

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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

Washburn to Host Winter Conference in Bismarck

The 2024 Winter Conference will be hosted by Washburn's American Legion Victor B. Wallin Post #12 on January 26-28, 2024, to be held at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center in Bismarck.

This year, National Vice Commander Raymond "Ray" Vail from Kansas will be our guest speaker for the banquet on Saturday.



NVC Raymond "Ray" Vail

Vail joined the U.S. Army in January 1964. He was stationed in West Germany in the 7th Army, 1st Infantry Maintenance Battalion as an infantry field radio repairman. He was awarded the Detachment Soldier of the Month and graduated from the 7th Army NCO Academy in February 1966. He completed his enlistment in November 1966 with an honorable discharge at the rank of E-5.

He joined The American Legion in 1986 and is a Paid-Up-For-Life member of Post 182 in Arma, KS. He served in many post positions including commander for three years. At the district level, he has served as third district vice commander from 2011-12 and as district commander from 2012-13. At the department level, Vail was master-of-arms in 2013-14, vice commander in 2014-15 and the Kansas department commander in 2015-16. He has served as a member of the Department Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Committee and the Oratorical and Scholarship Committee. He is also a member of the National Security and Foreign Relations committees, and he served on the Arma City Council from 2013 to 2020.

Vail retired in 2000 after working 34 years in the pet food and can manufacturing industry. In August 2000, he started a home repair and maintenance business which

continued until 2016. He has been married to his wife, Linda, since December 1970 and together they have four boys, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf, crafts, and refurbishing vintage tools.

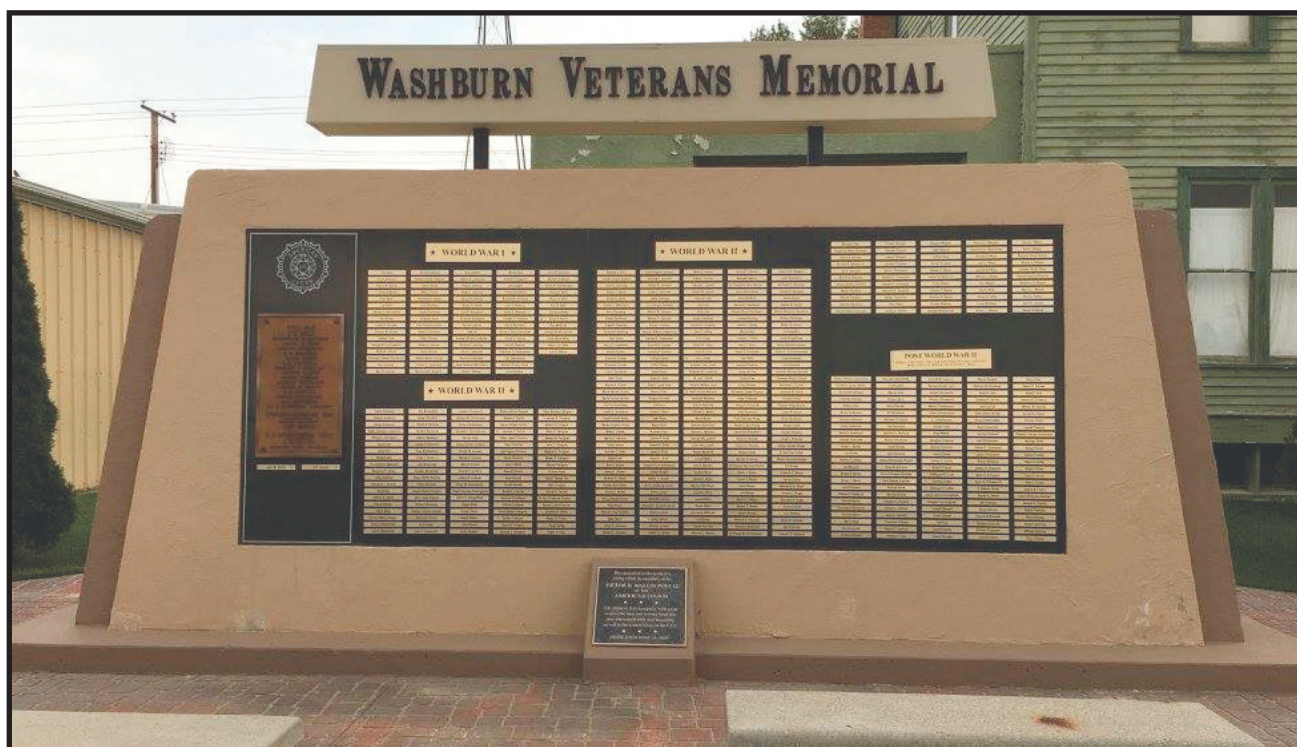
The State High School Oratorical Contest Finals are on Saturday afternoon and Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Weyrauch will oversee the contest.

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 10th. 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 18, and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

The Legion Family receives a discounted room rate with the Bismarck Hotel. Please call the hotel directly to make your room reservation by calling 701-660-8063. Discounted rates are through January 2, 2024.

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



The Veteran's Memorial in Washburn is a living memorial for our Veterans. The purpose is to recognize with great respect the men and women who served to protect and defend our country. It lists the names of Veterans from Washburn and the surrounding area who served honorably in the armed forces of the USA. New names are added by the members of Victor B. Wallin Post 12 of the American Legion. The Memorial was dedicated June 16, 2007. It was designed by William "Whiskey Bill" Reynolds.

Foundation 30-Year Anniversary; Will It Last Another 30?

