



Wahus – Elected National Vice Commander

On Thursday, September 1, 2022, during the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, Glenn Wahus, a 32-year member from Watford City, ND Post #29, was elected to the high office of National Vice Commander, Midwest Region, which include eight states, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. Glenn’s American Legion eligibility is earned by his service in the United States Navy serving from 1983-1987. Wahus will serve in the position for one year, supporting newly elected National Commander Vincent James (Jim) Troiola.

Glenn has served many offices at his local Post including Chaplain, Second Vice Commander, First Vice Commander and Post Commander. Currently Glenn is Post Adjutant and Membership Chairman.

At the District level he has been 9th District Vice Commander and 9th District Commander. On the

Department level Glenn has held the offices of West Region Vice Commander, Department Commander Elect, Department Commander and Chairman of the Department Executive Committee. Currently Glenn Chairs the Department of North Dakota’s VA&R.

He is also a member of the National Commission for Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation. He was instrumental in bringing back the “Courage Carries On” suicide awareness and prevention program to veterans and youth in North Dakota. Wahus was picked by Governor Doug Burgum to serve on North Dakota’s Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Glenn is looking forward to continuing his American Legion involvement through this challenging and very rewarding position.



Antal - Appointed National Chaplain



Pastor Mark Antal was appointed National Chaplain of The American Legion by National Commander Troiola on September 1, 2022, at the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.

Pastor Mark Antal is a member of Edinburg Post #156 and is a resident of Apple Valley, MN, where he moved to after retiring from full-time ministry. He is a graduate of Valley City State College in North Dakota and the Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary in Plymouth, MN.

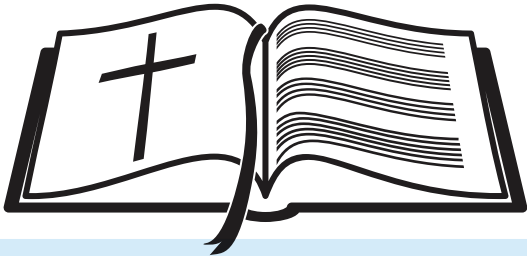
A veteran of the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve and National Guard, Antal served in various chaplain positions throughout his 26 years of military service. He also served as chaplain for the Department of North Dakota for seven years.

Antal is an American Legion Rider and has traveled on motorcycle to all U.S regions, totaling more than 250,000 miles. He enjoys traveling, fishing

and swimming.

Mark and his wife Ruth have four children and 11 grandchildren.

In honor of Pastor Mark Antal, the American Legion Department of North Dakota, is hosting a Recognition Dinner prior to the Winter Conference on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the Grand Hotel in Minot, ND. The social begins at 5:00 pm and the meal at 6:00 pm. To order your tickets complete the Recognition Dinner form on page 16.



Minot to Host Winter Conference

The 2023 Winter Conference will be hosted by Minot’s American Legion William G. Carroll Post #26 on January 26-29, 2023, to be held at the Grand Hotel in Minot.

Thursday, January 26, there will be a Recognition Dinner for National Chaplain Pastor Mark Antal. The Social begins at 5:00 pm and the meal at 6:00 pm. Recognition form on back page.

If you want to pre-register for the Winter Conference, mail your Advanced Registration and Banquet ticket Order Form on page 16. The price of the pre-registration banquet ticket is \$35 and increases to \$40 after January 12th. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk and is on a first come first serve basis. Advanced Registration forms will not be accepted after January 19th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

The Legion Family receives a discounted room rate with the Grand Hotel in Minot. Please call the hotel directly to make your room reservation by calling 701-852-3161.

The State High School Oratorical Contest Finals are on Saturday afternoon and Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Weyrauch will be in charge of the contest. Come and listen to these phenomenal students with their inspirational orations. The schedule for the District Oratorical contests is on page 2.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Winter Conference, it is a great time!

ACOVA REPRESENTATIVES

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

The process in the past has been accomplished by seeking out individuals to serve. A change is being implemented by asking members to apply and submit a cover letter and a short biography or resume’ to the Board prior to the Winter Conference in January. A committee has been created to review these packets and make a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee Board for the selection and submission of two names to the Governor. The committee meets basically four times a year, maybe more as necessary, during the legislative session. This committee works closely with the ND Veterans Legislative Council and both are responsible for preparing and presenting bills to the legislature that would affect veterans.

Visit with your regional Vice Commanders and DEC representatives. Most important is to put together

a packet for the committee with a cover letter and a biography of yourself, military service, personal and career information. Please remember the DEC is only allowed to submit two names and the Governor selects his appointment and it will be based on your input. It is also imperative to understand that the Legion and these appointments are not political positions, so please do not include any party affiliation or political positioning.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Department Adjutant at the Department Headquarters for additional information.





Happy Holidays to everyone out there! It is my sincerest wish that all of you have a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

As we take this time of year to enjoy fellowship with family and friends, please take a moment or two to remember our fellow veterans who may be struggling during this time and if possible, check up on them.

Sometimes the simplest gesture of kindness can have the biggest impact on someone who is having trouble just getting through the day. The Buddy Check program will always be a part of our mission, but during the holidays it becomes even more significant.

The Fall District meetings are well behind us, and I enjoyed being able to get out and see old friends and meet some new ones. We tried something new this year by allowing the District Commanders to have their meetings without the participation from the Department leadership. From my observation, it allowed for more participation from the members in attendance.

We started with the 10th District meeting back in early September in Oakes. I'm sorry to say the attendance was lacking, but I believe it was the victim of bad timing. However, what we lacked in numbers had no impact on the lively discussion that took place.

I was unable to make it to Minto for the 2nd District meeting due to some last-minute commitments with my job, but knowing the people in the 2nd District, I'm sure it was a successful event.

I was fortunate to be able to make it to the 1st District meeting in Mayville. We had a very good attendance and some enthusiastic participation.

This time of year usually gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and offer hope for the new one. When you take these things into consideration, don't forget to take into account your role in the American Legion. As you look over the past year, did you regularly participate in your Post Activities? Were you actively engaged with the American Legion and its programs? Or were you just a passive member whose only connection was paying your annual dues?

In recent years, the American Legion has experienced a steady decline in Post Activity. With the COVID-19 restrictions, many of our Posts slowed from a crawl to a dead stop. It's been months since everything has returned to normal, but some of our Posts are still at a standstill.

I have sensed an atmosphere of stagnation within the Department as of late and I find it troubling. For our organization to not only survive, but to grow, it must depend on the engagement of our members. Active Posts not only tend to be an asset to our veterans and our communities, but they also provide a welcoming

environment for potential members and a beacon for growth.

As I stated earlier, this time of year tends to cause us to ponder the coming year. This is a good time to start planning next year's agenda and organizing events. Look for every opportunity to get the Legion brand out there. The more that we are seen, the easier it is to attract new members.

As an individual member, you should be looking for any opportunity to serve and represent the American Legion in a positive way. It starts with making the effort to attend your Post meetings and encouraging others to also be there. If your Post is not being proactive, then take the initiative to urge them into action. You'd be surprised what a little effort can accomplish.

The key is to not let yourself become discouraged. One key source of information and ideas can be found at Department events like the upcoming Winter Conference in Minot at the end of January. It would be amazing to see everyone there. Please make the effort to attend. I can almost guarantee you won't regret it.

Again, I wish everyone a pleasant and safe holiday season. I look forward to what the coming year has in store for us. Take care!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Todd Rikke
East Region Vice Commander

SCHEDULE OF 2022-2023 DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS NORTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION

Listed below is the schedule of the 2022-2023 District Oratorical Contests for your information. Posts that will have a contestant to compete in the District Contest are urged to alert the student and the school of the scheduled contest in your District and to see to it that arrangements are made for any transportation that may be necessary for that student to appear at the contest.

DISTRICT CONTESTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CITY
2nd	Nov 30 (Wed)	1:00 pm	Legion Hall 102 5th St. E.	Park River
1 st	Dec 3 (Sat)	1:00 pm	West Fargo VFW 444 Sheyenne St.	West Fargo
3rd	Dec 3 (Sat)	9:00 am	Leeds School Library 530 1 st St. SE	Leeds
5th	Dec 3 (Sat)	1:00 pm	AMVETS 2402 Railroad Ave.	Bismarck
6th	Dec 3 (Sat)	10:00 am	Veteran's Center 104 Main St.	Bottineau
8 th	Dec 3 (Sat)	11:00 am MT	Beck Auditorium Dickinson State Univ.	Dickinson
9th	Dec 3 (Sat)	12:00 pm	New Town High School 300 Eagle Drive	New Town
7th	Dec 10 (Sat)	10:00 am	Almont American Legion 10 Main St.	Almont
10 th	Dec 10 (Sat)	9:00 am	Richland 44 School 101 Main Ave	Colfax
DIVISION CONTESTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CITY
East	Jan 14 (Sat)	1:00 pm	Legion Hall 102 5 th St. E.	Park River
(Winners of Districts 1-2-3-4-10 will compete in the East Division Contest)				
West	Jan. 7 (Sat)	12:00 pm CST	New Town High School 300 Eagle Drive	New Town
(Winners of Districts 5-6-7-8-9 will compete in the West Division Contest)				
STATE FINALS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CITY
	Jan. 28 (Sat)	1:00 pm	Grand Hotel 1505 N Broadway	Minot

Winners and Runners-up in East and West Division Contest appear at the Winter Conference for the 2023 State Championship.



Hello again Legionnaires, Hope all is going well as this year comes to a close. By the time you read this Article, Veterans Day will have passed but "Thank you" Veterans for what you have done and are doing. I salute you and thank you for your service. Next, I would like to thank the District Commanders. You

all did an outstanding job hosting your respective District meetings and look forward to attending the Spring District Meetings. Keep up the great work.

This wouldn't be a Legion article if I didn't talk about awards, programs and membership. I'm sure we're sick of hearing about those topics but they are important to our organization. I also realize that by the time you read my article, the deadline date for the awards and some programs will be near. Let's try to recognize those deserving, get them submitted and plan for the following years. For me, I came up with a better plan to get the word out to all the surrounding schools for the oratorical program. I also learned (the hard way) that we no longer have a press association award. However, National has the "Fourth Estate Award", which is presented annually by the American Legion to a publication, broadcasting organization and online (Internet-based) media for outstanding achievement in the field of journalism.

Those are a few lessons learned that will help me do a better job next year. One of the greatest things I think we can do as legionnaires is reward deserving patriots in our communities with the various awards we offer.

