

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

VOL. 111 405 W. MAIN AVE. SUITE 4-A, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, MARCH 2025 NO. 3

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

Legionnaire of the Year

Nominated by Watford City Post #29, Roy Degenstein has been selected for the 2024 recipient of the Legionnaire of the Year Award by the ND American Legion.

Roy grew up in Dickinson, ND, and went to high school in Great Falls, MT. He joined the Army right after high school and was sent to Fort Ord for AIT as a cook. He was then sent to Germany for two years and went through the Food Service Apprentice Program. Roy went back to Germany for his last two years of service. After his discharge, Roy came back to ND to work in the oil field for 32 years.

Roy has been a part of Legion baseball for 28 years and has been part of the Watford City Park Board for nine years. Roy rebuilt the old diamond at the Legion Field in 2006. Roy has made meals for Legion events as well as cooking for the firefighters during the week in October 2024, when our county had its biggest grass fire in history.

Roy is married to Cindy, and they have four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Post #29 selected Roy to be Legionnaire of the Year based on service to the Legion and community. He will be recognized on Sunday, June 29, during the American Legion's Department Convention on June 27-29, 2025, in Fargo at the Ramada.



Roy Degenstein

Distinguished Service Award

Nominated by American Legion Post #156 in Edinburg, Pastor Mark Antal has been selected for the North Dakota American Legion 2025 Distinguished Service Award of the Year.

Pastor Mark Antal lives in Apple Valley, MN, where he moved to after retiring from full-time ministry. He is a graduate of Valley City State College in North Dakota and the Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary in Plymouth, MN.

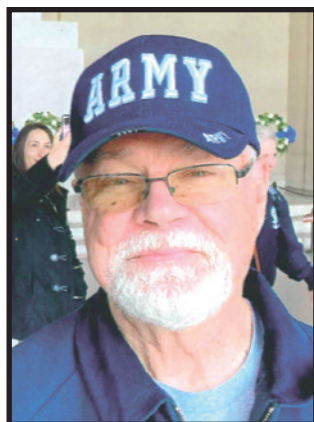
A veteran of the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve and National Guard, Antal served in various chaplain positions throughout his 26 years of military service.

Pastor Antal is a 26-year member of Post #156 in Edinburg. He served as Post #156 Commander, Vice Commander and Chaplain. He served as the Department Chaplain under eight different Department Commanders. He served as the East Region Vice Commander. Pastor Antal was appointed for one year as the National Chaplain at the 2022 National Convention and is currently serving as American Legion Department Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Pastor Antal's community involvement includes distributing Christmas gifts to veterans with the American Legion Riders through the Good Samaritan Lutheran Home in Park River, ND. Served on the Western Walsh County Ministerium and served on the Park River City Benevolence Fund Board of Directors.

Pastor Antal and his wife Ruth and have four children and 11 grandchildren.

The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Pastor Mark Antal on Sunday, June 29, during the annual Department Convention on June 27-29, 2025, in Fargo at the Ramada.



Pastor Mark Antal

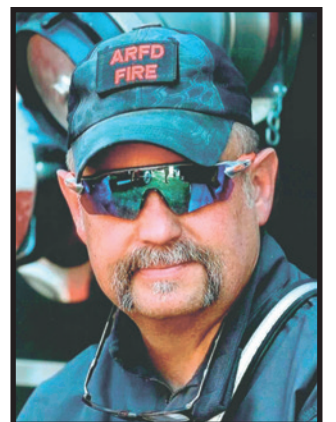
Firefighter of the Year

Nominated by the Watford City American Legion Post #29, Rick Schreiber of the Arnegard Rural Fire District, was selected for the North Dakota American Legion 2024 Firefighter of the Year by the ND American Legion.

Rick was born in Berwin, IL, and graduated from Custer County High School in Miles City, MT, in 1992. After High School, he joined the Air Force as Security Police for two years and then continued to serve in the MT Army National Guard in Field Artillery with the 155mm Howitzer. He joined the fire department while in the Guard and in 2002 Rick was a Federal Law Officer at the Winter Olympics in Park City, Utah.

Schreiber has been a firefighter for 27 years. In 2016, Rick became the Chief of the Arnegard Rural Fire Protection District and Board Chair. For training he has completed FF1, FF2, Extraction, Trench Rescue, Low Angle rescue and is a State Certified EMR and Hazmat Rescuer. One of Rick's biggest days as a firefighter was just this past October during the 700-acre wildfire just outside of Arnegard. It was the fastest and most aggressive grass fire he had ever fought in his 27 years as a firefighter. When Rick isn't busy with his work, he finds time to serve as the Arnegard City Council President, the Treasurer for the ND Salt Water Recycle Association and the Arnegard Booster Club.

Rick and his wife Michelle have been married for 10 years. They have a son Brandon and a daughter Amy. Schreiber will be recognized during the ND Firefighters Association Convention on June 5-7, 2025, in Minot, ND.



Rick Schreiber

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominated by American Legion Post #29 of Watford City, ND, Chantel Swigart has been selected for the 2024 Ray Atol Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the North Dakota American Legion.

Chantel grew up in Sidney, MT, and graduated from Sidney High School. Chantel went to Dawson Community College and Rocky Mountain College before going to work for the State of Montana. She worked in the state of Montana in the Audit and Investigations Unit for approximately 15 years.

Chantel has been a Deputy School Resource Officer for the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office for six years. Chantel loves her work as an SRO and knows all of her thousands of kids by name and at least one thing about them. She educates, mentors and, most of all, builds a trusting rapport with them. She loves inspiring the next generation while simultaneously ensuring their safety.

When Chantel isn't working as an SRO for her four schools, you can find her out hunting, fishing or mainly hiking as she loves the outdoors. Congratulations to Deputy School Resource Officer Swigart for being recognized as a leader within the Law Enforcement family. She will be recognized during the Department of North Dakota American Legion's Annual Convention held this June 27-29, 2025, in Fargo at the Ramada.



Chantel Swigart

Donation Match Resounding Success

By Harvey Peterson, NDALF Chair

Donations to the offer of \$70,000 matching money in 2024 was more than met, it was greatly exceeded. Total donations in 2024 totaled \$184,182, greatly exceeding the goal of \$140,000.

The original offer made by the "anonymous donors" Curt and Judy Twete and their friend Frayne Berg, all from McVile, was to match \$70,000 from the 2024 Department Convention in June through December 14, 2024. The willingness of the Twete's to extend the eligibility period back to January 1, 2024, allowed for more donations to be matched. Which they generously did!

The 2024 donations and the continued growth of the Foundation's principal by retaining 30% of earnings each year has resulted in the Foundation finally exceeding a million dollars in total assets.

A good share of the donations came from 16 posts, all of whom have gaming operations. Donations from those posts varied from \$250 to \$10,000 and totaled \$52,500.

The Foundation expresses their sincere thanks to the match money donors and to all who donated to the Foundation in 2024. Your Foundation grows only with your support through your generosity.



American Legion Department of ND 2025 Presidents Day Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Thursday, February 13th at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are listed on the website ndlegion.org.

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Joel Rindy of Carrington Post 25

\$1000 Prize Winner
James Doyle of Minot Post 26

\$200 Prize Winners
Michael Drong of Sanborn Post 202
Owen Berg of Langdon Post 98

\$100 Prize Winners
Bruce Zimney of Garrison Post 49
Kayo Isaak of Bowman Post 48
Rodney Knoll of Linton Post 54
John Hruby of Bismarck Post 1
Laraine Hopp of Cando Post 79
Gerald Sennett of Minot Post 26



Greetings from the frigid Eastern side of North Dakota. As I write this, the forecast is for two weeks with below zero temperatures. I believe that we all are looking forward to spring.

First District has already set a date and location for their district meeting. District 1 has set their date for April 7th at Harwood.

I believe that April is a good month for meetings in that the nasty weather hopefully will be done by then. Of course, North Dakota has had surprises before. It would also help the Department Commander if she did not have to chase all over the state.

As I am sure that you have heard by now, the winter conference was canceled due to issues with the scheduled hotel, so I do not have a lot to pass along. I will mention though, that we all have to work on recruiting and retention at your respective posts. When I visited the Cooperstown Post the other week, I was pleased to see that they had brought in a potential new member to introduce him to the post and to recruit him. Inviting veterans to come and see what the Legion is all about is a positive first step. Sometimes we gain more by inviting a person to come for a meal and to meet the members is a positive step to gain a new member for the post.

I will also give a mention to those posts that do not have Sons of the American Legion affiliated with their posts. If you want your posts to survive and grow, you need to seriously think about and actively pursue starting a SAL squadron at your post. The Vietnam generation is starting to decline and until we either find veterans of the Mideast conflicts or building a SAL squadron we will face a steady decline.

Best wishes and I hope to see you at your district meetings.

Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander



It was sad that we had to cancel our Winter Conference. I was so looking forward to meeting all the Legionnaires again. We did have our DEC Meeting and Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical is always very interesting to watch as these young students do a fantastic job.

We went to the Oasis Grand Hotel for the rifle raffle drawing. Congratulations to the four winners, even though I did not win one of the rifles, it was a great fundraiser for the Department. Don posted the winners. We conducted the drawing using Facebook Live and it can be viewed on the ND Legion Family Facebook page.

Our District Spring Meetings are set for Districts 3,4 and 5. District Vice Commanders make sure you have your replacement in place before the spring meetings. I would like to see as many Posts as possible to attend the meetings. The Commanders and hosting Posts put a lot of time in getting everything set up.

Now also is the time for the Post Adjutants to work on your CPR's so you have them ready to turn in before May 1, 2025.

There have been questions asked about Legion insurance on signing up. As long as your membership remains current, you only have to register for the Legionnaires Insurance Trust AD&D policy once. However, if your membership becomes delinquent and you re-enroll you then will have to register again. With the new AD&D coverage provided by American Income Life there is no need to register, but your dues must be current at the time of claim. We start collecting for the next membership year on July 1st each year and your membership for the current year expires on December 31st each year. So, if you have not paid for the upcoming year by December 31st, your membership is delinquent and it would be best to contact the LIT and make sure that you are still registered.

I will not be re-running as Central Vice Commander this year. Robert Wishart had said he will be running for Central Vice Commander. If anyone else is interested in running, let me know at the District Meeting. If no one else is interested in running for Central Vice Commander I would ask for everyone's support for Robert.

I will be running for Central DEC and would like everyone's support again. I hope everyone had a great Holiday season again this past year. Hard to believe it is 2025 already. I was told by my father that the older you get the faster time flies by and boy was he right!

Jacob Volk
Central Region Vice Commander

Boys State

Hello Legionnaires,
I hope that things in your world are going well. As I am writing this article for the paper, I am filled with excitement because looking at our recruitment numbers for this year so far and comparing it to last year we appear to be in a great place. I will not share specifics because of the difference of time between me writing this and when you will be reading it but know that the work that is going into the recruitment efforts is showing. Boys State is June 8-13, 2025, at Wahpeton State School of Science.

Currently I am putting more focus on our social media posting primarily on Facebook and Instagram as a start of things to better reach some of our alumni but then also have an effort to reach the parents that are still in the communities. For those of you who are active on social media I encourage you all to go and follow our pages on Facebook (Look for North Dakota Boys State) and/or on Instagram (@NDBoysState) and share our posts to help it reach a larger audience. Also encourage your loved ones to do the same so that we can continue to bring more growth to this amazing program that the Legion sponsors.

I cannot talk enough about how much this program has personally changed my life because of the relationships I have been able to form and the understanding of how a government should work to better our communities both on a large and small scale. That is something that I am excited for the young men in our state to learn about as well as forming their own relationships with others across our state that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to create if it wasn't for the Boys State program.