Harvey Peterson, Foundation Chairman

On June 18, 1993, the North Dakota American Legion Foundation was established with the adopting of by-laws that converted the original LOVE Trust into the current NDAL Foundation. Those by-laws were adopted and signed by the first three directors, Dennis Mock, Norman Erdman and Bill Haug. This year, 2023, marks the 30th anniversary of that auspicious beginning.

The original LOVE Trust (Legion Ongoing Veterans Endowment Trust) was established in 1978 by trustees Virgil Dinga, Norvin P. Black and Curtis O. Twete. The Trust, intended to last 12 years, was formed to carry on the programs of the American Legion into an uncertain future. Thus, 2023 would mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the original Trust. A few of the original funds establishing the original Trust remain. These started with donations from individuals who believed in the great programs and work of the Legion. Monies received and funds maintained include the Jack and Hannah Williams fund (Williams Fund for veterans within the Department), from Nels Rolfson (the Administrative Fund), from John Kennelly (the Kennelly Fund – for Oratory) and from Sam Tolchinsky whose fund supports the Legion Oratorical program through the ND Community Foundation. The Trust had a value of \$64,378 in 1994.

Recognizing the time limit of the Trust, the tax implications for donors to a trust as opposed to a Foundation and to ensure that the assets of the trust would be permanent as an endowment, the Trustees in 1993 worked to convert the Trust into a Foundation. This involved a number of changes, especially increasing the number of Directors from 3 to 7. (Two of the seven directors are the Department Adjutant who serves as Secretary, and the Department Finance Officer who serves as treasurer. Department leadership are ex-officio members as well.) This change required obtaining a separate Tax Identification Number (EIN) and filing with the ND Secretary of State to become a registered non-profit corporation able to do business as a

non-profit charity within North Dakota. Last, it led to the filing for and approval of 501-c-3 status.

The NDAL Foundation has grown 10-fold in 30 years through donations, from raffles, auctions, investment income and through prudent fiscal management to its current value in excess of \$600,000. However, to support current Legion programs into the future will require a considerably larger principle. For example, it would require about a million-dollar endowment to produce enough income through interest and dividends to support a \$35,000 Boys State program. It would require substantially more (3 million?) to support a Veterans Service Officer or an Office Staff member. For the Foundation to achieve its mission of carrying on Legion programs in the future it is obvious that it must grow by leaps and bounds.

Can that be done? **It's possible but only if those involved care enough to do it.** For example, we have a number of supporters who donate to each and every plea, we as a Department, make. We appreciate every dollar received, regardless of size. However, there are veterans and others who believe strongly enough in the Legion, in what it stands for and in what it does to help by making substantially larger contributions. These are individuals who, after caring for their family, have the means to make donations of size through bequests, life insurance, cash or other instruments to start building a larger foundation. What's stopping this from happening?

I think we, the Foundation and Department, are neither trained nor attuned to identify potential donors and to solicit large donations – even for such great a cause as we claim we are. With that said, we still must persevere if we are to survive. Perhaps we should be thinking of this in another way. For starters, what can we do for the donor? There are great tax benefits available in ND, especially for retirees who are required to take the required minimum distribution from an IRA. Do they know about us? Another, who has benefitted from Legion programs over the years? Should we not be asking them for assistance to preserve

the programs that benefited them in their careers? Many alumni of Boys and Girls State, Baseball, Oratorical, and other programs may be in a position to be of assistance. What's stopping us from asking them? My answer: who are they? Second, how do we and who should approach them for their help?

Likewise, there are those who through hard work, inheritance or luck have amassed considerable assets and who may have an interest in supporting Legion programs. Again, who are they? How could they be approached? And who is to do it? There are also among us acquaintances of individuals who have amassed wealth and don't know we exist. How do we reach them? What is the message? Who is the messenger? In all cases, we must advise any potential donor to consult with their tax advisor before making important decisions. However, we can encourage them to consider the Legion!

I don't have the answers to any of the questions I pose but amongst the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Riders and the Sons I am sure there are those more knowledgeable and capable than I. But I am confident that with the financial help of a lot of people and a lot of money, the next 30 years will prove that what we do today is good, proper and just. The things we do and what we stand for are what makes this organization and for that matter this country what it is.

But I do know this much about philanthropy. You gotta have the means. You gotta take care of family first. You gotta wanna give and you gotta believe!



And The Band Plays On

One Hundred Years will be celebrated in 2024 for your ND State Legion Band. The original band stemmed primarily from the former 164th Infantry Band (1st ND National Guard) that served on the Mexican Border in 1916 and in Europe in WWI and reorganized after returning home. The early formation of the State Band was to officially get organized. The first officers chosen were from Lisbon, ND – William M. Jones, president; A. Galbreath, vice-president; Albert (Abbie) Andrews, director; and Walter G. Curtis, secretary-treasurer. Curtis, who became department commander in 1925-26, served as manager until 1927 when the late K.A. “Ken” Fitch of Fargo assumed the duties until his death in September 1963.

The role of the State Band has evolved over the years with appearances not only at Department Conventions and Winter Conferences but also attending National Conventions. The band was able to provide music on the occasions of honoring many prominent Legionnaires. It participated in 1941 for the homecoming of newly-elected National Commander Lynn Stambaugh of Fargo; at the 1951 inauguration of Thomas Whelan of St. Thomas as US ambassador to Nicaragua; the 1957 inauguration of John Davis, then a past Department Commander from McClusky, as Governor of North Dakota; for Ken Fitch Appreciation Day during the 1963 state legislative assembly when the longtime band manager’s colleagues in the House of Representatives wanted to recognize his service; at a January 1965 state legislative session in honor of longtime Department Adjutant Jack Williams; at the 1966 election and installation of former Governor Davis as National American Legion Commander in Washington, DC and in 1988 at the election and installation of ND Supreme Court Justice and past Department Commander H.F. “Sparky” Gierke of Watford City and Bismarck, as National Commander in Louisville, KY.

