is still a non-profit operating in the State of North Dakota and must be registered with the state. I sent out instructions for doing so in the September Unit mailing packet. The instructions are also available at www.ndala.org/unitmailings/ under the heading September 2024. It is a \$40 fee to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State with an annual report due February 1st of every year. The annual fee for that report is \$10. If you have any questions, the staff at the Secretary of State's office are ready to assist you. You can contact them at (701) 328-2900. You will be registering as a new business.

Happy Holidays to you all, and Blessings in the New Year.

Susan Degner - CPA



Susan Degner

Department NEC

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton made landfall on the west coast of Florida bringing devastation to everything in their path. The ALA's Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is available to members who have been affected by disaster, offering grant awards up to \$3,000. However, this assistance can only continue with your support. Make a difference by ensuring we have the funds now, and in the future, by donating to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Learn more and donate here: www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF.

So you think you know everything about shipping packages! Whether you are sending care packages to deployed troops, handling returns, sending packages for your small business, or simply shipping personal items, are you truly optimizing the process? If you are still manually creating labels, juggling spreadsheets, and making frequent retail counter trips to ship, you might be missing out on a smarter, more efficient way.

ShipThrifty is not just another tool — it is a game-changer. The platform simplifies label creation, cuts costs, and eliminates the need for cumbersome manual tracking. Whether you are shipping care packages, business returns, or personal items, ShipThrifty's platform adapts to your

needs, saving you time and money. Plus, you can schedule pickups to save even more time. (Courtesy National Auxiliary)

The American Legion considers looking out for each other and fellow veterans, one of its membership's most sacred responsibilities. Since May 2019, by way of Resolution No. 18, Legionnaires have been urged to conduct "Buddy Checks" during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and around Veterans Day. The result has been more than 1 million veterans getting a phone call, email, text message or in-person visit, just to see how each of them is doing.

This is a great way to contact a veteran and to share some "ALA Sweetness" too. Bring a plate of cookies when you make your visit/check and make it a great experience for both of you.

This is not just a Legion program; it is a nice thing to do for veterans from an Auxiliary member too.

Judy Twete



Judy Twete

Follow us on Facebook!

See what the Department of ND is doing to help veterans. Search: North Dakota Legion Auxiliary

Are you signed up for monthly Department e-newsletters?

Send an email to news@ndala.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line. In the body of the email, please list your name, unit number, and position held (if applicable). You will be added to the Constant Contact group list.



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District 1



Certificates were presented to several in attendance at the 2024 District 1 Fall Meeting held in Hatton on October 17. The 2024 Americanism Essay Contest NW Division winner, Amber Schmidt of Hope, was honored. The Department's VAVS Representatives, Carol Wolf and Marge Gourde, were recognized for perfect attendance at their 2023-2024 quarterly meetings.

**Marcy Schmidt,
Department Secretary**



Essay contest winner Amber Schmidt (left) and Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary.



Carol Wolf, Department VAVS Representative (right) and LoAnn Dick, Department President.

District 2



Hello District 2 Auxiliary Members,

We had a good turnout for our 2024 Fall District meeting held in Park River. Thank you to our members and guests that attended.

Department President LoAnn Dick attended and reported on the National Convention. The theme was "BE THE ONE." There was a class on suicide prevention at the convention. More information can be found on the national Legion website www.legion.org.

Other topics at the convention included encouraging Units to apply for grants to help with projects they may be working on. The goal is to award five grants from National for each Department. More information can be found on the national Auxiliary website www.alaforveterans.org.

Candace Berg, President-Elect/Co-Chair membership, spoke about membership. She distributed member benefits brochures. Renewals for 2025 are due December 31, 2024. Encourage your members to renew by December 7th.

Congratulations to Units whose membership is already at or over 100%. Certificates were presented to the following District 2 Units: Cavalier, Lankin, Mountain, and Tolna. Others that received their certificates at the 2024 Department Convention were Park River and Pisek.

Judy Twete, NEC, spoke about the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) that responds to member needs during a disaster. She also mentioned Leadership Workshops. If you get a chance to attend, do so. You will not regret it.

A motion was made and approved to send \$150 of our District funds to the AEF program to assist the hurricane victims in the southeast United States.

At our spring meeting someone suggested compiling lists of ways to volunteer. We had several wonderful suggestions including: Halloween gifts, May baskets, Socks of Love, beautification of their Legion and town, Pocket flags, and Purple Up Day for military children. Please keep the suggestions coming.

I asked for nominations for District Vice President. Larissa Schmitz has accepted the position of District Vice President. Thank you, Larissa. You will do a wonderful job.

Have you finished updating your Constitution & Bylaws? If not, please complete them as soon as possible. I also want to remind every Unit to fill out your IRS 990-N tax-exemption form online to maintain your non-profit status.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 Winter Conference in January!

**Shelley Schuster
District 2 President**

Poppy Program

The Department's Poppy Program is going well. Poppy orders are being processed for mailing as they come in. If you have not already received your order, I will get them to you as soon as I can.

We are seeking additional Auxiliary members and veterans to assist in assembling poppies. If you would love to be on the poppy assembly team, please give me a call. Directions on how to assemble poppies are also available by calling me or visiting the Department poppy webpage at www.ndala.org/poppies-2/. Feel free to email me at poppies@ndala.org

I attended three Fall District meetings and distributed information on how to make felt poppies as well as our traditional crepe poppies. Information on the 2025 Poppy Poster Contest was also dispersed.

**Carol Wolf
Poppy Co-Chairman**



Ashlyn Chavers (right), Department poppy poster contest winner from District 3, is presented her certificate by Candace Berg, Department President-Elect. Well done!



Gackle-Streeter poppy poster winners were recognized at the District 4 Fall meeting in Jamestown. Pictured from left: Elaine Ackerman, Gackle Unit President; Jenna Homola, Department winner; Kyla Lybrand, Department winner; and Olivia Lang, Department and NW Division National winner. Congratulations! (Poppy photos and several headshots courtesy of Candace Berg/IceBerg Art)

Children & Youth

Greetings Auxiliary Members! This is my second year as your Department Children and Youth Chairman and, once again, I am looking for nominations for the Good Deed and Youth Hero awards.

Good Deed Award

- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service.
- A specific deed should be present.
- Winners receive a certificate

Youth Hero Award

- Act of valor
- Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor
- Winners receive a medal and certificate

Simply visit alaforveterans.org for online nomination forms and instructions. You can also find other great ideas such as:

- Star Spangled Kids
- National Poppy Poster Contest

Looking ahead, let's get ready for Purple Up for Military Kids in April!

Whatever your Unit can do, let's do it! Nominate an amazing local youth, volunteer at a nearby school, deliver ALA coloring books, show you care! Let's help the youth in our communities and pass on the torch of patriotism!