Moving on to membership, I'll state the obvious that our Legion doesn't exist without it, so let's all get in touch with those past members and see if we can get them onboard our American Legion team. If your post is under 70% membership let's try to persuade our delinquent members to renew now. The quicker to 100% membership the more time we can devote to programs, awards and community involvement.

Well, I've babbled enough for one article. I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season and look forward to seeing each and everyone at the Winter Conference in Minot.

Brad Huber
Central Region Vice Commander

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Tenth District..... TBD

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As I sit here in my warm adobe listening to the wind howl outside and thankful that I am sitting in my comfortable 72-degree house, I do realize I am totally unprepared for the upcoming winter months and the cold isolation that it brings with it. It just seems harder to get out of the house and get that face-to-face interaction that we all thrive on. It would be oh so fitting to take our buddy check system to heart. Call on you neighbors, friends, family and general acquaintances to ensure of their wellbeing. It only takes a quick phone call or a moment to stop and talk if you meet them in the grocery store. We all have our own struggles but helping others with theirs can be enlightening to oneself.

Now that the easy membership renewals have been flowing into our post and as a Department we approach that seventy percentile it is time we work on the hard ones. Make the phone calls to the membership that has drifted away the past couple of years, reconnect with them. If not for their involvement in our Legion but for the voice they can lend us as we lobby our state and national government for programs that help our veteran community as a whole.

Please go to myLegion.org, create an account for yourself and under the legislative tab sign up for the action alerts. When the Senate was struggling to pass the PACT Act, the American Legion put out a call-to-action alert. A simple email asking you to contact your senators and asking for their support. It has a link to a prewritten letter, you type in your zip code, verify yourself and it will send an email to your senators and representative. In the two days following, we had over 35,000 emails sent

to our congressmen throughout the United States. This seems like a terrific number, but you look at the 1.2 million plus members that we have in this organization and the significance of this legislation, it was a poultry amount. But it was as simple as I explained. I believe it is vital that we keep the pressure on our government to fulfill the promises that they gave us all when we signed on the dotted line and swore to defend this country. They send our sons and daughters to faraway lands to fight the battles they see fit. Our servicemembers come home battered, beaten and broken. It is the government’s responsibility to take proper care of them once we have returned home.

Do your best to get involved at your local levels with the Legion’s “Be the One” campaign. We are trying to change the narrative about suicide. Instead of talking about the 20 or 22 soldiers we lose each day we would like to talk about the one we can save. Seek out information. North Dakota VA has a link to a S.A.V.E program. That helps you look for Signs of depression, Ask the hard question “Are you thinking of hurting yourself?”, Validate their feeling by lending them your ear and Expedite care when the need is there. Sit with them, call 988, get them expert attention, call 911 if you must, but do not walk away. They are someone’s son, daughter, brother, sister or parent. They need to know we care about them, and they are loved.

With all of this, I will quit babbling and wish everyone a joyous and blessed holiday season. I am always just a phone call, text or email away - 701-770-6036, dakotan22@yahoo.com

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ADJUTANT'S CORNER

RON MATTHEWS- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



With it being November already, we are off on the path for the 2023 membership.

You should have noticed with the renewal notice that it said member since 2022.... This was a misprint that came from the presses at National. It should have said "last paid 2022". Sorry for the confusion. With that there was also a number of inconsistencies with the continuous years. If you were not a paid-up member for the year 2022 by the first of March, you were inadvertently reduced to 1 continuous year. Another mishap at National. If you were one of the

members this happened to, please call your Post Adjutant and they will correct this error. Once again, I am sorry for the inconvenience this has caused you. Please do not walk away from the American Legion because of the errors.

V.E.T.S is the word for the year!

V – Veterans – don't forget to help with the Buddy check system and check on your fellow veterans.

E – Educate – Educate the new members, help them learn the system and be there for them.

T – Teamwork – a Post/Department can only succeed

with a working team.

S – Sponsor – help members/Mentor new recruits.

Over the last several years we have become more aware of the suicides in the American Legion family. National will be coming out with a program called BE THE ONE.ORG. This means you can be the one. You can listen/help/be there for the one. More information will be coming out in the future from National.

Thank you for your service.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Honoring our PACT Act Becomes Law What Does That Mean to You?

On August 10, 2022, President Joe Biden officially signed into law The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promised to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act. This Act brings changes in expanding and extending eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras; adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures; adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation; requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care; and lastly, helps VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

If you would like to see a full list of all the added presumptive conditions or locations, please see my article from the September Legion News, or you can visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

At the Winter Conference in January 2023, I will be hosting a PACT Act Seminar to provide information to anyone that would like to attend on these new changes. I will open this seminar up to questions and provide as many answers as I can to veterans and their families. Make sure you check out the latest Winter Conference Schedule for the time and location of this Seminar!

As of October 22, 2022, the VA had already seen approximately 113,000 new claims submitted under the PACT Act. VA is encouraging veterans to submit these claims as soon as they are able. If you qualify for any of

the newly added benefits, set up an appointment with your local county veterans service officer (CVSO). CVSOs are your local point of contact to learn about VA benefits and what resources may be available to you. CVSOs are provided at no charge to veterans and their dependents. To find your local CVSO, visit <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso>

Please keep in mind, being exposure to Agent Orange or burn pits alone is not a disability. The VA has a list of presumptive conditions that have been recognized as associated to these exposures during military service. To learn more, please visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/#gulf-war-era-and-post-911-vete> or Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange - Public Health ([va.gov](https://www.va.gov))

North Dakota Boys State

For those of you that are familiar with the Boys and Girls State Program, it is that time of the year where both programs are working on recruiting young men and women that would benefit from this amazing program.

If you aren't aware of who I am, my name is Garrett Anderson, and I had the honor of being a ND Boys State Delegate in 2008. When I was told by my assistant principal that I was one of the students that would be going to Boys State in the summer to represent my school. I will be honest, I was the student that was not excited about going to a leadership camp because I was an involved student in the summers with work and various other activities. However, due to the amazing staff and opportunities that were present when I attended, I found myself enjoying the program like I never thought I would. Now fast forward 14 years later, I still get to be a part of this amazing program by helping provide this opportunity to other young men that may be just like I was in high school. If it wasn't for someone like my assistant principal telling me about the

program and encouraging/convincing my mom to have me go to the program, I would not have had all of the amazing experiences that I have had in life due to my involvement in the ND Boys State program.

With that, I am asking you to look at the young men and women of your home communities and talk with them and their parents about the Boys and Girls State program and encourage them to go to the website and fill out the application so they can be a part of this once in a lifetime opportunity. Remember, junior students going into their senior year are eligible for the 2023 session.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at (garrett.anderson@ndboysstate.org) and let me know how I can help you inform the young men and women of your home communities about Boys and Girls State.

Garrett Anderson
ND Boys State Deputy Director- Recruitment
(701)-799-0306



In April, The American Legion teamed with Chip Ganassi Racing to announce its 'Be the One' initiative, an effort aimed at stemming the tide of veteran suicides. During the Legion's 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee on September 1, newly elected National Commander Vincent J. Troiola

pledged to make the effort his biggest focus during the upcoming year. "My platform and No. 1 priority for my year as national commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans: veteran suicide," Troiola said. "The American Legion is asking you to 'Be the One'. And by you, I include every one of us, military and civilian alike. We all need to 'Be the One' to begin thinking, talking and acting to save just one life." Troiola said 'Be the One' is a multifaceted approach to tackling veteran suicides that includes:

- Destigmatizing asking for mental help support.
- Providing peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.
- Creating safe spaces for veterans to be open about their struggles and encouraging every American, veteran and civilians alike, to take the pledge to 'Be the One' to help end veteran suicide.

"As the military changes, and as military issues change, so does The American Legion," Troiola said. "While the Legion continues to celebrate its past, it does so while also marching toward an evolving future, discovering ways to stay relevant and add even greater value to the lives of younger veterans. "One thing that hasn't changed is the Legion's dedication to addressing the toughest challenges facing veterans and their families. Veteran suicide may be the biggest challenge yet, but anyone can 'Be the One' to help save just one veteran."

Even though September is Suicide Awareness month, every day is Suicide Awareness. Suicide affects everyone involved who dies of suicide.

I would like to say "kudos" and a big "thank you" to the following posts for their hard work and dedication for massively exceeding their Post membership goals. District 6: Benedict, Lansford, Makoti, Plaza, Ryder and Willow City. District 7: Glen Ullin and Stanton. District 8: Halliday and New England. District 9: Powers Lake and Watford City.

I would like to say "thank you" to my District/ Vice Commanders for the obvious help and support they have been giving to the Posts in their Districts. This is the reason the West Region will soon be the #1 Region in North Dakota. Thank you all for making me look good. Any help and support you may need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

George Petermann
West Region Vice Commander



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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

MAMIE HAVELKA - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Happy Holidays – Enjoy this Holiday Season.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP: Congratulations to National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus and National Chaplain Mark Antal. Our two awesome ND Legionnaires who are now working hard at National.

MEMBERSHIP NOW: Time goes by so quickly, 2022 is almost over and that means six months of our membership is also almost over. Statewide we are on track with state membership goal. The goal is November 65% and we exceed this on 2 November and are at 67.78%. Congratulations to us!! The membership goal for December is 75%, we are headed in the right direction so let us go for 77.78%. Working together – we can do this!

There are a few Posts that have already met their yearly 100% goal and many that have not met their monthly goal. Time to focus on your renewals, gather the renewal checks together and get the Membership ID cards out to the Legionnaires. We have heard from people who paid their dues awhile back and have not received the Membership ID cards. Also check the Post 500 list and expired lists that all Posts received in October. Talk to these Legionnaires, they are awesome to visit, and if they have already been called, do a Buddy Check. An awesome opportunity and experience for all.

POST 500: Many Posts have benefitted from the Membership Teams focus on finding a home for our Post 500 members. The Legionnaires transferred were excited to

be in a home Post and the Membership Team was thrilled to help them. Post 500 is a virtual Post within the computers at ND American Legion Headquarters. Post 500 members most often do not know they are in the virtual world and do not understand why the local Post does not call them with Post information and a welcome. Check your Post 500 list and give them a call, email, or a letter. If you are a Post 500 member, please call the local Post or contact any of the membership team identified at the end of this article.

Point of interest: 2022 members transferred from Post 500 will count for this year's Post membership year. 2023 members transferred from Post 500 will count for the Post next year.