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 serve 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 Coordinating Council and both are responsible for preparing and presenting bills to the legislature that would affect veterans.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Department Adjutant at the Department



Under the management of Ken Fitch, the band became the first musical unit in the United States known to use a female out in front of the band introducing what is known today as the majorette. The first majorette, in 1927, was Miss Harriet Phillips of Fargo and the last of the majorettes were sisters Jolene, Janet and Janice Jensen of Bismarck.

The stories of the State Band continue as we look to the past and the future of this organization of the ND American Legion. Thanks to all who continue to support the State Band with their monetary donations.



The turnout at three of the four district meetings fell short of expectations. District 7 had a very impressive turnout. I would have liked to see better participation from Districts 6, 8 and 9. I understand that some members cannot drive at night, but those are very limited. When less than 50 percent of the posts are represented, it makes me wonder what we can do to improve attendance. I would appreciate your feedback on what can be done to improve attendance. I know that American Legion positions are all volunteer, but everyone should take some pride in the positions they are holding as a post officer and represent your post at district level meetings.

The districts that served meals all did great jobs, but I have to say the Donnybrook wins the title for the best meal. The Auxiliary ladies need to be proud of the meal they prepared.

I really enjoyed going to locations in my region that I had never been to before. The scenery was very beautiful to see. It was a lot of windshield time, but well worth it to see legionnaires at the meetings that I knew and meeting members I hadn’t met before.

Going to the Department Commander and Department President’s homecoming was a really good time. The show was very good and the meal was also very good.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the Winter Conference in Bismarck in January.

Allan Magnuson
West Region Vice Commander



Hard to believe it is November already. Hope the October storm did not catch anyone unprepared. Deer hunting is just around the corner so everyone that will be out there, please be safe.

We completed our District Meetings and thank you to District 3, 4 and 5 and to all the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members that were in attendance. It is always great to attend these meetings and to visit with Legionnaire members that we don’t see very often.

On October 28, I attended Commander Clarence and President Gloria’s Homecoming in Medora. What a great time and the meal was outstanding. After homecoming we went to the musical Million Dollar Quartet. What a performance they put on. I would highly recommend you go see their Musical next year. Thank You Clarence and Jenn for the great hospitality.

The Winter Conference is coming up the end of January it would be nice to see more members attend the Conference.

District Commanders, there are several Posts that are in need of help with their membership. Check your lists and give them a call to see how they are doing and invite them to the Post meetings. If you need any help, give me a call or Brad Huber our Membership Chairman at 619-341-4649. Central Region is number one so let’s work hard to stay number one.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all members and their families. And have safe and great holidays!!

Jacob Volk
Central Region Vice Commander

Soybeans and Corn



West Fargo
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After an extremely busy four months I, along with the rest of the Department leadership, are finally able to catch our breaths (a little) before we begin preparation for the Winter Conference at the end of January.

Despite lower than desired attendance, District meetings went extremely well. Keeping with our promise, and as expected, your Department Adjutant and I attended all ten meetings. Every District meeting operated off the same script and agenda, yet every meeting was unique in its own way. I learned something new at each meeting and enjoyed your hospitality at all ten posts that hosted us. Thank you again to those posts that hosted District meetings. I was personally inspired to meet with you and hear the stories of your continued service to your communities. We may be separated geographically across this state, but we are all unified in executing the mission of The American Legion. Additionally, your Department was represented well at Fall meetings in Indianapolis. You can be proud to know that National takes notice of what we are doing in North Dakota. YOUR service matters and I am extremely proud of all that you do. Keep up the good work!

As I write this Newsletter, Veterans Day is upcoming, but by the time you read this it will have been in the past. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day is a day we can celebrate each other. No matter what uniform you wore, we all swore the same oath, and despite the fun we have exercising interservice rivalry, on this day we are all one, VETERANS. I pray you all had wonderful celebrations.

As I close, may you all find and experience peace, love, and joy this holiday season. With all the craziness going on in the world I would encourage you to get out and enjoy spending time with family, friends, and those you love. The world we live in is a wonderful place made up of great people. Sometimes you have to shut off the TV, get your nose out of social media and just enjoy the world we live in. I look forward to being with you at the Winter Conference.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. If you need to contact me for any reason, I can be reached via email at abnavnltc@yahoo.com or on my personal cell 910-584-8773.

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ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



Where does the time go? As Geoffrey Chaucer said, "Time and Tide wait for no man." It does not seem possible that 3 months have passed, and it is already time for my next article of the Adjutant's Corner. When I penned the last one, we were in the middle of a sweltering heat wave and today it is gray and overcast and schools are closed in the Northern and Western sections of our state due to snow. The weather is supposed to clear by Friday. I hope they are correct because we have our final 2 fall district meetings scheduled for this Saturday in Devils Lake and Larimore.

I want to thank all the Posts and Units that have stepped up and volunteered to host our fall district meetings, I did hear a few rumblings that it was more like "Volen-told". In any case everyone rose to the challenge, and we have had 8 great meetings so far and we look forward to 2 more outstanding gatherings. It will be bittersweet to have a district meeting in Larimore without my good friend Al Tuma there. I will miss him, and the prime rib that he served!

Your Department Commander and I have been busy traveling. We have attended all district meetings, veterans coordinating council, Department Executive Committee meeting, the Fall meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN for Commanders, and Adjutants. At the District meetings I have observed several Posts that have arranged for the Commander to either speak at an event or attend an event at their Post. Our Commander is happiest when he is out and among his fellow Veterans. He spent 32 years on active duty and Veterans and their families are his people.