Hope to see you at Winter Conference!

**Jill Carstens
Children and Youth Chairman**



Natalie Rangeloff was presented with the Good Deed Award from the American Legion Auxiliary for her support and dedication to Western ND Honor Flight veterans. She makes first aid kits for every veteran on the Honor Flight as well as mailing out July 4th cards to remember them. Pictured from left: Shelly Steinwand, WNDHF Board member; Natalie Rangeloff; and Dennis Burdolski, WNDHF President. Submitted by Past Department President Sandra Petermann and WNDHF.

Membership

Greetings and warm wishes to all American Legion Auxiliary Family Members! To each and every one of you - thank you so much for your support as I proudly serve as your Department President-Elect.

Department Vice President Sandy Smith and I are your membership co-chairs for the 2024-25 year. We both thoroughly enjoyed our recent Fall District Meetings across the state. We enjoyed getting to know more about each of the Units/Districts and all of you representing those areas in the Department.

As we move into the month of November, did you know that it is membership month? Every aspect of our organization is important, but as you know, membership is what ultimately keeps us going and keeps our veterans and veteran families supported in our organization.

Our national membership theme is "Leading the Way through their innovative and creative thinking using Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Energy which nature provides us." North Dakota is part of the Northwestern Division, and our division theme is "ENERGY." The Northwestern Division is currently in first place! Using the national "energy" theme, how can you use the "energy" theme toward your Unit membership goals and our overall Department goals?

Membership is everyone's responsibility. A member is a member, whether they pay their dues annually or are a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) or State Life Member (SLM). No member is more important than the next.

- Negativity and lack of support and respect for all members within an organization will cause an organization to implode.
- Respect and kindness goes a long way in maintaining your Unit and encouraging your members to stay engaged.
- One's actions speak louder than words.

Keep these things in mind as you work toward your Unit membership goals:

- Remember why you joined and let that be your reason to keep going strong!
- Learn your elevator speech (you have 30 seconds to convince someone to join).
- Always carry a membership application or the website information to direct people to membership.
- Keep this in mind that "every moment is a membership moment!"

Thank you Auxiliary members. Great job to all Auxiliary members doing all you can to keep our organization going strong!

Sincerely,
**Candace Berg
Department President-Elect and Membership
Co-Chairman**

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

Hello Auxiliary Members!

Fall is rapidly coming to a close. By the time you read this message, you will already have filled out the mandatory contribution form. To all Units who donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, thank you for your generosity. A special thank you to the District Presidents for passing the hat and collecting more funds for the AEF at their Fall District Meetings.

Your willingness to help financially was amazing!

A total of \$1241.00 was collected at the Fall District meetings. With the wildfires, (including North Dakota) and devastating hurricanes, this program is vitally important to our Auxiliary members needing assistance. Any Unit wishing to further donate may send checks to the Department Office. Thank you for caring.

**Cheryl Evenson
AEF Chairman**



National Convention attendees. Standing (l-r): LoAnn Dick, Department President; Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary; Carol Wolf Poppy Co-Chairman and District 1 VP; Shantel Covert, Delegate; Judy Twete, NEC and Past NW Division Vice President; Gloria Covert, Past Department President; Tammy Ryberg, Past Department President and Past NEC; Susan Degner, Department Treasurer; Virginia Satrom, Past District 1 President. Seated (l-r) Pages Shelley Schuster, District 2 President and Chloe Weyrauch, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

In Memoriam

District 1

Beverly R Walsberg, Fargo
Ruth M Siegert, SLM, Hillsboro
Betty Moen, Erie
Carol Peterson, Valley City
Marian L Perhus, SLM, Kindred
Joan L Warnecke, Harwood

District 2

Beverly Turner, Grand Forks
Joanne Sevigny, Grafton
Martha R. Olson, Pembina
Doloris Mutch, SLM, Larimore
Virginia Hatlestad, SLM, Park River
Margaret Dub, SLM, Park River
Irene Hodek, HLM, Lankin
Ruth E Hurst, St Thomas
LaVerne A. Mahar, Minto
Diane Slominski, Minto
Sylvia Madson, Pisek

District 3

Marguerite Freund, HLM, Cando
Vivian Smith, Leeds
Esther Krumwiede, SLM, Rolla

District 4

Nellie Degen, Jamestown
Frieda Larson, Jamestown
Elvera Divers, SLM, Jamestown
Muriel Ringerud, Carrington
Martha O Neuharth, SLM, Goodrich
Deborah A Sparrow, McClusky
Donella L Johnson, McClusky

District 5

Joyce E Tveito, Bismarck
Alice M Wiese, SLM, Washburn
Marjorie Keaveny, Wishek
Theresa Sperle, Hazelton
Marjorie A Laib, Turtle Lake
Mavis J Widmer, Fredonia
Esther Krueger, Fredonia

District 6

Evelyn J Mau, Mohall

District 7

Pauline Roll, SLM, Flasher
Jessie R Stiefel, Stanton
Sharon E Alt, New Leipzig
Gloria Vaaler, Elgin
Anna V Erhardt, Almont

District 8

Ragnhild Frey, Mott
Frances G Adams, Belfield

District 9

Gen Bruins, Watford City
Lorraine A Baye, Watford City
Debora A Glasoe, Noonan
Jeanne M. Drumheller, New Town
Verlee A Kjoson, Stanley

District 10

Phyllis Leshovsky, Wahpeton
Clara Ann Evavold, Wahpeton
Ruby Sonnenberg, Oakes
Ethel Lilla, Oakes
Lorraine Fuka, Lidgerwood
Carol A Hogness, Milnor
Sylvia Likness, SLM, Milnor
Eleanor Bommersbach, Wyndmere

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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



Unit Revitalization Committee

In an effort to help slow declining membership, Department President LoAnn Dick recently commissioned a 3-member committee called the 'Unit Revitalization Committee'. The focus of the committee is to assist the Department's Membership Committee and District Presidents when struggling units are considering disbandment. The new committee led by Past Department President Gloria Covert includes Shelley Schuster, President District 2 and Holly Eslinger, President Unit 246 (Elgin). The committee can be called in to assist units to reorganize instead of disbanding. If your unit is struggling to maintain membership, these ladies are just a phone call away.

- Gloria Covert, Past Department President – Cell Phone: 701-370-0055
- Shelley Schuster, President District 2 – Cell Phone: 701-520-1525
- Holly Eslinger, President Unit 246 (Elgin) – Cell Phone: 701-891-1909

National Security

Auxiliary Members,
The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

From fires, flooding to hurricanes, the National Guard is ready to assist.