ONLINE RENEWALS: Online renewals are becoming more popular in paying membership dues. It is VERY important to have your membership ID at hand when dues are paid online. IF you check the “no box” asking you if you have your membership number the computer will take you as a new member. This is what happens: **1.** You will get a new membership ID number starting with the numbers “30” and be placed in Post 500. **2.** Your Post will get no part of your membership dues and you will not be from the Post of your choice. **3.** Your consecutive years will be one.

V.E.T.S PIN: National Commander Jim Troiola: Expired membership incentive V.E.T.S pin (veterans, education, teamwork and sponsor), American Legion

members will need to reinstate five (5) expired members into The American Legion for the 2023 membership year who were not a member during the 2022 membership year. For more information and to download the expired membership incentive pin form at legion.org/commander/vets-pin.

“BE THE ONE” PIN: National Commander Jim Troiola: “Be The One” membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into the American Legion for 2023. For more information and to download the “Be The One” membership incentive pin form at legion.org/commander/pin.

MORE RIBBONS AND AWARDS: 100% American Legion Family Ribbon, legion.org/commander/ribbon AND 103% Membership Award legion.org/commander/103percent

Feel free to contact one or all of the following from the Membership Committee with any questions.

Mamie: mamie.havelka@outlook.com, (701) 340-1621
ND American Legion Department, Membership Chair

Arn: ajhavelka@yahoo.com, (701) 340-2965

Assistant to the Membership Chair

Contact your District Commander (Contact information in this Legion News) Please leave your name, phone number or email.

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thank you for all you do and for your support.**

Senator Curt Kreun

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

STEVE ANDERSON - CHAIRMAN



DEC MEETING

17 September 2022

Four Points, Williston ND

- Meeting was called to order by DEC Chairman Steve Anderson at 2:03 PM.
- National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus was recognized.
- Financials were discussed, taxes are done and have been filed.
- Americanism/Children and Youth: Chairman reported on the upcoming Oratorical contest.
- Sample teddy bears were shown by Erica Claus-Numsali.
- Audit committee will have an internal audit prior to the Winter conference.
- Membership Chair Havelka reported on the transfers

of Post 500 into local posts.

- VA&R Chair reported on the PTSD and Suicide Awareness was held earlier in the day and upcoming and potential walks to raise awareness.
- SAL Rikke reported on the SAL accomplishments over the past year. The Detachment received the Triple Nickel award at the National Convention.
- Legion Riders will have four scholarships this year.
- DSO submitted written report on the PACT Act. DSO School and the DSO Stats.
- The Department received a request that all applications for awards be given for examples to posts.
- Motion was made for the awards submitted to the department, to remain private, and the Department office is not allowed to share the information. Unanimously approved.
- Junior Law Cadet Program. Commander Brown

appointed Curt Twete the committee chair. Discussion was held regarding the need for the Highway Patrol to provide some type of agreement which details the responsibilities of the Department of North Dakota. Discussion was held regarding the use of restricted funds.

- Be the One Program; Chairman Anderson discussed National's new suicide prevention prom called
- "Be The One". It is a program to be the one to save the one. NVC Wahus discussed National's push for this program to become an active Post Program and the need for the Department to get the word to the Posts. Commander Brown discussed approaching ACOVA to run "Be The One" through ND Cares Program.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM

The next DEC meeting will be held during the winter conference at the Grand Hotel in Minot on 27 January 2023 at 10:00 AM.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

KAREN HUTCHINS - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



After Jesus death, burial and resurrection, the disciples wandered around a bit and yet as a rule they didn't depart from what they believed - from what Jesus had taught them. Looking at the early church, we need to look into the book of Acts, to understand how the early church and its many components was established.

The book of Acts may have been written as late as 70 or 80 AD after the execution by the Romans of the apostle Paul. It was written by Luke, and therefore in many aspects it can be considered a sequel to the book of Luke. It is written as Luke's gospel was, as a letter to Theophilus, whose name means "lover of God." We aren't told who he is, but he was probably a Roman official who had trusted Christ and now needed to be established in the faith and taught the Christian message.

The book of Acts opens with Jesus' final instructions before His ascension, for the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-6 "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Did you catch that? I think it's interesting that when

Jesus mentioned being baptized in the Holy Spirit the disciples changed the subject. They didn't even ask Him what that meant. And this was going to directly affect them because Jesus said you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Now maybe since he said not many days from now, they were comfortable just waiting to see what He meant. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power. But they immediately asked, "Will you restore your Kingdom at that time or at this time?"

Consider the possibility that when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, part of God's Kingdom does come, right then and there. It comes in us, because when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit we are endowed or supplied with power that enables us to allow his Kingdom to come into our hearts - to allow Him to reign in us, to rule our lives.

When we are saved, when we believe in Jesus, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we literally invite the Holy Spirit to come in and live in our hearts. The Holy Spirit's immediate response to that is baptizing us in the Holy Spirit. Because He does come in and dwell in our hearts. That's how He leads us and guides us. Without that Holy Spirit guidance, it is impossible to live the life as God wants us to.

As we ease into the season in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep in mind that He was born to die for you. If that thought bothers you, please call me at 701-301-7513.

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THE MESSAGE

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Gackle Unit 250 Shows Kindness with Books and Quilts

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle donated funds to the Gackle-Streeter school. Funds were applied toward the monthly Scholastic book order thereby placing a personal book in the hands of each elementary school student. The donation provided books for 62 students.

Scholastic book club magazines have been going home with students for years. Many times, students are unable to order books because of limited funds. The Auxiliary's donation will provide each elementary student with a book every month during the school year. This program has allowed teachers to purchase books and send them home with students to share, read with their family, and keep as their own.

Five members of Mayer-Morlock Post 250 were honored with Quilts of Valor® during a program held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the Gackle Legion Hall. A Quilt of Valor® is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

The Quilts of Valor® presentation was preceded by a light meal sponsored by the Gackle Auxiliary unit and was followed by dessert consisting of cake and ice cream.

Editors note: Quilts of Valor® Foundation is not a program of nor affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary

Article and photos submitted by Elaine Ackerman



Gackle-Streeter school book recipients.



Quilts of Valor® recipients (l-r) Tim Dewald, John Mayer, Russell Geiszler, Randy Entzminger and Dean Entzminger.



National Officers to Attend Winter Conference

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is proud to announce that National President Vickie Koutz will be a guest at the 2023 Winter Conference to be held in Minot on January 27-29, 2023.

Past Department President Jeannie Román cordially invites all American Legion Auxiliary members to attend Winter Conference at the Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Minot. Important information will be shared at Auxiliary sessions.

President Koutz is focusing on honoring our veterans every day. Her project is to bring awareness to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival companions who attend those events with their veteran. President Koutz noted when she recently volunteered at a Creative Arts Festival that some companions could not afford to pay for a meal plan and were not included in the activity with their veterans. This broke her heart and she decided to do something about it.

Her project on companions who attend the National Creative Arts Festival is triple-tiered – raising funds for a meal plan, travel, and/or a separate hotel room if needed for non-family member companions. President Koutz is



Vickie Koutz



Marlene Boyer

also working to raise awareness of our country's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

A reception in honor of National President Vickie Koutz, Northwestern Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer, and Department President Sandra Petermann will be held on Saturday, January 28. Make plans now to attend. We want to share a special North Dakota welcome with our guests.

Jamestown Unit 14 Shows Appreciation to Community

Members of Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 of Jamestown presented cookies to teachers and public servants of the community. Jamestown high school teachers, city police officers, and the Stutsman County Sheriff's Department were shown appreciation for their service and profes-



Jamestown Auxiliary members with local high school teachers.

sionalism in conjunction with a recent 'active shooter' lockdown at Jamestown High School.

Thank you to all teachers and law enforcement officers of Jamestown and Stutsman County for the work you do every day.



Auxiliary members Betty Geigle, Charlotte Lassonde, Lola Rudnick, and Gail Marsolek together with local law enforcement.

Hatton Unit 70

Members of Carroll O. Flesche Unit 70 of Hatton hold the original American Legion Auxiliary charter signed on the 26th day of September 1922. (l-r) Janice Grotee - member since 1997, Mary Carlson - member since 1998, and Alice Verke - member since 1969.



American Legion Auxiliary 2023 Winter Conference

January 27-29, 2023

(tentative schedule/subject to change)

**Grand Hotel and Conference Center
Minot, ND**

Phone: 701-436-2999

Friday, January 27 Conference Rooms - TBD
10:00 AM Department Finance Board Meeting
1:00 PM.....Auxiliary Registration Opens
3:00 PM Department Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 PM No-Host Dinner
7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 28 Conference Rooms - TBD
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Conference Sessions
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM ...Oratorical Contest
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM ..Auxiliary activity continues
Receptions for Presidents
5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Pre-Banquet Social
6:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet

Sunday, January 29 Conference Rooms - TBD
9:00 AM.....Auxiliary Meetings Wrap-Up
10:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

Department President

Greetings American Legion Family,
I would like to thank each of the District Presidents for your hard work preparing and holding the District meetings. You all did an amazing job. A heartwarming thanks to everyone who has supported my projects. Whether it be by purchasing raffle tickets or donating funds. Thank you to the American Legion family of Edgar M. Boyd Post and Unit 37 of Williston for hosting the homecoming event for me and Commander Brown. A special thank you to everyone who attended. I will cherish the wonderful memories from that evening.

I have heard the question asked: "Why can great granddaughters no longer join the American Legion Auxiliary?" The eligibility change was made in 2019 through National in response to a ruling by the IRS. Membership could only be within 2 degrees of separation from the veteran under which he/she is eligible. As it was explained at a recent National Convention Membership training, until Congress chooses to change the eligibility, the American Legion Auxiliary must follow this decision. Current members that are great granddaughters may retain their existing membership.

Our American Legion Family recently lost fellow Legionnaire and Past Department Commander Floyd Semenko. Someone shared that you could count on him sitting in the audience making his "KISS" lips, reminding you to "Keep It Short Stupid." One may think this gesture rude or uncalled for, however, I think we could all learn something from Floyd. When leading a meeting, it is

important to get to the point. If we can keep it short, we maintain the attention of those we are speaking to. A presentation over 5 minutes will cause your audience to stop listening. When one is holding a meeting, it is best to keep the meeting under one hour. If longer than that, your audience may already have checked out and you will not be able to maintain their attention.

This holiday season, send cards to hospitalized veterans and perhaps prepare some treats for those who may be shut-in at home or a nursing facility. It truly touches their heart and shows that you care and support them.

