



Dickinson to Host 2022 Convention

Matthew Brew American Legion Post 3 of Dickinson, Auxiliary Unit 3 and the ND Department are preparing for this year's North Dakota American Legion Department Convention on June 24-26, 2022.

Beginning on Thursday, June 23, there will be a golf outing at the Bully Pulpit Golf Course in Medora. Reserved Tee-times are from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

On Friday morning, June 24, the DEC meeting begins at 9:00 am with registration beginning at 1:00 pm. Friday afternoon will be committee meetings.

At 1:00 pm will be a Tour and Wine Tasting at Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery. Come early and have a noon lunch. At 6:00 pm is the Foundation Meeting.

The Joint Opening Session starts at 7:00 pm with remarks from Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent James (Jim) Troiola. Jim is a 29-year PUFL member of William E. DeBevoise Jr. American Legion Post and Squadron 1682 in New City, NY. His military career followed a year after his graduation in 1968 where he joined the US Navy and served aboard the USS Nitro an auxiliary ammunition ship serving with the Sixth Fleet. He went on to the Naval Reserves until 1974 when he was honorably discharged as a 3rd class petty officer.

Jim served as the Department Commander in 2010-2011 and National Vice Commander in 2016-2017. He served on several post, district, department and national committees. Other affiliations include Life member of AmVets, DAV, VVA and member of the Rockland County Police Steuben Society. Jim and his wife Saveria have been married for over 46 years and have two daughters. There are three generations of Auxiliary members plus a SAL grandson.

Saturday morning, June 25, registration begins at 8:00 am. At 9:00 am the VA&R Committee is sponsoring a walk to bring awareness to PTSD and suicide prevention.



Angel Narvaez National Vice Commander

Committee meetings and the Legion General Session will start at 1:00 pm.

The banquet will be Saturday evening at 6:30 pm with National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez as our guest speaker. Angel O. Narvaez of Carolina, P.R., is a member of American Legion Pedro J. Rodriguez-Oquendo Post 129. He joined The American Legion in 2005 after his retirement from the military.

Narvaez served in the U.S. Army from 1980 to 2004, beginning as a military policeman and advancing in ranks from private through first sergeant.

Narvaez served as Department of Puerto Rico commander (2013-2015) and National Executive Committeeman (2016-2021). He has served on several



Jim Troiola Leading Candidate for National Commander

post, district, department and national committees. He most recently served on the VA&R national committee prior to his election as National Vice Commander. He is a graduate of The American Legion National College class of 2012.

Active in community service, he has served as Cub master and Scout master, P.R. Open (PGA) golf tournament volunteer, and is part of his church board. Narvaez has been married to the former Rosa Hilda (Taty) Velez since 2000 and has four children.

At 7:30 pm the dance will begin with the ND American Legion State Band performing until 10:00 pm.

On Sunday, June 26, registration starts at 8:00 am with the Joint Memorial Service at 9:00 am followed by the Joint Session. Hope you can make it to the convention.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEDIA ALLIANCE

Congratulations to Fargo Post 2 Legionnaire Amy Wieser Willson, owner of Neon Loon Communications! Amy submitted ND Legion's Baseball website and ND Legion Headquarter's social media to the 2021 American Legion Media Alliance Contest and both received Honorable Mention for the ND Department! Award recipients will be recognized on Monday, August 22, at the TALMA ceremony/banquet during the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.

Chairman David Wallace of the Media & Communications Commission in Indianapolis received 95 entries for the contest. The winners were selected by

members of the TALMA task force and certified by the full Media & Communication Commission during the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis in May.

The American Legion Media Alliance is open to anyone who is a current member of any branch of The American Legion Family. It is intended to be for members who handle media including but not limited to public relations, website, social media, newsletters, etc. at the post, district, county or department levels. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31 and dues are \$15 per year. To become a member visit www.legion.org/talma/join.



Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery

During the Department Convention on Friday, June 24, enjoy lunch and/or vineyard tours with wine tasting at Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery. Lunch opens at 11:00 am Mountain Time. Vineyard tours and wine tasting begins at 1:00 pm Mountain Time. The wine tasting will include five 1-oz. pours for \$5.

Reservations for lunch and tours/tasting are requested by 5:00 pm Mountain Time on Thursday, June 23, to allow staff to prepare for Legionnaires and guests. Reserve your spot today by calling 701-483-2242. To view the full menu and daily specials visit www.FluffyFields.com

Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery was established in 2010 and offers locally made wine, local beers, lunch specials, catering and event space to the Dickinson area. Fluffy Fields is located east of Dickinson at 2708 21st St E. From the convention hotel, it is a 10-minute drive.

Directions: Drive east to Highway 22 and turn left (north). Turn right (east) onto 21st St E and continue straight. When the road curves to the left, turn right on the curve and drive east on 21st St E a short distance to Fluffy Fields.



Honoring Vietnam Veterans

By Nathan Price and Tawnya Bulger, New Rockford Transcript, Edited.

On Tuesday, March 29, community members and veterans came together with Eddy County Veteran Service Officer, Julie Shrock, to honor veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

The event was the first of its kind in Eddy County, and after its tremendous success on Tuesday, it's certain not to be the last.

The event began at 6 p.m. in the New Rockford Eagles Club, where it's estimated that more than 150 residents from New Rockford and the surrounding communities were in attendance.

Together, they honored the millions of American veterans that served their country from November 1955 to May 1975, including those right here in Eddy County.

Shrock gave each Eddy County family who lost their soldier during wartime, a special pin. Veterans that served and were present last night also received one, as a way of thanking them for their courageous service.

Shrock shared, with tears at times, the past culture around this war and its veterans; and how important it is to publicly acknowledge these humble men for their time in Vietnam. There was a special POW/MIA table and many photos were taken for the pin ceremonies.

It was an emotional evening filled with unity, support and even some surprises. One New Rockford veteran, Terry Koeplin, was joined by his entire family, including an unexpected visit from son, TJ Koeplin, of Fargo.

Dave Rosenberg, a New Rockford native who served two tours in Vietnam from the fall of 1970 to the spring of 1972, was also one of the veterans honored, and he couldn't have been happier with the event's turnout.

"I thought it went very, very well; it was one heck of a nice put together," he said.

Rosenberg also said that planning for the event had only begun about two weeks ago, and that they weren't sure if they should expect a large number of guests or only a few.

What they got was a packed house.

"I think the evening went very well," said Shrock. "I am overwhelmed by the community support for our Vietnam veterans

and their families, and I intend to celebrate the Vietnam War Veterans Day every year. Our Vietnam veterans have waited more than 50 years for the recognition and appreciation they still truly deserve."

Shrock said she was approached about planning the event only a few weeks ago by a local Vietnam veteran by the name of Joe Schmaltz.

Schmaltz served as an avionics mechanic in the 281st Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam in 1970, and he's worked hard to honor his fellow veterans ever since.

"They're important to remember how we got our freedom," said Schmaltz on the value of events like the one on Tuesday. "It's hard work to defend our freedom, and the guys we've lost is heartbreaking, and people, especially our youth, need to understand that."

Shrock expressed gratitude for the many volunteers that brought barbecue, salads and desserts for everyone to enjoy, as well as for the family members who came forward to represent the

Vietnam veterans who are no longer with us.

"It was an honor to recognize you and honor your family's sacrifice," she said.

Shrock has plenty of events planned and even more ideas of how to continue supporting veterans in Eddy County. The three winners of an all-expenses-paid fishing trip to Dolphin Island will be drawn Monday, April 4, and one local veteran has donated enough funding for a four-day trip to be awarded to a lucky veteran and his or her family.

Shrock also thanked the entire community for their support and attendance at Tuesday's celebration, and she expressed even more gratitude for the veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

"I would like to say a special thank you to all the Vietnam veterans that attended the event," she said. "It was an honor to shake your hands and say thank you to your faces, not just on March 29th, but every day. A grateful nation thanks and honors you!"



Area Vietnam Veterans were honored Tuesday, March 29 in a special ceremony in observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day. Pictured (from left to right) back row: Paul Fortney, Larry Haakanson, Ronald Anderson, Kenny Ames, Ed Anderson, Terry Koeplin, Leonard Duchscherer, John Hitz, Dale Rosenberg, Joe Schmaltz, Alan Knatterud, Jim Ludwig, John Lee, Alfred Ritzke, Jr., Charles Ludwig and Bob Ludwig; front row: Quentin Lange, Edwin Brecto, John Phillips, Richard Anderson, Jim Schuster, Fern Schuster, Ben Makay, Garry Coon, Jerry Valdivia and David Karlsbraaten.

2022 American Legion Baseball Season

As our never-ending winter is disappearing and high school baseball is finishing their season, Legion baseball teams are registering for the 2022 season.

The 2022 North Dakota American Legion Baseball Season will field three divisions: Class AA, Class A and Class B.

If registration holds true to form: The Class AA division will have ten teams playing a statewide schedule. The state tournament will be hosted by West Fargo on July 25-30, 2022. The winner and runner-up will advance to the Central Plains

Regional Tournament in Rapid City, SD, August 3-7, 2022. The winner of the Central Plains will advance to the 2022 American Legion World Series in Shelby, NC, August 11-16, 2022. In 2019 Post 2-Fargo, and in 2021 Post 400-Fargo, won the Central Plains and advanced to the American Legion World Series. The 2020 season was cancelled due to Covid-19.

The Class A division will consist of two divisions: a 12-team east division and a 9-team west division.

Wahpeton and the Bismarck Capitals will host divisional tournaments on July 20-24, 2022; with the top four finishers

advancing to the state tournament hosted by Watford City on 29 July-August 1, 2022.

The Class B division will consist of seven districts with an estimated 46 teams. Divisional tournaments will conclude by the July 23, 2022, with seven divisional winners advancing to the state tournament hosted by Garrison on July 27-31, 2022.

See you around the ballpark this summer.