We are in the process of putting on the final touches for the Winter Conference which will be held at The Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center on January 25 – 28, 2024. We had hoped to meet with the hotel prior to the deadline for this newspaper so that I could report on our discussions. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The biggest issue is the limited hours of their onsite restaurant. I have my doubts that we will be able to resolve the restaurant hours because it is due to a lack of help, which so many businesses are plagued with. If the restaurant hours are not extended, we are kicking around a couple ideas such as possibly running a shuttle between the Hotel and the mall. I can't discuss the other one publicly but trust me we are concerned about your convenience and are actively seeking solutions to make this conference fun, convenient and educational. We don't know if we are going to need extra help yet, but let me know if we might be able to call upon you if we need shuttle drivers, people to pick up things, registration etc. As I said, we don't know if we are going to need you yet but let me know if you would like (or at least willing) to be called upon if needed.

Recently on our Department Website (www.ndlegion.org) under publications I added some pamphlets with information about ceremonial rifles, ammo for these rifles and static displays. Check them out when you get a chance. Also, the Department has an official Facebook page (search ND American Legion) Here good information is posted in a professional setting. You can comment on items here, but you cannot post items. I started and others have joined a less formal Facebook

group (search ND Legion Family). On the unofficial page, if you join as a member, you are allowed to post items. This unofficial page is meant to be a way to talk about events happening at our local Posts and Units. News (deaths, illnesses or hey even happy events once in a while) that pertain to our members. It is not meant to be a place to air grievances about political events, politicians, policies, or individuals. Do that on your own page. Anything improper will be deleted and repeated violations could result in your being expelled. This is meant to be a friendly place for friends to meet.

Starting with this column, I am going to try and do a little mentoring for our younger members, and maybe a reminder to our older members. The Legion Cap will remain free of all pins, patches, and devices on the emblem side of the cap. The other side of the cap may have placed upon it membership badges or patches of position, military emblems, miniature medals and ribbons and other patriotic or Legion pins and devices. The cap should be removed whenever you are eating. When laying your cap on a table, the emblem side should be up and when saying the pledge of allegiance, hold the cap over your heart with the emblem facing out and up.

Once again, I remind you that "you" are the face of The American Legion. In the eyes of the public, what you do, is what The American Legion is. Please avoid, Officers especially, having your picture taken while holding an alcoholic beverage. We are "Called to Serve - Held to A Higher Standard". Until next time, Fly the Flag and keep your powder dry.

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

BRAD HUBER - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Hello Legion Family, it will probably come as no surprise what I will be discussing for my article. For those who attended the district meetings, I'm definitely going to sound like a broken record, for everyone else I will be talking about Membership. Overall, we are looking pretty good, we have around 75% of our members renewed for another year, but can we do better? Simple answer is Yes! I believe if we put forth the effort, we can reach out to the remaining 3,000 plus Legionnaires and get them to renew their membership before the 31st of December. Why the end of December, because if your membership card says 2023 on it, it will expire at the end of the year. I truly believe we can achieve 100% membership in our Posts, Districts and Department by or before the 31st of December. All it takes is a little effort on our part and our membership would

be golden. If we get everyone onboard with this concept then we could take our Department to the next level and work on growing and building a bigger, better and stronger Legion in North Dakota.

One option is Paid up for Life (PUFL), yes it may seem pricey, but you have payment options for a PUFL. You can pay the lump sum amount or make monthly payments for a year. Then you don't have to worry about renewing your membership annually. Simply speak to your Post Adjutant, Post Commander or you can contact Arnie Havelka or myself. A membership dues increase is coming folks so don't waste an opportunity to Pay up for Life, so you won't have to worry about annual dues anymore, it's worth looking into.

I'm going to close my comments by saying I'm proud

of our State and it's time to be proud of our Department. The best way to show our pride is by renewing your membership, seeking out those new members so we have a stronger Department. We need to show everyone our Dakota pride by meeting and then exceeding our membership goals. Our First goal is 100% post membership by 31 December, the next mission is to increase our membership so we can have a bigger and better Legion. One last time so I can etch this into your brains, 100% membership for your Post, District and Department by the 31st of December, let's do this people!! Thank you for allowing me to be your membership chair, thank you for your service and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



More Than Burn Pits

PACT Act established more than 20 new presumptive disabilities for veterans who served in Southwest Asia and were exposed to burn pits, two additional presumptive disabilities for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and added additional presumptive locations for Agent Orange exposure. However, PACT Act is more than just these benefits.

PACT Act covers any toxic exposure a veteran may have been exposed to while in service. Common exposures may include asbestos, mustard gas, radiation, project SHAD, contaminated water, and other military occupational specialty-related toxins. Under PACT Act, a veteran must show they have a disability and participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service for VA to request a compensation exam with

medical opinion. This does not mean the veteran will be granted service connection, but VA is required to assist the veteran is developing his or her claim.

Common questions Veteran Service Officers have been asked is how veteran's file claims they believe could be covered under toxic exposure. The answer: provide VA with evidence the veteran participated in a TERA during military service and provide supporting documents which the veteran believes links his or her current condition to the toxic exposure.

An example may include a veteran who served aboard a Navy ship as a gunner's mate in the 1950s who later developed lung cancer. The veteran believes his lung cancer is caused by the abundant use of asbestos on Navy ships during this time. The veteran provides VA with a statement describing his job duties aboard his ship and

how this exposed him to asbestos. Supporting documents, the veteran could provide VA could include articles regarding the heavy use of asbestos on Navy ships during this period of service, medical documents linking lung cancer to asbestos exposure, and/or medical opinion from the veteran's treating doctor linking his cancer to asbestos exposure.