Like always please continue the great work you all do with the American Legion and find those worthy candidates for the Boys State program.

Feel free to reach out to me at garrett.anderson@ndboysstate.org for discussion about the Boys State program and our recruitment.

North Dakota Boys State

Scan here to apply!

June 8th - 13th, 2025

"A week to change a lifetime"

For more information go to NDBoysState.org
Questions? Email: garrett.anderson@ndboysstate.org Call or text: 701.799-0306

Youth Trooper Academy

By Curt Twete, Past Department Commander

Due to the Winter Conference being canceled, I'm hoping to reach parents, grandparents, school counselors and friends to encourage you to make junior and senior high school students aware of the Youth Troop Academy program.

The Youth Trooper Academy is a joint venture between the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion to expose young men and women interested in a law enforcement career to the training state troopers spend six weeks to complete. The program lasts four days, July 28 -31 and is held at the Law Enforcement Training Academy in Bismarck.

For detailed information on the program, check out the North Dakota Legion website at: <https://ndlegion.org/ndyta/> Encourage potential candidates to do the same and apply at: <https://www.nd.gov/ndhp/safety-and-education/ndhp-youth-academyacademy>

Thank you in advance.

Exciting Matching Fund Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that Edgar M. Boyd Post #37 will generously match up to \$25,000 of donations collected for the Foundation's general fund, excluding specific program donations through December 1, 2025.

This is a remarkable opportunity to double the impact of your contributions and support the Foundation's mission. Together, we can make a lasting difference! Join us in reaching this goal—every dollar counts!

After learning of the success of the Twete/Berg matching money offer, John Swenseth has offered to match \$10,000 in donations in 2025. The total match money is now \$35,000.

Edgar M. Boyd Post #37
Williston, ND
American Legion



TED'S NORTHPORT
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Fargo, North Dakota 58102
(701) 232-8304

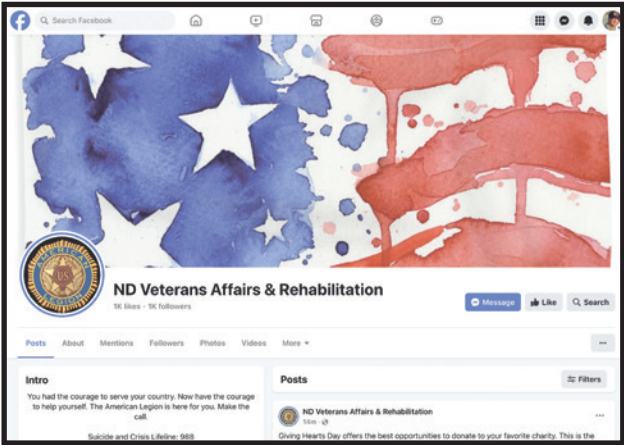
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Cathy Keogh, VA&R Chair

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation has been an integral part of the American Legion. Being one of the Pillars, it continues the motto "Veterans Strengthening America". This past year this committee has had to overcome some obstacles along the way. Thank you to Allan Magnuson for his past dedication in chairing this committee and continuing the good works of Glenn Wahus, Summer Kristianson and Jim Deremo with bringing awareness of the needs of Veterans across the state. Tioga Post 139 held a walk last fall to bring attention to PTSD and Suicide Awareness.

To start 2025, the committee has put together 40 bags for Homeless Veterans that will be distributed across the state by the Veterans Services Officers. Thank you to Summer Kristianson, Department Service Officer, for coordinating the disbursement of the bags to the VSOs. The VA&R committee is looking for anyone with the Legion family who is interested in being part of this group. The group meets at the Winter Conference and the Department Convention but also looking at additional virtual meetings and correspondence through emails.

From "Courage Cares On" to "In this Family Nobody Fights Alone" we continue to find ways to bring PTSD and Suicide Awareness to the Legion Family. Please check out the ND Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Facebook page.



INSPIRED BY OUR TROOPS

Eide Bailly is proud to support our men and women in uniform, both past and present. We thank them for their service.

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NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS
Official Publication of The American
Legion Department of North Dakota
Published at Forum Communications Printing Fargo
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



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The North Dakota Legion News
Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by
The American Legion, Department of North Dakota
Don Herry, Editor

The North Dakota Legion News is published quarterly by North Dakota Department of the American Legion, 405 W. Main Ave. Ste. 4-A, West Fargo ND 58078. Periodical Postage Prices is Paid at West Fargo, ND and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The North Dakota Legion News, North Dakota Department of the American Legion, 405 W. Main Ave, Ste. 4-A, P.O. Box 5057, West Fargo ND 58078.

Periodical Publication # 12629

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 1 year - \$0.65 which is included in your membership to The American Legion, Department of North Dakota.

Cancellation: Contact editor at PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078.
PHONE: 701-293-3120

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The American Legion, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078.

ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Don Herry, 701-293-3120
E-Mail: adjutant@ndlegion.org
WEBSITE: www.ndlegion.org

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COMMANDER COMMENTS

MAMIE HAVELKA - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Greetings,

Hope all is well, and everyone is staying safe and warm. Consideration to our ND wildlife in these freezing days and ice-covered ground. Thank you to those who have taken it upon themselves to supply food and protection.

Cancellation of Winter Conference

It deeply saddens me to have announced the cancellation of our Winter Conference. The safety of everyone is our utmost priority, and unfortunately, the hotel could not provide us with adequate sleeping rooms. To expect our Legion Family to travel from another hotel in the cold, with no restaurant available on site, was simply too much to ask. However, the Oratorical Contest was still held at a different venue, where the contestants delivered their speeches with exceptional skill and passion.

Travels

Since the last Legion News, my travels took me across the state. I had the pleasure of attending a Christmas event at Post 7 in Lisbon with Commander Bill Henderson and their American Legion family. Additionally, I had the privilege of meeting the new Administrator Dane Grebel at the Lisbon Veterans Home. Touring the facilities and visiting with many of the residents was an enriching experience. However, it must be noted that there is a pressing need for more nurses.

Job Descriptions

I began reviewing the job descriptions of our Headquarters staff, specifically the Programs Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. It was evident that the descriptions were sorely lacking in accurately reflecting the duties and responsibilities. After updating the descriptions, the job titles were adjusted to better suit the work requirements. Teri Bryant is now the Programs Manager, and Sarah Kim is now the Administrative Manager. Congratulations to both of them!

Training and Information Events

Our training program has been a resounding success thanks to the excellent efforts of our Training team. They have done an outstanding job passing on information and enhancing MyLegion computer skills through hands-on sessions. More sessions are in the works, so please watch for upcoming venues and dates. If a session is desired in your area, do not hesitate to let me know.

While the cancellation of the Winter Conference was a significant loss, it's important to stay connected. Watch for additional information in other formats as we continue to share news, updates, and prayers. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Warm regards,
Mamie Havelka
Commander, NDAL
“Proud to Belong, Forever Strong”

ND American Legion Oratorical Contest



Pictured from left to right: Mike Weyrauch, Dept. Oratorical Chairman, 1st Place Danielle Nusz, Arnegard, 2nd Place Sigryn Henke, Stanton, 3rd Place McKinnlee Haberman, Wyndmere, 4th Place Nader Said, Fargo and Department Commander Mamie Havelka.

Danielle Nusz a senior of Watford City High School sponsored by Watford City Post #29, was named the North Dakota American Legion Oratorical Champion following the 2025 State Contest on January 25th at the Clarion in Minot.

The purpose of The American Legion's High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

State Champion Nusz received a \$250 cash scholarship provided by the ND American Legion Foundation, a \$175 Cash Scholarship Award from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund, administered by the ND Community Foundation, and the C.W. Leifur Traveling Trophy, which will remain with her until next year's contest. She had previously won a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set as the 1st Place Western Division Champion along with a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 9th District Contest.

Danielle moves on to the National Contest, which will be held in Hillsdale, Michigan. Top winners from all states will come together at one site for competition. Danielle will receive a \$2,000 Scholarship for competing in the first round of the National Contest. If she wins the first round, she will advance to and participate in the second round and will receive an additional \$2,000 Scholarship if eliminated or if she advances to the National Finals, she will win either \$25,000 - \$22,500 or \$20,000 in scholarships. Danielle is the daughter of David and Vic Nusz.

Second Place went to Sigryn Henke of Stanton, daughter of Randy and Sue Henke, who won the 7th District Contest, sponsored by Center Post #90, and finished Second in the West Division. Sigryn is a Senior and is homeschooled. She will receive \$200 from the ND American Legion Foundation and \$125 from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund for Second Place to go along with the \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 9th District Contest and \$200 Cash Award and a pen set for Second

Place in the West Division.

McKinnlee Haberman, a Senior and goes to school at Wyndmere Public School will receive a \$150 cash scholarship from the North Dakota American Legion Foundation and \$50 from the Kennelly Scholarship Award for finishing Third at State. As the 10th District winner, she received a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. McKinnlee finished Second in the Eastern Division Contest and earned a \$200 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set. McKinnlee is the daughter of James and Heather Haberman.

Nader Said, a Senior from Sheyenne High School in West Fargo, finished in Fourth Place at the State Contest and he will take home a \$100 Cash Award from the ND American Legion Foundation. Nader was sponsored by the Fargo American Legion Post #2. Nader won the 1st District Contest and a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. He finished First in the Eastern Division Contest and earned a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion Foundation and a pen set. Nader is the son of Mona Said.

The North Dakota American Legion provides for the Cash Awards earned at the Divisional Contests. Cash won at the District level contests come from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Contest Fund now administered by the ND American Legion. District winners receive Cash Awards of \$300 for First, \$200 for Second and \$100 for Third. This year \$5,050 in Cash Awards was earned by the winners of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest in North Dakota.

1st District 1st Nader Said, Fargo, Senior.
3rd District 1st Bridget Pankratz, Rock Lake, Junior.
5th District 1st Joanie McCormack, Wilton, Freshman, 2nd Place Zachary Quinn, Wilton, Senior.
7th District 1st Place Sigryn Henke, Stanton, Senior.
8th District 1st Place Christina Dohrmann, Taylor, Junior. 2nd Place Grace Dazell, Dickinson, Sophomore.
9th District 1st Place Danielle Nusz, Arnegard, Senior. 2nd Place Kingsley Falade, Williston, Senior. 3rd Place Kingdom Falade, Williston, Junior.
10th District 1st Place McKinnlee Haberman, Wyndmere, Senior. 2nd Place Grace Martin, Fairmount, Junior.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



In 1975, I was walking down Main Street in Hebron, ND, when Mike Hastings, who was one of the local representatives of Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, walked up to me and invited me to become a member of Post 100. That memory is as clear in my mind today as the day it happened. I was honored to be invited to join a group of individuals that I held in such high regard. Without hesitation, I accepted this invitation, and I am just as honored today as I was on that day to be a member of this organization. Unfortunately, I must not be as impressive as the late Ed Remfert, Orion "Oh Gee" Feil, Joe Kokkeler, Harry Maas, Norb Underdahl or August C. "Gus" Draeb who were some of the members of Post 100 that inspired me to join their ranks. I don't seem to be as inspiring to young people making them want to join our ranks.

In 1990, I was honored to be elected to serve as the 7th District Commander and made my way to my first Department Convention in Grand Forks accompanied by my good friend Lester Mutschlkenaus. There we met a truly dynamic individual that was running for Department Commander by the name of Curtis O. Twete, who was successful in his bid to serve as Department Commander. Curt inspired me to continue my journey of service to The American Legion and he continues to be an inspiration to me and many other Legionnaires to this day.