Russ Kroshus

North Dakota American Legion Baseball Chair

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COMMANDER COMMENTS

STEVE ANDERSON - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Hello everyone,
Wow, it has been a crazy busy year as your Department Commander. This will be my last article as your Department Commander. During my year thus far, I have attended 66 events and that's not including Conventions / Conferences / Indianapolis / Homecomings. I've put almost 20,000 miles on the Legion car in my travels, might need new tires Dan Brown before I turn it over to you. I have thoroughly enjoyed every mile and every event I attended. I thank everyone for the invites and the hospitality that was shown to Michele and I in our travels.
I am blessed and it was truly an honor to serve as your Department Commander. I know this Department is in great shape because of the leadership that came before me and those that are stepping up to continue to lead this Department. There are too many friends, leaders, comrades that have helped me on this journey, for that I thank you all!! I continue to work with your Commander Elect Dan Brown to ensure any and all information needed will be in place for his year.
The office staff and I are working on the upcoming Convention in Dickinson. We are going to try some new

things. As it stands now, Thursday is going to be a fun day. Working on a golf outing at Bully Pulpit, Steak Fondue, Musical and a Wine tour. It's a work in progress so nothing is finalized yet. Speaking about the office staff, without the great dedication of the staff, this Department wouldn't be where it is today. A HUGE THANK YOU, to Ron, Teri and Sarah for all that you do!
Membership is always a topic of discussion. It's not too late to get North Dakota back on top Nationally. It takes work and effort. For those Posts that are above 90%, thank you for your hard work. Those below the 90% threshold, DON'T STOP working towards the goal. Keep marching forward and let's get this done.
In closing, again it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department Commander. I'm not done yet and will continue to do my best to keep this Department heading in the direction that best reflects the Department of North Dakota. Together we should ALL be proud. Proud of ourselves, proud of our accomplishments, proud of our drive and desire to make the North Dakota American Legion the best and the strongest.



Greetings to all my Fellow Legionnaires!
I hope you take advantage of the anniversaries, ceremonies, meetings and Legion baseball games this summer.
*May 1st is May Day. The parade season has begun, and Williston Band Day was held on May 7th to celebrate all High School Bands in the West Region.
*May 8th is Mother's Day as well as the date that V-E Day (Victory in Europe) was declared in 1945. We salute all our World War II Veterans and all members of the Greatest Generation.
*Monday, May 30th, is Memorial Day with ceremonies being held throughout the West Region to commemorate all Veterans from all wars. These ceremonies will be sponsored by our many local Posts.
*June 6th will be celebrated as D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe in 1944.
*June 14th is Flag Day and also the day the U.S. Army was founded in 1775.
*June 24th to June 26th are the dates for the Legion Department Convention which will be held in Dickinson, ND.

*June 22, 1942 the Pledge of Allegiance was recognized by Congress and also the GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.
*June 25, 1950 the Korean War began.
*June 30, 2008 the Post-9/11 GI Bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush.
We want to congratulate all the high school and college graduates in our state and wish them a successful future.
The North Dakota American Legion Department Convention will be held in Dickinson on June 24-26. An election of a new West Region Vice Commander will be held at this time as I am ending my term in office. In conversations with several members throughout the West Region, there are a lot of potential candidates for

this position. Also, the election of our new Department Commander and Commander-Elect will be held at this time. I ask that all Districts and Posts have representation at the convention as important Legion news and information will be shared.
The four West Region Districts which include Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9, are in OUTSTANDING shape. Our recruitments and retentions numbers are at an all-time high and CPRs are due. Let's keep it up and strive to reach the goal of 100% for each of our Posts.
This puts me in reminisces of the 1950-1960s when Howard Doherty was West Region Vice Commander of the Killdeer American Legion Post for District 8. For some good stories, ask me about Doherty's time in Langdon's American Legion Post #98.
Members are encouraged to enroll in the American Legion Extension Institute Basic Training online courses.
The Spring District Meetings for Consolidated Districts 6 & 9, District 7 and District 8 were successful in filling their District Commander and District Vice Commander positions. I welcome these exceptional leaders onboard!
Area high school students need to be encouraged to register for the Oratorical and the Boys and Girls State programs.
Now with the American Legion Baseball season soon to begin, we need to concentrate on recruitment of Post teams for both Class A and Class B. This year's Class A State Tournament will be hosted by the Watford City American Legion Post. Hope to see you all at the games and tournaments throughout the summer. In your attendance, please wear your American Legion caps and shirts as signs of encouragement.
I encourage you to continue with the Buddy Checks. These are very important for the welfare of our Veterans. Information to assist you with this is available at www.legion.org/buddycheck.

Tom Ryan
Western Region Vice Commander



Fellow Legionnaires, I hope this finds everyone safe and sound and staying Healthy.
Well, here it is at the end of April 2022, and we are continuing to have more snow. Which is some welcomed moisture, but it can stop at any time. With it has been quite the winter with all the storms we have had in our area along with most of ND. I have not travelled as much as I would have liked to, but I was able to make to all three Spring District meetings. It is always nice to see familiar faces and meet a few new ones. Some great information was passed out. It's great to see how the advertising for Boys State has taken off. Great job to Arnie and Mamie Havelka and all those Posts who donated funds to make this happen. It was great to see 4th District have someone step up to take the District Officer positions. I would also like to say Great Job to Third District for leading the State in Membership. Keep it up!!
If you have done something in your community let us know. I know Rolla had a very successful annual Fish Fry in March. I was able to eat and help participate in that. I'm sure some of your Posts are having events also.

Let me know and I will try to make it. Be sure to email your events to Teri at the Headquarters Office so she can put it in the Legion News.
For those who were at the Winter Convention in Bismarck, you know I have put my name in for the running for Central Region DEC. It would be my honor to serve you and the Legion.
Keep up with your Membership. I'm not going to step on a soap box, because as a Post Adjutant, I know it can be a struggle sometimes with getting memberships in. You don't have to hound them; just a gentle nudge every now and then works. Most of our Posts have met their goals, but there are still a few who haven't. Try and do your best to get our members renewed. Also make sure your CPR's are turned in. This is very important as our numbers of what we do get compiled at National so when we fight for Veterans benefits, we can show what we have done.
In closing I would like to Thank You for letting me be your Central Region Vice Commander over the last year. It has been an experience I won't forget. From the people I have met, to learning more how the Legion works. As always you can call me with questions.
Troy Reemtsma
Central Region Vice Commander



Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. It also marks the beginning of the summer season. With Memorial Day 2022 recently behind us, I hope and pray that every Veteran reading this had the opportunity

to not only celebrate the national holiday with family and friends, but also found the time to honor and reflect on those that have gone before us. I'm constantly being reminded how special our military and veteran community really is. May we all represent our branches of service with the highest of dignity.

Spring District meetings were finished up in March and preparations are underway for our 103rd American Legion Convention June 24-26 in Dickinson. I look forward to reconnecting with you all as we continue our service to our great organization. The challenge remains the same; Let's try and get a representative from every post in the Eastern Region to Dickinson in June.

This will be my last Legion News article as your Eastern Region Vice Commander, and I would be remiss if I didn't Thank You for allowing me to serve alongside you in this capacity. I look forward to continuing my service to The Department of North Dakota in whatever capacity you afford me the opportunity. Again, THANK YOU!

Lastly and restated from the article I wrote in March, I continue to humbly request your prayers and support in electing me YOUR next Commander-Elect at the Department Convention. At Your Service and until we meet again.

Clarence Carroll III
Eastern Region Vice Commander



(701) 852-1491

2022 North Dakota Legion Riders

On May 7, 2022, the ND American Legion Riders met at the Jamestown Vets Club for the purpose of selecting this school years scholarship awardees and the winners are

Ashlee Presser, Turtle Lake
Turtle Lake-Mercer High School

Joshua Entzel, Bismarck
Bismarck Legacy High School

Reagan Miller, New Salem
New Salem- Almont High School

Garrett Haakenson, Aneta
Dakota Prairie High School

Morgan Theilbar, Langdon
Langdon Area High School

Congratulations to these winners and to all the students that applied this year. You are all winners in our BOOK!

These students will be attending a ND College or Technical School as a requirement to receive this \$500 Scholarship.

Gerald Puetz, Director
ND American Legion Riders



Greetings Legion Family,
I just returned from the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. It was a nice meeting and being in person again.

National Commander Dillard's theme is "No Veteran Left Behind" meaning we need to support our Veterans any way we can, including buddy checks.

Another item Dillard is encouraging is talking to our legislators and upping memberships. Legislation is coming up soon. Contact your senators and urge them to vote YES on the Honoring Our PACT Act.

The act is to help support Veterans exposed to toxic hazards, both while deployed overseas and stationed at home. It took decades for the VA to provide relief for

veterans of Vietnam exposed to Agent Orange. Let's be proactive and get our government to help our Veterans.

Mark Antal, running for National Chaplain and Glenn Wahus, running for National Vice Commander were in Indianapolis interviewing for their positions. Both had very positive reviews from the committee and hoping both will be elected at National Convention this August in Milwaukee.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at overbydm@gmail.com.



VA Adding Nine Rare Respiratory Cancers to List
WASHINGTON — As part of President Biden's Unity Agenda commitment to support the nation's Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

The following list of rare respiratory cancers have been added to VA's regulations through an Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2022:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biological plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract — and the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

The rarity and severity of these illnesses and the reality these conditions present, is a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence, prompted VA to take this action.

"Last year we made promises to fundamentally change and improve how we establish and expedite presumptions — now we're keeping them," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We are taking a new approach to presumptions that takes all available science into account, with one goal in mind — getting today's Veterans — and Vets in the decades ahead — the benefits they deserve as fast as possible."

VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply.

Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits. If you are a Veteran, survivor or dependent applying for the first time, file a new claim here.

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit VA.gov or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.

View the interim final rule for Presumptive Service Connection for Rare Respiratory Cancers Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter and leave comments.

George Petermann 2022 Candidate for West Region Vice Commander

Experience

In 1969 I enlisted in the Navy, received boot camp training at Recruit Depot San Diego, California, attended Communications Technicians A School Pensacola, Florida, reported NAVSECGRUACT Station Sidi Yahya Morocco, North Africa, then transferred to NAVSECGRUACT Station Winter Harbor, Maine, honorably discharged 1973, enlisted in Coast Guard 1974, reported to Ordnance A School Governors Island, New York, reported for duty Coast Guard Station Mobile, Alabama, served aboard Coast Guard Buoy Tender Salvia as gunners mate, ship security and crew training, 1976 transferred to Coast Guard Station New Orleans, Louisiana, port security and Captain of the Port duties, Honorably Discharged 1978.

American Legion

My Current Post Is Matthew Brew Post 003 Dickinson ND, my previous post was in Williston, ND. I am a 36 year PUFL member and have served in all Post 003 Officer Positions. My last position was as Post Historian. I have served as 8th District Vice Commander (2x) and as 8th District Commander (5x). I have been awarded the American Legion Distinguished Service Award and have served on the National Americanism Committee. My candidacy is endorsed by Dickinson Post 003. I am a graduate of the American Legion Basic Training course. As Post Commander I organized a welcome home parade for our returning Desert Storm soldiers. I am a PUFL member of the 40et8.