DID YOU KNOW: The national Guard is a key asset in the nation's response to disaster, working alongside first responders to support local, state and federal agencies:

EXPERTISE: The National Guard can provide expertise in areas like debris removal, damage assessment, infrastructure support, logistics, medical assistance and search and rescue.

COMMUNICATION: The National Guard can provide critical communication capabilities to help first responders stay connected and informed.

FORCE MULTIPLIER: The National Guard can act as force multiplier, with people organized, trained and ready to go.

Reach out to your local recruiters' office, to see how

your Unit can help support the families of our National Guard while they are supporting us and don't forget about your local first responders too!

<https://nationalguard.com/recruiter> Just enter your zip code to find the nearest recruiting office.

SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS AWARD information. Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active-duty women, to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve, E1 thru E9 rank can be nominated, no officers.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Application deadline is June 1 of each calendar year.

As members, please keep on the lookout for any service members that you feel deserve this recognition. And to submit the individual for the Salute to Servicemember

Award. Information can be found at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award>. Nomination form is located at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

You don't have to wait all year to make a nomination. The form is active NOW! Submit anytime from now until the deadline of June 1, 2025. ND had no nominations last year. Let's aggressively look for someone from each branch. If your unit is close to a recruiter, check with them for a nomination or they are eligible to be nominated too.

If you want to keep up on National Security happening, please join the National Facebook page: [ALA National Security](#). There are ideas and many questions asked so you can utilize this information.

The POW-MIA table should be part of any event the Legion Family is sponsoring. Its presence is important as we cannot forget our veterans. These veterans are not home yet so they are still considered on active duty.

If you have any questions about National Security, please contact me.

Gloria Covert
National Security Chair



2025 WINTER CONFERENCE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ADVANCED REGISTRATION AND BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM JANUARY 24-26 – THE GRAND OASIS HOTEL – MINOT, ND

PLEASE CONTACT THE GRAND OASIS HOTEL AT 701-852-3161 – ASK FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION ROOM BLOCK DISCOUNT BY JANUARY 8, 2025

The Hotel DOES NOT have a restaurant. The Restaurant is CLOSED! Reserve your meal tickets in ADVANCE!

Since the hotel does not have a restaurant, arrangements have been made for additional meals for members to purchase. A limited number of tickets may be available at the registration desk on a first come/ first served basis. Please note the prices of all tickets increases by \$5 after January 8th. Pre-registration forms and tickets **will not** be accepted after January 16th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

Name: _____ Unit _____ Unit # _____ District # _____
Location _____

Winter Conference Auxiliary Registration Fee: \$15

Saturday Breakfast at 7AM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Cheesy scrambled eggs, cheesy hash browns, Danish roll, bacon and sausage patties

Saturday Lunch at 12PM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- South of the Border: Seasoned ground beef, fajita pulled chicken, taco shells, lettuce, tomatoes, olives, onions, shredded cheese, taco sauce, sour cream and Spanish rice.

Saturday Banquet at 6PM: \$30 (\$35 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Chicken breast topped with cream cheese, garlic, spinach and sun-dried tomatoes, pancetta wrapped, cover in a garlic sauce, mashed potatoes and glazed carrots.

Sunday Breakfast at 7AM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Cheesy scrambled eggs, American fried potatoes, muffins, bacon and ham.

	(Received by 1/8/2025)	(Received AFTER 1/8/2025)
Registration: \$15 _____	Registration: \$15 _____	Registration: \$15 _____
Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____	Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____
Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$25 = _____	Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$25 = _____
Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$30 = _____	Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$35 = _____	Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$35 = _____
Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____	Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____
TOTAL DUE: _____	TOTAL DUE: _____	TOTAL DUE: _____

Mail Registration and Payment to:
American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N., Room 113,
Fargo, ND 58102-1047

District Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
I hope this letter finds all of you well.

It has been a busy fall in District 1 with harvest, school sports, and of course District meetings.

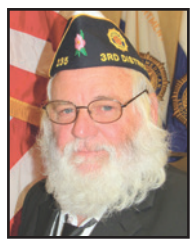
In October, our District meeting was held in Hatton, hosted by Post 70 of Hatton. A huge thank you to the Hatton Post and post commander for their hard work. We were pleased to

have recognized Amber Schmidt, who won national honors for her essay on Americanism. Our state commander entertained us with updates on Legion programs. We were also visited by past state commanders.

Membership again, is at the forefront for our Legion. Keep working toward renewing members but also recruiting new members. One way that may work well is to be involved in your community. Put the American Legion out front in community events. Remember the 4 pillars of the American Legion, Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, Children and Youth.

I hope you have had a meaningful Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving with family and friends, and look forward to a blessed Christmas Holiday.

Please don't hesitate to let me know of any events or assistance you may need in your post or community.



Robert Wishart
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday season.

Our district 3 fall meeting went well. Thank you to the Rugby Post for hosting and the good meal.

Hope to see all of you at winter conference.



Randy Entzminger
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,

I am sitting at my desk, looking out the window on this beautiful Veterans Day and am thinking of the many programs, advertisements and opportunities we as veterans and members of the American Legion are offered on this day and during this Veterans month. Free meals, discounts, perks of all kinds... I am truly grateful

to the many organizations, businesses and communities that recognize the service and sacrifices many made to earn the title "Veterans". A Big "Thank You for Your Service", to all Veterans and your Families!

Thank you to all our Fall District 4 Meeting attendees. We appreciate you taking the time to meet in Jamestown back in September. Also, thanks to the Jamestown post for hosting the event.

I would also like to thank all presenters at the NDAL Post Officer Training that was held on October 26th at the Grand Hotel in Minot. The training was a great forum for learning and I (as Post Adjutant of Post 250) learned how to use Online tools that are available on our mylegion.org website. We also reviewed the Officers Guide and Post Adjutant Guide, that have made me better informed of expectations. My District Commander and Post Adjutant jobs should be easier after this class. I recommend it to others as opportunities are offered.

As the winter months approach, I look forward to visiting many of the District 4 post meetings. I will be contacting each Commander to set up a meeting visit for District Vice Commander Mike Allmer and I in the next few months to discuss challenges and ideas to share post activities and obligations. For our Spring meeting, I am hoping to set up a centralized location to minimize travel for all our District 4 posts.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.



Vernon Laning
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,

It seems like summer blew by us really fast this year but fortunately our fall weather hasn't been too bad so far. But as we all know, in North Dakota that can change quickly, so enjoy it while we can.

I attended Commander Havelka's Homecoming in Bismarck this past September and I would like to thank all of those that attended to help her kick off her year as our Department Commander. I also want to thank District 5 for hosting our joint Fall Meeting. It was fairly well attended and provided an opportunity to interact with our department officers.