I also had the distinct honor to be mentored along the way by Past Department Adjutant Vernon Useldinger and Past Assistant Adjutant and Past Department Commander Harry W. Moore. Harry and I had a personality conflict. They say opposites attract and Harry and I were two of a kind. Fat, ugly and strong willed. Harry ran for Department Commander just as I became the Western Region Vice-Commander. I was fearful that Harry would win, because

I knew it was going to be a very long year if he won. He won. During the Fall District meetings Harry and I sat eye to eye until about 3 am in a hotel room in Tioga, ND, alcohol may have been involved, and we came to an understanding. From that time on, I learned what an honorable leader with a servant heart Harry was. I miss you my friend.

Another one of my mentors is Past Department Commander Gus Draeb. He had an unusual Past Department Commander Pin; it had a 40 & 8 tab attached to it. He explained to me that it had belonged to Jack Williams. For those of you that don't know, Jack Williams was appointed temporary secretary at a meeting of the ND Delegation at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago, who at the time were enroute to the St. Louis Caucus where formation of The American Legion was formalized in 1919. At the first ND Department Convention which was held in Bismarck, Jack Williams was to be appointed permanent Adjutant, but he asserted that if he could not be elected, he didn't want the job. He was then elected to the first of 24 consecutive 2-year terms as Department Adjutant. He died while in office on Flag Day 1967. In 1940 Jack was bestowed with the title of honorary Past Department Commander. Gus Draeb was the personal attorney for Jack and Hannah Williams who never had children and on Jack's death his Past Department Commander pin was willed to Gus Draeb, and this is the pin that I so admired. Before his death, Gus Draeb gifted to me this unique Past Department Commander pin to me which is one of my most prized possessions.

Well enough of this trip down memory lane, we should discuss some current issues. Please make sure that you keep Department Headquarters apprised of your current address. We send most things out bulk mail and when things are returned it costs us close to a dollar per item returned. I

would also like to encourage you to put your correct email address into the membership records. It is a much faster and cheaper way to communicate with you. By the same token, please keep your phone number to date, with most everyone using cell phones, it is not simply a matter of us looking your phone number up in the phone book. If you don't provide us with your phone number, there is a good chance that we can't find it if we need to.

Since I have become Adjutant, I am aware of four members that have been victims of an accidental death. As a member of the ND American Legion, you are eligible for coverage by two different Accidental Death or Dismemberment Policies. The first one is provided by The Legionnaires Insurance Trust. While it is free, it does require you to register. Registration can be accomplished by calling 800-235-6943 or online at www.thelit.com/LegionCare1.com as long as your membership dues remain paid without interruption you only need to register once. Unfortunately, in all four cases, our members had not registered and no benefits were available. The other policy is provided by American Income Life. With this policy you are automatically covered if your dues are current. So, benefits were available to all four families. Now let's be honest, why do they provide this coverage? It's because they will try to sell you additional insurance. I urge you to consider their offers and see if the coverage is right for you. If it is, buy it, if it isn't just tell them no. You are under no obligation to buy. I buy some of the additional coverages, but not all. Don't be afraid to ask to be put on their do not call list. Both companies provide good products. However not all products are for everyone.

I want to close by thanking you for your membership, it is important. 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 know I speak for the majority of ND Legionnaires; Cancelling Winter Conference left a huge void in my life. We do not get the chance to gather as often as we should, and admittedly I was a little depressed after seeing YOUR loyal and faithful faces this year. A few of us did gather in Minot for the weekend, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Your Executive Committee met on Saturday January 25th. As Chairman I called the meeting to order at 9:49 am with a salute and pledge. Commander Havelka greeted everyone and gave opening remarks.

Judge Advocate Johnson reviewed two areas of Roberts Rules of Order, Rule 1:4 and Rule 47:55, based on the rules, non-voting members are not able to make motions or second a motion. In addition, Rule 43:29, based on the rule, the chair is to not participate in debate without relinquishing the chair to the highest vice commander that has not participated in debate and is willing to not take part in debate.

A consent agenda was approved containing DEC Minutes from September 28, 2024. Confirmation of the email vote for the Firefighter of the Year awarded to Rick Schreiber submitted by Watford City Post 29, Ray Atol Law Officer of the Year awarded to Chantel Swigart submitted by Watford City Post 29, Legionnaire of the Year awarded to Roy Degenstein submitted by Watford City Post 29, Distinguished Service Award awarded to Mark Antal submitted by Edinburg Post 156, DSO Report for 2024.

The agenda was unanimously approved with the additions of Legion Riders Report and a discussion on the Adjutant Position.

Commander Havelka's nomination of Lance Renville of Watford City for the position of West Region DEC was unanimously approved. Commander Havelka administered the oath of office to the newly appointed West Region DEC Lance Renville.

Finance Officer Childs gave the financial report. Overall, the income is up, and the expenses are down. Donations to cover the expenses for the Department Service Office have been received. Discussion was held on the auto expense line item regarding car washes.

Membership Chair Bolyard reported that North Dakota is in third place at national and has reached 85% membership. Posts are working on retention and gaining new members.

NEC Anderson reported on the upcoming Washington Conference. I will be attending the Legislative Commission, Ed Dick will be attending the Law-and-Order Security Committee, Bryan Ohlhauser will be attending the National Security Council, Scott Post will be attending the National Security Commission and Kenneth Wiederholt will be attending Veterans Education and Other Benefits and Homeland Commission at the Washington Conference. NEC Anderson discussed the National Call-In contributions to the Leading Candidate. Both NEC Anderson and Alt NEC Antal reported they will not be attending the Washington Conference since there is no NEC meeting but will attend the Spring Conference in Indianapolis.

Director Anderson reported on the activities of the ND Legion Riders. The Riders received \$2,000 from the Foundation, which is enough to fund the scholarships for next year. The scholarship information is going out to all the schools in February and due in March. The applications will be reviewed at the April Legion Riders meeting.

DEC Renville reported on the proposed changes to the draft investment policy. Discussion was held and proposed changes would continue to be developed by the committee for further study/discussion.

Commander-Elect Weyrauch addressed issues with the facility contracts for future Department Conventions and Winter Conferences allowing the staff to negotiate

reimbursements and/or refunds for nonexecuted portions of the contracts.

The CVB bids for the 2029 Winter Conference and Department Convention were reviewed. The staff will begin negotiations for the 2029 Winter Conference to be held at The Mandan Baymont Hotel and the 2029 Department Convention to be held at The Minot Clarion.

Commander Havelka reviewed The American Legion's privacy policy. A decision was made NOT to release our members' emails to ND Veterans Need You but rather contact them to place an ad in the ND Legion News.

Commander Havelka submitted updated job descriptions for Programs Manager and Administrative Manager. All were approved with further work to be done updating the Department Adjutant's job description.

Commander Havelka discussed a bonus/stipend for our volunteer adjutant beginning in July of 2024. Much discussion was held in an attempt to "gift" our adjutant volunteer for ALL of 2024. It was agreed that we would "gift" our volunteer adjutant the budgeted amount of \$2,000 a month back to January 2024 until July 1, 2025. Although approved, this decision is being reviewed to ensure our actions are legal.

Commander Havelka reported on the American Income Life insurance letter that went out to the members last fall and the ND Insurance Commissioners office's concerns on the letter. The committee decided to table the discussion to sever ties with AIL until the next DEC meeting.

Although on the agenda, no nominations to ACOVA were presented for the committee to approve.

Prior to adjournment I asked Alt NEC Mark Antal to offer a closing prayer. I adjourned the meeting with a salute at 12:32 pm.



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2025 SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1

Monday, April 7thHarwood American Legion, 101 Benefit Lane, 5:00 PM Registration/Social (\$5), 6:00 PM Meal (\$8.50), 7:00 PM Meeting

District 2

Saturday, April 26th Park River American Legion, 505 Railroad Ave W, 5:00 PM Registration/Social (\$5), 6:00 PM Meeting, Meal to Follow (\$10)

District 3

Saturday, April 26th Cando Towner County Armory Bldg, 408 5th Ave, 11:00 AM, Registration/Social (\$5), 12:00 PM Meal (Free Will), 1:00 PM Meeting

District 4

Friday, April 4th Carrington Chieftain Conf Center, 60 4th Ave S, 5:00 PM Registration/Social (\$5), 6:00 PM Meal (\$20), 7:00 PM Meeting

District 5 & 7 (Joint)

Saturday, April 12th Bismarck AMVETS Club, 2402 Railroad Ave, 12:30 PM Registration/Social (\$5), Amvets Menu, 1:30 PM Meeting

District 6

Saturday, April 5th Velve American Legion 200 N Main, 5:30 PM Registration/Social (\$5), 6:00 PM Meal (\$10), 7:00 PM Meeting

District 8

Saturday, March 22nd Dickinson Veterans Pavilion 801 5th Ave W, 11:00 AM, Registration/Social (\$5), 12:00 PM Meal (\$20), 1:00 PM Meeting NOTE: Mountain Time

District 9

Saturday, April 5th Powers Lake American Legion 1st Ave W, 11:00 AM Registration/Social (\$5), 12:00 PM Meal (No Charge), 1:00 PM Meeting

District 10

Sunday, March 30thFairmount Community Building 113 Main Ave, 2:00 PM Registration/Social (\$5), No Meal, 3:00 PM Meeting



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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

“Members with a Mission”

Greetings Legion family. As we had to cancel our Winter Conference this year, and my message for Sunday fits with my previous article, I figured I would give the abridged version here.

“The chorus of the Gaither hymn, The Family of God, is “I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God. I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood. Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod for, I’m part of the family, the family of God.” The story behind the hymn is about Ron Garner, a mechanic who attended church with Bill & Gloria Gaither. On the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter, Ron had to make up some time he missed at work while taking his daughter to appointments. Ron was working with some combustible material when there was an explosion. He was able to crash through the front doors just before the whole building blew apart but was severely burned in the accident and was not expected to make it through the night. His church family found out and leapt into action. People came to the church throughout the night to pray for Ron. Then, on Easter morning, the bleary-eyed congregation got the news that Ron had survived the night, and the doctors thought he had a chance. That joyous news gave the congregation a boost of energy. They pledged to be there for the family, to help with the kids, with rides to the hospital, blood transfusions, money, whatever the family needed during Ron’s recovery. That experience blessed the Gaither’s because they realized their church family would do the exact same thing for them, and they wrote The Family of God hymn in response.

The Legion family is very similar to a church family. While not related by blood or faith, we share a common bond of love and service to our country. Those who served all entered basic training as independent civilians with our own backgrounds, personalities, and goals; and we were broken down and built up into soldiers with the physical, mental and moral skills, uniforms and gear to fight as a cohesive unit. We became a military family that supported each other, even when chiding different branches about their stereotypical shortcomings. Just like any family, we might give each other a hard time, but when a stranger attacks one of our own, we are there to defend them. The

difference between our Legion family and our natural or adopted family is that we’re members with a mission. In my experience, the farther we get away from basic, the more likely we are to forget we are members with a common mission that overrides our own agendas.

The scriptures for January 26th speak of purpose and unity. In Nehemiah 8:1-10 the Israelites had lost their way. Ezra brought the Law before the assembly and read it aloud, reminding the people who they were and whose they were. The people recommitted themselves to the Lord that day. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Paul relates the church to the physical body and how all parts work together for the good of the body, and in Luke 4:14-21 Jesus declares His purpose before the people in His hometown—to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners, sight for the blind, set the oppressed free and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

We too have a purpose we proclaim in our Preamble, “For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.” Read that last bit again. We pledge to set apart and make holy our comradeship by our devotion to help each other, going back to that unified fighting force.