Activities

I am a member of the Knights of Columbus at my local Church as well as an usher. I am a founding board member of the Stark County Veteran's Memorial Association. I have been a truck driver for Halliburton, Getter Trucking, Black Hills Trucking, Anderson Trucking and Dickinson Ready Mix. I am married to my lovely wife, Sandra, for 42 amazing years.

If you elect me, it will be my honor to represent The West Region.



Dan Brown 2022 Candidate for Department Commander

As I have previously announced I am running for Commander Department of North Dakota. I am married to my beautiful bride Penny, we have five children and nine grandchildren. All of them spread out through the state. My military service started right out of high school when I joined the Army at a ripe old age of 17. I retired as a SFC after 21 years of proud service to this Nation. I am a two-tour veteran of OIF with the 565th Engineer Battalion 130th Engineer Brigade and 2/14th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division in Iraq. Now I am continuing my service as a life member of the American Legion as well as the VFW, DAV, AMVETS and IAVA. I am currently serving as your Commander Elect, fifth term as Post 37 Adjutant, chairman of the House and Membership Committees, I serve on the Gaming Committee, a member of the ACOVA from the DAV advocating for all veterans in ND and an active member of the All Veteran's Honor Guard in Williston. My past positions have been two terms as West Region Vice Comander, District 9 Commander and Vice Commander, two terms as Post 37 Commander and the Commander of DAV Chapter 9 plus numerous chairs that lead me to running for the Commander position. I am a graduate of the American Legion Institute and The American Legion College. You can be assured if I am elected your Commander for the Department of North Dakota I will serve you with dignity and honor as I advocate for all of us.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

TODD RIKKE - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



We are now coming into the final weeks of our Legion year. For Membership and Post Activities, this is usually a time when we reflect on our gains and losses over the past year. After the events of the last two years, I can honestly say that I have been encouraged with the resilience that we as an organization have demonstrated as we stepped up and faced the pandemic head on and refused to give in when it would have been so easy to do so. With each passing day, we continue to return to normalcy. I encourage everyone to get out there and keep promoting the American Legion and attracting new members to join us.

When we began the 2022 membership year, the Department of North Dakota came out of the starting gate with a flourish. We were consistently at the top of the Nation in terms of percentage. However, in the early weeks of this calendar year, we saw that domination beginning to fade. Although we have had good numbers across the board, some of the other Departments were able to catch up and overtake us. In the end, we fell short of our 100% Target number, but I continue to be encouraged by the energy that everyone put forth. I have strong hopes that we can build upon this momentum, reverse our declining numbers, and begin to grow our organization in the coming years.

We have done an outstanding job in renewals. I want to congratulate everyone for their accomplishments in retaining our current members. What we continue to need to improve on is attracting new members. As of now, estimates show that less than one-third of the veterans currently residing in North Dakota are members of the American Legion. This gives us a huge pool of potential candidates that we should be reaching out to. Increasing our membership benefits us all. It expands our ability to be an effective voice for all veterans and their needs. It also helps the individual by giving him/her access to programs that can aid them and their families.

I want to remind everyone that although this membership year is almost over, we can continue to sign up and renew members for 2022 until December 31st. So, keep up the ongoing efforts to improve this year's numbers as we now turn our focus on 2023.

Two years ago, when Commander Anderson approached me with his desire to appoint me as his Membership Chairman, I was honored to have the opportunity to help grow the Department of North Dakota. Membership has always been a passion of mine and I welcome the chance to do whatever I can to help

us grow and maintain our status as the leading veteran's organization in America.

I owe whatever success we have had to the gallant efforts of our fantastic Membership team, which consists of our Department Commander and Commander-Elect, the Regional Vice Commanders, and the District Commanders and Vice Commanders. They are the true workhorses for our Department by encouraging and assisting the Posts in reaching their membership goals. Without these people, I can honestly say that this would be an arduous task.

Finally, I want to thank Commander Anderson once again for putting his faith in me to lead this Committee. It has been my honor and privilege to serve all of you in this capacity. As I have traveled around the State, I have had the pleasure to meet many great people and make some new friends. I ask every one of you to give my successor the same level of support that I was blessed to receive.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and that you can get out and have some fun. I cannot wait to see you all at the Department Convention in a few weeks. "For God and Country"!

Boys State and Girls State

A Cup of Coffee with Mark Western

Reprinted from the Mountrail County Promoter

The following is a public service announcement for anyone who knows a boy or girl who is finishing their 11th grade year of high school at present. You may have a sibling, son/daughter, niece/nephew, grandchild, employee, friend, child of friend, etc. etc., who fits the description. Please keep reading!

One of the most hackneyed sayings of our day is that the present state of politics is toxic. It is repeated often because it is more or less true. It is difficult, if not impossible to spend more than a few minutes online, on social media, or watching a news network before one politician or pundit labels another person whose ideas are different as a "crook," a "criminal," an "idiot," or a person who "wants to destroy" (fill in the blank).

A generation ago, a person who considered running for public office had to evaluate whether he or she had the time to serve and whether they could raise money to mount a campaign for public office. Today, the stakes have changed considerably; the number one reason that otherwise willing, able, and civic minded people avoid public office is fear of having their name (and their family) dragged through the mud both online and in real life. Today, a person running for public office runs a higher risk of being mistreated at a restaurant, having their homes or place of work vandalized or defaced, or having a few-second clip of a weak moment

going viral and becoming the defining moment of their life. No wonder that it is difficult to attract decent and sincere people to be placed in offices of public trust.

The most effective weapons in the modern political arsenal are ridicule, contempt, and hyperbole. And it's so tiring. But it keeps happening because we pay attention to the loudest and most extreme and obnoxious voices, of-ten because the loudest voices shout over everyone else.

But this toxicity of our day is a learned behavior. And it can stop. And the best way to try to pull ourselves out of the sludge is to learn a different behavior. The two finest programs that teach civic responsibility and leadership are Boys State and Girls State. I only have experience with Boys State, but I know the folks who put on Girls State and can say that it has developed leaders in North Dakota for generations.

Boys State teaches about how government works on a state level by doing. A delegate who comes to Boys State is assigned a random political party and random city. They mix in with people from different parts of the state and different walks of life. They run for office, pick candidates, hold office and learn by doing. Instead of talking about how the legislative process works, a boy will write a bill, try to shepherd it through committees and the full house and senate and persuade the governor to sign it into law. Delegates are encouraged to build consensus and focus on ideas and not denigrate personalities or resort to name-calling. Delegates to Boys State may also serve in City or

County government and take place in a disaster emergency management simulation or be an executive branch office holder such as governor or attorney general.

Not only do the delegates learn by doing, but they also hear from leaders of government and other special guests. Delegates learn about flag etiquette, volunteerism, and citizenship. I cannot under emphasize how important this program has been in my life. I was proud to represent Stanley High School as a delegate in 1995, and it is one of the two or three best decisions I have ever made. Because of one week in the summer before my senior year of high school, my life has changed, and I cannot do enough to repay the program for what it has given to me.

There are still openings available for Boys State and Girls State this summer. They both take place on June 12-17 this year. Flickertail Girls State is in Grand Forks on the campus of UND and Boys State is at NDSCS in Wahpeton. Go online and check it out. Talk to a member of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary. Other than being in between 11th and 12th grade, there are no other requirements in terms of experience, etc. Taking one step to encourage a youth is a step towards understanding and civility and a step away from the toxicity that defines our age.

Please consider nominating a boy or girl to Boys State or Girls State. It can change lives for the better and make our state an even better place to live.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

KENNY WIEDERHOLT - CHAIRMAN



On March 11, 2022, the DEC had a special meeting to review and discuss the investment policy of the American Legion.

Bill Haug reviewed the investments with the DEC. The investments are bound by the guidelines the DEC set in 2014. The DEC mirrored the Foundation policy in 2014. The investment is considered a moderate risk policy. The Department investments are following the policy with growth exceeding the requirements of the policy. DEC Chairman Wiederholt will contact an independent company for an assessment of the policy.

On April 18, 2022, a virtual DEC meeting was held at 10:00 am.

April is Children and youth month. Baseball report

by Tom Ryan was given. The sites for the tournaments have been set. Boys state report was given by Kenny Wiederholt. Advertisements are airing now and will be aired in the later part of May. Steve Anderson reported that scholarships applications for the Legion Riders are being reviewed. DEC Chairman Wiederholt contacted Red River Financial group regarding the Departments investments. He is currently waiting for a written report from them. Ron Matthews gave an update on Post closures. Adams Post 237 wants to close and merge with Lankin Post 157. Everything is complete pending approval from the NEC at spring meetings.

Contracts for the 2025 bids were discussed. The cost of officer travel for the fall district meetings and changing

how they are run.

Motion was made to have the fall district meetings be held without the Department Commander and Department Adjutant traveling to the meetings. The budget for the following year was discussed. The current reimbursement rates were discussed and reevaluated. They were compared to other departments, and it was decided to not change the rate at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

The next DEC meeting will be Friday, June 24, 2022, at 9:00 am during the Department Convention in Dickinson at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Lodge.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

KAREN HUTCHINS - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



What do you think about the end times? Are you talking about them with your Christian friends? Are your not-yet-believers asking questions? We are not in the end times. But, in my humble opinion, we're So what are we supposed to do?

I believe there are 5 steps Christians need to have to share hope through what I call these pre-end times. They're taken from 1 Peter 1:3-16; Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of

your souls. 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand, the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

So these are the five steps that will see us through to the end of times. Step 1 - Be born again. Give your life to Jesus! I had no idea how important being born again was going to be, when it happened to me just before my 9th birthday. Truth be told, I probably didn't even understand what I was doing. But Jesus had worked his way into my

heart and I wanted him to stay there. Step 2 - Rejoice in your strong faith. The definition of rejoice is to jump and spin – which I can't do without getting dizzy and falling over! Step 3—Be diligent of mind, confident, filled with hope. Not so easy. God created a beautiful world for us to enjoy, but there's temptation all around. Often, we want something that God has not chosen for us. So how do we keep our minds diligent? By focusing on the greatness and holiness of God! We have to make the choice to want only what God wants for us. (1 John 2:16) We have to retrain our thinking to look at what is good, and not the tempting things or the negative things going on around us. (Php 4:8-9) Step 4—Be obedient. Once you've accomplished the first three – Step 4 is easier. It's always a choice, right? But when we realize how very much God loves His children, it's easier to be obedient ones! We want to please Him! Step 5—Be holy. No one is ever going to be sinless. Jesus is the only one who will ever be sinless, but we can be holy. We are human, we all sin, but we have an advocate when we sin. (1 Jn 1:9) Jesus gave us an avenue to attain and maintain holiness. Re-read the scriptures! It's all in there. Feel free to email me! Hutchinskaren35@gmail.com

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THE MESSAGE

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National Auxiliary President Daudistel Visits White Shield

The May 7th visit to our community of White Shield from American Legion Auxiliary National President, Kathy Daudistel, was hosted by Young Hawk/Bear American Legion and Auxiliary Post and Unit 253. The first stop was the Old Scouts Cemetery west of White Shield where flags were carried into the area followed by a short program. National President Daudistel along with Department President Sharon White Bear laid a wreath at the memorial for our deceased veterans. The presidents toured the Young Hawk/Bear American Legion and Auxiliary Post 253 building and the White Shield Arikara Cultural Center where history and artifacts are on display.