As usual, I would like to request all the posts in District 7 to let me know if you have any special events coming up or would simply like me to attend your regular meeting. I will definitely try to be there. One update along that line is my latest contact information. Since my wife and I relocated to Stanton my email address is vlaning@outlook.com. My cell phone number is the same at 701-226-2113. My new mailing address is Vernon Laning, 3840 4th St. SW, Stanton, ND 58571. Please update your records to speed up our communications.

Keep pushing to get all those membership renewals in for the year and contact any potential new members. Our American Legion is still our best voice for veteran benefits. And I hope you reminded everyone to thank a Vet on Veterans Day.

With that, I wish everyone a great and safe winter as well as happy holidays.



Lance Renville
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,

It's been a busy fall with Districts 6 and 9 meeting at Post 29 in Watford City, the Commander's Homecoming in Bismarck and Post Officer Training in Minot.

A good part of our District was affected by a historic prairie fire. My hometown post in Watford City set up a drop site for donations for first responders, made meals and delivered donations to sites all over Mckenzie County. A huge thank you to all those who dropped off the thousands of dollars of food donations and filled all the requested of supplies that were needed, the volunteers who worked countless hours at the post and especially the first responders who came to help from all around the country. We even received a nice box of goodies that were brought to the Keene Fire Department from our very own Department Office. They send a big thank you!

As usual we need to focus on membership. Please reach out if you have any questions or need help with anything needed to push forward to hitting our membership goals.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Veterans Day and that all your programs and dinners were a success. Enjoy the Holidays and hope to see you all at the Winter Conference in Minot.

ELECT
Jason
Anderson
For Commander Elect
Endorsed by:
Harry W. Lindberg
Post #151 in Scranton



Jason is a 21 year USAF retiree and has been a member of Post 151 in Scranton for the last 22 years and became commander of the post in 2016. Jason is a Paid Up for Life member and has served as District 8 Vice Commander three times and District 8 Commander twice and is the current West Region Vice Commander. Jason has represented District 8 on the Department Boys State Committee for the last four years and is serving as the West Region chair for the Oratorical Contest.

Jason's current full time job is as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician for the Bowman Ambulance Service, Scranton Quick Response Unit and Scranton Volunteer Fire Department.

Jason is the current Mayor of Scranton and was a member of the Scranton city council for 8 years prior to taking office in July of 2024. He currently holds positions on the Bowman County Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Bowman County Zoning Board and the Sunrise Foundation Board of Directors. Jason is also a Co-owner and Managing Partner of Next Door Pizza in Scranton.

Jason is married to Devin and has two stepchildren, Chloe and Jaxon.

I truly have enjoyed my time at all levels of leadership and feel this is the right time to continue to explore new avenues of leadership within this great organization.

I would greatly appreciate your support and vote in June at the 2025 ND Legion Convention in Fargo.

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YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

A Huge Success

By Curt Twete, Past Department Commander

The first annual joint effort between The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and The North Dakota American Legion (NDAL) is in the books.



NDAL CMDR Havalka presented two outstanding participants \$750 scholarships from the NDAL. Jace Engelstad and Kaylee Hughes of Mandan.



A most impressive demo was observing blood hounds in action tracking and finding students from a scent trail.



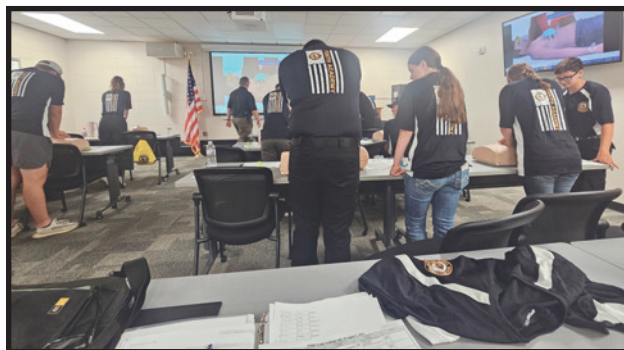
A class was held on identifying impaired drivers to determine probable cause for further testing and/or arrest.



The class of 2024 was comprised of 19 students from across the State of North Dakota from 10 different Legion Posts.



The students were exposed to supervised hand gun target practice at the indoor shooting range.



The class was instructed on CPR and upon completion the students were certified in this life saving technique. In addition defensive driving instruction gained each student a certificate to present to their insurance carrier for auto insurance.

Thank you to the students, the Posts that sponsored them, the NDHP and the NDAL. We look forward to a continuing relationship in this worthwhile program. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, School Counselors and Parents it's not too soon to begin recruiting for next years class.

Origin of Foundation Funds

by Harvey Peterson, Foundation Chair

Occasionally I am asked about the Foundation funds, where they came from and why they exist. Perhaps more interestingly, those enquiring minds want to know the current balance of the funds held by the Foundation.

To answer some of those questions I will be writing short articles for this and future editions of the ND Legion News. I will start with the first fund established and work to the most current. Some of these funds are what we refer to as "named" funds, established to leave a legacy in memory of an individual. Most of these funds are endowed or restricted and will be held in perpetuity for the purpose(s) stated in the original documents that established the fund. Not all funds, however, are restricted, but can be used at the discretion of the Directors of the Foundation.

The first established fund I will write about is the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund established in 1978. Note that this pre-dates the Legion Ongoing Veterans Endowment (LOVE) Trust which was not established until 1982. (The Foundation was established in 1993.) In the absence of a Legion Foundation in which to start an endowment, Mr. Tolchinsky chose to establish this fund within the North Dakota Community Foundation. Mr. Tolchinsky, Department Commander in 1962-1963, was vitally interested in both the Oratorical and Baseball programs. His fund was initiated with the donation of stock worth about \$5,000 to the ND Community Foundation. William Guy, past Governor of ND and personal friend of Mr. Tolchinsky, commented at the time of the donation that it was the first donation of stock ever received by the ND Community Foundation.

The Department has annually requested money from the Tolchinsky fund for the past 40 years. This fund continues to support awards for the Oratorical program as the Department has requested \$300 to provide cash awards for the State Champion and First Runner-up in recent years. That amount may be increased at the request of the Department to an annual maximum of 4% of the value of the fund. The ND Community Foundation annual report lists the fund balance of \$12,335.

The legacy of Sam Tolchinsky will continue as long as the Department of North Dakota exists. His vision, generosity and commitment to the Legion are noteworthy. His foresight in establishing this fund has provided awards for over 40 years and at the same time has more than doubled in value! I think this is precisely what Past Department Commander Tolchinsky hoped for, or maybe "expected" this fund to accomplish.