We are members of our Legion family, members with a mission, and we accomplish that mission by devoting ourselves to helping each other accomplish our ND Legion family goals apart from our own agendas. May we, like Israel, remember our purpose, that we are members with a mission and move past our problems to work together for the good of our Legion family, for the good of North Dakota, and the good of America. Amen”

The Future of the ND Legion – Update

“Veterans Serving Veterans”

TO: ND American Legion Posts
DATE: 1 MARCH 2025
FROM: Mamie Havelka, Legionnaire
SUBJECT: Future of ND Legion - Update

First and foremost: Thank you each and every one that have donated to Department Service Office Expenses (DSOffice). Your donations and support have been instrumental! And appreciated. Most all posts know that our membership dues no longer cover the costs and expenses of the Dept ND American Legion.

100% of our DSOffice expenses are for veterans with medical needs and meets the eligibility code, D-50, therefore gaming DONATION/TRUST/FOUNDATION money can be used.

Also, HB1142 allows DONATION/TRUST/FOUNDATION money to be used for administrative and program management expenses of statewide veteran’s organizations (Dept Headquarters). We do not want to INCREASE our dues!

The application for gaming funds, below, is ready to use. All Posts MAY contribute, but this form is required by Attorney General - Gaming for gaming donations and for your record. Please call me if you have any questions.

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

APPLICATION FOR GAMING FUNDS

ND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
GAMING DIVISION
SFN 9801 (6-2023)

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds	Contact Person for Applicant	Telephone Number
The American Legion Department of North Dakota	Don Herryly	701-293-3120
Mailing Address	City	State
PO Box 5057	West Fargo	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
[Signature]		
Amount Requested	Request Approved	Approved By
	Request Denied	
Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date
		Eligible Use Code
		-

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

More Than a Monetary Benefit

Service-connected benefits are more than just a monetary benefit. While service connection does provide a monthly, tax-free stipend, it also may allow veterans additional benefits such as healthcare, home loan guaranty, travel allowance, life insurance, employment benefits, vocational rehabilitation, hardship grants or loans, and state specific benefits.

Healthcare is the most common question surrounding VA benefits and eligibility. Having a service connection grants eligibility into VA healthcare. A veteran's service-connected rating will determine which priority group they are placed in. Ratings of 40% or lower will likely have co-pays for care, although these co-pays are lower than most

insurance co-pay requirements.

For veteran's service connected at 30% or higher, or those traveling for an appointment for a service-connected condition (25 miles or more), VA provides for travel allowance. Veterans need to submit following each appointment for this benefit, however, the money is then direct deposited into their designated account.

VA offers vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans needing to change career fields. This program pays for school, covers the cost of materials, and provides a monthly stipend for veterans while attending school. The program assists veterans with resume building and during job searches at the end of their training program.

The State of North Dakota also has additional benefits

for veterans. They offer free state park access to veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher, reduced game and fish license, and a "V" indicator on their ND driver's license. North Dakota also provides for a property tax exception for veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher.

Not all VA benefits directly put money into a veteran's pocket. However, these benefits certainly can add up over time!

There are many other benefits a veteran may be entitled to. To find more of what you may be eligible for, please visit <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/benefits-and-services/what-am-i-eligible>



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- Past Vice Commander Post 24
- Current Central Region Vice Commander
- Past Third District Commander and Vice Commander

I would appreciate your support from Districts 3-4-5 at our Department Convention in Fargo on June 27-29, 2025.

AMERICAN
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The Message
North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
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New Members and New Ideas in McVile

A young couple moved into McVile about a year ago. They both found jobs in the area and settled in. It was discovered that the young man was a veteran. Quickly, he became a Legionnaire, and the Auxiliary gained a new active member as well.

Morgan attended meetings and listened carefully and took in a lot of information. Soon, this new member became a new mother. Well, the unit decided we would pay for a Junior Membership for baby Sophie, thus gaining two new members. Good for us! Two new members and one interested in being active.

During our unit's January meeting, we discussed asking the elementary school in town to make valentines for local veterans in the nursing home and the assisted living facilities in McVile. We had asked them before and so appreciated the efforts of all the children.

Rather than just having students create cards this time, Morgan excitedly floated a great idea. Morgan thought if the children had a different venue and a different project, that we could get valentines made and delivered to the veterans easily. We could just see the ideas circulating in Morgan's head! The ideas just kept coming! Make it a Saturday project at the welcoming McVile Library/ City Auditorium. Ask a veteran to share stories and answer



questions such as "What is a veteran?" We would invite parents or other interested adults to take part and serve valentine cookies and treats! Morgan was just bubbling over with ideas for this new project.

Morgan envisioned inviting local children and anyone else interested to come to the library/auditorium on February 8th and create Valentines for Veterans. Unit members thought this was a wonderful project. One member would make treat bags for the children in a Valentine's theme, we would invite a veteran to speak about just what a veteran is, craft items were lined up, the advertising was ready to

be posted, and the cookie recipe was ready to be used to make cookies.

It is so exciting to have this local project come together so quickly for the community in support of our children and youth and veterans at the same time. Thank you, Morgan, for your fresh ideas and welcome to Ole Semling Unit 135 of McVile.

Last fall, I received information from the Department Secretary on some of the many members of Unit 500 (the Department Unit). I wrote letters to 148 members in that inactive unit, and we are delighted that our unit has over 10 members that transferred into Unit 135. Where there is incentive, there is a way! We are so excited to gain these new members and new transfers.

Submitted by: Judy Twete, Unit 135 President and Department NEC (2025-2027)



Cavalier Spreads Holiday Cheer with "Taste of Home"

In a heartwarming display of community support and holiday spirit, Cavalier Auxiliary Unit 11 kicked off its third annual "Taste of Home" project. They prepared twenty-one Christmas packages for active-duty military service members who have ties to the Cavalier community.

This project aims to bring a taste of home to those serving our country, ensuring they feel the warmth of the holidays. This year, the packages included not only two issues of the Cavalier Chronicle, the local newspaper that connects service members with their hometown, but also an assortment of delicious treats. Recipients enjoyed homemade candy, savory beef sticks, the locally-beloved Widman's Chocolates, and crunchy Dots Pretzels, all designed to evoke cherished memories of home and family gatherings during the holiday season.

The success of this year's project was made possible by generous donations from Auxiliary and community members and a generous donation from the local thrift store by covering the postage expense. Their support underscores the community's commitment to honoring and supporting brave men and women in uniform. "We are thrilled to continue this tradition and provide a little piece of home to our service members during the holidays," said Kaye Furstenu, Unit 11 President. "It's a small gesture of gratitude for their sacrifice, and we hope it brings them joy and comfort."

The American Legion Auxiliary encourages community members to continue supporting this initiative and others like it, as they work to foster connections

between those at home and the brave men and women serving in the military. The "Taste of Home" Christmas packages serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by service members and the enduring connection between them and their communities back home.

Article submitted by: Kaye Furstenu, Unit 11 President



Pictured (l-r): Denise Papenfuss, Kaye Furstenu, and Jackie Klein.

Carrington Helps Veterans During Christmas

John Raymond O'Hara Unit 25 of Carrington sponsored a Christmas Gala Supper for veterans, national guard and their families at the Chieftain Conference Center in December. With assistance from the Carrington VFW Auxiliary, they served over 50 attendees. Skylar Patzer entertained the audience with music and Christmas melodies. Marlene Boyer, Unit President, served as hostess for the evening and enjoyed visiting with and welcoming everyone who attended.

The ALA and VFW Auxiliary members teamed up for another community project. They prepared Christmas packages for the ten veterans/spouses at Golden Acres Nursing Home. Homemade cookies, candies, muffins, dried fruit and other yummy goodies filled the packages. Marlene Boyer, Bernice Sandvol and Judy Keller delivered the packages and enjoyed visiting with everyone.

Article Submitted by: Judith Lee Helton Keller, Unit Secretary



Skylar Patzer entertains guests at the Gala Supper.



Carrington Gala Supper.



Pictured (l-r): Bernice Sandvol, Marlene Boyer, President Unit 25 and Past NW Division National Vice President; and Gayle Kuss.

2025 Department Convention

June 27-29 in Fargo at the Ramada by Wyndham. Call 701-235-3333 for reservations. More information will be available at www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/

2025 Spring District Meetings

Tentative and subject to change without notice. Also available at www.ndala.org/district-meetings/

DISTRICT 1

Monday, April 7th Harwood American Legion
5:00 PM Registration/Social, 6:00 PM Meal (\$8.50), 7:00 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 2

Saturday, April 26th Park River American Legion
5:00 PM Registration/Social, 6:00 PM Meeting, Meal to Follow (\$10)

DISTRICT 3

Saturday, April 26th Cando Towner County Armory
11:00 AM, Registration/Social, 12:00 PM Meal (Free Will), 1:00 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 4

Friday, April 4th Carrington Chieftain Conf Center
5:00 PM Registration/Social, 6:00 PM Meal (\$20), 7:00 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 5 & 7 (JOINT)

Saturday, April 12th Bismarck AMVETS Club
12:30 PM Registration/Social, Amvets Menu, 1:30 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 6

Saturday, April 5th Velva American Legion
5:30 PM Registration/Social, 6:00 PM Meal (\$10), 7:00 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 8

Saturday, March 22nd Dickinson Veterans Pavilion
11:00 AM, Registration/Social, 12:00 PM Meal (\$20), 1:00 PM Meeting NOTE: Mountain Time

DISTRICT 9

Saturday, April 5th Powers Lake American Legion
11:00 AM Registration/Social, 12:00 PM Meal (No Charge), 1:00 PM Meeting

DISTRICT 10

Sunday, March 30th Fairmount Community Building
2:00 PM Registration/Social, No Meal, 3:00 PM Meeting

Department President



LoAnn Dick

Hello North Dakota Auxiliary Members,
How glad I am to get to talk to you today! I SOOO missed getting to be with you, to see you, to talk to you at Winter Conference!!!! What a weird eventuality to have to cancel our meeting due to plumbing and heating at the hotel. But, God is in control. He will help us to recover our time together in other ways.

So, what is coming up that we need to work on? NUMBER ONE: MEMBERSHIP!!!! We NEED to get our Membership dues all paid!!! Membership is our lifeblood!!!! Without members, our Units, our Districts, our Department die. Our goals this year were not set as high as other years. Because of that, some of the Units have hit, or gotten close to, their goals, and then stopped there. PLEASE KEEP ON WORKING!!! Go after those members that you haven't gotten renewed yet! Go after the hard ones to access, or hard ones to get to renew! WE NEED THEM ALL!!!! Their eligibility Veteran still wants to know that they are part of the ALA. And if they have passed on, the remembrance of their service is still TOTALLY VALUABLE to the Veteran's family, to the Unit, to the Department, to National, AND TO AMERICA!!!! WE MUST NOT FORGET THEM, OR LET THEIR SERVICE BE FORGOTTEN!!!!

Every Department is striving to achieve the Auxiliary Medallion Award, the foremost part of which is the achievement of 85% Achieved Membership by March 15. We are 272 members short of our goal. We are at 76.79%. We are just over 9% short of our goal. But, if every Unit, and every member of our Auxiliary work together and get every member of your Unit to get their dues paid, we could achieve an award that North Dakota has never achieved before. Let's all work hard to make that happen. I know when we put our minds and hearts together, WE CAN DO ANYTHING!!! Let's show the entire country what North Dakota ALA members are made of. We are strong, capable people who can attempt and achieve great things!!!! I KNOW WE CAN!!!! This is not a competition. It is for each Department to receive the honor of having achieved a massive honor, and being recognized nationally for it.

Our Education Chairman, Peggy Moran has sent out

all the information on scholarships that are coming up in the next few days. Some of them are:

The JUNIOR LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP has been changed to the MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP. This scholarship is for members who were Junior members and have maintained their membership over the years. It is for seniors in high school who are going to college. This one is time sensitive, as the application has to be to the Unit by March 1st, and the Unit has to get it to National by March 15th.

The SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The CHILDREN OF WARRIORS SCHOLARSHIP for anyone who is the descendant of a Veteran.

The CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION has been changed to the CHILD WELLBEING FOUNDATION by the American Legion because they believe the name is more suited to what they actually do for children.

April is CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH when we work to honor and bless the children and youth in our Units and communities. April 15th is Purple Up Day to honor the children of our military families. So, wear purple that day as a remembrance and honor, and do creative activities with the children around you.

I talked with our Northwest Division Chairman, Deb Albers, and she told me that in Nebraska they do March Birthday Parties to honor the Veterans in the Legion because March is the Legion Birthday month. They have parties involving the Legion and Auxiliary where they just have a fun time of food and fellowship to celebrate. And some of the older and maybe smaller Units have Soup Dinner for the Veterans where the Unit members prepare soup, crackers, and cookies which they deliver to the homes of the veterans, visit with them for a while, then go back to the Unit and have soup and fellowship together before finishing the night. WHAT A GREAT SET OF IDEAS!!!! Perhaps this is something we could do in our Units in North Dakota!!! Great for our Veterans! And a great way for us to bless our Veterans.

Remember that it is always time to be remembering and recording the time and activities we do to honor our Veterans, our Youth, and our Communities. It is SO

VERY IMPORTANT!!!! It is the time, donations, and activities that we do that cause Congress to listen to us when we ask them to do something for our Veterans. So, please don't devalue your service, your efforts, your hours, and your donations!!!! They are VALUABLE AND CRUCIAL!!!!

Remember to pay the Secretary of State the \$10 to keep your Non-Profit status up to date! It is VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Well, my dear ones, I will see you at the Spring District Meetings that the Legion and the Auxiliary will be holding in the months of March and April! Please be sure to attend the one in your District!!!! Then I will get to see you there!

I love you all,

LoAnn Dick

2025 Year-End Reporting Deadlines

Forms and information available online at:
www.ndala.org/reporting/

Department Chaplain



Rose Laning

We have just finished with the Christmas season, which is a season of warm fuzzy feelings and learning how much God loves us by sending His Son Jesus. Now we are getting ready to celebrate Easter and the death and resurrection of Jesus. First Jesus came as a baby and now he has died and risen from the dead. What happened between those times?

We know Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple to offer sacrifices and dedicate him according to the customary rituals of the time. While there, they encountered two faithful servants of God and Simeon declared that this baby was not only for the Jews, but for all of humanity.

The next time we hear of Jesus, he is 12 years old and is traveling with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover. As they were heading home, Mary & Joseph assumed he was with their group. When realizing they had left him behind, they hurried back to the city.

Can you imagine what was going through their minds? God entrusted them with His Son - and they lost him! Thankfully, they found him in the temple, talking as an equal with the rabbis. They were amazed at his wisdom.

Everyone who met Jesus never forgot their encounter... Jesus' parents, Simeon & Anna, and the temple rabbis. Have you had an encounter with Jesus? What is your story?

Many times, we get depressed because of a health problem, a financial situation, a family struggle or things totally beyond our control, and we ask, "Why me, Lord?" Is it possible that God is using this situation to bring you closer to Him?

What is your story? Is God trying to draw you closer to Him? Maybe someone walks with a limp and as a young child was made fun of in school. Does someone have a major scar?

Some people have scars we do not see. A terrible childhood? Abused? Rejection by family? The wounds in our hearts are more damaging than those on our physical bodies. Those hurts change the way we see the world. What is their story?

God heals - especially when we come to Him with a broken spirit. He heals the wounds in our hearts which may have broken our spirits. We may be disappointed because we cannot physically do things that others easily do but the wounds in my heart led me to the foot of the cross. God has a perfect plan and purpose for our lives. Our value comes from the life we have in Him. As God heals our pain, He creates a new heart of hope within us which leads us to praise Him in all things. So what is your story?

Prayer - God, help us remember that "All things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) We know you have a perfect plan and purpose for our lives. Help us come to you and surrender our dreams so we can see our true value and your vision of wholeness in us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Rose Laning

Department Secretary



Marcy Schmidt

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
I am thankful for the mild winter we have had so far. I am pretty sure a 'wolf ate the groundhog' so we will see a few more weeks of winter. Spring will be welcome whenever she arrives. Although it was disappointing that the Winter Conference was canceled, I was glad to see that so many made the trek to Minot to witness the Oratorical Contest.

Information on 2025 Spring District Meetings is available elsewhere in this publication. Look for updates via email, unit mail packets, and on the Department website at www.ndala.org/district-meetings/.

I want to remind all members to turn in your volunteer hours and donations to your unit presidents so it can be compiled and sent on to District Presidents and Department Chairmen. It is important to report your activities so the National American Legion and Auxiliary organizations can report to Congress on the vital work we accomplish for our veterans, military, and their families.

Do you know a special unit member that can always be counted on for unit activities but does not seek office

beyond unit president? Consider them for the 'Unit Member of the Year' award and submit a nomination.

Unit members: remind your juniors and local students to enter the Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest, apply for National and Department scholarships, and apply to attend the Flickertail Girls State event to be held on the UND campus, June 8-13, 2025.

You are all aware that many people, including Auxiliary members, have had their lives turned upside down due to devastating wildfires and hurricanes. I encourage all units to collect change at your unit meetings. Send the proceeds to the Department Office or bring them to your 2025 Spring District Meeting to be donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer



Susan Degner

As you may already know, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2nd, so he is predicting 6 more weeks of winter! For most of us up here on the frozen Tundra, this is not news. I have lived in North Dakota since 1995, and I am sure that I have never experienced an early spring.

While we are hibernating and awaiting spring, it is the perfect time to review your unit's finances. If your unit is no longer tax-exempt under 501(c)(19) for failing to file your annual 990-N with the IRS, you still need to be registered with the North Dakota Secretary of State as you are a non-profit organization operating within the state. I sent out instructions for registering in a unit packet last fall. It is a \$40 fee to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State, and an annual report is due February 1st of every year. The annual fee for that report is \$10. If

you have any questions, the staff there are ready to assist you. You can contact them at (701) 328-2900. You will be registering as a new business.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. I have been working in accounting for over 40 years and am ready to assist you in complying with state and federal laws. You can reach me on the Department email treasurer@ndala.org or call or text me at (701) 331-9328. I look forward to hearing from you and getting everyone in compliance.

Susan Degner, CPA

District 5



Even though the Winter Conference had to be canceled, let's be reminded of programs/awards that we can promote annually – Americanism Essay contest in March, National scholarship applications due online March 1, Department scholarship applications due April 1, Youth Hero and Good Deed awards and Unit Member of the Year nomination due May 1, Poppy Poster contest entries due May 1, Memorial Day/weekend activities, and Flickertail Girls State in June.

Spring District meetings will be coming up before long. Watch for details and let us try to for representation from all units to be in attendance! Beyond that, let us look forward to the Department Convention in June at Fargo to socialize and renew our statewide friendships!

Members, please report your volunteer hours/expenses to your Unit President by April 1 so Unit Impact Reports can be sent to the District Presidents by April 15. Something to keep in mind, if the caregiver lives with the veteran, they may report 10 hours a week. If the caregiver does not live with the veteran, then they may report 5 hours a week. Activities performed by the caregivers include medical appointments; daily living assistance with bathing, dressing, feeding, managing prescriptions; errands; and activities that positively impact the health and welfare of the veteran.

These are volunteer hours so the volunteer must not be compensated for providing assistance, etc. Reporting of volunteer hours/expenses is very important so that information can be compiled all the way to National to help show the need for continuing veterans programs.

Strive for 100 percent renewal of membership and attracting new members to keep our organization alive and thriving!

SPRING IS COMING!

Peggy Moran
District 5 President



National Security

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
Did you know that you can submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers Award NOW?

This year it is much easier to submit for the Salute to Servicemember Award! An ALA member or unit simply makes the nomination rather than the service member, to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is "head and shoulders" above their peers and worthy of this award. A simple narrative (no more than a 1000 words), a picture of the service member (preferably an official Department of Defense photograph) and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements!

You can submit NOW! And right up until the June 1, 2025, deadline. The nomination form is live now. Simply visit the webpage: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award>

This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that go beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. Our US service members are exemplary examples of our nation, but when you find one that also goes above and beyond- both within the military and as an integral part of the community where they are stationed-they are more than admirable and should be acknowledged for this. It's this "can do" attitude that we should all strive for!

For example, all recipients of last year's Salute to Servicemembers Award are tremendous assets to their military community, thriving in their professional careers with awards and decorations to prove it, but all demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism.

The goal is to have at least one submission from every Department and ensure that every branch of the military is represented – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard. With our military installations that we have in North Dakota and the recruiters that serve each branch, we have a huge number of service members to choose from. Let's be North Dakota proud this year and search out a service member to fill one or all of these branches of service. I know we can do this!

If you have any questions, please contact me. Always be kind.

Gloria Covert
National Security Chairman



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Since my last article, we have witnessed fires that devastated many California communities. This means your help is needed more than ever. They cannot do this without your help. Just imagine evacuating your home with your family, pets and the clothes on your back, and watching the news to see if you still had a home to go back to.

At our last AEF zoom meeting, we were informed that \$219,000 has already been awarded for disaster and financial aid, which far surpasses the total of last year.

This benefit is open to all Auxiliary members in good standing. If you are aware of a member needing assistance, please make them aware of this program. Dean Sanders, ALA Development Manager, has issued a challenge to all units to give \$100 over what they gave last year. I am aware that this may be difficult for smaller units, but whatever you can give is more than they had. Bake sales, collecting change at meetings, auctions, and other types of fundraising are just some ideas to help raise funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

I had wristbands made with "Auxiliary Emergency Fund" along with the slogan "members helping members" on them. I am selling them for \$3.00 each and I hope to raise \$1,000. Think creatively. You can do this!

Cheryl Evenson
AEF Chairman



Americanism

I hope this finds you all well, enjoying these nice days. I have been a bit under the weather for a while now and just cannot seem to shake it.

I hope you are all working on promoting Americanism in your communities and in your schools. Please let me know what you are doing to promote the program so I can share it with the Northwestern Division.

Essays are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2025, so they can be judged at the local level. Please contact your local unit president so that you have the correct cover sheet. Unit winners need to be sent to me no later than March 15, 2025.

I am having issues receiving messages through the Department email system, so please email me at gigi@drtel.net. Americanism winning essays can also be mailed to me at: 317 South 5th Street, Oakes, ND 58474-1907

I am looking forward to receiving many Americanism Essays.

Gigi Moore
Americanism Chairman



Leadership

The National Leadership Committee shared that the word of the month is "Confidence." We believe confidence is fundamental to effective leadership and personal well-being. It is characterized by a steadfast belief in one's abilities and the resilience to navigate challenges. This self-assurance fosters a proactive approach, empowering us to pursue goals with determination and overcome obstacles with perseverance. Confidence is not arrogance; instead, it is a balanced understanding of our strengths coupled with a commitment to continuous learning and growth. It is crucial for both personal and professional success, encouraging us to embrace opportunities outside our comfort zones. As we review February's achievements, let us consider how to further cultivate confidence within ourselves and our teams. This involves acknowledging successes and identifying areas for improvement. Reflect on the significance of confidence within your leadership role.