A meal was prepared and served by Unit 253 Auxiliary members. Following the meal, MHA Nation Chairman Mark N. Fox spoke to the crowd and presented National President Daudistel with a Satin Star Quilt & Pendleton noting the significance behind the gesture.

Another program was held in the gymnasium of the Ralph Wells Jr. Community Center. The color guard of Post 253 presented the colors. An opening prayer was presented by Danile Henry, Unit 253 Chaplain. Austin Gillette, Past Commander of Post 253, and Mark N. Fox, Chairman of MHA Nation, served as masters of ceremony. Madonna Azure, Unit 253 President, welcomed the guests. The keynote speaker, Kathy Daudistel, presented her 'National Presidents' theme and focus which is "Caregivers for Veterans" and then recognized five families for their display of loyalty and commitment in caring for their Veteran. Department President White Bear and National President Daudistel presented

certificates of appreciation to each of the five families. Drum Group sang for the three Native Dancers Jingle, Chicken, and Traditional as they performed their dances for the crowd. Group pictures of the Legion and Auxiliary attendees were taken with National President Kathy Daudistel. Throughout the program, gifts were presented individually and to our guests. This was a remarkable day spent with American Legion Family members from across North Dakota.

Submitted by Unit 253 White Shield



Placing wreath at Old Scouts Cemetery. (L-R) Unit 253 President Madonna Azure, Department NEC Tammy Ryberg, National President Kathy Daudistel, and Department President Sharon White Bear.

Greetings from Dickinson!

Cheryl Evenson, 2022 Department Convention Chairman, and Matthew Brew Unit 3 of Dickinson, cordially welcome all American Legion Family members and guests to Department Convention on 'The Western Edge'. With headquarters at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel at 532 15th Street West in Dickinson, the convention will be held Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26. Come join us as we celebrate the next 100 years of service in the American Legion Auxiliary. Enjoy your stay and feel free to explore our beautiful city.



Cheryl Evenson

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American Legion Auxiliary Department of ND 101st Convention Roosevelt Grand Hotel Dickinson

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (may be revised without notice)
Changes will be available at www.ndala.org/2022-department-convention/

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022

9:00 AM	Finance Board Meeting – Diane Kraemer, Chariman
10:00 AM	Auxiliary Registration (closes at 5:30 PM)
11:00 AM	District Presidents (Incoming and Outgoing – exchange books and flags)
1:00 PM	Auxiliary Department Executive Committee Meeting
3:00 PM	Incoming Department Chairmen – (Meet w/Sandra Petermann & dept ofc staff)
4:30 PM	District Officers Flag Rehearsal (for Joint Session)
5:30 PM	Auxiliary Installation Rehearsal - Department Officers, District Presidents
7:00 PM	Joint Opening Session

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022

9:00 AM	Joint Memorial Service
10:00 AM	Auxiliary Session Resumes
12:00 PM	Installation of Department Officers
12:30 PM	Installation of Department President (2022-2023)
1:00 PM	Close of Convention
1:15 PM	2022 National Convention Delegate Meeting – Sharon White Bear and Dept Ofc Staff

Department President

Hello Legion Family,

My term is ending too soon. The last few weeks have been extremely busy. I have been closely watching the events going on overseas in Ukraine. I hope and pray for an end to this conflict soon.

I am so proud of the entire American Legion Auxiliary Department North Dakota for pitching in with the planning for the visit from our National President Kathy Daudistel. The entire three days of Kathy's stay was filled with visits to some of North Dakota's greatest treasures. Soon after her flight landed in Minot she was on the road to White Shield, home of the Arikara. Young Hawk-Bear Post 253 lead the parade into the Old Scouts Cemetery Post #1 with their eagle staff and flags, followed by members of the North Dakota American Legion Family from across the state.

The Dead Grass drum group sang an honor song and flag song. Prayer was offered by Arikara tribal member Wayne Flute. National President Kathy Daudistel honored the veterans laid to rest in the cemetery by laying a wreath at the entrance. Kathy toured the White Shield Veterans Center where Bernadette White Bear explained the benefits the Mandan Hidatsa & Arikara Nation have to offer our veterans. Next stop was the Arikara Cultural Center where Austin Gillette gave a brief history of the Arikara tribe. The evening meal was prepared and served by Unit 253 Auxiliary members. The Department of North Dakota provided a delicious cake for dessert.

On Sunday, President Kathy traveled north to the International Peace Gardens. Although the famous flower gardens are not yet in bloom, we were able to tour the grounds including the Sunken Garden Fountain, the 9/11 Memorial Site, the Peace Chapel, and the Conservatory, where we were treated to a Mother's Day brunch. A quick visit to Annie's House and Mystic Gardens, North Dakota's Stonehenge, rounded out the visit in the northern part of our state.

On Monday, May 9, our morning began with a tour of the Minot Air Force Base. Thank you, Linda Siewert, of William G. Carroll Unit 26 of Minot for your hard work and planning to make this tour possible. Our tour guide on base was a very pleasant young woman named Abigail. Our visit began with a short film at the Minuteman missile facility training site. We toured a missile silo where we observed a replica of the warhead and launch equipment. We toured one of the trucks that carries missiles from the airbase to the missile sites. Next stop was the training area for the B-52 bomber planes. We learned about the variety of bombs these planes carry and how they are loaded. I was filled with pride to know how well our country is protected, and especially knowing how well the service people who work on the Minot Air Force base are trained and ready to protect us. Thank you to the men and women of the Minot Air Force base.

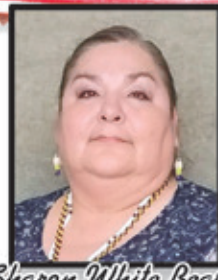
We were treated to a luncheon at the Armed Forces Reserve Center hosted by Minot Auxiliary Unit 26. I want to thank Gary Siewert, who works at the Armed Forces Center, for his gracious welcome and service. I cannot forget to thank Linda and Gary's daughter and granddaughter for preparing the complex for the luncheon and serving the meal.

I have to say the visit from Kathy Daudistel has been one

of the highlights of my term as your Department President. I am looking forward to the Department Convention in Dickinson on June 24-26.

I am proud and honored to have served as your 2021-2022 Department President representing Young Hawk-Bear Unit 253 and the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation.

Nuwah
Sharon White Bear



Sharon White Bear



National President Daudistel's Visit to North Dakota. Pictured (L-R): Dancer Paloma Ruiz, National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, Dancer Lance White, Unit 253 Chaplain Danile Henry, Dancer Sage Bell Casus, and Department Auxiliary President Sharon White Bear.



Tour of Minot Air Force Base. Pictured (L-R): Department President Sharon White Bear, Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt, Department NEC Tammy Ryberg, Department Office Assistant Carol Wolf, Minot Unit President Linda Siewert, National President Kathy Daudistel, and Past Department President Marlys Aubol with 2 USAF members. Photo courtesy of USAF Public Affairs.

Department President-Elect

Greetings American Legion Family.

The words "thank you" do not always express how one truly feels. To some, they are just words. We are all thankful for so many things. Please allow me to express what thank you means to me. To each of you who have mentored me and who have supported me in my past endeavors, those that have seen something in me that I have not always seen in myself – THANK YOU. To each of you for believing in me and giving me a chance as well as those of you who continue to nurture and mentor me as your next Department President – THANK YOU. It is only because of you that I ever considered this path. They say that God works in miraculous ways. Each of you are His guiding light. I need each of you and together we can make 2022-2023 another successful year.

We all know people with disabilities. Some disabilities are easier to recognize than others. For example, when we see someone using a walking device, wheelchair, or other mobility aid. What about the disabilities that are not as visible such as PTSD, visual impairments, hearing loss, or anxiety? These are not noticeable by just looking at someone. We may have noticed that some people talk louder, lean towards someone who is talking, perhaps misunderstand a word, or are quiet; they may be hearing impaired. Those with anxiety may have trouble sitting still. Perhaps someone with a learning disability might take longer to comprehend what is happening. We need to be considerate of them as well as those who do not have a disability. Most people with disabilities do not like sharing this information with anyone. Some might be embarrassed, ashamed, uncomfortable, or just do not wish to talk about themselves. One thing we all need to keep in mind is to speak louder, use a microphone, not to talk so fast. Be

willing to explain or repeat. Many people might not realize that they have a soft voice which does not carry as well without a microphone. We are an American Legion Family and we all need to work together to be kind, compassionate, and supportive.

We have all said or done something that hurt the feelings of someone else. Likely, it was not on purpose, with a vendetta, or for any other reason. One does not set out to intentionally demean or do damage to another person. Many times, something that was said might easily be misunderstood as well as the frustration or excitement that someone is feeling at that time. For me personally, I tend to speak louder than others due to my hearing loss and when it is noisy in the room it is harder to discern voices. My voice may seem rough around the edges, due to the hoarseness in my voice. This is where open communication is so important. We have all been taught to stand up for ourselves, as we are only responsible for ourselves. If we do not let someone know what is bothering us, how can one resolve issues? Before a situation becomes too large to handle, approach that person, one on one, and try to resolve it. To each person who I may have hurt in any way, I sincerely apologize. This was not my intention. There are times when a person may not have a good relationship with someone else. Whether it be a personality difference or something else, this does not mean we purposely try to upset another person.

Just because someone has a different idea, does not make them wrong nor does it mean they should not be heard. Everyone's ideas are important and worth listening to. None of us are going to agree on everything. We all have one goal, which is to support our veterans. Each of you is just as important as the next person, and each of you

has something unique to offer. We are the American Legion Family, and we all need to work together. I cannot do my job without the help of each of you.