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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	
Donahue, Michael.....	09/12/2024
Edinger, Arnold.....	11/04/2024
Nelson, Grant.....	10/12/2024
Fargo - Post #2	
Kuntz, Robert.....	10/31/2024
Matthaei, William.....	06/05/2024
Phelan, William "Bill".....	09/11/2024
Prokop, Roger.....	08/06/2024
Hahn, Benjamin D.....	02/27/2024
Wittkopp, Allen.....	03/26/2024
Hillsboro - Post #4	
Goldade, Larry.....	10/28/2024
Grand Forks - Post #6	
Keith, Wayne.....	08/10/2024
Mehus, Jeroy.....	08/18/2024
Lisbon - Post #7	
Louden, Robert.....	06/15/2024
Rosendahl, June.....	07/21/2024
Hanson, Duane.....	08/31/2024
Mayville - Post #8	
Baker, Steven.....	10/09/2023
Hlavinka, Del.....	02/23/2024
Lyng, Merwin.....	09/08/2024
Niemeier, Orland.....	09/28/2024
Washburn - Post #12	
Rall, Alert.....	10/19/2024
Jamestown - Post #14	
Somsen, Johanna.....	05/10/2024
Smette, Davis H.....	10/07/2024
Sykeston - Post #17	
Finch, Elmer.....	08/02/2024
Hope - Post #18	
Ihry, James.....	05/11/2024
Sussex, Donald.....	05/19/2022
Rugby - Post #23	
Olaveson, Marcus.....	05/07/2024
Stewart, Jeffrey.....	Unknown DOD
Genre, Dennis.....	08/22/2024
Weinmann, Florian.....	06/08/2024
Minot - Post #26	
Carlson, Ronald.....	08/16/2024
Hunter, Deborah.....	09/24/2023
Sanders, Lyle.....	05/18/2024
Stanley, Richard.....	04/30/2024
Williams, David.....	06/30/2024
New Rockford - Post #30	
Linderman, Kent.....	08/20/2024
Lignite - Post #35	
Grandall, Theodore.....	12/16/2023
Velva - Post #39	
Brooks, Charles.....	09/30/2023
Lindlauf, Carl.....	06/26/2024
Olson, Robert.....	01/24/2024
Unterseher, Marvin.....	05/08/2024
Mandan - Post #40	
Joersz, Robert.....	08/28/2023
Huber, Vernon.....	09/14/2024
Grafton - Post #41	
Donnelly, John.....	08/01/2024
Gunderson, Winten.....	08/21/2024

Bottineau - Post #42	
Hermanson, Donald.....	09/02/2024
Nelson, Joel.....	04/08/2024
Killdeer - Post #46	
Weisz, James.....	10/28/2023
Bowman - Post #48	
Smith, Mahlon.....	08/18/2024
Garrison - Post #49	
Bader, Rodney G.....	10/19/2023
Lehnerr, Richard E.....	08/18/2024
Ponchant, Rbert B.....	09/02/2024
Mohall - Post #52	
Otto, Gerald.....	11/15/2022
New England - Post #66	
Walch, Robert L.....	09/06/2024
Frank, Darryl E.....	09/09/2024
Hatton - Post #70	
Balstad, Marlin.....	05/06/2024
Stoa, Gordon.....	07/01/2024
Mott - Post #71	
Pekas, Verlin.....	08/04/2024
Klein, Oscar.....	08/15/2024
Nome - Post #83	
Aarseth, Allen D.....	09/24/2024
Lidgerwood - Post #84	
Retterath, John P.....	06/08/2024
Hankinson - Post #88	
Buckhouse, Larry.....	07/21/2023
Heley Adrian.....	11/23/2020
Herding, Philip.....	11/21/2023
Hoglan, Richard.....	02/02/2023
Mikkelsen, James.....	03/21/2024
Milbrandt, Larry.....	07/31/2024
Mitchell, James.....	12/15/2023
Rettig, Allen.....	03/01/2024
Portland - Post #93	
Palm, Milo.....	08/13/2024
Rud, James E.....	09/08/2024
Powers Lake - Post #96	
Enget, Byron.....	03/02/2024
Jensen, Roy.....	08/31/2023
Langdon - Post #98	
Anderson, Kenneth.....	10/11/2024
Olson, Ronald.....	08/02/2022
Schaan, Rick.....	09/26/2024
Saxlund, Burdett.....	09/26/2024
Fairmount - Post #106	
Rosendahl, June.....	07/21/2024
Hettinger - Post #115	
Bunch, Jason M.....	04/22/2024
Grenora - Post #116	
Haugen, Mervin.....	10/11/2024
Maddock - Post #123	
Bratvold, Delton.....	08/09/2024
McClusky - Post #124	
Sprenger, Emil.....	09/13/2024
Bowbells - Post #127	
Schweyen, Leland.....	09/07/2024
Bisbee - Post #129	
Doehler, Donald.....	12/13/2023

Turtle Lake - Post #133	
Guenther, Leon.....	09/30/2024
McVile - Post #135	
Shobe, Wesley.....	08/20/2024
Urvand, Richard.....	09/28/2024
Belfield - Post #144	
Roller, Alan.....	08/01/2024
Park River - Post #147	
Molde, Bill.....	09/27/2024
Tolna - Post #162	
Vrem, Lorrain O.....	09/25/2023
Flaagan, Odell.....	04/30/2024
Wilton - Post #163	
Ewine, Dennis A.....	12/18/2022
Aune, Earl G.....	12/20/2023
Walcott - Post #166	
Bolme, Richard.....	02/11/2024
Wiltse, Neil Jr.....	04/22/2024
Berthold - Post #171	
Torgerson, Alten.....	06/26/2024
Richardton - Post #180	
Aman, Leo J.....	06/07/2024
Forster, Charles.....	09/20/2024
Donnybrook - Post #195	
Hillestad, James.....	10/03/2024
Springer, Gary.....	10/02/2024
Rutland - Post #215	
Pherson, Shelly.....	12/24/2023
Knox - Post #217	
Pieterick, Larry.....	06/22/2024
Erie - Post #223	
Belling, Gene.....	12/31/2023
Mountain - Post #227	
Johnson, Cecil.....	08/09/2024
Moe, Leo.....	03/10/2024
Forest River - Post #251	
Woods, James S.....	03/22/2019
Reynolds - Post #256	
Schultz, Terry.....	10/04/2024
Halliday - Post #258	
Wolff, Clarence E.....	09/20/2024
Almont - Post #261	
Timpe, Robert G.....	08/28/2018
Belcourt - Post #262	
Herman, Edward.....	05/11/2023
York - Post #268	
Ritterman, Leland.....	06/13/2024
Upham - Post #269	
Brodehl, Ronald.....	09/27/2024
Fordville - Post #274	
Kroke, Clair.....	11/07/2023
Galchutt - Post #282	
Rostad, Robert L.....	09/09/2024
New Town - Post #290	
Berg, Harris.....	10/09/2024
Dawson, James.....	07/29/2024
Eagle, Eugene Jr.....	07/24/2024
Evenson, Kelly.....	07/30/2024
Post #500	
Graff, Benny.....	09/26/2024

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Kliniske named to American Legion Hall of Fame

Grafton man coached 21 seasons
By Todd Morgan, Walsh County Record

Anyone who played for or with Chad Kliniske, the most recent member of the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame, it has always been about the program.