ALA Academy is offering several classes and webinars to enhance our units and Departments. To find those webinars and classes visit www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy

Nominations for Unit Member of the Year are due no later than May 1, 2025. Nominations forms are available at www.ndala.org/leadership/. Send complete nominations to me:

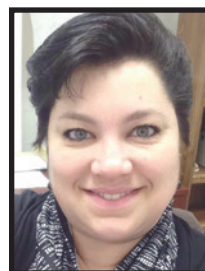
Heidi Wakefield
1352 38th St NE
Larimore, ND 58251

ND ALA Flickertail Girls State will be held at UND Campus June 8-13, 2025. Deadline for units to submit their application is May 15. Applications and medical forms are available at www.ndgirlsstate.org/registration/. Applications along with the \$325 fee should be sent to:

Chilly Goodman
1599 S 38th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

If units have specific questions they can contact ND ALA Flickertail Girls State by email at NDGirlsState@gmail.com or by phone at 701-314-2460.

Heidi Wakefield
Leadership Chairman



Membership

As membership co-chair along with Sandy Smith, we want to say thank you to all units working towards their 100% membership goals and continuing to advocate for our veterans and their families. The latest reports show a lot of units now at 100%. We want to congratulate you on the great work you are doing and thank you for all the volunteer hours you are putting in to keep our membership strong in North Dakota.

Congratulations to the following units who have achieved 100% membership:

District 1: Buffalo, Hannaford, and Fingal

District 2: Park River and Thompson

District 3: Knox and York

District 4: Carrington, New Rockford, Medina, and Gackle

District 5: Washburn and Wilton

District 6: Plaza, Bowbells, and Butte

District 7: Carson

District 8: Reeder and Halliday

District 9: Crosby, Powers Lake, Wildrose, Grenora, and New Town

District 10: Lisbon, Ellendale, Edgeley, Milnor, and Forbes

To add to this list of 29 units that have reached 100%, we have an additional 50 units in ND that are at 85% membership or greater! To everyone who is working on membership this year- keep going! Keep it up! We know you can all reach 100%!

If you are not at 100% membership for your unit, please reach out to your District President to see how they can help. Have phone calls been made for membership? Are all the membership applications and renewals being sent in as soon as they are received?

Encourage new people to join the Auxiliary. Share your story of why you are a member. Encourage them to invite others to become members. If they have children or grandchildren, discuss membership benefits. Everyone has a part in keeping our membership strong and keeping our Auxiliary units going.

Keep in mind - membership matters, and every moment is a membership moment! Every single membership matters to our units, our Districts, our Department, and our nation. North Dakota is now at nearly 80% toward reaching our goal of 100% for the state and 80% also in the NW Division at the national level.

Your Department Membership Team.
Candace Berg and Sandy Smith

Comfort Bears



Penny Brown, member of Williston Unit 37 is presenting Legion Family comfort bears to Marcia Benway of CHI St. Alexis Health Center located in Williston. Submitted by Gloria Covert, Past Department President

Girls State Program

American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State will be held June 8-13, 2025, on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. Information has been sent to all ND units and schools. Registration is \$325 and is due by May 15th. Visit NDGirlsState.org or call Director Amanda Dinger at 701-314-2460 for more information and applications.

Park River Donates to Children in Crisis

Paul Farup Auxiliary Unit 147 of Park River met on January 7 to enjoy a holiday celebration. Members ate a potluck meal and donated comfort items, including a variety of stuffed animals and fleece blankets, to be distributed to the Walsh County Sheriff's Department. The items will then be donated to children experiencing trauma. Stuffed

animals and related comfort items can help calm children during emergencies and can bring a sense of normalcy in times of trauma. This was a successful community service project on behalf of the organization.
Article submitted by: Katie Thompson, Unit Secretary



Pictured (from l-r) are: Shelley Schuster, District 2 President; Larissa Schmitz, Unit 147 President; Marquita Novak; Denise Bata; Katie Thompson, Unit Secretary; Susan Degner, Department Treasurer and Candace Berg, Department President-Elect.

Dickinson Donates Flag

Matthew Brew Auxiliary Unit 3 of Dickinson presented an 8' X 12' American flag to Trinity Catholic Schools. The presentation took place on November 15 between basketball games for fifth and sixth grades. The event included reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mandy

Wilson, Unit 3 President. The flag is now on permanent display in the school's new auxiliary gymnasium near a statue of the Risen Jesus.
Submitted by: Cathy Logosz, Unit member



Pictured include members of Trinity Catholic Schools Administration, the Trinity Athletic Booster Club, and Unit 3 Auxiliary. Photo courtesy of Trinity Catholic Schools (Dickinson).

Hankinson Bingo Fundraiser

BINGO!
That was the sound I heard the afternoon of Saturday, January 18. Members of Eberhard Post 88 of Hankinson along with Sons of American Legion and Auxiliary teamed up to serve over 100 people with fun and food.
People started pouring in around 11 AM for the opportunity to enjoy a bowl of hot chili and dessert prepared by members. This was followed by Bingo games, meat raffles, and 50/50 raffles. While people were concentrating on winning that \$4500 grand prize, the Auxiliary was busy serving food and visiting with all who came through the line. A table to promote membership was set up with several people picking up the information and inquiring about how to join. We are excited to find out how many will decide to join the Legion and the Auxiliary.
This was a great event that promoted our mission and helped raise funds.
Submitted by: Bev Bozovsky, District 10 President and Unit 88 member



Pictured (l-r): Lucy Bladow, Nancy Geesey, LouAnn Lee, and Donna Berg.

In Memoriam

District 1

Stella A Olson, SLM, Fargo
Lillian Von Bank, Buffalo
Phyllis Erdmann, Hope

District 2

Gunhild Schmidt, Lakota
Josephine R Deitz, Grafton
Delphine C Hutson, Grafton
Frances O. Schuster, Grafton
Oma M Hebert, Larimore
Shirley Carlson, HLM, Lankin

District 3

Betty Dendinger, Rugby

District 4

Inez C Pendergrast, SLM, New Rockford
Patricia M Cherney, Wimbledon

District 6

Patricia L Eide, Lignite
Bernice Hysjulien, Lignite
Janet F Leet, Bowbells
Jane Horntvedt, Columbus
Jody Olson, Donnybrook
Michelle L. Schock, Donnybrook
Linda K Rostad, Donnybrook

District 7

Pam Hatzenbuhler, Flasher
Ellen Lange, Center
Leona Stern, Elgin

District 8

Margaret A Blickensderfer, SLM, Mott
Natasia R Crow, Belfield
Betty Aman, Richardton
Delores Hoff, Richardton

District 9

Eva Sanford, Watford City
Jeanette Anderson, Watford City
Agnes Lucy, Powers Lake
Donna Miller, Powers Lake
Connie M. Wilburn, Tioga
Jewel M. Suddreth, Tioga
Betty Pepple, SLM, Tioga

District 10

Connie M Johnson, Wahpeton
Diana Skjefte, Oakes
Viola Nell, Ellendale
Loretta R. Dingwall, Ellendale
Kristie Johnson, PUFL, Milnor

UPCOMING DATES

- Americanism Essay Contest – Due March 15
- Education and Parley Scholarships – Due April 1
- Poppy Poster Contest – Due May 1
- Unit/ Service Member of the Year – Due May 1
- ALA Flickertail Girls State Applications – Due May 15
- ALA Flickertail Girls State Program – June 8-13
- Department Convention in Fargo – June 27-29

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 Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
This has been quite a winter, 30 degrees above zero, then -20 degrees in the month of January. Only in North Dakota!
Unfortunately, our Winter Conference in Minot was canceled, so a lot of information was missed. Because of that, it is important to try to attend our District meeting.

This year our Spring District 1 meeting will be held in Harwood, Monday, April 7. Social time will begin at 5, the meal at 6, and the meeting at 7. This will be a good time to get reacquainted with friends and comrades. Harwood Legion has hosted District meetings before, and I am looking forward to another delightful meeting.

Congratulations to the District 1 posts for your diligence in renewing your memberships and adding new members. This is a never-ending challenge; keep up the good work.

I look forward to meeting you at our District meeting in April. Always remember the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.



Randy Entzminger
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,
Another winter is passing us by, some of us have more snow than others, but the cold temperatures along with our "North Dakota Breeze" have kept us all scurrying to the next warm location. I remember an old Thin Lizzy song where they say, "the nights are getting longer, it won't be long till the summer comes". I think we're all living for warmer days.

With the cancellation of our Winter conference, we are all looking forward to our Spring District Meetings to keep us informed of American Legion affairs. Carrington's John Raymond O'Hara Post #25 will be hosting the District 4 meeting at the Chieftain Conference Center in Carrington on Friday, April 4. As usual, we are planning for the cash bar social to begin about 5:00, with Supper at 6:00, followed by our Spring meeting at 7:00. I'm looking forward to the chance to visit with all of the District 4 post representatives and our State Officers. Please join us.

As you know, we will be selecting our new Vice Commander for 2025-26 at our Spring meeting. Mike Allmer, our current Vice Commander, will be taking over the Commander position in June, so we will need to fill the Vice Commander vacancy. Please consider this position. It will give you the opportunity to see how our state and national organizations function AND give you the opportunity to meet some of the great people we have within our state organization.

With spring approaching, we all look forward to warm weather, outdoor sports, cruising with the windows down (and top down in some cases), family reunions and summer events. Let's hope for sooner than later.

Enjoy springtime, stay well and BE THE ONE!
See you in Carrington!



Russ Kroshus
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,
As our country moves forward after the election, let's remember what being a veteran means.

Veterans Fellowship

Veterans share a unique bond forged through shared experiences, sacrifices, and a commitment to serving their country. This camaraderie fosters mutual respect, understanding, and a sense of belonging. Veterans often find solace and support within the veteran community, knowing that their fellow veterans can empathize with the challenges they face, both during and after their service. This shared understanding creates a strong network of support and allows veterans to help each other navigate the complexities of transitioning back to civilian life.

Moreover, veterans often demonstrate respect for one another by acknowledging and honoring each other's service. This can be expressed through simple acts of gratitude, such as thanking a fellow veteran for their service, or by participating in events that commemorate military sacrifices. Veteran's organizations also play a crucial role in fostering respect among veterans, providing opportunities for veterans to connect, share their experiences, and support one another. This collective respect and support within the veteran community contributes to a sense of belonging and purpose, helping veterans to thrive and lead fulfilling lives after their service.



Vernon Laning
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,
Winter is upon us to the point that it froze up the hotel scheduled for our winter conference. I really didn't want to stay at a hotel with no heat, so I thought cancelling the conference was okay.

As time flies by, we are now scheduling the Spring District Meetings. District 7 has opted to join District 5 again, which worked well last year. The meeting will be April 12 at the Bismarck Amvets Club starting at 1330 hrs. Please mark your calendars and try to attend.

On another note, Post #259 in Cannon Ball started a special project for this year and has requested help. They are hoping to have a special flag ceremony this June to present 48-star American flags to the surviving families of their WWII veterans. The flags are available but also expensive. Post #259 hopes to present 4'x 6' flags to 18 families. If any of your posts have charitable funds available or would like to purchase flags and present them to Post #259, they would certainly appreciate it. You can contact me at my email address, vlaning@outlook.com or call my cell phone, (701)226-2113. Thanks for your consideration.

And it's that time of year to work on those Consolidated Post Reports (CPR's) which National needs for political clout in Washington, DC. It is very helpful when lobbying for veteran benefits so please try to fill it out and send it in.

Keep working on all those memberships. It would really be nice to finish with a lot more 100% or better tallies.

With that, I'll sign off. Stay warm!



Ed Dick
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,
It's not the time of day, it is when you wake up. We have been waking up at any hour to do our job, our MOS, NO MATTER THE UNIFORM! We were told it took 7 workers to keep 1 with a gun, and 14 stateside to support the effort. We have our freedoms because we served. We have our freedom because we still serve, being part of the Legion, or serving in Congress, to keep us free. We wear the branded Legion shirt...with a Membership application in our pocket. The fidelity of our service demands integrity. And integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching.