As Auxiliary members, let us all remember to "Be kind and open to new ideas." All of us can be mentors. Share your ideas with those around you and invite members to become involved. We need every member, and everyone is important to our unit and organization. Listen to what they have to say, remain open minded, show compassion, and be willing to learn new things. As we continue to grow in our membership, please keep these thoughts in mind. Try to make everyone feel included and special.

Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Conference in January 2023.

Sandra Petermann



Sandra Petermann

Department Secretary

Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

As I write this article, we are experiencing our first ice of the season and I am hoping we do not get this stuff on a regular basis. I really don't mind snow, but I am not an ice skater.

First, I want to thank everyone who reached out with sympathy and condolences for the recent loss of my mother. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated by me and my family. Mom's only brother, Buddy, was a veteran of the Korean War. Although I never managed to sign her up as an Auxiliary member, she assembled hundreds of colorful potholders for friends and family members and donated dozens for homeless veterans moving into apartments.

I recently returned from the "2022 Mission Training" event held in Minneapolis. It was well worth the time spent, and we learned a lot not only from the instructors but from each other. The camaraderie that Auxiliary members share is wonderful. "Mission Training" is an annual event held in various venues across the country. I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about American Legion Auxiliary programs to make a point to attend next year. The material we reviewed and discussed at "Mission" is available on the National ALA website – www.alaforveterans.org. I urge all unit and Department chairmen and Auxiliary members at-large to take some time to review the national website for ideas, classes, and more.

Congratulations to units that have achieved 100%

plus membership already! North Dakota is doing remarkably well in membership. Membership is everyone's job so offer to assist your unit chairmen. Contact members who have not yet renewed for 2023 and encourage former members who have dropped away from the unit to come back. Remind them why they became members. Was it because someone who loved them gave them that opportunity? Find out their "why" then ask them to rejoin. Let us make this organization even greater!

Finally, make reservations as soon as you can to attend the 2023 Winter Conference in Minot. More information and an early registration form can be found elsewhere in this publication. National President Vickie Koutz has announced that she will be traveling to attend this conference. Come meet Vickie. She is an inspirational leader and is looking forward to meeting you. NW Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer will also be attending. She is a Past Department President from North Dakota. Way to go, Marlene!

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Stay safe, stay frosty, and see you in Minot!

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Vice President

Hello Auxiliary Members.

I trust you are doing well. Hope all enjoyed a nice autumn and now as you prepare for the upcoming holiday season. This is such a wonderful time of the year!

How are your membership drives going? Are they producing amazing results? The Department of North Dakota is striving to be a department with 100% membership this year. We can do it, but we need everyone's assistance to achieve it! If you haven't heard from a member in a while, reach out to visit and encourage them to renew their membership and attend a unit meeting.

As I write this article, Northwestern Division is sitting at 53.88% and North Dakota is at 46.80%, just ahead

of Wyoming. North Dakota already has several units with 100% of goal! Congratulations Hannaford, Milnor, Tolna, and Beach! Let's all put a BIG push on and GO FOR GOAL!

It will be great fun to see which District can achieve 100% first.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

Department President-Elect

MEMBERSHIP GOAL - 90% by December 31!

If your 2023 membership dues are not paid by December 31, 2022, beginning January 1, 2023, you are no longer a current member. You may attend meetings, but you cannot make motions or vote until your membership dues are paid. It is important that your dues are current. Unit membership affects not only the District but the Department membership as well.

To date, our Department total membership is down 472 members compared to 2021. 209 of those members are deceased. The other members didn't pay dues so they will appear as expired or former members in ALA MIS. The Department budget functions from the membership dues that are paid. The Department finances suffer when units do not collect or submit dues in a timely manner. Congratulations to units that have already achieved 100% membership. Great job!

Units, please ensure that your members' personal information is current. This includes addresses, phone numbers, birth date, and email address. Please report deaths in a timely manner as well. Deaths need to be reported to the Department Office as units cannot update that information in ALA MIS. Email addresses are important, too, because National Headquarters and the Department Office will utilize email communications more in the future in an effort to cut costs.

ALA MIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) has a new structure this year:

Level 1 – view only and print reports.

Level 2 – same as the access you now have. View and print reports, change profile info such as name, address, email addresses, birth dates, change subscriptions, and add new members.

Level 3- full access to include Level 1 and 2 plus renewals. Units can now pay their dues online to National and Department with a debit or credit card. The National office will reimburse the Department Office every 2 weeks for their share of the dues.

More information is available on the National website: www.ALAforVeterans.org/Members/Resources/ALAMIS. Unit ALA MIS access must be requested from the Department Office. When making your request for access please include your email address and your unit number. Two members from each unit can have access to ALA MIS, however, only 1 can have full access. Full access users will need to view a 30 minute video on how to use the program before they are granted full access. Fees will increase in January 2023 for ALA MIS access: Level 1 = \$10, Level 2 = \$15, Level 3 = \$20.

Junior members are a great asset to your unit. Invite them to attend your meetings. They probably are tech-savvy and could assist with finding information in ALA MIS or use email. They are more than willing to help with your events.

Community organizations are a great resource for extra help at your events, especially if you are a small unit. Reach out and ask! Volunteer hours can be recorded for their assistance at your event.

I attended 2022 Fall District meetings in Belcourt, Oakes, Jamestown, Minto, Williston, and Mayville. I want to thank members of those units for the genuine hospitality shown me. I enjoyed visiting with members from around the state. I can say, without a doubt, that our North Dakota members are the BEST!

Gloria Covert



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District 2



Hello to our District 2 Members. I would like to thank the members that made it to the Fall District Meeting held in Minto on October 1. I was pleased with the attendance, especially considering that harvest was still in full swing.

A message was read from Department President Sandra Petermann concerning membership, dues increase, ALA Emergency Funds, and more. We also heard from Department President-Elect and Membership Co-chairman Gloria Covert. She spoke on some of the same subjects and is encouraging members to get their dues paid by December 20, 2022 to keep membership current. She also discussed the membership database American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS). It is a good way to check on your unit members and keep them current. Now is the time to sign up for system access as the rate will be going up in 2023. Department Parliamentarian Diane Kraemer discussed the Constitution & Bylaws program and reminded units to get documents updated and sent to her.

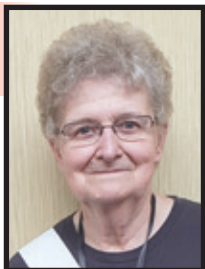
Remember to get your memberships dues sent in and encourage people to join. Borrow a roster from your Legion post. You could be missing out on a number of great potential memberships.

In response to the hurricane in Florida, the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman has encouraged donations to help affected Auxiliary members. A suggestion was made to have a special collection of AEF donations. Members and guests donated \$125. Thank you for your generous donations.

Remember to honor your veterans on Veterans Day and every day.

Shelley Schuster
District 2 President

District 8



Season's Greetings to District 8 Auxiliary Members.

District 8 met in Richardton on October 15, 2022, for the Fall District Meeting. It was well attended by members from around the area. Auxiliary members met in a separate meeting after the joint opening session. A tribute to POW/MIA was held and Girls Nation Senator Michaela Mitchell greeted and addressed the members present.

Make plans now to attend the 2023 Winter Conference at the Grand Hotel in Minot on January 27-29. Come and meet National President Vickie Koutz at the reception to be held in her honor.

Barb Fulton
District 8 President

District 10



Greetings District 10 Members.

The new Auxiliary year is here again, and I hope that you are all working on our Auxiliary programs.

Membership is the most important because without our members we would not have an organization. When you get memberships, send them in to the Department Office. Do not hold them at your unit. It was voted on at the 2022 National Convention for a \$6.00 dues increase beginning in 2024. The national dues increase will take effect with dues year 2024. Now is the time for units to consider increasing their unit dues.

All units are required to update their Unit Constitution and Bylaws. When completed, please send a copy to Department Constitution Chairman Diane Kraemer.

Units should already have sent in 2023 Mandatory Contributions and Poppy Orders. If you have not, please do so by December 1, 2022.

With Veterans Day in November be sure to Honor our Veterans. Unit presidents, please share information from the Department with your unit membership. This way, everyone knows what is going on within the Department.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. I would love to visit your unit and meet your members.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Gigi Moore
District 10 President

Education



Holiday Greetings Auxiliary Members!

It has been a nice autumn so far – windy at times, but what can you expect for North Dakota?!

This year, as always, the Department Education Program is promoting student learning through scholarships. The four scholarship applications available through National are:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
- Junior Auxiliary Member Loyalty Scholarship

The bottom three applications are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2023. More information is available at www.ndala.org/education/ or at www.ALAFORVeterans.org/scholarships/. These scholarship applications were included in the November mailing from the Department Office to units and ND schools. Thank you, Marcy! Please share the applications with eligible students within your families and communities.

NEW LAST YEAR – The Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship is only available as an online fillable submittal form. No paper forms will be available and there will be no unit review needed. National will be emailing the completed online applications to each Department. More information will be available as it is received. This was a new process, so hopefully the bugs are worked out.

Department Education Scholarship applications are available. Each award is valued at \$500. These applications are posted at www.ndala.org/education/. Applications should be sent to me no later than April 1, 2023.

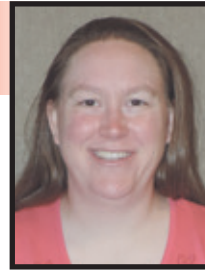
The Education Program is promoting the "Give 10 to Education" program. Organize a school supply drive in your area or donate money to local schools for education supplies and safety items. Remember to support your local schools, educators, and staff. Consider a COVID-safe treat donation, a thank you card brigade, or maybe sending special flowers to honor those that give so much.

Feel free to contact me at education@ndala.org or by telephone at 701-462-3919. I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Have safe and enjoyable holidays!

Yours in service,
Peggy Moran
Education Chairman

Americanism



Hello Auxiliary Members.

I am excited to be your Americanism chairman for this year. I recently attended a very informative video conference with other Department and National program chairmen. There is an abundance of great knowledge and information available for this wonderful program. I will be sharing some of these items with you in the following months via unit mailings and the Department webpage at www.ndala.org/americanism/

Hopefully you took advantage of the voting freedom given to us by casting a vote this year. This is an important part of our democratic process that veterans have helped preserve. However, turnout in North Dakota was historically low. Consider helping others 'get out and vote.' Offer to drive someone to a polling place or help them file to become an absentee voter.