Kliniske coached American Legion baseball in Grafton from 1999-2019 and the high school team from 1998-2018. In the Legion ranks he won two state tournaments back-to-back in 2012 and 2013 and those were preceded by two second place finishes in, during the same years at the state high school baseball tournament.

What Kliniske remembers most about those years was Jamie Villarreal earning the state tournament most valuable player two years in a row.

"I always told my players, act like you have been there before, but when we won the state tournament in 2012, I hadn't been there before," he said. "When we won, I ran onto the field and the first person I ran into was Joe Demers, about halfway between the pitchers, mound and the foul line. He jumped and I caught him and I all I could think of was don't drop this kid."

Kliniske served Grafton and the surrounding area as an American Legion and youth baseball coach and umpire for 37 years. During Kliniske's tenure his Legion teams posted a 683-177 win-loss record in 21 seasons. The teams in 2012 and 2013 won 89 games alone.

Kliniske said that was a most significant moment.

"If I had to point to one thing and say that is what I remember most I guess that would be it – winning that first state tournament."

Beginning in 1999 Kliniske's Legion teams qualified for the North Dakota American Legion State Tournament 10 times in a 14-year span. Those teams that won back-to-back titles in 2012-13 featured eight different starters over those two years, explained the quality of play in Grafton at the time.

During Kliniske's tenure he sent 41 players to the collegiate level, while two of his players were named as the North Dakota American Legion Player of the Year. They

were John Kingsbury in 2004 and Josh Allmaras in 2002. Allmaras was also named Central Plains American Legion Player of the Year and awarded the Gatorade Leadership Award.

During Kliniske's tenure his Legion teams posted a 683-177 win-loss record in 21 seasons. The teams in 2012 and 2013 won 89 games alone.

In his nomination form for the Hall of Fame it was noted that Kliniske's teams were lauded for their discipline, attention to detail and respect for their opponents.

Kliniske served Grafton and the surrounding area as an American Legion and youth baseball umpire whenever needed, for 37 years. During that span he also coached park board Little League and Babe Ruth teams.

Kliniske grew up in Grafton playing sports, but baseball was his love, and, in the summer, he played baseball every chance he could regardless of the age level.

"We were always at 8th Street Diamond playing ball," he said. "Mom would yell out the door from our house on Western Avenue and we could hear her and run home for supper and be out there again."

Kliniske played American Legion Baseball from 1985 to 1988 in Grafton.

Playing or coaching he never won a state high school tournament, but back then Grafton was Class A. Eventually they moved into the Class B ranks, where he had a couple of second place state finishes during those 2012-13 years.

Kliniske's call to inform him he was accepted into the Hall of Fame was kind of auspicious. He received a call from Rodney Kadlec of Park River on Sunday.

"After church, my wife (Connie) and I like to play golf. I saw that he called, and I thought he wanted me to ump in the district baseball tournament starting Monday in Park River, but I didn't want to because it was going to be hot, so I didn't call him back," he said. "My goddaughter is on the baseball board in Park River, and she texted my wife and told her you better have Chad answer that call. So, it was 9:30 at night and I got up to go to bed, it was 25 minutes to 10 and the phone started ringing then he told me I was selected to the Hall of Fame."

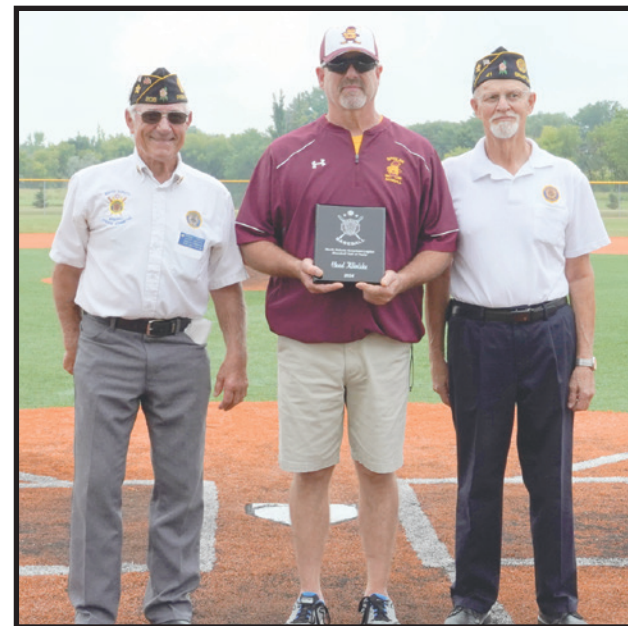
He was awarded the plaque and recognized Tuesday afternoon between games at the district baseball tournament in Park River.

Asked what that meant to him Kliniske said validation. "I felt that I was recognized not only for being a good coach but also for all the time put into the program over the years," he said.

Baseball is strong in the northeast corner of the state. The teams in this area are good and a lot of that has been handed down from Midway's Dennis Horner, to Kliniske and others, these men have set the bar and raised it during their careers.

"To me," Kliniske said, "It has always been about the program and the players, but I'm not giving the plaque back. I feel genuinely honored to be selected."

Photo by Larry Stokke Photography



Left to right: Rodney Kadlec, Dept. Athletic Committee member, Hall of Fame Chad Kliniske and Paul Mohagen, Grafton Post Commander

An Unbelievable Honor

By Hilary Nowatzki, Borderland Press

The Borderland Press's very own Jake Kulland was honored last week by being inducted into the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame, at an induction ceremony held

at the District 5 Tournament in Park River on July 24.

Kulland has spent over three decades covering local, regional, and state sports for KNDK AM 1080 radio, a Simmons Multimedia radio station, and over two decades as a sportswriter, first for the Cavalier County Republican, and for the past two and a half years at The Borderland Press.

He has a strong passion for what he does - providing coverage of everything sports related (on top of his other duties) and shining the spotlight on countless athletes through the years.

Kulland also served over 20 years on the Langdon Area Baseball Board, with 14 of those as President. Kulland said this award wasn't just about him; it's also about the team of supporters, mentors, and role models that have coached him into the broadcaster, writer, and the man he has become.

"It's just an unbelievable honor; it's as high as it gets for anybody that's been around the game of American Legion baseball in North Dakota," Kulland stated. "It's still kind of surreal that it's actually happened."