District 8 Spring Meeting – Saturday, March 22nd hosted by Post 3 in Dickinson at the Veterans Memorial Pavilion, 801 5th Ave W. at 11 am Registration/Social 12 pm \$20 Meal and 1 pm Meeting.

Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Open House – Saturday, March 29th sponsored by the District 8 Riders, Veterans Memorial Pavilion, Dickinson. 10 am Opening Ceremony, 10 – 12 coffee and doughnuts, 11 – 1 Lunch. Viet Nam Veterans Welcome!!! ALL Veterans Welcome!! Come for fellowship, food, and interviews with Wild Bill!

Camo for a Cause Fundraiser for Veterans – Saturday, April 12th - sponsored by the District 8 Riders, Eagles Club, 31 1st Ave E, Dickinson. Everyone welcome!!

Thank you for your service in uniform, and in all your service in your community, and for your nation.



Lance Renville
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,
We missed seeing everyone at the Winter Conference with the cancellation. For those of us that did make it to Minot for the DEC meeting and the Oratorical Contest, it was a great time. The four Oratorical contestants were outstanding! Congratulations to Watford City Post 29 contestant Danielle Nusz for taking home this year's title and best of luck at Nationals.

The District 9 Spring Meeting will be held at Powers Lake on April 5th. Registration will start at 11:00, free of charge meal at 12:00 and the meeting at 13:00. We are hoping for a great turn out and I will be sending out reminders of the date. We will be looking for District Vice Commander candidates to replace Vice Commander Doug Eckert when he moves up to District Commander at the summer convention.

As always keep working on membership renewals and trying to find some new members also! Take care and blessing to all!



Cory Metcalf
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,
It was sad that the Winter Conference had to be canceled as your Vice Commander Gordon Vosberg and I did not get to meet with some of you. We are still trying to get out and visit with the posts of District 10 so if you are having any kind of event or just want us to come and visit, please reach out and let us know.

The Spring District Meeting is going to be held on March 30th in Fairmount, ND. I will be sending out a letter to all the posts as a reminder when we get closer to the meeting. I am looking forward to seeing all of the members of District 10. This meeting is open to all of the Legion Family so make sure to tell the SAL, Legion Riders, and Auxiliary members about it. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

We are also looking for the next District Vice Commander so if you know someone that would like to learn more about the legion and help shape the future of the legion, please tell them to contact either Gordon Vosberg or I and bring them to the District Meeting and we can help them.

Just a reminder to make sure when you receive the Consolidated Post Report in the mail, your Post officers are filling them out and mailing them to Department Headquarters These reports are very important.

For the last thought of the day, BE THE ONE and check on our legion family.

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www.vueccu.com
NMLS# 191824

American Legion State Band

By Cathy Keogh, Band Manager

One hundred years and counting!!! 2025 brings changes to your ND American Legion State Band and brings more of the exciting and high caliber music you have come to expect. The highlight of 2024 was not only the Department Convention in Bismarck in June but also participating at the National Convention in New Orleans Band Exhibition. Thank you to Wayne Satrom for assisting with arranging for your State Band to participate. The band

was also able to showcase their wide range of music with “Ballyhooing” in front of the hotel where ND delegates were staying and providing music with the dance band for the Tristack Party sponsored by ND American Legion. With the retirement of both longtime band manager and director, the band has announced that I will take over the reins as band manager with the assistance of Mike Koshney – we are both Post 2 Legionnaires – to carry on where the legacy of Bruce Holtan left off. The Director

role was equally hard to fill with Glen Wolf retiring after over 20 years of directing the band. This organization is proud to announce Primary director Bob Briggs with over 48 years with the State Band and Dance/Jazz band director Tim Johnson who has been with the State Band for over 23 years. Thank you to all who have and continue to support your ND American Legion State Band. We look forward to the Department Convention in June in Fargo ND.



SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Let’s Finish the Year Strong

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! The 2025 membership continues strong and Fall District meetings have come and gone, and we now look forward to our Convention in June in Fargo. Our Department Commander Mamie Havelka has challenged our Detachment to win the Triple Nickel this year, and you all are doing well on two of the criteria, but we still need those five new Squadron charters by July 1. I know we can do it. I do want to apologize for not having a column in the December News, as I was out of town caring for my father and unable meet the deadline.

On September 28, I was honored by being a part of the Homecoming for Department Commander Mamie, Department Auxiliary President LoAnn, and myself in Bismarck. I want to again thank everyone for attending and for the wonderful gifts. I feel truly blessed to be a part of the Legion Family in North Dakota and felt very much appreciated.

I did get out to a couple Fall District meetings in Belfield for District 8 and the combined District 5 and 7 meeting in Bismarck, which were great times to meet and greet.

Regarding membership, we are at 78% of goal and ahead of the target dates. Let’s not lose that momentum. Our renewals could be a little higher, so please reach out to

your members and get them renewed, as we sit at just over 70% on renewals. My goal for our Detachment is to hit 1,200 members, so let’s work hard, achieve excellence and show the SAL what North Dakota can do.

Since the Triple Nickel involves chartering five new Squadrons, let’s work on getting those five new charters this year. We have a new charter in Flasher. Lisbon and Milnor are working on charters and possibly Mott. There are efforts for a charter with either Ray or Tioga that would work with both Posts. I encourage Posts without an SAL Squadron to consider starting one, as you will benefit from having your sons and grandsons assisting your Post. Also, your Post members who are also eligible for SAL membership can be Charter members as Dual Members.

Now we turn our attention to the Spring District meetings and our Convention. I want to see a good showing from our membership at the Convention. I would like to hold a Youth Academy for our younger members to go through our Ten Ideals and/or Five Point Program of Service to get them active and engaged in the SAL, so especially reach out to your younger members and encourage them to come to Convention. Also, please let the Detachment officers know how many from your Squadron are considering attending, so we can plan other activities and make it a true family gathering.

If you still have not done so, please get your updated

officers reported to Department Headquarters, so we can have the most updated points of contact when sharing information and reaching out regarding events and membership. Plus, if you would like one of us to attend an event you are putting on, please reach out.

Some Squadron activities that I am aware of include members of Squadron 6 in Grand Forks participating in the Potato Bowl parade in September. Fairmount’s Squadron has begun their annual wintertime monthly breakfasts, the first Sunday of the month, which I encourage members to support them, as the food is great and they do an awesome job in their community. As always, please share activities, especially pictures from them, so that we can all see the awesome work you are doing.

I want to encourage Squadrons to send in photos of your activities to Snapshots of Service. Photos related to one of the four pillars involving your members wearing their SAL caps, or apparel can be submitted via <https://www.legion.org/sons/publications> and possibly win an award. Also be sure to plug it on social media.

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





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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

Hook, William..... 10/30/2024
Laub, Lester G..... 02//21/2018
Edinger, Arnold 11/04/2024

Fargo – Post #2

Eggen, Randall L..... 05/03/2024
Ferguson, Carroll D..... 12/19/2019
Fjeldstad, Michael..... 02/29/2024
Frank, James..... 10/05/2023
Hamer, Roy..... 02/03/2025
Larsen, James..... 11/25/2024
Wey, William 01/19/2024

Grand Forks – Post #6

Kokron, Gary 11/08/2024

Mayville – Post #8

Karlstad, Marlin..... 12/09/2024

Buffalo – Post #10

Grommesh, Raymond 08/25/2024
Grieger, Duane 06/01/2024
Ronning, Kenneth..... 10/18/2023

Jamestown – Post #14

Langemo, Paul T..... 08/18/2024
Radtke, Vernon..... 06/22/2024
Olafson, Eugene..... 04/17/2024
Nething, David..... 12/02/2024
Brickner, Gerald B 08/22/2024
Loper, Gordon L..... 08/23/2023

Casselton – Post #15

Schwartz, Ronny 09/22/2024
Vanlaere, Joseph R 12/13/2024

Aneta – Post #16

Borah, Alfred, Jr..... 08/29/2024

Hope – Post #18

Robertson, James E..... 01/17/2025

LaMoure – Post #19

Klost, Edward 12/28/2024
Rasmusson, Jerome..... 11/30/2024

Wahpeton – Post #20

Walker, Roe 11/17/2024

Lakota – Post #21

Johnson, Elvin 01/11/2024

Rugby – Post #23

Duchscher, Howard 11/12/2024
Heintz, Martin 12/06/2024
Hovland, Tilman..... 11/04/2024

New Rockford – Post #30

Rogers, Eulis S..... 12/08/2024
Storwold, Donald 01/12/2025

Cogswell – Post #38

Ridder, Melvin..... 06/26/2024

Mandan – Post #40

Tschider, Percy A..... 11/23/2024
Skoog, James..... 01/22/2025
Naasz, Larry 12/14/2024
Trauger, Alan 12/21/2024
Rolshoven, Raymond 01/25/2025
Huschka, Marvin..... 02/08/2025

Grafton – Post #41

McCann, Leroy 11/05/2024
Houska, Ronald J 11/26/2024
Skjordahl, Dennis 12/25/2024

Killdeer – Post #46

Fritz, Gary..... 08/12/2022

Valley City – Post #60

Langemo, Paul T 08/18/2024

Kenmare – Post #64

Brekhus, Steven J. 01/22/2025
Hanson, Raymond L..... 10/04/2022

Hatton – Post #70

Pladson, David I. 12/09/2024
Stormoe, Darrell 01/13/2024
Stavens, James..... 11/10/2024
Hjelmstad, Larry E..... 01/14/2025

Mott – Post #71

Kelsch, Rex 11/04/2024
Staudinger, Elmer..... 11/07/2024

Wishek – Post #87

Noel, Christopher J..... 12/05/2024

Portland – Post #93

Bakke, Raymond..... 01/16/2025

Larimore – Post #97

Bartelson, Arnold 09/01/2024
Burke, Howard..... 12/15/2024
Flynn, Ronald 02/22/2024
Hunsberger, Ronald..... 04/13/2024
Symons, Richard 01/28/2024

Kensal – Post #103

Skeel, Charlie 01/09/2025

Havana – Post #108

Sitts, Ronald 02/06/2025
Kraig, Telmer C (Tex)..... 01/02/2025

Hettinger – Post #115

Ebert, James 01/14/2025

Parshall – Post #121

Frink, Virgil..... 09/15/2024

St. John – Post #125

Langan, Kenneth 09/01/2024

Stanley – Post #134

Cvancara, Jack..... 06/02/2024

McVile – Post #135

Shobe, Wesley 08/20/2024
Urvand, Richard..... 09/28/2024

Tioga – Post #139

Wold, Carl..... 11/17/2024

Cooperstown – Post #143

Rice, Billy..... 02/03/2024

Belfield – Post #144

Armbrust, Joe 11/12/2024

Edgeley – Post #146

Coon, George..... 11/09/2022
Fredenburg, Reed 01/01/2025

Park River – Post #147

Torgerson, Paul 01/21/2025

Wyndmere – Squadron #153

Heitkamp, Alan 04/15/2024

Lankin – Post #157

Boe, Donald..... 11/02/2024
Johnson, Oliver..... 02/01/2025
Samuelson, Ronald 11/08/2024

McHenry – Post #160

Anderson, Duane..... 01/21/2025

Osnabrock – Post #164

Lundeby, Marvin 10/28/2023

Milton – Post #179

Lykken, Jerome 10/12/2024

Richardton – Post #180

Bobb, Milton..... 11/10/2024

Thompson – Post #181

Kjorvestad, Gerald..... 11/12/2024

Hazen – Post #189

Rosendahl, Duke W..... 12/03/2024
Schlafman, Mel..... 02/01/2025

Gwinner – Post #191

Krause, Robert L 12/19/2024

Michigan – Post #238

Zahradka, Joseph..... 12/08/2024

Neché – Post #242

McFadden, Thomas..... 12/01/2024

Elgin – Post #246

Hager, Steven..... 12/07/2023
Boyer, Ralph 03/20/2024
Froemming, David 10/24/2024
Hochhalter, Ricky..... 11/06/2024
Schmitz, Wayne..... 11/03/2024
Zeller, Frederic..... 05/07/2024
Motis, Harvey A. 11/01/2023

Gackle – Post #250

Henke, John 02/06/2025

Halliday – Post #258

Schmitz, Harvey W 12/26/2023

Fredonia – Post #260

Holman, Kenneth K 01/10/2025

Almont – Post #261

Becker, Theodore J 12/27/2024

Streeter – Post #265

Schopp, Lloyd..... 10/08/2022

Upham – Post #269

Mettler, Lawrence 11/22/2024

Mooreton – Post #283

Palmer, Loran 10/22/2024

New Town – Post #290

Krueger, Leslie..... 12/16/2024

Horace – Post #293

Rustad, Roger 09/06/2024

Harwood – Post #297

Siebels, Lowell..... 01/24/2025

Manvel – Post #299

Bergstrom, Gary 01/26/2024



As a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Army, I strongly support the American Legion, all Veterans, and our United States Military.