One of my goals for 2022-2023 is to increase awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary within our communities. This, in turn, may increase our membership. I have heard from people that they did not know we exist. I will be working with the District Presidents on this with more information to follow later.

I will be holding a raffle to raise funds for my 2022-2023 "Presidents Projects." If you or someone you know would like to donate an item, please email me at bmann@ndsupernet.com to let me know. I appreciate everyone's support with this. Tickets will be \$1.00 each with a book for \$10.00. (Available after formal installation at Department Convention) The projects that I have chosen are: the "Western North Dakota Honor Flight – Bismarck," which allows veterans to go to Washington DC to see the memorial as well as other scheduled sites, and the "Injured Military Wildlife Project of North Dakota," which is a group of North Dakota citizens that provides hunting and fishing opportunities for veterans who have been injured in the line of duty as well as provides meat to veterans in need.

**For God and Country,
Sandra Petermann**



Sandra Petermann

Department Vice President

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

It has been a learning year and I have enjoyed it immensely. Meeting new members and answering questions from the units has upped my game, too.

I am proud that 38 units are at 100% or more of projected goal. Job well done to those units!

Next year, I am hopeful that our units will seriously review and revamp how they collect membership dues, so the majority of our units are at or near 100% by December 20. A member is not a member for the following year if their dues are not at the National office by the end of December. The first dues notice will be sent out from National in July 2022, so this is not an impossible goal as it is a 6-month period.

We seriously need to begin using our membership resources. The resources I am referring to are: www.ndala.org (ND Department website) and www.alaforveterans.org (National website). We need to update email addresses for all members that have email. The National organization is beginning to utilize email addresses more frequently in order to decrease expenses for paper and postage.

American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS), the membership database located within the National website, can be utilized to update email addresses, postal mail addresses (permanent and seasonal), name changes, and magazine preferences. Units, please consider a request to the Department Office with name, email, unit # and a check for \$10 per unit member (limited to two users) for access to ALA MIS. Currently, 45 units

have ALA MIS access, which accounts for only 31% of our units. I challenge all units to sign up and get that percentage up to 80% next year.

We have 8 units that have 20 or more Junior members. Kudos to these units!! I know there are many more Junior members eligible to be Auxiliary members. I encourage Units to revitalize and reach out to Junior members living in your communities. Junior members can attend your meetings and help where needed including with projects, events, and serving as tech support.

The unit membership percentage affects the District membership percentage which, in turn, affects the Department's membership percentage. So remember, your unit dues affect more than just your unit. The Department membership percentage that is on the books by July 1, 2022, will determine where the North Dakota delegation is seated at the National Convention. The higher the membership percentage the closer to the stage we could be seated.

Thank you to all the units that reach out and remain positive about maintaining their membership. Our veterans, youth, and communities appreciate your commitment and support.

**Always be kind.
Gloria Covert**



Gloria Covert

Department Chaplain

If you were given life-changing news, how would you share it? Would you call your best friend or maybe post it on Facebook? Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, we have a wonderful message to share. How many of us have taken that message for granted?

There is a world out there that desperately needs Him. Sadly, many people today do not believe and reject this message or maybe they simply do not know the message. One erroneous message that many people subscribe to is that they will go to heaven when they die because they lived a good, clean life. If that belief was real, then Jesus did not need to die. He could have taught morality without forgiving sin. Scripture tells us the righteous are the ones that go to heaven – or those "in right standing" with God.

Romans 10:9-10 – "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

The message is so simple. Jesus said, He was "the way and the truth and the life." Scripture text from 2 Cor. 5:17 reminds us "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." Paul used the word "anyone." He wants us to know that everyone is welcome to be "in Christ," therefore, we can be a new creation. Our sins are forgiven, and we are transformed into someone who is completely new, one who has a new purpose and new future. That is worth shouting about!

Philippians 2:14-15 says "Do everything without complaint or argument, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life." We need to live our lives so we can be the bright lights to people who have not experienced God's love and forgiveness; people who have not invited Jesus into their lives, asking forgiveness of their sins and accepting what Jesus did for them on the cross.

It is a wonderful message of hope, love, encouragement, and thankfulness.

"Heavenly Father, please grant us opportunities and words of grace to share this important truth that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We want everyone to know you! In Jesus name, Amen."

Rose Laning



Rose Laning

Department Secretary

It is nice to feel the warmth of sunshine and hear the birds again. The robins arrived in Fargo in masses a couple of weeks ago and I don't think I have ever seen that many at once.

I want to give a big thank you to host units and posts of the 2022 Spring District Meetings for your excellent hospitality and genuine welcome. Your support and hard work are appreciated by all who attend.

It was nice to see so many turn out for the National President's visit to White Shield and Minot. Thank you to Sharon White Bear, Department President, members of Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Post and Unit 253 of White Shield, and the community of White Shield for your warm hospitality.

I want to also thank Linda Siewert, President of William G. Carroll Unit 26 for being our boots on the ground and coordinating not only the Minot Auxiliary event but also a tour of the Minot Air Force Base. Thank you, Linda, you are force of nature!

Membership is humming right along. As I write this note, the Department of North Dakota is sitting close to 90% of projected goal. Oh my, we are so close. Let us all push that number to 100% before the 2022 Department

Convention which will be held in Dickinson on June 24-26, 2022. More information on the upcoming Convention can be found elsewhere in this publication and at www.ndala.org/2022-department-convention/.

As I write this article, the Department's Americanism, Education, Leadership, National Security, Poppy, and Past Presidents Parley Chairmen are working to finalize winners of the various contests, scholarships, and "unit members and servicemembers of the year." Thank you, Auxiliary members, for reaching out to your young members and children in your communities. If one of those winners is a young person from your community, give them a shout out and wish them the best in their future endeavors. I know the committees reviewing the applications had a tough time deciding the results because every one of those applicants is a wonderful example of our future leaders.

**For God and Country.
Marcy Schmidt**



Marcy Schmidt

Girls State

**ALA Flickertail Girls State
June 12-17, 2022
UND Campus
www.ndgirlsstate.org
701-314-2460**

Department Treasurer

"Grow Through It"

Wow! It has been nearly a full year for me as your treasurer! As expected, I have learned a lot about the organization and the wonderful people involved in its leadership. There is still a lot to get through and learn as we finish our fiscal year.

I began the year being "pretty green" with all that goes on at the Department level and what is happening in districts and units all across the state. "Growing through it", I am grateful for the people who have been so patient and have taken the time to mentor me. In the future, I will be better equipped to work beside them more effectively.

I am excited to see all of your faces at the 2022 Department Convention in my hometown. Dickinson is a bit of a road trip for many of you, but the time away with friends is always worth it! I hope that we will see many new faces as well!

I applaud all the new people who have stepped up and entered into leadership roles – at all levels! If your role is something "brand new" for you, and you are feeling a bit "green" with your responsibilities, remember to "Grow Through It", and let others help you along the way. Remember, you are in your position for your own unique abilities let them shine!

See you at Convention in June!

Sonnie Otto



Sonnie Otto

District 1

Greetings District 1 Auxiliary Members.

As I write this, April is nearly spent and I can see summer with celebrations just around the corner.

District 1 held its 2022 Spring District Meeting in the quaint little community of Nome. Our guest speaker was Gloria Covert, Department Vice President and Membership Co-Chairman. Gloria presented information on the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS) and membership. Thank you, Gloria.

After the meeting, we were treated to a guided tour of the "Old Nome Schoolhouse." It is a beautiful structure and now is home to a 'wool manufacturer' and features an eleven-room hotel and event center. If you have not visited Nome in a while, make plans to do so. You too will be impressed.

Are you weary of what seems to be perpetual COVID lockdowns? Are you feeling a bit left out? Then be a part of our American Legion Family again.

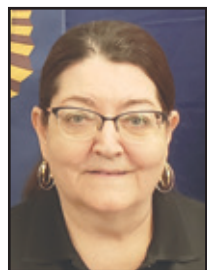
I hope many of you took advantage of the opportunity to come out and meet our National President, Kathy Daudistel, when she visited the Department of North Dakota. On Saturday, May 7, National President Kathy was in White Shield at an event coordinated by Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Post and Unit 253 and members of the community. On Monday, May 9, she appeared at an event coordinated by William G. Carroll Unit 26 of Minot.

Plans are under way for the 2022 Department Convention to be held June 24-26, 2022, in Dickinson. Make plans to attend and perhaps even take a day or two to make your way to Medora. Sounds like a great vacation idea!

Remember 'Freedom is Never Free.' Let us all be a part of improving our communities and continue to support veterans, military, and their families. Let us all pray for peace and our active-duty soldiers, marines, and sailors. Let us pray that our country's leaders will find the courage and be given the wisdom to lead America, this great country we call home.

I am proud to be a member of the American Legion Family.

Berniece Froiland
District 1 President



District 2

Hello District 2!

President Eileen Vondra here.

The recent District Meeting in Park River was a great success. It was a relief both to see everyone and to not travel. I live in Park River, just a few short blocks from the Legion. We were especially happy to welcome Department Vice President Gloria Covert, who spoke to us on topics such as membership.

I want to take a moment to thank all who supported and guided me through both my District Presidency and Vice Presidency. My goal was to provide a fresh outlook and perspective to this position. The pandemic wasn't easy, but we made it through together as a Legion family and came out stronger.

I wish the best of future endeavors to my successors and look forward to seeing all of you at Department Convention.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

Thank You.

Eileen Vondra
District 2 President



AEF

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members,

As we watch or listen to the news, we hear about terrible weather-related events in our country, or we hear of fires, floods, tornados, hurricanes, or earthquakes that have devastated our fellow citizens. We wish we could help, but don't have the funds we would need to assist all those who are hurting. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

Thanks to all of you and all of the Units which have donated to the AEF this year. Our donations are what keeps the AEF able to provide assistance when people are in need. God bless you for your giving hearts! In Quarter 2 of this fiscal year, the National AEF program awarded \$51,522.07 to 42 grant recipients: 29 Disaster and 13 Temporary Financial needs. All this was doable because ALA members across America were able to generously give.

If you become aware of an ALA member who has suffered a catastrophe, ask your Unit President or the Department Office for an application.

LoAnn Dick
AEF Chairman



Education

Hello Auxiliary members,

As I write this, I am glad to see things turning green and growing again outside. A time for new beginnings and waking from the hibernation of winter. At least I think winter is done?!