Please support the Americanism Essay Contest in your respective areas. This year's essay title is: "What does patriotism mean to you?" The contest is open to students in grades 3-12, including home-school participants. Please include the essay contest cover sheet with your entries. I must receive entries no later than March 15, 2023. They may be mailed to Shauna Dubuque, PO Box 0251, Glyndon MN 56547-0251 or scanned and emailed to americanism@ndala.org. Cover sheets and more information will be coming out in a unit mailing and will be posted online. *Sponsor units – please collect essays from schools and send in only one Unit winner per class category to me!*

Remember to proudly fly your American flag. The flag may be flown on all days, but especially consider days such as: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Inauguration Day (Jan 20), Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (3rd Monday in Jan), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb 12), Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in Feb), and Easter Sunday. (This list is a suggestion for December-April and is not all inclusive).

I hope you have a good Christmas season and share your patriotism and kindness with others.

Shauna Dubuque
Americanism Chairman

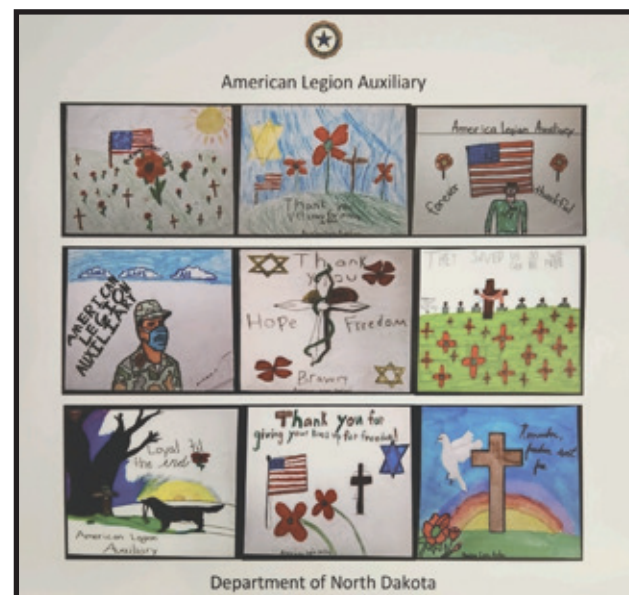
Poppies



I am honored to be your Poppy Program Co-chairman this Year.

I am excited to announce a fundraiser for the Department's Poppy Program. We are promoting the usual distribution of poppies by units. In addition, we have for sale and distribution placemats, greeting cards, puzzles, and playing cards with images from 2021 Poppy Poster Contest entries. The entries submitted were too numerous to utilize for this project, but the end results were remarkable. Poppy poster items will be available at the 2023 Winter Conference.

Carol Wolf
Poppy Co-chairman



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Member Name	Auxiliary Registration	Banquet Ticket Orders		Total Amount
		Number of banquet tickets ordered	\$35.00 each	
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
Total Amount Enclosed				

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Auxiliary registrations received after January 20, 2023, will be held for on-site registration at Winter Conference.

What is a Veteran?

A veteran is a person who fell in love with their country—for better, for worse—for richer, for poorer—in sickness and in health.

A veteran is a person who is willing to lay down their life for the Statue of Liberty so that her poor, her huddled masses, her homeless, her tempest tossed may breathe free and enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A veteran is a person who does what he/she must—in spite of personal consequences—in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—for that is the basis of human morality.

A veteran is one who gets a lump in the throat when he/she sees our beloved flag. One who will fight to protect our beautiful flag from those who dare to dishonor it.

A veteran is one who pays their taxes, willingly; serves their country, honorably; and cherishes their freedom, passionately.

A veteran is one well deserving of our appreciation, our love, and our prayers 365 days a year.

Every day is Veteran’s Day, honor and remember them, lest we forget.

(Author unknown)

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Bonnie Anderson, Hillsboro
Cleo W Natvig, SLM, Casselton
Marlene Bischoff, SLM, Valley City
Joanne Iwen, Erie
Miriam E Cvancara, SLM, Tioga
Theresa Leingang, Velva

District 2
Percette Forbes, Cavalier
Margaret Swanson, Lakota
Lois Eisenrich, Grafton
Carol W Harris, McVile
Anna Ellingson, Park River
Maxine Sveen, Edinburg
Carol M Levin, SLM, Edinburg
Judy Bosh, Lankin
Lorna Johnson, Lankin
Astrid Burthold, Tolna
Liv Halvorson, Tolna
Betty Rinde, St. Thomas
Carol Tucker, St. Thomas
Kristi K Hurst, St. Thomas
MaryAnn Daws, Michigan

District 3
Olga Jacobson, Rugby
Carmen Paulson, SLM, Maddock
Luella Dion, SLM, Dunseith

District 4
Mary A Lies, SLM, New Rockford
Victoria R Schimelfenig, Goodrich

Myrna Aasand, McHenry
Lu’Wanna Remmick, SLM, Gackle
Violet L Schopp, Streeter

District 5
Katherine Knudson, SLM, Bismarck
Marjorie J Gegelmann, SLM, Bismarck
Sylvia Stephens, Garrison
Betty J. Maier, Linton
Ann Glanville, Wing
Joyce Schauer, SLM, Wishek
Jean Kotsick, SLM, Turtle Lake
Marion Anderson, Wilton

District 6
Joan M Lund, SLM, Minot
Betty Pfeilschifter, Velva
Florence Peterson, SLM, Mohall
Peggy Prellwitz, Willow City
Vera M Dille, SLM, White Shield
Delores Wilkinson, PUFL, White Shield
June A Eagle, PUFL, White Shield
Lavonne Goodman, Upham
Gertrude A Mettler, SLM, Upham
Nancy Miller, Butte
Wanda M Smith, Benedict

District 7
Patricia M Johnson, Carson
Beverly I Diehl, Carson
Frieda C Sailer, SLM, Stanton
Marion Reinke, SLM, Center

District 8
Cheryl A McCaskey, Beach
Beatrice Verhulst, Reeder
Viola Nester, New England
Sharleen J. Stigen, Belfield
Rose M Andreas, SLM, Belfield
Mariann C. Voegelé, Richardton
Delores Schuh, SLM, Rhame

District 9
Iva Bauste, Williston
Frances Black, Williston
Lois Papineau, Williston
Judy L Anderson, Williston
Jean C Nelson, Williston
Gertrude Christianson, SLM, Williston
Charlotte I Chornuk, SLM, Parshall

District 10
Rosemary Ostrom, Wahpeton
Vivian Kosmatka, Forman
Kathy Nelson, Milnor
Harriet Odegaard, HLM, Wyndmere
Mary E Lenz, Walcott
Gwen R Young, SLM, Rutland
Joyce Groth, Sheldon
Alice Pausch, Mooreton
Lynn M Oswalt, Mooreton

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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





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District Reports



John Veile
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,

I want to open my article by thanking all of the Legion members, auxiliary members and SAL members that attended the Fall District Meeting in Mayville. Attendance was great and I appreciate all who were able to come. I also want to thank the Mayville post for their hard work in setting up a great evening and positive environment for the district meeting.

One of the things I wanted to reemphasize is the networking between the posts in our district. We need to talk to each other to float new ideas and find out what works in a post that can be adapted to another post. In the mech infantry battalion I was a part of, we called it, cross talk. If one commander saw something that was going to affect another company, he got on the radio and communicated it to the neighboring unit. It provided another set of eyes and ears to the other company and helped prevent some awful surprises. It is the same for us. We need to communicate with one another to help with the issues that each post faces. We of course need to attract new members and retain the members that we have. Perhaps another post has been successful in recruiting. I don't think anyone would be offended if a post asked for help. What about getting a Sons of the American Legion started in your post? Again, some posts have been successful in doing so. I throw this out with the idea of making posts healthy and functioning in their respective communities but also to make our district strong and vibrant.

As your commander it is my job to assist you and be open to your feedback. My door was always open when I was a company commander and so it is always open to you as your District Commander. I hope that you will consider inviting me to your meetings and I hope to see you at the Winter conference in Minot. Till then, my warm regards to you all



Erica Claus-Numsalli
2nd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 2,

Hello everyone. A new year has begun. Hello everyone. Here are the announcements and events that took place in District 2 for October and part of November. October 1st was our District meeting that was held at the Minto Community Center. There were thirteen posts and twenty-three people that attended. We discussed news of Post 500 that are possible members that we can reach out to. We had two guest speakers, Irene Johnson from the Women's VA program (thank you Judy Sateren for the request to have her speak) and Kim Higgs from the Veteran's Treatment Court. Curt Twete also spoke about the Junior Law Enforcement Program that was adopted by the Department which we believe is a stepping-stone for students to get involved with the Boys/Girls State program as they become familiar with the law, not to mention the possibilities of being a Law Enforcement Agent or even join the Junior ROTC and then ROTC programs. Thank you, Minto, for hosting the meeting.

It has also been approved to purchase 250 more teddy bears for the Teddy Bear program. The teddy bears are wearing T-shirts with the American Legion logo and the words "American Legion" in an arch on top of the emblem and "North Dakota" on the bottom in an arch. The idea is to give a child that is staying at the hospital a teddy bear to give them some comfort while they are there. If you know of any children that are staying at the hospital, let us know and we will have you as a representative of the town and give you some bears to have.

I was able to attend a couple of events during the month of October. I was able to visit Cavalier for their regular post meeting and was also able to visit the Oktoberfest that was held in Lakota on October 22. I had such a wonderful time while I was there. The beer and chili were excellent. There must have been about 500 people there throughout the evening, maybe more. Thank you, Lakota Legion, for the invite.

Also, Tim (my husband) and I represented the 40/8 for the Trunk or Treat event that took place on the 23rd (we represented the Legion last year). There were approximately 250 kids that attended the event, which was much more than last year. Grand Forks will also start a Sons of the American Legion Squadron in November. Congratulations, Grand Forks.

Larimore hosted a Turkey Bingo on November 4th, to which 180 people attended, while receiving volunteer support from the following squadrons from Grand Forks Air Force Base: Logistics Readiness, Security Forces, and Force Support, in addition to ten from the Larimore post. Thank you, Grand Forks Air Force Base, for your wonderful support.

Next, as many towns are preparing for the November 11th events, please let us know how your town's event went and provide pictures if you have any to contribute to for next Legion newspaper in March. For now, I do know that Grand Forks will be helping the DAV with the program that will be held at the Veterans Memorial Park (VMP), and Grand Forks will be volunteering at the Valley 4000 senior center where Past Dept Cmdr Sue Kime used to live, and Cavalier will have their ceremony at 1530.