Kulland mentioned Roger Maris, a former major league baseball player and member of the North Dakota American Legion Hall of fame.

"I can't believe I'm on the same list as him and the many others on it as well, like Darin Erstad and the great Tom Perius," Kulland stated. Perius, a Langdon native and longtime American Legion baseball umpire, was inducted

in the Hall in 2006.

He included that his work isn't over; he plans to "earn" the award everyday by continuing to work with the American Legion baseball.

"As I told everybody, I will try to earn this award every day and to just keep working hard for American Legion baseball, with whatever they need," Kulland explained. "Everybody that's

helped support American Legion baseball, [this honor] is for them too, but a big thanks to Langdon Post 98 and Lori and Kari. They're a big part of why I got this very special award."

Lori Peterson and Kari Phillips completed the paperwork and background information for Langdon Post 98, to submit for Kulland's nomination. Kulland also wanted to give a special

"shout out" to the following folks for their involvement with American Legion Baseball in Cavalier County: Orlin Green, Kenny Gellner, Mac Machacek, Jim Salvaggio, Jay Adam, Marty Tetrault, Daryl Kempel, Darrin Romfo, Tim Kinzgett, Arlo Maag and Edgar Westphal, just to name a few.

"There are so many people that do so much for summer baseball and softball programs in Langdon and Munich, these are just a short number of names on a very long list," Kulland

said.

"These are guys that have been a big part of both the Langdon and Munich American Legion Baseball programs, and deserve this award as well. What I'm trying to say is, it's not just an award for me, it's for the whole area. You recognize the things that have been done for American Legion Baseball, in Cavalier County and beyond," said

Kulland.

Kulland also wanted to thank the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Athletic Committee, including local representatives, Eugene Kuchena and Rodney Kadlec, who voted him into the Hall of Fame unanimously.

American Legion Baseball is volunteer based, and Kulland extended his deep appreciation to these peoples' dedication to service to the game.

"I thank everyone who was a part of me getting into the Hall of Fame, it means a lot to me, and to my family."



Left to right: Daryl Kempel, Larry Murie, Dennis Hansel, Leon Hiltner, Tony Phillips, Jake Kulland, Tom Perius, Rodney Kadlec, Darrin Romfo, Janice Strande, Ryan Solseng, Tim Kingzett, Brandi Mittleider, Andrea Johnston, Bob Simmons, Jackie Dvorak, Nick Vorlage, Dave Zeis Jr., and Diane Simmons. Photo by Larry Stokke.

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Senator Greg Kessel



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Local Posts in the News

Mayville Post #8

The Sons of The American Legion and Post #8 from Mayville announced the recipients of their fund raiser.

The Sons of American Legion is a group whose father or grandfather was a veteran. The preamble to the constitution of all American Legion posts, state their purpose: "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The Sons of American Legion is open to all those that meet the criteria and are willing to serve the community on behalf of veteran's affairs. "Those that are male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such male descendants who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 13, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date are eligible to join." and Vice Commander Keith Williams, Dakota Sailor and Zachariah Lyng of Dakota Horizon Girl Scouts, Mary Peterson who represents volunteer women who make child sized quilts for children in distress and Commander Tim Sorteberg. Not pictured is Colby Schaley of the Mayville Bio Girls.



Vice Commander Keith Williams, Dakota Sailor and Zachariah Lyng of Dakota Horizon Girl Scouts, Mary Peterson who represents volunteer women who make child sized quilts for children in distress and Commander Tim Sorteberg. Not pictured is Colby Schaley of the Mayville Bio Girls.

Watford City Post #29

Commander Jesse Johnson (right) presents a \$30,000 check to Shaun Rink of the Keene, ND, Fire Department for the purchase of a new Can Am six-wheel UTV and also a \$10,000 check to the Alexander, ND, Public School for academic and athletic needs.



Grand Forks Post #6

It was quite a busy weekend for Grand Forks Post 6 members. The Sons of American Legion (SAL) Commander Ryan Kaste, was responsible for orchestrating the float, signs, decorations and getting the volunteers to carry the flags and ride the float. The time and talent showed through with some 15 plus members involved. This was the first participation in the Potato Bowl Parade on Saturday morning in recent memory.

Several hundred Grand Forks and East Grand Forks folks showed their support along the 2 plus mile parade route. There were 140 floats involved. Thanks to all the SAL and Legion Membership who participated and helped make this the first of many more successful ventures.



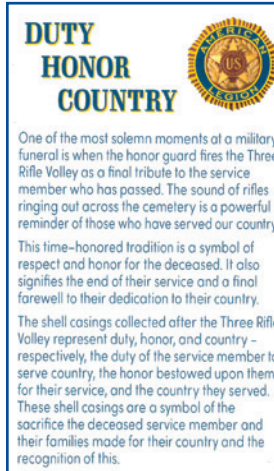
Center Post #90

Instead of handing the Family members of a veteran loose shell casings after a "Three Rifle Volley", Center Post #90 member Neil Lenius and wife Jane made purple felt bags with the Legion emblem on the front to place the casings in.

We also questioned whether the family members understood the meaning of the "Three Rifle Volley" and shell casings. So, we had this card printed which is placed in the bag with the casings.

If you would like to see a sample card or would like more information about adopting this for your Post contact Valorie Cartwright at valcart@bis.midco.net

Submitted by Valorie Cartwright, Post #90 member.



Williston Post #37 A Legacy of Giving

Edgar M. Boyd Post 37 in Williston, North Dakota has been a staple in the small town of Williston, North Dakota; consistently giving to the causes that uphold traditions put in place by the American Legion years ago. Recently, the group has added their support to a group of youth, ranging in ages 6-20, for their new Clay Target Shooting range.

The Clay Target League in Williston currently has over 160+ youth involved in the program, making them the largest clay target league in the United States.



Post 37 at the ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the flag pole at Painted Woods Shooting Range!



Bras for a Cause is a local non-profit in Williston that boasts hundreds of thousands of dollars raised each year for cancer patients and their families. Post 37 supports Bras for a Cause because of their dedication in keeping 100% of all money raised local. The Legion was honored to get involved by attending the 2023 Bras for a Cause Annual Auction and presenting the group with a \$20,000 check for their efforts in 2024!

Threading Together "Thank You" for Mayville Portland Veterans

By Hillsboro Banner

Stitch by stitch, Harriet Schmidt hopes to cover area veterans in comfort and warmth.

The 86-year-old Portland woman began sewing quilts for former service members nearly 12 years ago, with her latest six blankets donated at May's Memorial Day service in Portland.

Over the past dozen years, more than 80 local veterans have received a quilt from Schmidt, who started the gift-giving gesture on a whim.

"I just decided that I was going to do something for the veterans," Schmidt says. "I just started small and then I just kept going."