I continue to be amazed by all the fantastic things our youth are doing, even during the pandemic. I had the great honor of reading 48 wonderful scholarship applications for the Department Education program. These arrive from all over the state and show the notable projects and high character of our young people.

Five \$500 scholarships were awarded to the following: Lukas Mavity of Dickinson High School, Ashlee Presser of Turtle Lake – Mercer High School, Jadyn Sandy of Velva High School, Anne Schauer of Lewis and Clark Berthold High School, and Jocelyn Trnka of Central Cass High School.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed 17 applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Department President Sharon White Bear and Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt for helping with the scholarship selection process. The submission process for the Children of Warriors Scholarship changed this year and I believe it encouraged more applicants.

Three scholarship packets were sent to the NW Division for judging. Alexis Kraemer from Grand Forks Central High School, a Junior Auxiliary member was the Spirit of Youth selection. Cassidy Strommen of Flasher Public High School was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' selection. Sophie Sparrow, a current college student and Auxiliary member, was the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship selection.

We are pleased to share that Sophie Sparrow was recently announced as a National Winner! Way to go!

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

Keep in mind, the National Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship is designed to reward Junior members who retain Auxiliary membership after they turn 18. It specifically targets Auxiliary members who are currently college students. Do not lose track of your Juniors after they graduate from high school. Encourage them to apply! They are the future of our great organization.

I sincerely hope you all have a great summer and stay well. As I leave this chairmanship in June, I want to say that it has been my honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. I was truly blessed being able to hear about these wonderful students.

Yours in Service,
Shauna Dubuque
Education Chairman



McVile Post and Unit 135 Donate to Ukraine

The first four words of the Preamble of the American Legion and Auxiliary are "For God and Country." The American Legion Family has always been on top of things when it comes to helping military, service personnel, and veterans. When 'country' comes to mind, this is the time when we also step up to help those in need elsewhere. This is what happened in March 2022.

Dakota Prairie Elementary and High School collaborated on a plan to help the refugees of Ukraine as they left their war-torn country, most with just what they had on their backs and maybe a small bag. The American Legion Family heard about this effort and decided to step in and help the local collection effort.

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is dominating the news. Orphan Grain Train, Inc. is working in Moldova, Poland, and Romania to provide relief for the Ukrainian victims, especially women and children. They are in urgent need of funds and in-kind items such as diapers, hygiene supplies, shelf-stable food, blankets, socks, underwear, baby formula, and first aid kits. The McVile American Legion Family stepped up to the plate and provided \$600.00 to purchase more supplies. Members of Ole Semling Unit 135 donated even more supplies and funds in addition to what the American Legion Family had purchased.

On a Friday, Glenn and Candice Phillips traveled to Grand Forks to purchase

items on the list recommended by the Orphan Grain Train organization. Monday morning, the items were delivered to Prairie View Elementary School so they could be picked up and taken to Norfolk, Nebraska, where they were shipped by air cargo directly to the countries housing refugees.

Auxiliary members have taken care of the 'country' part of our Preamble and are so proud of that accomplishment. Perhaps not our country, but definitely a country in need. It was a great experience to have the American Legion Family working together on this humanitarian project.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...Together we accomplished a lot!

Submitted by Judy Twete, Past NW Division Vice President

Editor's note – Orphan Grain Train, Inc. is not affiliated with nor is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary

2022 Education Program Scholarships

Sophie Sparrow – National Winner – Junior Member Loyalty

Department Winners

Lukas Mavity - Dickinson High School
Ashlee Presser - Turtle Lake – Mercer High School
Jadyn Sandy - Velva High School
Anne Schauer - Lewis and Clark Berthold High School
Jocelyn Trnka - Central Cass High School

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KNDB 26, KNOM 24, KRDK 4

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Gackle Donates to Ukraine and Holds Fundraiser

When Mayer Morlock Post and Unit 250 of Gackle learned about Dr. Steve English, a National Guard Major, Gackle Ambulance medical director, and ER doctor at Jamestown Regional Medical Center, we knew we had to act. He was being deployed to Poland to work with the displaced Ukrainian people. We sent out a request for supplies and funds to be collected and sent to Dr. English to help the Ukrainian people. The response was simply overwhelming and well beyond our expectations! Supplies and cash donations started pouring in from the Gackle community, surrounding communities, and beyond. The dollar donations were more than enough to cover postage, with extra postage donations used to buy more supplies for shipping. A total of 154 boxes of supplies were shipped. A huge THANK YOU to everyone for your amazing response.

Program Fundraiser

Gackle Auxiliary members sponsored a unit fundraiser on Friday, April 22. In addition to playing bingo, attendees purchased tickets for a ‘Bag Raffle,’ food, and beverages.

The community support was incredible with over 100 people attending the event. Proceeds from the event will support the unit’s programs for veterans, children and youth, and community service.

Article submitted by: Elaine Ackerman



Participants in bingo and raffle fundraiser.

Endorsements for Department Officers

Department President – Sandra Petermann (Bio, not endorsement)

Sandra has been an Auxiliary member since 2003 and is a State Life Member. Her eligibility comes through her husband George’s eight years of service in the US Navy and US Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. Sandra has served six years as Chaplain and President of the Dickinson Unit. She also served as District 8 Vice President along with Cheryl Crook and then served as District 8 President for 4 years. In addition to holding unit and district offices, Sandra has also served as a Department Chairman for various Auxiliary programs including: Constitution and Bylaws, Legislative, Americanism, Poppies, and is currently serving as Department President-Elect and Membership Co-Chairman. In addition to Sandra’s Auxiliary activities, she is also a member of the Stark County Veterans Memorial Association and is active in her church.

Department President-Elect – Gloria Covert Endorsed by – Unit President Cheryl Gustafson of Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 Rolla

Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 Rolla proudly endorses Gloria Covert for the office of Department President - Elect for 2022-2023. Gloria, whose eligibility is through her father, a World War II veteran, has been an Auxiliary member since 1981. Gloria is a long-time member of the Rolla unit, serving in the capacity of unit officer and in chairmanship roles, as well as serving as District 3 President. She is currently serving as a member of the Department Finance Board and is the current Department Vice President and Membership Co-Chairman.

Department Secretary – Marcy Schmidt Endorsed by – Unit President Carol Wolf of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo

Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 of Fargo proudly endorses Marcy Schmidt for the office of Secretary of the Department of North Dakota for the 2022-2023 administrative year. Marcy’s eligibility comes through her husband Fred’s service in the US Army, a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict. They are the proud parents of two children and four grandchildren and make their home in Fargo.

Marcy is an active member of Unit 2 and is always willing to assist in unit projects supporting our veterans. She has served on the unit level as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, and as co-chairman for the Girls State committee. Marcy has served on the Department level as Historian and AEF Chairman and currently serves as Department Secretary, Legislative Chairman, and Public Relations Chairman. We as a unit are proud to continue our support of this wonderful Auxiliary member. We endorse her without reservation for the office of Department Secretary.

Department Treasurer – Sonnie Otto Endorsed by – Unit President LoAnn Dick and Unit Secretary Char Wanner of Matthew Brew Unit 3 Dickinson

Matthew Brew Unit 3 of Dickinson endorses Sonnie Otto for the office of Treasurer of the Department of North Dakota for 2022-2023. Sonnie’s eligibility comes through her husband Todd Otto, a Gulf War Veteran. She has been an active member of the Dickinson unit since joining the organization and currently serves as Unit Treasurer. She is also the current Department Treasurer. Her work is efficient and accurate. Unit 3 is proud to endorse Sonnie Otto for the important office of Department Treasurer.

Department Chaplain – Rose Laning Endorsed by – Unit Secretary and Treasurer Lualice Stockert and Carol Kessler of Vernon V. Isaacs Unit 78 Stanton

The Vernon V. Isaacs Unit #78 of Stanton proudly endorses Rose Laning for the office of Chaplain for the Department of North Dakota for 2022-2023. Rose has been an Auxiliary member since 1993 and is a State Life Member. Her eligibility comes through her husband, Vernon Laning’s 3 years of service in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Rose served as President of the Stanton Unit for 23 years and President of District 7 for 2 years. Prior to that, Rose served as Unit Girls State Chairman for 2 years and Americanism Chairman for 2 years.

Since 1991, Rose has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Knife River Indian Heritage Foundation at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site at Stanton and assists the park with youth programs and concessions when possible. She is active in her church and served as youth leader for 14 years, pianist for 44 years and worship leader for 12 years.

The Vernon V. Isaacs Unit #78 is confident that Rose will represent the Department of North Dakota well as Chaplain. She currently serves as the Department Chaplain.

Department Historian – Andrea Neshem Endorsed by – Unit President Carol Wolf Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo

Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 of Fargo proudly endorses Andrea Neshem for the office of Historian of the Department of North Dakota for the 2022-2023 administrative year. Andrea is a long-time member of Unit 2 and currently serves as the Department Historian. She makes her home in Minot, ND, and stays active in her community as well as in the Auxiliary. We as a unit are proud to continue our support of this wonderful Auxiliary member. We endorse her without reservation for the office of Department Historian.

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

In Memoriam

District 1

Carol A Muscha, Hope
Dolores Porter, Hunter
Irene J Lidstrom, Portland

District 2

Lavonne Morrison, Cavalier
Eleanor Aasand, Grafton
Marlene H Gorder, Grafton
Helen Rainsberry, Lakota
Gerry Wagness, Lakota
Kathleen A Braaten, Manvel
Janette Moen, Michigan
Donna F McKenzie, Michigan
Jane Zidon, SLM, Pisek

District 3

Erma Mickelson, SLM, Rolla
Helen V Guilbert-Ryyth, SLM, Rolla

District 4

Mabel Dockter, Goodrich
Mary B Hoyt, Jamestown
Shirley Berg, Jamestown
Shirley A Benson, Jamestown
Janice Lauer, McClusky
Elaine Neff, McClusky
Wendy S Lesmeister, New Rockford
Hildegard Anderson, Wimbledon

District 5

Debra S Anderson, Bismarck
Esther Opp, Napoleon

District 6

Elizabeth Steinberger, SLM, Donnybrook
Pearl A Kling, PUFL, Donnybrook
Lola Hanson, Sherwood
Mary H Linstrom, SLM, Upham

District 7

Janice Olson, Almont
Delma Wilkens, Center
Sharron R. Crowley, Hazen

District 8

Lucille Aasmundstad, Dickinson
Evelyn Brovold, New England

District 9

Ardis A Hart, SLM, Crosby
Evelyn L Colclough, Parshall
Eva F Olson, SLM, Tioga
Bette M Goodson, SLM, Wildrose

District 10

Lorna Sand, Ellendale
Myra C Rada, Ellendale
Ida M Gebhardt, Ellendale
Linda Lunde, Forman
Sandra G Lunde, Forman
Shirley Skovholt, Mooreton
Rochelle A Betsch, Walcott

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

101st Annual Department Convention Auxiliary Registration Form

June 24-26, 2022

Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel – Dickinson, North Dakota
Phone: 701-483-5600



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

- Advanced Department Convention Banquet Tickets – June 1, 2022, is the deadline for the \$30.00 (advanced price). Orders after June 1 are \$35.00 per ticket.
- Auxiliary Registration fee is **\$15.00** per person. Advanced registration by June 10, 2022, would be appreciated.
- Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - **\$20.00** per person. Order by **June 10, 2022**. Limited number will be available on-site.