I am looking to visiting more posts as much as I can before the weather gets too bad to travel in. Please let me or our Vice Commander Jay Nesdahl, know when your post is hosting an event or activity. What are you doing in the community?



Jacob Volk
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

I have no idea where the summer went. I hope everyone enjoyed the nice weather. Now we have to prepare for colder weather and possible snow. Saying that, everyone should prepare your vehicle and make sure you have a winter survival kit.

I have been busy with post visits. Department Membership Chair Mamie sent out the list of members that are in Post 500. I forwarded the list to all the post that had members in Post 500. I hope all the posts contacted the members on the list. I called all the members on our list and 6 out of 7 transferred. That's all you have to do is make contact with them, invite them to transfer to your post and let them know when your post meets.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Winter Conference. I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and everyone keep safe.



Ron Dykema
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

Our 5th District Fall Meeting was held October 1, 2022, in Washburn. A good turnout with attendees from several post and auxiliary units. I was unable to attend as I did not feel well. Decided to get tested for COVID that day with the result being negative. Very relieved!

We are still trying to find someone for the 5th District Vice Commander. I am willing to take 5th District Commander another year to give the new vice commander time to learn the ropes. Wishing everyone best wishes for the holidays. Thank you.



Allan Magnuson
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,

These last two months have been very busy with Department Commander Dan Brown's homecoming in Williston, National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus's in Watford City, and the District meeting in Williston. I believe I can speak for just about everyone that attended the district meeting that the food alone was worth the trip.

The Spring District meetings for the 6 & 9 districts will be held separately, so I am hoping Velva will still want to be the host post for District 6.

With the walk we had in Dickinson at the Department Convention and the walk we had in Williston during the homecoming, the VA&R Committee raised over \$2,000 so far this year. I am hoping that every district will try to have a walk before the Department Convention next year. As the committee chairman, I will attend every walk event that will be scheduled and am looking forward to getting communities involved and aware of the seriousness of suicide prevention and that PTSD does not affect only veterans but the everyone.

I am looking forward to visiting most of the posts in District 6 before the 1st of May.

I want to congratulate Willow City for being the first post in North Dakota to hit 100%.



Vernon Laning
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,

Well, my good intentions of post visitations haven't matured into action yet. However, I still intend to visit as many District 7 posts as I can, so don't count me out. With Veterans Day and the holidays, scheduling the visits hasn't gotten any easier.

On November 9, I will be attending a veteran recognition gathering at the Mandan Golden Age Club. I don't know how many veterans will be attending but I applaud Lualice Stockert and the Golden Age Club for their lead up to Veterans Day on the 11th. The Golden Age Club gathering is somewhat of a reminder that the average age of many of our posts is definitely going higher. Our recruiting of younger veterans that recognize the value of the American Legion is crucial. With the relaxation of some of the membership time periods, nearly everyone that has served or is serving could become members. So, I encourage everyone to reach out to new prospective members.

I need to mention the vice commander position in District 7 is still open to interested candidates. Please contact me at vlaning@bis.midco.net if interested.

With that, I think I will sign off with the best of holiday wishes to everyone. I hope to see you at the Winter Conference in Minot.



Alan Fehr
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,

Thanks to the Richardton Post 180 for hosting a great Fall District Meeting! It was great to see everyone there. District Vice Commander Jason Anderson and I are looking forward to visiting your Post in the next few months.

We are also looking forward to the Winter Conference in Minot on January 27-29. The Minot Post 26 always does a great job as host, and it will be fun to get together again. The Winter Conference is the culmination of the Oratorical Contest for the state. Hopefully, we will have another winner from our District.

As we are ending the calendar year, look for opportunities to add to our membership. Reach out to Post 500 members, if you haven't already done so. And as a reminder, keep a list of all your Post's activities for the year, so that you are prepared to complete an annual Consolidated Post Report in a few months.

Hopefully, you are helping to spread the word about the PACT Act. The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Contact the VA or your Veteran Service Officer for more information or to file a claim.

Thanks for all your efforts! Let me know how I can assist you. I look forward to seeing you soon. Have a great Christmas and holiday season!



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

Senator David A. Clemens
District 16
West Fargo/Fargo

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SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Humbled and Excited about the new Membership Year!
Greetings to the Department of North Dakota! We are into the 2023 membership year, and I am excited by what I have seen so far. Since my last article, I attended the National Convention in August and must tell you all that if you can go to such an event, go, as it was such an amazing time. I was humbled and honored to represent you all as delegation chair and receive the awards our Detachment earned on stage.

First, I want to share exciting and awesome news with you all. North Dakota received the coveted Detachment Membership Award, better known as the Triple Nickel. This is one of the hardest awards to earn, as the Detachment must hit 105% of the goal, achieve 85% renewal, and the most challenging criterion, charter five new Squadrons by July 1. We did it and are a known commodity at Region and National for our hard work. The Detachment also received recognition for hitting its quota for the Flying Flags for Heroes project, which was the project of now Past National Commander Michael Fox. We also received the 90% Membership Renewal Award and recognition for renewal at the Regional level.

National Convention was such an awesome time. Comedian and SAL member Joe Piscopo delivered remarks at both the general session and at the special banquet to celebrate the 50th National Convention. I was able to shake his hand and presented him with one of our Detachment pins and pen. Some lessons for us from this is that we have an opportunity to shine even more by the Detachment supporting the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) by at least one dollar per member, so if you can work to support this worthwhile program of the Legion Family, we can stand out even more among the rest of the Detachments, especially with our size.

Our Detachment goal for 2023 is 1056 members, so I want each Squadron to strive for two percent growth over last year. Now that we know we can earn the Triple Nickel, I want to challenge you all to strive for a repeat Triple Nickel Award, which would mean hitting 105% of goal, which would mean 1109 members, keeping that 85% retention rate and the

hardest part is chartering five new Squadrons. You all really amazed us with your hard work and dedication this past year. I know we can keep the momentum going. So far, we are hitting our membership targets ahead of schedule, so keep up the great work.

One of my goals for the year is to improve member training and development. I accepted the appointment to the national Member Training and Development Committee and I want to help develop training for you all at our Conventions, Conferences and other functions. One thing we want to do is find those driven future leaders and pair you with mentors and help you in stepping into leadership at the Squadron and Detachment level.

One of the cool things that happened at National Convention was seeing the youth members who completed the Youth Academy be brought onto the stage to be recognized before the assemblage. I would like to see this at our Detachment-level events, so I urge you to work with your younger members and help them complete the Ten Ideals and Five Star Program of Service. If you have questions, reach out to me or Department HQ.

I want you to all begin to think about the "Be the One" campaign from the Legion National Commander. This effort is to destigmatize seeking help for mental health among our veterans and reduce veteran suicide. You can learn more about this program at <https://www.legion.org/betheone/about>. I encourage all Sons in North Dakota that are up to it to reach out and "Be the One" for a veteran in their lives and in their communities. You never know what impact you may have.

I want to invite you to Minot for the Winter Conference



on January 27-29, 2023. I'd like to hear from you before the end of the year about what activities and training we can provide at the event and virtually in conjunction with Conference outside our business meeting. We also want to start looking at our officer elections for the 2023-2024 year, so if you have thought about stepping up and serving, please contact us. Again, as your Squadron does activities, please take pictures and send me information on it, as I am happy to include it in this column. With the holiday season coming, please remember our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers and see if there are ways your Squadron can meet any needs.

I want to thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Detachment Commander and to make myself available to you, so please feel free to email me at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com or call/text me at 218-791-3804. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and coming new year. Thank you for all you do for the Sons of the American Legion and keep up the great work.

For God and Country.

Beck-Shervan-Foreman
American Legion Post 290




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www.tlstroh.com

POST EVERLASTING

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

Bismarck - Post #1	
Berreth, Kenneth	11/04/2021
Hanson, Allyn	Unknown DOD
Schuchard, Lyle	09/06/2022
Hillsboro – Post #4	
Enger, John	09/25/2022
Grand Forks – Post #6	
Gangelhoff, Harold	10/16/2022
Hansen, Arnold	09/11/2022
Kuchar, Rudolph	10/21/2022
Strinden, Earl	10/18/2022
Mikkelsen, Cameron	Unknown DOD
Lisbon – Post #7	
Martin, Fred	Unknown DOD
Schaap, Marvin	Unknown DOD
Ray – Post #9	
Zahn, Morris	10/18/2022
Buffalo – Post #10	
Veselka, Clarence	10/19/2022
Cavalier – Post #11	
Goodoien, Ivan	Unknown DOD
Finley – Post #13	
Lindstrom, Dennis	05/21/2022
Casselton – Post #15	
Wang, Larry	09/06/2022
Jacobson, Michael	09/17/2022
Hope – Post #18	
Saari, Jason	09/2022
LaMoure – Post #19	
Arndt, Charles	Unknown DOD
Wahpeton – Post #20	
Kemmet, Eugene	06/24/2021
Hanson, Monte	10/21/2022
Huwe, Keith	10/30/2022
Rugby – Post #23	
Kuntz, Engelbert	10/22/2022
Carrington – Post #25	
Manley, John	11/23/2020
Minot – Post #26	
Bodine, Paul	08/19/2022
Borud, Floyd	09/09/2022
Goodman, James	08/02/2022
Larson, Lowell	0926/2022
Jenson, Wesley	07/25/2022
Larson, Lowell	09/26/2022
Rupp, Gene	09/27/2022
Harvey – Post #28	
Lucas, Gerald	01/19/2021
Rademacher, Raymond	07/27/2022
New Rockford – Post #30	
Stolz, Allan	09/23/2022
Drake – Post #32	
Martin, Alfred	09/05/2022
Edward, Lemer	11/03/2022
Lignite – Post #35	
Brenno, Oral	Unknown DOD
Christianson, Chris	Unknown DOD
Oakes – Post #36	
Mangnall, William L.	06/21/2022
Moore, James	09/03/2022
Westra, John	Unknown DOD
Weisser, Ted	Unknown DOD