The quilts, which vary in size but are all adorned in red, white and blue, have been a gesture of appreciation from Schmidt to locals – many of whom keep their service history private.



Gackle Post #250 Renovating Hall Basement

The Mayer-Morlock Post in Gackle is currently working on improvements to their hall's basement, adding handicap access to the basement, a unisex handicap restroom and renovating the common spaces from floor to ceiling. Using the new entryway as a base, we are also adding a 16' x 16' storage room upstairs.

Construction began back in August 2024 and is expected to be completed in the late spring of 2025. Financing has been provided by generous donations from the John Mayer Estate, Dakota Heritage Bank, Dani's Place and several individuals and some local organizations.

The post has also sponsored 50/50 raffles during our local DuckFest in September and is holding a calendar raffle between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Tickets were limited to 500 and sold out fast.

We are grateful for the support of many area businesses that have provided price reductions on parts, labor and mileage, along with guidance. We also acknowledge the work of our members, whose work and experience have made this project feasible.

Our thanks go out to all. We look forward to celebrating the completion on Memorial Day 2025.



White Shield Post #253

White Shield American Legion Young Hawk/Bear Post #253 presented a blanket to Department Commander Havelka on behalf of the post. Commander Havelka was the guest speaker for Veteran's Day in White Shield on Monday, November 11, 2024.

L to R: Glen Brunzell, Air Force Veteran that worked on the B52H at the Minot Air Force Base, Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Pearl Ross, Air Force Veteran that served during the Korean War.



American Legion Department of ND 2025 Winter Conference TENTATIVE Schedule

January 23-26, 2025

**Minot Grand Oasis Hotel
701-852-3161**

Cutoff for Room Block is 5 pm on January 9th

RESTAURANT AT THE HOTEL IS CLOSED

Thursday, January 23, 2025

4:00 pm ACOVA Interviews
6:00 pm Foundation Meeting

Friday, January 24, 2025

2:00 pm **Registration (until 6:00 pm)**
Membership Booth - Natl. Midwest Liaison Nick Arnett
2:00 pm Future of ND Workshop
2:00 pm **DSO Office Hours (until 4:00 pm)**
3:00 pm Dist and Regional Officers Meet with Cmdr
4:00 pm Membership and Post Activities Committee
4:00 pm Junior Law Cadet Committee
4:00 pm VA&R Committee
4:30 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting
5:30 pm First Time Attendees
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 25, 2025

7:00 am Breakfast – PREPAID TICKETS ONLY
8:00 am **Registration (until Noon)**
7:30 am Oratorical Committee Meeting
7:30 am Athletic Committee Meeting
7:30 am National Guard and Reserve Committee
8:30 am **Joint Session**
10:00 am Membership Workshop
10:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 12:00 pm)
11:00 am Boys State Committee Meeting
11:00 am Legion Riders Meeting
11:00 am SAL Meeting
12:00 pm Lunch – PREPAID TICKETS ONLY
1:00 pm **DSO Office Hours (until 3:00 pm)**
1:00 pm **Legion Family Programs Joint Session**
1:30 pm **High School Oratorical Contest Finals**
4:00 pm VA Benefits Breakout Session
4:00 pm Delegate Selection Committee
4:00 pm SAL Training
4:00 pm Legislative Committee
5:00 pm **Winter Conference Banquet Social**
6:00 pm **Winter Conference Banquet**

Sunday, January 26, 2025

7:00 am Breakfast – PREPAID TICKETS ONLY
8:00 am Post Service Officers
8:00 am District Vice Commanders Meeting with Commander-Elect
8:00 am Children and Youth Committee
9:30 am Worship Service

The Forum
OF FARGO-MOORHEAD

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2025 Winter Conference
American Legion Advanced Registration and Banquet Ticket Order Form
January 24-26, 2025 at The Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot, ND
Please call The Grand Oasis Hotel at 701-852-3161 ask for the American Legion room block discount by January 8th.

Please note the price of all tickets increase by \$5 each after **January 8th**. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk on a first come first serve basis. Preregistration forms and tickets will not be accepted after January 16th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

Name _____ Post/Squad Location _____ Post/Squad # _____ District # _____

The Hotel DOES NOT have a restaurant. Restaurant is CLOSED!

Since the hotel does not have a restaurant, there are additional meals for members to purchase. Only a few tickets will be available on site on a first come first served basis so order your tickets in advance.

Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee: \$25

Saturday Breakfast at 7 am: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)
Cheesy scrambled eggs, cheesy hashbrowns, danishes, bacon and sausage patty.

Saturday Lunch at 12 pm: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)
South of the Border: Seasoned ground beef, fajita pulled chicken, taco shells, lettuce, tomatoes, olives, onions, shredded cheese, taco sauce, sour cream and Spanish rice.

Saturday Banquet at 6 pm: \$30 (\$35 if received after 1/8/2025)
Chicken breast topped with cream cheese, garlic, spinach and sun-dried tomatoes, pancetta wrapped, covered in a garlic sauce (GF), mashed potatoes and glazed carrots.

Sunday Breakfast at 7 am: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)
Cheesy scrambled eggs, American fried potatoes, muffins, bacon and ham.

Mail Registration and Payment to:
ND American Legion
405 West Main Ave Suite 4-A
West Fargo, ND 58078

Received BY 1/8/2025	
Registration \$25	
# <u>1</u> x \$25 =	\$25
Saturday Breakfast	
# _____ x \$20 =	_____
Saturday Lunch	
# _____ x \$20 =	_____
Saturday Banquet	
# _____ x \$30 =	_____
Sunday Breakfast	
# _____ x \$20 =	_____
Total Due \$	_____

Received AFTER 1/8/2025	
Registration \$25	
# <u>1</u> x \$25 =	\$25
Saturday Breakfast	
# _____ x \$25 =	_____
Saturday Lunch	
# _____ x \$25 =	_____
Saturday Banquet	
# _____ x \$35 =	_____
Sunday Breakfast	
# _____ x \$25 =	_____
Total Due \$	_____

American Legion Department of ND 2024 Veteran's Day Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Friday, November 8th at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are listed on the website: ndlegion.org

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Robert Fritel of Knox Post 217

\$1000 Prize Winner
Dale Hatzenbuhler of Dickinson Post 3

\$200 Prize Winners
Gerald Hastings of Kensal Post 103
Kenneth Krein of Richardton Post 180

\$100 Prize Winners
Lee Johnson of Fargo Post 2
Steven Schwartz of Manvel Post 299
Robert Boltz of Donnybrook Post 195
Stuart Loftsgard of Park River Post 147
Jerry Spiekermeier of Casselton Post 15
Gary McKinney of Devils Lake Post 24