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration \$15.00	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - \$20.00	Convention Banquet \$30 by June 1 / \$35 after June 1	Total Amount Submitted

Make Check Payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept of ND

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

District Reports



Dennis Kubischta
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,

From this day forward there will be few rural Legion post that are long term successful without a SAL squadron attached to their post. ND Detachment Commander Dan Sauerwein was at the Spring District meeting to present charters to three new SAL squadrons in the First District. To get more posts with SAL squadrons is the most reasonable method to strengthen the majority of legion posts in our district.

The district meeting was a business meeting. Notes were taken and will be read at the next Spring District meetings. At that meeting the officers will speak about what steps were taken to fulfill the motions that were passed. The officers will be accountable to the members of this district.

In addition to promoting SAL squadrons to assist posts, a membership drive was discussed on how to best achieve adding more legion members. After membership discussion was held, there was a motion made that the district officers will by county, meet with the post officers to promote growth in membership.

We have 5 counties in this district. All 5 counties have different options to increase membership and the district officers will meet with and establish a county plan of action to increase membership. We will gather the information from the counties and use that for their membership plan of action. The goal is to get the new membership drives organized and into action this year. The First District is no longer in a bunker mode, simply hunker down, retain as many current members as possible and try to sign up new members if you can.

Ladies and gentlemen, the First District is going on the offensive regarding increasing membership. Next year's goal is to stop the membership decline in this district and increase membership. By adding new SAL squadrons to posts, putting into action a county plan for increasing membership, we will be strengthening many legion posts in this district except for the Harwood Post, which is the only post that is increasing. We have two other types, the declining post and the dying posts. We can turn those two categories around but only for the posts that don't want to die. We need post officers that will cooperate to save their posts. We will help you but help yourself, but it's not possible for the district officers to do your job for you.

At the district meeting I told all present I did not accomplish all I thought could be done to strengthen this district. But I will end my term as district commander with the peace of mind knowing I did the best job for the First District that was reasonably possible for me.

It was an honor to be your First District Commander.



Tony Phillips
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

First off, I would like to congratulate everyone on getting your memberships and CPR's in. We are at 98.4 percent for memberships, and we are leading in the state!! Great job!!

I have really enjoyed being the District Commander for the last year as I have made many new friends and it's been a pleasure getting to know everyone better and being more involved.

I hope to see everyone at the State Convention in June out in Dickinson!



Douglas Wittmier
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,

HAPPY SPRING!! I think we can all say this is enough winter and time to move on to warmer weather.

We had a good spring meeting in Jamestown but would always like to see more there but enjoyed visiting with those that were there. We will be having a new District 4 Commander coming in during our Legion State Convention. His name is Jon Metz and he is from the Gackle Post. We are happy to see a young gentleman like Jon taking over the District Commander position. I know he will do a great job.

I would think most of the posts received their awards by now. We had a Legion Birthday party meeting at Gackle. The Gackle and Streeter awards were handed out by State Commander Steve Anderson. Congratulations to all those that received awards.

Remember our State Convention will be in Dickinson the end of June. I understand the Dickinson Legionnaires are planning some fun events for us. I hope to see you there and connect with old and new friends. It should be a fun time.



Brad Huber
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

Hello American Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons. Hope your spring is going well for the farmers and ranchers and I hope all this crazy weather hasn't caused too much havoc for you.

This year feels like it's flying by for me. Spring District meeting are complete and the Department Convention is right around the corner. For everyone that made the District meeting, thanks for participating. Hopefully we can get a bigger turnout for the fall meeting. Washburn has graciously volunteered to host the Fall District Meeting, so thank you Post 12. We are also looking for a District Vice Commander so let's canvass our legion members and see if someone is willing to step up and fill that position. As we reach out to all our post members let's keep recruiting and growing our membership.

This wouldn't be a district article if I didn't mention Consolidated Post Reports. If your post hasn't submitted your report yet, stop reading this article and submit your report ASAP.

Now that your back from submitting your report, I have one more item to talk about. I was wondering if there are any posts interested in hosting the Winter Conference in Bismarck in the year 2026? I know this is a few years down the road, but I'm putting out feelers now to see if we can find a Post to host that conference. Something to think about and I'll be asking that question in the future until someone volunteers.

If interested, give me a call or talk to me at the State Convention.

That's all I have for now, the next article will be from our new 5th District Commander Ron Dykema, so let's support and welcome our incoming District Commander and see you all this summer in Dickinson.

Have You Paid Your 2022 Membership Dues?



Allan Magnuson
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,

I want to thank all the legionnaires that attended the District 6 & 9 joint spring meetings on the 19th of March.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the state convention the end of June in Dickinson.

I hope everyone had a great Easter even with all the snow we got.

I hope everyone made it through the late spring winter storms. I don't know how you all feel about it, but it has delayed being able to get outside playing and working at the golf course.



Tim Deneke
9th District Cmdr



MEMORIAL DAY 2022



It's Pop Tab Time Again!

Anyone who has been collecting pop tabs is encouraged to bring them to the Department Convention in Dickinson.

Even if you do not collect pop tabs yourself, there are many in local communities who do and are willing to have a Legion, Auxiliary or SAL member pick them up to deliver to the Department Convention and then taken to the Ronald McDonald House.



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SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Wrapping Up an Amazing Year

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota. It has been a busy time as we prepare to close the membership year. I first want to thank every SAL member your efforts have brought us great success in membership this year and the attention of folks at National. We are most likely to earn the coveted Detachment Membership Award, known as the Triple Nickel Award at our 50th National Convention this August in Milwaukee. I hope we are fortunate to receive this award and you are all a part of that success.

In March I attended half of the District Meetings and I was able to present Squadron Charters to our five new Squadrons. After taking in the 5th District meeting in Bismarck on March 5, I then traveled to Jamestown on March 24 for the 4th District meeting, where I presented McHenry with their charter.

I traveled to Nome on March 30 and presented three charters at their District meeting with Mayville, Harwood and NDSU receiving new Squadron charters. I traveled to Bowman for the 8th District meeting to present Hettinger with their charter.

June is Convention time and I want to encourage SAL members to make the trip to Dickinson June 24-26. We will have our business meeting and electing officers for the 2022-2023 membership year. If you have wanted to serve as a Detachment officer or committee chair, please reach out to me or Detachment Adjutant Joe Camisa. Our emails are at <https://ndlegion.org/sons/>. The Detachment officers and I are looking to have a couple of other activities available too, so reach out to us with ideas.

I hope you all are getting involved in your local Memorial Day activities and taking time to help place flags on veterans' graves. Remember National Commander



Mayville Squadron 8 delegation receives their new charter.

Michael Fox's project Flying Flags for Heroes and record your placing of flags for Memorial Day. This project aims to place one million American flags on veterans' graves by the end of the National Convention on September 2. North Dakota's quota for this program is 2,500 flags. Place the flags and note how many were placed, take pictures, and upload them to www.flyingflagsforheroes.com and our state will get the credit.

North Dakota sits fifth in the nation with 1015 members which is 110.81% of goal and a 98.65% renewal. I want to thank Sarah Kim, the amazing Department Administrative Assistant, for all her help and work throughout the year in processing memberships, dealing with the issues with

MyLegion, and being a huge help to me. Help to recruit our youth into the SAL, as they are our future. I want to stress our Ten Ideals and Five Star Program of Service for our membership and to recognize our members with medals for these programs at a Legion function.

Also, please send us your officer report form for your Squadron and be sure to send your Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) in as you can submit it online.

It's been an honor and pleasure to work alongside Department Commander Steve Anderson and Auxiliary Department President Sharon White Bear during the past year and I look forward to continuing to serve with the incoming officers.



NDSU Squadron 400 receives their new charter.



Harwood Squadron 297 receives their new charter.



Hettinger Squadron 115 receives their new charter.



**Best wishes American Legion,
thank you for all you do and for your support.**

Senator Curt Kreun

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Brad Huber for 2022 Central Region Vice Commander

- Retired Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy, with over 24 years of service.
 - Commander for Post 126, Hazelton since 2017.
 - 5th District Vice Commander for 12 hours.
 - 5th District Commander for over 3 years.
 - Have been an American Legion member for 30 years and an active member for over 7 years.
 - Life Member of the VFW and Adjutant for Post 6264 in Strasburg, North Dakota.
 - Life Member of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.
- Please support me in my bid for Central Region Vice Commander.**



Please support Todd Rikke for Eastern Regional Vice Commander for 2022

- Served 8 years active duty with the U.S. Army
- Commander and Adjutant for Post 84, Lidgerwood
- Past District Vice Commander and Commander for District 10
- Two time Department Membership Chairman
- Past Adjutant for the SAL Detachment of ND
- National American Legion College, Class of 2019
- Current member on the Law and Order



Troy Reemtsma Announces his run for Central Region DEC

- *Endorsed by Cando Post 79
- *Retired Master Sergeant US Air Force Active duty 1989-2012
- *Commander of Post 79 2014- present
- *Post Adjutant of Post 79 2015-current
- *3rd District Commander 2018-2021
- *3rd District Vice Commander 2017-2018
- *Attendee of the North Dakota American Legion College
- *American Legion Extension Institute Basic Training online course Graduate

Please support me in my bid for the Department Of North Dakota Central Region DEC



Local Posts in the News

Fargo Post #2

American Legion Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 Fargo continues to work toward projects that will benefit our community. In August/September, we spearheaded a food drive and worked in conjunction with other military service clubs in the area. We donated a total of \$4000 and close to 700 pounds of food to the Great Plains Food Bank.