Williston – Post #37	
Streifel, Norman	05/16-2022
Velva – Post #39	
Gustin, Andrew J.	Unknown DOD
Mandan – Post #40	
Bohl, Gerald	09/08/2022
Haugen, Ordean	12/26/2021
Mischel, Ron	05/12/2022
Otto, Ronald	02/13/2022
Hatzenbuhler, Anton	09/10/2022
Wanner, Allen	Unknown DOD
Lech, Joseph	08/05/2022
Schaff, Raymond	05/16/2021
Mohall – Post #52	
Peterson, Mylo	Unknown DOD
Walters, Donald	11/27/2020
Belcourt, Adrien	01/31/2021
Goodrich – Post #56	
Dockter, ElRoy	09/27/2022
Brocket – Post #61	
Eidness, Steve	Unknown DOD
Walhalla – Post #62	
Hotten, Steven	11/12/2020
Stremick, Philip	03/19/2021
Kenmare – Post #64	
Nordstrom, Dale	Unknown DOD
Johnson, Dennis	Unknown DOD
Froseth, Marilyn	Unknown DOD
New England – Post #66	
Lutz, Donald	10/06/2022
Flasher – Post #69	
Miller, Charles	Unknown DOD
Wagy, Arnold C.	01/12/2022
Hatton – Post #70	
Holt, Allan	Unknown DOD
Napoleon – Post #72	
Aberle, Thomas	05/25/2021
Lidgerwood – Post #84	
Thielman, Roger	08/24/2022
Harles, Lawrence	09/28/2022
Minnewaukan – Post #86	
Daeley, David	09/19/2022
Wishek – Post #87	
Sayker, Terry	01/29/2022
Leeds – Post #101	
Vance, Dennis	Unknown DOD
Crystal – Post #107	
Werman, Carl	03/22/2022
Parshall – Post #121	
Loen, Alan	Unknown DOD
Danielson, Bernard	Unknown DOD
Woessner, Kenneth	Unknown DOD
Zavalney, Bud	Unknown DOD
Scheer, Robert	Unknown DOD
St. John – Post #125	
Bryant, Monte	Unknown DOD
Stanley – Post #134	
Rodenhizer, Bruce	09/18/2022
Ellendale – Post #137	
Nishek, LeRoy	Unknown DOD
Grueneich, Gerald	07/31/2022
Tioga – Post #139	
Sillerud, Donald	07/31/2022

Park River – Post #147	
Daley, Jerome	08/19/2022
Park River – Squadron #147	
Schatz, Ron	Unknown DOD
Wyndmere – Post #153	
Lillestol, Duane	Unknown DOD
Page – Post #154	
Nelson, Cary	10/02/2022
Wilton – Post #163	
Kilian, William	Unknown DOD
Pekin – Post #182	
Olson, Willard	Unknown DOD
Fingal – Post #187	
Johnson, Bartley	12/28/2021
Loibl, Jerome	Unknown DOD
Rhame – Post #188	
Bowman, Bill	08/13/2022
Donnybrook – Post #195	
Anderson, Maynard	10/25/2022
Barke, Christie	08/17/2022
Minto – Post #201	
Kosmatka, William	Unknown DOD
Wysocki, Leonard	Unknown DOD
Woodworth – Post #205	
Kuhn, Rick	Unknown DOD
Schulz, Walter	Unknown DOD
Sherwood – Post #213	
Nelson, Stanley S.	Unknown DOD
Mountain – Post #227	
Steinolfson, Magnus	Unknown DOD
Kristjanson, K	Unknown DOD
Jensen, Raymond	Unknown DOD
Wimbledon – Post #236	
Fehr, Brian	09/24/2021
Greshik, Lynn	11/05/2021
Michigan – Post #238	
Halstenson, Jacklyn	09/22/2022
Noonan – Post #243	
Heuer, Arlan	Unknown DOD
Petersburg – Post #247	
Iverson, James	Unknown DOD
Voelker, Arnold	Unknown DOD
Gackle – Post #250	
Kaseman, Adam	09/19/2022
Streeter – Post #265	
Schauer, Ronald	10/21/2022
Schopp, Lloyd	10/08/2022
Williams, Dana	08/24/2022
Powers, Russell	10/18/2022
Butte – Post #270	
Dockter, Clifford	08/12/2022
Harwood – Post #297	
Rust, Arden	07/19/2022
West Fargo – Post #308	
Odegaard, Douglas	09/02/2021
Post #500	
Dahl, Paul	09/01/2021
Fillbrandt, Gary	09/15/2022
Herman, Albin	05/10/2022
Jackson, Roger	Unknown DOD
Swartzell, Mark	08/09/2021
Robertson, Patrick	05/2022

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Our qualified, experienced team offers a variety of emergency care courses for teens, adults, or those looking for a career change. For the highest level of convenience, the training is offered at flexible hours and locations.

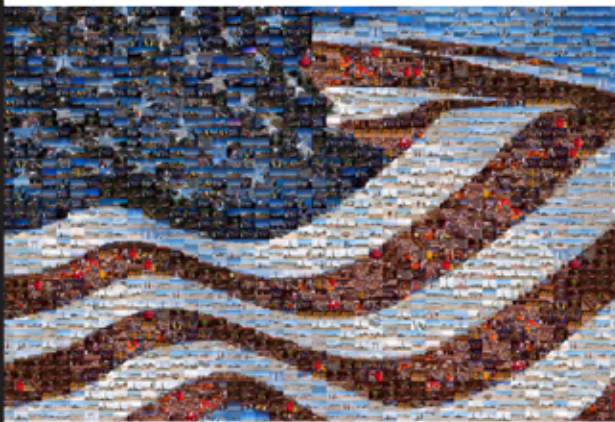
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- ABCs of Babysitting
- Paramedic Training*
- Pediatric First Aid
- *College credit available

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Local Posts in the News

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

Fargo Post #2

For the second year in a row, Fargo Post 2 Legion & Auxiliary has coordinated a successful food drive to support the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB). We worked together with the Fargo VFW & Auxiliary, the West Fargo VFW & Auxiliary, and the AMVETS, Auxiliary & AMVET Riders. By working together, we were able to raise \$4,500 and 453 pounds of food. This surpassed last year's total by over \$500. According to the statistics shared by the GPFB, 1 in 6 individuals in ND is experiencing hunger.

The Great Plains Food Bank serves as North Dakota's only food bank. Its partner network includes nearly 200 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and other charitable feeding programs operating in more than 100 communities across ND and Clay County, MN. Since 1983, the Great Plains Food Bank has distributed more than 175 million meals to children, seniors, and families in need. We are planning to make our food drive an annual event to support our community.

Submitted by Virginia Kraushaar, Adjutant Post 2



Harvey Post #28



American Legion Post 28 Commander Dean Johnson reads a citation to member Ted Heitzmann who turned 100 on October 1, 2022.



From left to right: Harvey Color Guard Ricky Rittenbach, Gary Kennedy, Gerald Franklin, Steve Volk and Dean Johnson were on hand awaiting the arrival of 100-year-old Ted Heitzmann a WW II veteran. Photos by Barb Rittenbach.

Thanks to All for Your Support



The members of Rolla American Legion Post #235 would like to express their gratitude to the firefighters from Rolla, St. John, Rolette, Belcourt, Dunseith and Rock Lake for the efforts at the Rolla Legion Cabin fire.

In addition, thanks to everyone in Rolla and the surrounding communities for their support during the loss of our iconic building and some of the memorabilia that told the story of the men and women from our area who

proudly served their country.

We have already begun our mission to rebuild. An account has been set up at Starion Bank if anyone is interested in making a donation to help our efforts going forward.

Again, our heartfelt thanks to all for your assistance and reassurance of our future in the community.

Post 6 Legionnaires with half-scale replica of Spartan Missile at Cavalier Space Force Station

Over-the-horizon tracking of satellites, space junk, and early-warning identification/response to ballistic missile threats is Cavalier Space Force Station's primary mission. Upon establishment of a separate United States Space Force, on December 20, 2019, the men and women at Cavalier Space Force Station provide 24-hour surveillance to protect our northern tier from rocket-based attacks and maintain a safe operational environment in our northern hemisphere. With "National Security" one of The American Legion's Four Pillars, six Post 6 Legionnaires sought to demonstrate its support at the Space Force Station's Open House on September 10, 2022. The visit included mission briefings, a tour of the Perimeter Acquisition Radar (PAR) facility, and opportunities to learn first-hand the challenges faced day-to-day by the Space Guardians and their civilian counterparts.

Submitted by Legionnaire Bob Greene
Grand Forks Post 6, Membership Chair



Center Post #90



Harold Wilkens, member of the Center American Legion Post #90 receives his 70-year continuous membership certificate.

Bottineau American Legion Donates to Boy Scouts

The American Legion of Bottineau presented a check for \$5,000 to Boy Scout Troop 528 that does a lot of community service each year. The Boy Scouts were in desperate need of new tents, camp stoves, other equipment and rising costs for campouts for their growing Troop. "Our Boy Scout Troop has grown from 2 to 14 Scouts in the last few years," said Christian Corley and Bud Saykally, Scoutmasters. "We meet every week and campout every month. If it wasn't for donations and our fundraisers, many Scout parents/guardians would not be able to afford a single campout, let alone all the adventures we have. This donation is a game changer for our Troop and we will make great use of the generosity of the American Legion!"

One campout that the Boy Scouts have been wanting to go on is Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota. With sky high gas prices and all the costs of a 4-day campout, this was out of reach until this amazing donation from the American Legion.

SUBMITTED BY A VETERAN



Scouts from right to left: Front Row: Bryce Saykally, Asst. Senior Patrol Leader, Mason Lauckner, Patrol Leader, Jacob Sand, Kolten Forsberg, Kayden Moore, Landon Livingston. Back Row: Bud Saykally & Christian Corley, (Scoutmasters) Legion members back row: Ron Bergman, Del Alvord, Art Lund, O'Dean Hosna and Post Commander Heather Thompson presenting check.

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Local Posts in the News

Area Veterans Presented Quilts of Valor at Ceremony in Center

Area Veterans presented Quilts of Valor at Ceremony in Center. **By Bill Schmalfeldt, Center Republican**

As a token of appreciation from a grateful nation, a dozen military veterans and one active-duty officer were presented with Quilts of Valor on September 19 during a ceremony at the Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center in Center.

The quilts were made by members of Missouri River



Backrow Left to right: Robert Folk, Shane Lennick, Melvin Lennick, Richard Neibauer, Jacob Schwab, Derek Lennick, James Schwab and Vanessa Lennick. Front left to right: James Sack, Howard Bieber, Lyle Mosbrucker and James Leffring. Photo by Bill Schmalfeldt.

Quilts of Valor (MRQOV) each quilt having a specific meaning and the service emblem of the person being awarded.