Senator David A. Clemens
District 16, West Fargo/Fargo

Thank you for your Service!

Senator Ronald Sorvaag



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Best Wishes American Legion!
State Representative Jon Nelson



Thank you for your service

Rifle Raffle Drawing

We want to thank everyone that purchased tickets for our rifle raffle. We couldn't operate without your generous support and membership. I know there were some Post's that purchased tickets that were not sold to individuals just to support the Department. We also owe a big thank you to our Department Sergeant-at-Arms Bryce Crosby from Devils Lake Post #24. He declined to submit a bill for printing the raffle tickets which greatly increased our bottom line.

Congratulations to our winners: **1st Prize - Kirby Steffens Fairmount, ND, 2nd Prize William F. Sauerwein Jerseyville, Illinois, 3rd Prize Aaron McFerran Mandan, ND, 4th Prize Curt Schwind, Lakota, ND.**

We conducted the drawing at the Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot using Facebook Live on January 25th, 2025. The recording of the drawing is still available on The ND Legion Family Facebook page.

The Kennelly Fund

By **Harvey Peterson, NDALF Chair**
(Second in a series about the endowed funds held by the NDAL Foundation)

The Kennelly Fund, as we know it today, was another fund established long before either the LOVE Trust or the NDAL Foundation. It was officially recognized as the John K. Kennelly Scholarship fund upon the death of his wife in 1965 with a bequest of \$3,000. Prior to this bequest, however, the family for many years prior had provided awards with annual amounts placed within a passbook savings account to be drawn on when needed.

The scholarships were to fund awards to a Boys State participant and the third-place winner of the annual Oratorical contest. These awards initially were \$100 savings bonds, costing \$50 each.

An interesting note from Vern Useldinger states "the term 'scholarship' in the name of the award classifies it an award to further education, and that it is a non-professional achievement." He also stated that in the case of a tie in selecting the Boys State recipient that duplicate awards would be given. Further, the awards are cash so they could be immediately used for educational purposes.

John Kennelly joined the American Legion after service in WW I while living in Mandan. He filled in as the first commander of Post 40 after the sudden death of the first elected commander (Hugo Renden) in 1919-1920. He later served as a NECman from 1924-1928, was Department Commander 1928-1929, National Vice-Commander 1934-1935 and Alternate NEC from 1934 until he passed in 1965.

The Kennelly fund continues to provide a cash award of \$50 to the third-place winner of the Oratorical Contest and a \$100 cash award to the citizen of Boys State selected on leadership, cooperation and in striving to attain the objectives of Boys State for himself and his fellow citizens. The Kennelly Fund ended 2024 with a balance of \$9,829.

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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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Local Posts in the News

Jamestown Post #14



American Legion Post 14 Color Guard performing the POW/MIA Ceremony on Veterans Day 2024. From left to right: Post 14 Color Guard members Jim Fercho, Mark Vrchota, John Kartes, and Chad Wilhelm.



American Legion Post 14 members receiving the 2024 Veterans Day Quilt Award. From left to right: Rod Olin, Shawn Wanzek, and Jim Exner. Between the three veterans they have over 90 years of service to our nation.

Harvey Post #28



American Legion Post #28 Adjutant Steve Volk met with Commander Trey Kennard the Commanding Officer of the USS North Dakota submarine in Bismarck.

Honoring a Civil War Veteran in Harvey Township

By Hilary Nowatzki, The Borderland Press

In a small cemetery in Harvey Township, a group of American Legion Post 98 members recently gathered to honor a long-forgotten Civil War veteran. The journey to properly recognize Hamilton Burritt began nearly 10 years ago when American Legion member and Post Adjutant Leon Hiltner first heard of an allegedly unmarked grave of a Civil War veteran nearby in Harvey.

Also, a Veteran Service Officer at the time, Hiltner took it upon himself to order a new headstone for Burritt. However, further research revealed that Burritt was actually buried at the Lisbon Veterans Home Cemetery, not the Harvey Centre Cemetery. At the Lisbon location, Burritt, as Hiltner would later learn, already had a headstone.

The new headstone sat for nearly a decade as Hiltner navigated the bureaucratic process of getting it properly placed. Finally, on the Saturday leading up to Veterans Day, Legionnaires and cemetery board members gathered to erect the headstone at the Harvey Cemetery. It will soon be engraved as "In memory of" for Burritt and other Civil War veterans whose final resting place is in Cavalier County.

According to Hiltner, local historian Rita Maisel did

extensive research on Civil War veterans buried in the area and identified around 35 in Cavalier County with 11 buried at the Lisbon Veterans Home Cemetery.

"It was nice that we did it close to Veterans Day, because you know that's the day you remember veterans, living and deceased," said Hiltner. "And it's not every day you get to honor a Civil War veteran."

Some of these veterans have more documentation about their lives than others. For Burritt, a letter written in 1916 would detail his life on this earth vividly. Born in 1833, Burritt claimed to be the first Caucasian settler of Harvey Township. He would enlist in the fifth regiment of the Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in 1862, fight in the Civil War, and live until the age of 87, passing in 1920.

His lineage can be traced back to the Mayflower, according to this letter. Burritt's grandfather, a colonel in the British Army, and grandmother were the first settlers of a portion of wilderness in Canada not far from Ottawa. The 1,500 acres were an award for the colonel's bravery and valor in the American Revolutionary War.

The letter can be read in its entirety by visiting our QL page at myborderland.com.



Commander Bob Flach of Harvey American Legion Post #28 accepted a Go-Getter award from State Commander Mamie Havelka. The Harvey Post is 100% in Membership for the Year.

Stanton Post #78

Stanton firefighter Lane Hall was presented a Certificate of Commendation by Vernon Laning with the Stanton American Legion Post #78 during the Stanton Fire Department's monthly meeting January 14, 2025. Lane received the certificate "for outstanding public service benefitting our community, state, and nation."



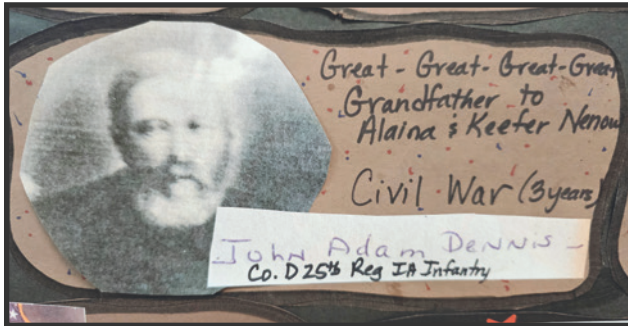
Photo credit Daniel Arens, STAR

Gackle Post #250

Gackle-Streeter Public School invited all veterans to join them for their Veterans Day program last November. The Gackle American Legion Post provided a color guard. Seventeen local veterans joined the event.

All grades participated, provided different songs and presentations, honoring the veterans who served in the armed forces. The students were also asked to create bricks for two people that they wanted to honor on a wall. The oldest veteran honored on the wall was a Great-Great-Great-Great Grandfather to two students. John Adam Dennis served in Company D, 25th Regiment of the Iowa Infantry in the Civil War. We (all veterans who attended) felt honored by the program, and the wall was moved to the Legion Hall for display.

Our thanks to the Gackle-Streeter Public School staff and students for the wonderful program.



(L-R) Earl "Butch" Welsh, Justin Ulliyott, Leon Hiltner, Harvey Metzger, Larry Murie, Darrel Kempel, and Anna Spivey.

Fargo Post #2

Gilbert C. Grafton Post #2 in Fargo continues to have an active Honor/Color Guard. From presenting colors at sporting events, taking part in the Holiday Lights Parade and the St. Patrick's Parade in the Fargo-Moorhead area and giving Honors at funerals. In January 2025, this

dedicated group was part of 10 funerals with Honors given to deserving Veterans. The men and women involved are committed to conducting this service with honor, dignity and respect for the Veteran who has died and their family members.





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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Room Reservation Block Rate
Cutoff: May 26 2025
\$99 for a Single or \$110 for a Double
Thursday, June 26, 2025
- 6:00 pm DEC Meeting
- Friday, June 27, 2025
- 9:00 am Foundation Meeting
- 1:00 pm Registration (closes at 5:00 pm)
- 1:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 4 pm)
- 1:00 pm Future of ND Workshop
- 1:30 pm Resolutions
- 3:00 pm 40 et 8 Cheminot
- 3:00 pm Incoming Officers Meet and Greet with Incoming Commander and President
- 4:00 pm District Officers Flag Rehearsal
- 4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 4:00 pm VA&R Meeting (includes Auxiliary)
- 4:30 pm Past Dept Commanders Social and Dinner
- 5:00 pm Credentials Committee
- 7:00 pm Joint Opening Session
- Saturday, June 28, 2025
- 7:00 am Children and Youth Committee Meeting (includes Auxiliary)
- 8:00 am Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)
- 8:00 am Band Practice Room
- 8:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 11:00 am)
- 8:00 am Constitution and By-Laws Committee
- 9:00 am Legion Riders
- 9:00 am 40 et 8 Grand Promenade
- 9:00 am District Officers/CPR's
- 10:00 am Membership Workshop
- 11:00 am SAL Meeting
- 11:00 am Credentials Committee
- 11:00 am Boys State
- 11:00 am Past President's Parley Luncheon
- 1:00 pm Legion General Session – Lamborn
- 3:00 pm Regional Caucuses
- 4:00 pm National Convention Meeting
- 4:00 pm Athletic Committee
- 5:30 pm Social
- 6:30 pm Department Convention Banquet
- 7:30-10 pm Dance
- Sunday, June 29, 2025
- 8:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 9:00 am)
- 8:00 am Oratorical Committee
- 8:00 am Incoming Officer Pictures
- 8:00 am Registration (closes at 9:00 am)
- 9:00 am Credentials Committee
- 9:00 am Joint Worship Service
- Joint Session
- Legion Session
- Post Convention DEC Meeting
- Organizational Meeting



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2025 Advanced Department Convention Banquet Ticket Order Form

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

Under Post # _____ in District # _____ Located in _____

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price if RECEIVED By June 11th: \$35.00

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price AFTER June 11th: \$40.00

ALL advanced ticket orders must be received by the Department Headquarters by June 18th.

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

TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

Note: Advanced ticket orders must be received at the Department office by June 11th to receive the reduced price of \$35 and after June 11th the price increases to \$40. After June 18th, tickets must be purchased at the registration desk. A limited number of tickets are available and sold on a first come first served basis.

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of ND

Send Payment to American Legion Dept of ND, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078