While not every claim under PACT Act will be granted, it may be important to continue to file these claims as it provides VA the opportunity to improve research, educate staff, and expand treatment for toxic exposure related conditions.

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

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The Future of the ND Legion – Update

First and foremost: **Thank you** each and every one that have donated to the Department Service Office Expenses (DSOffice). Your donations and support have been instrumental! And appreciated. We started this in January 2023, and the predicted negative balance was more than cut in half. If we could have started earlier - that could have been way less.

The DSOffice expenses are used 100% for veterans with medical needs and meets the eligibility code, D-50, therefore donation/trust/foundation money can be used.

HB 1142 passed the last legislative session and allows donation/trust/foundation money to be used for administrative and program management expenses of statewide veteran's organizations (Department Headquarters). Eligibility Code: D-99, for now.

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

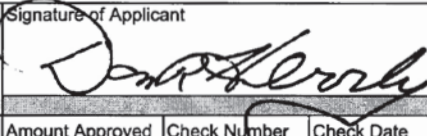
Thank you again,

Mamie Havelka
ND Legionnaire
(701)340-1621



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

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds The American Legion Department of North Dakota		Contact Person for Applicant Don Herryly		Telephone Number 701-293-3120	
Mailing Address PO Box 5057		City West Fargo	State ND	Zip Code 58078	
Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds:					
Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.					
1. American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)					
2. American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)					
Applicant agrees to retain documentation of the use of the funds for three years from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.		Signature of Applicant 		Date	
Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date
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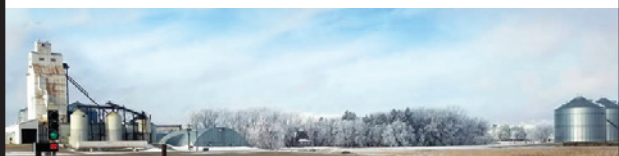


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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARK ANTAL - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Recently I completed a 3,200-mile trip on motorcycle. Sault St. Marie, Michigan, through Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick, Canada. When I tried to re-enter the United States in Maine, I presented my Real ID driver's license and military ID. The US customs officer did not want to let me back in the country stating my IDs were not proof of citizenship and he was correct. After being detained for 30 minutes he let me pass, but not before giving me a stern education on how to cross the border. I am now working on getting my passport renewed. Proof of citizenship is critical when traveling.

I am reminded that I have a dual citizenship. In Paul's letter to the Philippians 3:20. *"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."* Every

day I acknowledge my need for a savior because of my sin. I acknowledge that God has the right path for my life. I acknowledge that he is holy and just.

Like many of our veterans, I have traveled to countries around the world, all under the protection of the United States government. We are seeing world events that question the safety of people and the stability of nations. I am thankful to be an American citizen. I am also thankful for the peace, joy and hope that comes from knowing Christ.

The American Legion motto "For God and Country" calls us to a renewed commitment to our country and a call to seek and serve God.

If you have never been to a Winter Conference, I encourage you to come to Bismarck, January 25-28, 2024. Come for a day or for the entire conference. Looking forward to seeing my Legion family.

Rifle and Ammo Requests

Recently there have been questions about ammunition and ceremonial rifles. Request for either rifles or ammunition should be directed to The American Legion National Headquarters at 1608 K Street NW Washington DC 20006. Attn: Executive Director. Requests must include Post Name and Number. A complete street address, not a PO Box number. Number of active members. Requests must be signed by the current Post Commander or Adjutant and telephone number including area code of the officers signing the request. The letter of request must be made on Post Letterhead. The DC office will send out a confirmation copy of the request within 10 business days. If you don't receive one, call them at 202-861-2700. Do not contact state officials, congressional or senate offices as this will slow the process down.

Also remember that Posts are responsible for accounting for all ceremonial rifles assigned to them once per year. If you do not want the rifles anymore there is a proper way to dispose of them. You must return the weapons to the DOD. You cannot just give them to another post or person. These weapons are property of the US Government and are on loan to the posts in the American Legion.

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The Message

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Gackle Unit 250 Honors Poppy Contest Winners

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle sponsored the 2023 Poppy Poster Contest at the Gackle-Streeter school. Twelve winning posters were selected and sent to the Department Poppy Chairman for judging.

Four of the Gackle-Streeter school posters won at the state level. Winners of the Poppy Poster Contest: Chase Zabka, Payton Elhard, Judith Jaeger and Alexia Guerrero, (winner at the Northwestern Division level) were announced at *"Coffee With the Kids"* at the Gackle-Streeter school gym on October 6, 2023. The four winners were presented with a certificate and a \$25 gift card.

Article and photos submitted by: Unit 250 President Elaine Ackerman



NW Division Poppy Poster Winner
Alexia Guerrero



Pictured (l-r) Poppy Poster Winners: Adrian Guerrero (accepting for Alexia Guerrero), Chase Zabka, and Payton Elhard. Not pictured is Judith Jaeger.

Napoleon Unit 72 Veterans Day Program

A Veterans Day at School program was coordinated by Unit President Helen Braun of Barry-Hoof American Legion Auxiliary Unit 72, and Principal Whitney Weigel of Napoleon Public School Grades K-6. Teagan Erbele, Student Council President, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The American Legion Color Guard presented the colors to open the program with the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Veterans residing at the Napoleon Care Center as well as veterans living in the area and American Legion and Auxiliary members were recognized.

Helen Braun shared a reading of the 'Military Child Table Ceremony' with elementary students participating. The 'Military Child Table Ceremony' represents the absence of a military parent during the growing years of a child and the important dates and activities a parent may miss participating in.