In November we began working on our next project. We decided we wanted to focus on Veterans. We reached out to Diana Hall, Community Resource and Referral Center/Homeless Programs Manager for the Fargo VA. She was excited about the prospect of Post 2 donating to this program. When asked what their primary need was, Diana stated that cleaning supplies for the Veterans transitioning into housing was a critical need. Diana graciously attended our November meeting and told us about all the great things being done to ensure our Veterans have an opportunity to escape homelessness. A requirement for living in VA sponsored housing is that it has to be kept clean. Even though the Veterans do receive some assistance, their SNAP benefits do not allow them to purchase cleaning supplies.

Through the month of November and part of December we began collecting donations from our post members. We were able to deliver approximately \$500 worth of cleaning supplies and a check for \$500 to Diana for their program.

The American Legion Gilbert C. Grafton, Post 2 would like to thank all those who donated to our cleaning supply drive for our homeless Veterans.



Post 2 Wayne Wermager, Post Commander Cathy Keogh, Jessica Hed, Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, Fargo VA; Post Adjutant Virginia Kraushaar, Diana Hall, Community Resource and Referral Center/Homeless Programs Manager Fargo, VA.

Streeter Post #265

Department Commander Steve Anderson and 4th District Commander Doug Wittmier presented ElRay Fercho, member of the Streeter American Legion Post #265, his 60-year continuous membership Certificate.



Leo Moe has been a member of the American Legion for 75 years!! He is one of the 14 living members that also have 75 years in North Dakota. Leo signed up with the American Legion Post 11 in Cavalier at the age of 19. He then transferred to Mountain American Legion Post 227.

Leo Moe signed up for service in the Navy on December 1944 with his parent's consent since he was only 17. Leo's inactive duty was 2/23/45 to 4/18/45 and date of entry into active service was on 4/18/45.

Vessels and stations served on; NTC, Great Lakes, IL, 38th NCB, 90TH NCB, US Flt. Act. Navy 3923.

Leo was Honorably Discharged from USN Personnel Separation Center in Minneapolis, MN, on June 16, 1946. Leo is a very proud WWII veteran and flies Old Glory every day!



American Legion Reorganization Meeting Held

Charles Hartman Post 134 in Stanley held their reorganization meeting on Thursday, March 3, at the Golden Age Club. Members in attendance opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a light meal.

Ken Halvorson gave a report on the Color Guard, saying that so far this year they have participated in four funerals, two in Stanley and two at the Veteran's Cemetery. Halvorson also discussed the change to the Legion uniforms with thirteen uniforms ordered. He stated that like the Legion itself, they are always looking for new members. He said they need to spread the word that they are looking for new members to join the Post as well as the Post Color Guard.

Post 134 elected new officers at this meeting. Jesse Locken was elected as the new Commander. Karen Babbitt was elected as the new Adjutant. Harry Braddock was elected as the new Treasurer. As for any other positions, the group will look to their new Commander for recommendations.

As a group they discussed their space at the Memorial Building in Stanley. With the County Commissioners moving forward with plans to remodel the building, they will need to find a new place to meet during construction. They will also be looking for a location to store the color guard rifles, along with all of the other items currently in the Legion room.



The group also discussed programs including Boys State and Girls State with Braddock saying that he would reach out to the Stanley High School.

There was discussion about the Post's bank accounts, including motions to update the names on the accounts at Bravera Bank.

In addition to the traditional holiday observances, the members discussed establishing a set time and date for meetings with that information being provided to the newspaper and put on social media once set. They are working on updating their current membership list as they work on communications with their members. They will also be working on outreach to increase their membership. American Legion membership is open to anyone that has served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged, or those that are still serving active military duty honorably.

Harwood Richard E. Nelson Memorial Post 297 Receives Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron Charter

The North Dakota State Detachment Commander, Daniel Sauerwein, presented Harwood Post 297 Commander Ben Bush the Sons of the American Legion Charter at the 1st District meeting at the Nome School House, March 30th, 2022. SAL Squadron charter members Austin Walcker and Mark Odegaard were on-hand for the presentation. The SAL needed 10 members to apply for a charter and membership is at 12 members.



Cmdr Ben Bush and ND SAL Detachment Cmdr Daniel Sauerwein



Cmdr Ben Bush, Austin Walcker and Mark Odegaard





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TEA SD: 27164 Linda Avenue (605) 213-0088

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Local Posts in the News

Watford City Carl E. Rogen Post #29

Our new Post Building for our Post, Auxiliary and SAL Squadron is located at 313 12th St SE. This will be a family friendly facility when we gather for activities, and you can bring the kids along. We will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday through Friday. American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL, stop in for membership, American Legion information or for a cup of coffee.

Veterans, wives, and sons who are not signed up yet as members in The American Legion, stop in and check with us for eligibility.

The American Legion Club is still open at 125 North Main Street from 4:00 pm to 1:00 am Monday through Saturday.



Horace Post #293



On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band played a Veteran's Benefit Concert "Celebrating America's Patriotism" at the Horace Senior Citizen Center. A free will offering supper was served before the concert. The proceeds from the event were given to the WDAY Honor Flight.



Russell Berg, Post Adjutant, Horace American Legion Post #293

Post #24 Devils Lake



On St Patrick's Day Tim Running Post 24 in Devils Lake celebrated our 100th Anniversary of our Charter. In doing so, we made Irish Stew, garlic sticks and a beautiful cake. We served around 70 people. Pictured is Post Adjutant Bryce Crosby and Post Commander Jack Volk.

Turtle Lake Post #133



"Turtle Lake American Legion Post #133 Commander George Gifus presents a check for \$10,000 to Turtle Lake-Mercer School Superintendent Sheila Schlafmann for new playground equipment."

Bottineau Post #42

American Legion Post 42 donates \$5,000 to the Dakota College Bottineau Alumni.



L to R: Legion Member Phil Meyer, Alumni Members - Heidi Hauf, Angie Bartholomay and Leslie Stevens, Director DCB Foundation, receiving check from Post Commander Heather Thompson, her daughter - Nicoline Thompson and Cailey Soland, 6th District Vice Commander and Ron Bergman in back. The DCB Alumni Association thanks the Legion for their generous donation in support of the Dakota College of Bottineau. SUBMITTED BY A VETERAN

Grand Forks Post #6

Kirk Smith member of Grand Forks Post #6 received his 69-year continuous membership certificate. Kirk is also the longest-running member in the Legion for the Grand Forks Post.



Sitting from left to right: Betty Bender, Legionsnaire Kirk Smith and Anne. Standing from left to right: Myron Bender, Kirk's son Tom and daughter-in-law Kari and Post 6 Adjutant and 2nd District Vice Commander Erica Claus-Numsali.



the focus is on you

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The VA&R Committee is sponsoring a walk on Saturday morning at 9:00 am to bring awareness to PTSD and suicide prevention. Registration will be available at the convention. Do not forget to bring your walking shoes.

2022 Department Convention Golf Outing in Medora



Thursday, June 23, 2022 at the Medora Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Reserved T-times are from 10:00 - 11:00 am

Discounted fee of \$59 for veterans and their spouses (otherwise the fee is \$109). Need to show proof of veteran status which includes your American Legion membership card. The fee covers the course fee, cart and range balls for practice. Individuals will pay the fees at the golf course upon arrival.

Only a limited number of T-times are available so book your T-time ASAP with Alan Fehr no later than June 19th at AlanFehr_NDNG@usa.com. Do not contact the golf course.

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Advanced Department Convention Banquet Ticket Order Form

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

Under Post # _____ in District # _____ Located in _____

June 1st is the cutoff for the \$30 Advanced Banquet Ticket Price

Tender Beef Tips _____ (quantity) X \$ _____ (price) = _____ Total

After June 1st the ticket price is \$35.

TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

Note: The Advanced Ticket Price of \$30 is for all tickets purchased by June 1st. The ticket price increases to \$35 after June 1st and must be received by the Department no later than June 9th otherwise tickets can be purchased at the registration desk. A limited number of tickets are available and are sold on a first come first served basis.

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of ND

Mail Payment to: American Legion Dept of ND, 405 Main Ave W #4A, West Fargo, ND 58078

103rd American Legion Department Convention

June 24-26, 2022

Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel
Dickinson, ND
\$109 plus tax
701-483-5600

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Please note all times are Mountain Time

Dress Code for the Convention

Sessions - Business Attire
Committee Meetings - Business Casual
Banquet - Semi-Formal

All registered attendees are welcome to attend any and all meetings listed on this convention schedule.

Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson is available to assist veterans with their benefits during the convention. Her office hours are listed in the schedule.

Department Chaplain Karen Hutchins is available for personal prayer and spiritual counseling.

Thursday, June 23, 2022

10:00 am Golf Outing at Bully Pulpit in Medora

Friday, June 24, 2022

9:00 am DEC Meeting
1:00 pm Registration (closes at 7:00 pm)
1:00 pm Wine Tasting and Tour at Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery
1:30 pm Resolutions Committee
3:00 pm Department Veteran Service Officer Hours (until 6:00 pm)
3:00 pm Legion Riders
3:00 pm Credentials Committee
3:00 pm District Commanders/CPR's
4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
4:30 pm Constitution and By-Laws Committee
4:30 pm District Officers Flag Rehearsal
4:30 pm Past Dept Commanders Social
5:00 pm 40 et 8 Cheminot
5:30 pm Past Dept Commanders Dinner
5:30 pm First Time Attendees
6:00 pm Foundation Meeting
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, June 25, 2022

7:00 am 40 et 8 Breakfast & Grand Promenade
8:00 am Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)
8:00 am Athletic Committee
8:45 am VA&R Walk Registration
9:00 am VA&R Walk
11:00 am Boys State Committee
11:00 am SAL Meeting
11:00 am Credentials Committee
11:00 am Incoming Officers Meet with Incoming Commander and President
1:00 pm Legion General Session
3:00 pm Regional Caucuses
3:30 pm Department Veteran Service Office Hours (until 5:00 pm)
4:00 pm Americanism/C&Y Committee Meeting
4:00 pm Press Association
4:00 pm Future of the ND Legion
5:00 pm National Convention Meeting
5:30 pm Social
6:30 pm Department Convention Banquet
7:30-10 pm Dance

Sunday, June 26, 2022

8:00 am Registration (closes at 9:00 am)
8:00 am Department Veteran Service Office Hours (until 9:00 am)
8:00 am Oratorical Committee
8:00 am VA&R Committee
8:00 am Incoming Officer Pictures
8:00 am Credentials Committee
9:00 am Joint Memorial Service
Joint Session
Legion Session

Post Convention DEC Meeting
Organizational Meeting