According to MRQOV group leader Arlene Meissel, the mission of Quilts of Valor is to cover service members and veterans touched by war “with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor”. The quilt says unequivocally “thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation”.



Left to right: Harold Wilkens, Arnold Fisher, Randy Wait, Lee Wolf, John Hoffman and Dale McKnight. Photo by Bill Schmalfeldt.

HOEVEN AWARDS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WWII MERCHANT MARINER PAT EFFERTZ

VELVA, ND – On November 1, 2022, a ceremony at the Velva American Legion today, Senator John Hoeven honored Pat Effertz, a World War II veteran from Velva, by presenting him with the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a U.S. Merchant Mariner. Effertz enlisted as a Merchant Mariner in 1943 and deployed in 1944 as a Second Class Engineer responsible for the cargo ship’s oil. While deployed, his ship embarked on multiple trips carrying Army battalions, large vehicles and equipment.

Hoeven co-sponsored legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Merchant Mariners of World War II in honor of their vital work during the war. Congress approved legislation that was signed into law in 2020.

“The courage and bravery displayed by the Greatest

Generation was unlike any other,” said Hoeven. “I am honored to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Pat and recognize his heroic service to our country. We live in the greatest nation this world has ever known thanks to our tremendous servicemembers such as Pat, a life-long North Dakotan.”

During World War II, Merchant Mariners traveled through the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and were instrumental in the transoceanic transportation of military and civilian personnel and materials pivotal in the Allied victory. Merchant ships faced danger from mines, enemy submarines, ships and aircraft. Approximately 9,300 mariners were killed during the course of the war, one of the higher per-capita casualty rates among branches of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.



MC 6th District Commander Allan Magnuson



Senator Hoeven presenting Pat Effertz with medal surrounded by his family.

Fall District Meeting District 6 & 9

At the combined District 6 & 9 District Fall Meeting, Tioga Post 139 presented Department Commander Brown with a \$5,000 check for his Commander’s Project the International Music Camp.



Back row from left to right: Don Zacharias, Steve Selle, Dennis Hendricks, Scott Post and Vernon Herfindahl. Front row from left to right: Mike Olson, Peter Copland, Neil Rudnik, Department Commander Brown and 9th District Commander Lucinda Bolyard.

Williston Post #37 Donates

By the Williston Herald

After two generous donations, Williston Water World is guaranteed to feature two water slides.

The first slide will be made possible due to a \$360,000 donation from the American Legion, Edgar M. Boyd Post 37.

“Our organization is so thankful for the Legion’s constant support of the Williston Community Builders. They are the first to volunteer to help us grill at our back-to-school barbeque and consistently donate towards projects that make our community a great place to live,” Pool Action Committee and Williston Community Builders member Emily Ramage Geltel said.

“As fellow volunteers, we value the partnership we have forged with the local American Legion. Like the Williston Community Builders, the folks at the Legion consistently give of their time and talents to build a better community, one friendly face at a time,” Williston Community Builders member Codi Austreim said.

Rich Vestal and Kathy Vestal are also integral to making sure Williston’s new attraction will be top-notch. The two pledged \$250,000 for a water slide in honor of their ten grandchildren.

The two donations are amongst many that have made Williston Water World a reality for the community. The new outdoor pool is set to break ground in 2023, dependent on meeting fundraising goals. The location of Williston Water World was announced in September after much anticipation. The pool will be built west of Cutting Field, along the bypass, on a donated piece of land from the City of Williston. President of the Williston Community Builders Nick Lippert explained that the Williston Water World project was born out of community outreach. He said that people were appreciative of the ARC and its indoor water park facility, but that an outdoor community pool is a staple of any thriving community.



From left to right: Grant Carns, Amanda Colebank, Chris Forsberg, Bobby Rice, Dan Brown, Richard Ceynar, Falon Justice, Gary Skarphol, Jon Nelson, Nick Lippert, Duane DeMars and David Brevik.

Devils Lake Post #24



Tim Running Post 24 Commander Jack Volk presents a check to Father Wilhelm and Superintendent Clouse for \$8,200 for a flagpole at St. Joseph’s School new Chapel. Post 24 Vice Commander Jim Moe was also part of the presentation. Vice Commander Jim was the go-to person for Father Wilhelm.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Turtle Mountain Vietnam Veterans Inducted into ND Native American Hall of Honor

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission hosted its annual North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor ceremony in Bismarck at the North Dakota Heritage Center on Thursday, September 8, 2022, an event recognizing Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribe and culture.

Five Vietnam Veterans from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa who were killed in action during war were honored on this special night, a symbol showing that these young veterans are gone but not forgotten, especially by their families and loved ones.

North Dakota State Senator Richard Marcellais,

(Vietnam Veteran 1968-1969) member of the Lilley-Dionne American Legion Post 262, is one of the main reasons why the fallen Vietnam War veterans are in the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor, their rightful place in North Dakota Native American history.

Senator Marcellais presented on behalf of Christopher Davis, David Larson, Dennis Manson, Ralph McCowan, and Eric Nadeau at the September 8th ceremony in Bismarck where family members of Davis, Larson, Manson and McCowan were in attendance for this prestigious ceremony recognizing the best of the best.

“On behalf of the American Legion Post 262, we want

to offer our condolences to the families of our deceased Vietnam Veterans may they rest in peace”

There was some interesting history about Turtle Mountain’s newest North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor inductees, which was provided by Senator Marcellais following the event. This piece of history is something that will forever go down in North Dakota’s long history. Turtle Mountain is fortunate to be able to call these warriors and relatives a part of us and our long history of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa people.

Richard Marcellais
North Dakota State Senator

2023 Winter Conference

American Legion Advanced Registration and Banquet Ticket Order Form

January 27-29, 2023 at the Grand Hotel in Minot, ND

Please call the Grand Hotel at 701-852-3161 ask for the American Legion room block discount

Please note the price of the banquet tickets increases by \$5 after **January 12th**. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk on a first come first serve basis. Preregistration forms and banquet tickets will not be accepted after January 19th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

Post/Squadron Location _____ Post/Squad # _____ District # _____

Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee: \$25

National Chaplain Recognition Dinner: \$30

(Cutoff for Preregistered Advanced Tickets Discount is 1/12/2023)

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Menu: Pork Loin Buffet

Winter Conference Banquet Ticket: \$35

(Cutoff for Preregistered Advanced Tickets Discount is 1/12/2023)

Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Menu: Center Cut Sirloin

Please mail the registration form and payment to

ND American Legion
405 West Main Ave Suite 4-A
West Fargo, ND 58078

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WITH SWEEPSTAKES TICKETS

Member Name _____	
Chaplain Recognition on Thursday	# _____ x \$30 = \$ _____
Winter Conf Banquet on Saturday	# _____ x \$35 = \$ _____
Registration Fee \$25	= \$ <u>25</u>
Total Due	\$ _____

Member Name _____	
Chaplain Recognition on Thursday	# _____ x \$30 = \$ _____
Winter Conf Banquet on Saturday	# _____ x \$35 = \$ _____
Registration Fee \$25	= \$ <u>25</u>
Total Due	\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

National Chaplain Antal Recognition Dinner



A Recognition Dinner in Pastor Antal's honor is prior to the Winter Conference on **Thursday, January 26, 2023** at the Grand Hotel in Minot, ND. The social starts at 5:00 pm and the meal starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 prior to January 12, 2023 and are \$35 after January 12, 2023. Advanced ticket orders must be received by the Department office no later than January 19, 2023. After January 19th, tickets must be purchased at the door.

Menu: Pork Loin, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Glazed Carrots

Name _____

Post Location _____

Quantity of Tickets _____ X \$30 = _____

Please mail this form with payment to:

ND American Legion
PO Box 5057
West Fargo, ND 58078

Advanced orders must be received no later than Thursday, January 19, 2023.

American Legion Department of ND 2022 Veteran's Day Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Monday,
November 14, 2022
at the American Legion Department of ND

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner

Richard Swennes, Bismarck Post 1

\$1000 Prize Winner

Lee Ferguson, Forest River Post 251

\$200 Prize Winners

Joseph Trouba, Williston Post 37

Donald Miller, Bismarck Post 1

\$100 Prize Winners

Robert Bird, Bismarck Post 1

Gilbert Mehrer, Mott Post 71

Larry Johnson, Harvey Post 28

Allen Robinson, Cavalier Post 11

Raymond Molash, Headquarters Post 500

Larry Amundson, Finley Post 13

Have You Paid Your 2023 Membership Dues?

George Petermann

2023 Candidate for Department Commander-Elect 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 38 year PUFL member and I 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 member of The Moose Lodge 2728 Dickinson ND. 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 43 amazing years.

If you elect me, it will be my honor to represent The Department of North Dakota



American Legion Department of ND Winter Conference Schedule

January 26-29, 2023

Minot Grand Hotel

701-852-3161

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 26, 2023

4:00 pm ACOVA Interviews
5:00 pm Social for National Chaplain Mark Antal
6:00 pm Recognition Dinner for National Chaplain Mark Antal

Friday, January 27, 2023

8:30 am Foundation
10:00 am DEC Meeting
12:00 pm DEC Luncheon
1:00 pm CVB Bids
2:00 pm Registration (until 7:00 pm)
2:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 5:30 pm)
2:00 pm Americanism/Children and Youth
3:00 pm M&PA Meeting
4:00 pm Legion Riders Meeting
4:00 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting
5:30 pm First Time Attendees
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 28, 2023

8:00 am Registration (until Noon)
8:00 am Oratorical Committee Meeting
8:00 am National Guard and Reserve
8:00 am District Vice Commanders Meeting with Commander-Elect
9:00 am Legion Session
9:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 10:30am)
10:00 am SAL Meeting
10:00 am Boys State Committee Meeting
10:00 am Athletic Committee Meeting
10:00 am Membership Recruitment Seminar
11:00 am PACT Act Seminar
1:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 4:00 pm)
1:00 pm Legion Family Programs Joint Session
1:30 pm High School Oratorical Contest Finals
4:00 pm Future of North Dakota
4:00 pm VA&R Committee
4:00 pm Delegate Selection Committee
5:00 pm Winter Conference Banquet Social
6:00 pm Winter Conference Banquet

Sunday, January 29, 2023

8:00 am SAL Training Session
8:00 am Americanism/CY Committee
8:00 am Post Service Officers
8:00 am Dist and Regional Officers Meet with Cmdr
9:30 am Joint Memorial Service