Chelsie Gross, MSGT North Dakota National Guard, was invited as the guest speaker. With the aid of a slide show program, "Embarking on a Journey of Purpose," Chelsie described her military training and career that

took her around the world while obtaining a good education. Most recently she has had a joint career experience with the Bismarck Army and Fargo Air Force. She has been deployed four times and plans to make the military a 20-year career.

The program closed with the American Legion Color Guard retiring the colors and presenting the playing of 'TAPS.'

Article and photo submitted by: Ann Knecht



Guest Speaker MSGT Chelsie Gross of the North Dakota National Guard

Galesburg Unit 210 Sponsors Fundraiser

On October 20, 2023, Sigvard B. Aasen Post and Unit 210 of Galesburg sponsored their annual fundraising event featuring BINGO, meat raffles, a silent auction, and a barbecue dinner. This event was a huge success and will allow us to sponsor students to both the Boys and Girls State programs. Thank you to everyone who traveled to our community to participate in the raffle, enjoy dinner, and meet new and old friends.

Article and photos by: District 1 President Virginia Satrom



District 1 President Virginia Satrom and granddaughter Livy Schuety



Attendees enjoying a meal and BINGO

Scranton Unit 151 Honors Americanism Essay Contest Winners

When American Legion Auxiliary Harry W. Lindberg Unit 151 of Scranton sponsored the 2023 Americanism Essay Contest, little did they know that one of those essays would be a winner on the National level. Unit members judged Americanism essays written by students at Scranton Public Schools. Three of the essays were Department winners in their individual group. The winners were Blake Pierce, Kiley Mausehund, and Sonora Stoltzfus. The winning essays were then sent on to Northwestern Division and National for judging. One of the essays written at Scranton was a first place winner in her class from Northwestern Division at the National level. The winner is Kiley Mausehund.

Mr. Richard Norton, the history teacher who assigned the essay to his students, has done this as part of his curriculum for many years. Members of Unit 151 thank Mr. Norton for helping his students to expand their thinking and helping them grow into citizens that are the future of our country.

On October 27, 2023, an assembly was held at Scranton School to honor contest winner Kiley Mausehund. Mr. Norton, who now resides in Bison, SD, traveled to Scranton for the ceremony. Norton is quoted as saying, "I wouldn't miss this. She is my first national winner." We are fortunate to have such dedicated teachers as role models for our young citizens.

Unit 151 President Terry Freymiller presented a certificate to Kiley Mausehund, now a freshman at Scranton High School. Kiley read her essay to the assembly. The inspiration for her essay was her dad, Paul Mausehund, who served in the US Army from 1998 to 2012.

Kiley is the daughter of Paul and Corrine Mausehund of Scranton. The award event was attended by Kiley's parents; Bob and Kathy Kromerak, grandparents; Laci Coates, County Veterans Service Officer; Bill Schaar, Post 151 Legionnaire; and Unit 151 Auxiliary members Dianne Pierce, Carla Teske, Cindy Miller, and Terry Freymiller. Students and staff of the Scranton Public Schools were also in attendance.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Article and photo submitted by: Unit President Terry Freymiller



Pictured (l-r) Dianne Pierce, Carla Teske, Cindy Miller, Bill Schaar, Mr. Richard Norton, Paul Mausehund, Kiley Mausehund, Brad Mausehund, Corrine Mausehund, Bob Kromerak, Kathy Kromerak, Kaitlyn Mausehund and Terry Freymiller.

American Legion Auxiliary 2024 Winter Conference

January 26-28, 2024

(Tentative schedule/subject to change)

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center
(hotel formerly known as Ramkota)
800 South 3rd St., Bismarck, ND
Phone: 701-660-8063

Friday, January 26 Conference Rooms - TBD
11:00 AM Department Finance Board Meeting
1:00 – 6:00 PM Auxiliary Registration-Hotel Lobby
3:00 PM Department Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 PM No-Host Dinner - TBD
7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 27 Conference Rooms - TBD
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Conference Sessions
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM ..Oratorical Contest
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ..Auxiliary Conference Activity-TBD
5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet Social
6:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet

Sunday, January 28 Conference Rooms - TBD
8:00 AM-9:30 AM Auxiliary Meetings Wrap-Up
9:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

Department President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
My first order of business is to thank the Districts and the unit hosts for the great hospitality and socializing at the ten Fall District meetings. The meals served were exceptional, so a big shout out to the food preparers! Our small-town communities are the best in every way!

Another thank you goes to everyone who attended the homecoming social in Medora for Commander Clarence and me. It was a beautiful weekend and visiting Medora without the summer crowd was exceptional. It was like we had the whole town to ourselves!! The "Million Dollar Quartet" concert was fabulous.

Our collection of membership dues needs to be put in high gear. The 2024 dues need to be paid by December 31, 2023, to be considered a member at your 2024 meetings and not a guest without privilege. Remember your "why" of becoming an Auxiliary member. Our veterans, youth, and communities are always in need of your support. Let's everyone get "fired up" about our "why" and get our units revitalized. We need to look at the future with positivity and a new lease on our goals.

Our Department Office has a new email program to send out email blasts to all members with an email address on file. It is called Constant Contact which will show at the bottom of the email that you receive. If you wish to receive the Department email blasts, be sure the Department Office has your name, unit #, position held (if applicable), and an updated email address. Some email addresses were collected at District meetings. If you were not at a District meeting, I encourage Unit Presidents to send this information for your unit members to the Department Office.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a member of your



Department President Gloria Covert (left) with Department Commander Clarence Carroll at the October Homecoming.

unit have access to ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System). This program has information for every member of your unit. There are three levels of access, so choose the one that works for your unit and send a request by email to the Department Office at secretary@ndala.org. Please include the access level desired, member's name, and email address. In turn, Department staff will request your access from National Headquarters.

Every program that the National office administers has a Facebook page. All members have access to these pages. They are a great resource for information as a lot of questions and answers are addressed.

Every member with computer access should sign up under the "members only" portal on the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org. All members should review the courses that are available under the ALA Academy page. Everything you ever wanted to know about the American Legion Auxiliary is available on the national website.

The Department's website, www.ndala.org, features information on our programs, scholarships, application forms, unit mail material, "The Message" articles, and more. All members with a computer have access to this information.

Wishing everyone the best of the holiday season.
Always be kind,
Gloria Covert



Gloria Covert



Pictured (l-r) Department President Gloria Covert, Past Department President Sandra Petermann (2022-23), Past Department President Marlys Aubol (2013-14), Past NW Division National Vice President Judy Twete (2015-16), and NEC Tammy Ryberg.

Department President-Elect

Hello North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

Thank you for all your work to get membership dues brought in!

The National Committee has set a theme for Membership this year. Our National President Lisa Williamson is from Alaska. The theme that has been presented is a dog sled theme, as in Iditarod. That is a very cool theme! However, I think that a better, more fitting theme for North Dakota is: "The Great North Dakota Buffalo Roundup for Membership!"

So, my dear buffalo herders, let's Round Up Our Members! Let's get all our dues paid right up front this year so we don't have to worry about it anymore. Then we can concentrate on recruiting new members. Enlist all unit members to assist your membership chairman to contact unpaid members.

If we all work together, we can get our members rounded up. As paid-up members, we can together accomplish all our goals and projects for our veterans, our communities, our youth, and fellow Auxiliary members!

RENEW MEMBERS, RETAIN MEMBERS, REJOIN MEMBERS, and RECRUIT MEMBERS! Let's get ALL OUR UNITS, ALL OUR DISTRICTS, and therefore, OUR DEPARTMENT to 100% this year! Let's aim for 75% 2024 dues paid by December 1st.

Roundup time is here! Herd on my herders!

LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Make your plans soon to attend the 2024 Winter Conference to be held January 26-28 at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center (former Ramkota Hotel). You will find the registration and banquet ticket order form for this event elsewhere in this publication.

Fred and I attended District 1 and District 10 meetings this fall. We were impressed by the Fairmount Sons of American Legion (SAL) Squadron that performed the opening ceremonies at District 10. The attendance in District 10 was impressive as well. Post 13 of Finley (District 1) did a phenomenal job serving the meal prior to opening session. Although District 1's attendance by Auxiliary members was disappointing, I met several phenomenal members.

In February, the National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants. The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation, which make it more difficult for families to afford their basic needs. The new grant amount took effect on October 1, 2023, the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year.

The updated grant award of \$3,000 is for Auxiliary

members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance. Information on the AEF Program and updated applications can be found on the national website at www.ALAforVeterans.org. You may also contact Department AEF Chairman Wanda Tostenson if you have questions.

Thank you, Unit Membership Chairmen, for your work to gather dues from your current members and new and rejoined members as well. By now, all officers and chairmen should be paid for 2024 and no unit should be experiencing a 'goose' egg. National President Williamson's membership theme this year is sled dog racing, so keep mushing on.

I wish each of you good health, and happy and safe holidays as you celebrate with your family and friends. Keep our veterans, active military, and their families in your prayers. Take care of yourself and others.

God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Vice President

Introducing Department Vice President Candace Berg

Candace joined the Auxiliary as a junior member under the eligibility of her father, Harland Berg, a Vietnam veteran. During her years as a junior member, Candace served as the trumpet player (bugler) for Memorial Day programs until graduating from high school.

Candace is active with the York unit as well as the Devils Lake Neathery-Simenson VFW Auxiliary, having served as a flag bearer, unit secretary, unit chaplain, and several chairmanships.

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

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

Candace's focus this year is to embrace the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and meeting as many veterans as possible.

Article submitted by Marcy Schmidt



Candace Berg

Department Treasurer

Our calendar year is ending, and our ND weather is reminding us of it! Bundle up my friends! This is a season of giving and gratitude – my favorite time of year. There have been a whole lot of "warm fuzzies" passed around during the last couple of months! What if we could carry that through into next year?

I am so grateful when I see the contributions that units from all over the state send in for the Auxiliary Veteran's programs. When we pool our funds, so much more can be achieved for these VIP's! THANK YOU to each and every unit – you are all a blessing!

Now, I wonder what we can do when January shows up? The dark, dreary days of winter. Where are the "warm fuzzies" then? My hope is that units continue to reach out – perhaps making a monthly or quarterly calendar of one thing the unit can do each month or quarter to keep those appreciative vibes for veterans going. Maybe it is sending them a card (birthdays?), inviting them to a picnic in the spring/summer, or sponsoring a social or game night for them to enjoy each other's company. Every little thing matters.

Enjoy the season – then pass it on. One small thing at a time - one smile at a time.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sonnie Otto



Sonnie Otto

Children & Youth

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

As your 2023-2024 Department Children and Youth Chairman, my main goal is to recognize outstanding youth in North Dakota.

We have some amazing youth in our state. Let us give them the recognition they deserve! Be on the lookout for youth in your community who deserve to be nominees for the Good Deed and/or Youth Hero Awards.

I encourage you to visit www.ndala.org/children-and-youth/ and www.ALAforVeterans.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards for award details and the nomination process.

There are so many ideas on how to assist military youth and their families. You can also check out the various activities listed and get your units involved.

Be sure to share your successes with other North Dakota units by posting your activities to your unit's Facebook page and forward articles and pictures to the Department Office for publication in "The Message." We will succeed when we make our youth a priority!

Jill Carstens

Children and Youth Chairman



District 2

Hello District 2 Members.

It was good to see so many members at the Fall District Meeting in Larimore, especially after all the snow we received in the days before. The roads were not good in some areas. I appreciate the people who were able to attend.

Department President Gloria Covert reported on the National Convention and encouraged communication with all your members. If you have any Honorary Life Members, send this information to the Department Office so renewal notices will go to the unit and not the member.

President-Elect LoAnn Dick discussed membership and shared an example of "Be The One" by a teacher who assigned essay topics to students. She also is encouraging units to restart their meetings now that we are post COVID. Do not forget the reason you joined; it is to help our veterans. Our volunteer numbers, dollars, and memberships help in much-needed lobbying in Congress on important legislation that impacts veterans such as burn pits and Camp Lejeune.

Thank you to the units whose membership is already at 100% or more. Certificates were handed out to those units present at the Fall meeting. We are coming to the end of the year. If you have not sent in your dues for 2023, your membership expires on December 31, 2023. Please send in your dues. Your membership is important for our 'mission' to support veterans, military, and their families. Membership dues for 2024 should be paid by January 2nd.

Everyone is encouraged to wear RED on Fridays to 'Remember Everyone Deployed.' Spread the word by sharing with your friends, families, and area schools.

With the upcoming holidays, remember our veterans with cards, goodie trays, phone calls, or even a visit. There are so many ways to remember our veterans.

Have you finished updating your Constitution & Bylaws? If not, please complete them as soon as possible. Also, I want to remind all units to fill out your 990-N tax exempt form online to maintain your non-profit status.

Hope to see everyone at the Winter Conference in January!

Shelley Schuster
District 2 President



District 4

Greetings to all District 4 ALA Members.

Our District meeting was held on September 21st at the All-Vets Club in Jamestown. At the joint opening, we enjoyed a medley of American songs preformed by Tim Metz, District 4 Commander Jon's brother. Tim received a standing ovation. We thanked Carol, the banquet manager, for her years of service. Carol had already retired but came back just to do the District 4 dinner.

Our guest speakers were Department President Gloria Covert, Department President-Elect and Membership Chair LoAnn Dick, and Past NW Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer.

President Covert reminded us that we need to make sure we have a quorum before we start our meetings. She suggested maintaining communication with our members by using Zoom meetings, letters, texting, and emails.

Some other topics that came up included: reviewing and updating our Unit Constitution and Bylaws, sending pictures to our Department Historian of our events, including Junior members in events and meetings, campaigning for Suicide Prevention, and utilizing Land's End Business for ALA logo clothing (<https://www.legion-aux.org/lands-end-business>).

Membership Chairman LoAnn stated that membership is our lifeline. LoAnn opened with "Remembering why we became a member of the ALA." Numbers count. Even though we may have only a few members that go to meetings or physically work, the greater number of members speak to our Legislators when making decisions for our veterans. Year-end Reports are important in showing how much time and money is donated in support of our veterans.

Marlene Boyer, Past NW Division National Vice President, spoke on her travels during her time in office. Marlene discussed a new project with military children which is called Dandelion Children. They have a very important role in our veterans lives.

I want to thank Unit President Betty Geigle and other Unit 14 Auxiliary members of Jamestown for hosting the District meeting. Thanks to Shirley Knapp for repairing the flagpole. There is no need to purchase a new flagpole due to her efforts.

God Bless our veterans and best wishes for the upcoming holidays.

Jane Schoonover
District 4 President



Americanism

Hello Auxiliary Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

Just a short message to let you know that information for the Americanism Essay Contest is now available. It has been sent out to units and schools in a November mailing from the Department Office. It is also available online at www.ndala.org/americanism/

The essay title this year is: "What does Freedom mean to me?"

Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in the contest. Home-school and special-needs students are also welcome to enter. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented by the Northwestern Division. Division winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in their name to the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship fund. Winners at the Department level will be announced at Department Convention, will receive a certificate, and will be submitted for consideration at the Division level.

I am also promoting the 'Star Spangled Kids' program this year. Look for more information online and in upcoming unit mailings.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas season.

Shauna Dubuque
Americanism Chairman



Education

Holiday Greetings Auxiliary Members!

What a surprise – Christmas or should I say winter has arrived early as I write this in late October, but what can you expect for North Dakota!

This year, as always, the Department's 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, 2024. 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 were mailed to North Dakota schools as well. 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.

The Department of North Dakota's Education Program Scholarship Applications are now available online. Each scholarship is valued at \$500. These applications are available at www.ndala.org/education/. Applications should be sent to me no later than April 1, 2024.

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 with family and friends!

Yours in service,
Peggy Moran
Education Chairman



Department Chaplain

Have you ever wondered who you really are? Who or what defines you? When I was much younger, it was important to me that my hair was cut and fixed just right because my appearance was important to me. After getting married and having children, I still wanted to look nice, but my appearance wasn't quite as important as my identity of being known as a wife and mother.

Many struggles and responsibilities of marriage and parenthood soon brought me to my knees before Jesus. He opened my eyes to the danger of defining my own identity. This type of selfish thinking had to be put aside and many times, instead of demanding control, I chose a path of humility and let Jesus take the throne in my life. When I did, His definitions of me were so much more than anything I could have imagined. To have the honor of being called a child of God brought so much joy along with the realization that no human definition of me could prove greater than that.

To know Jesus compels us to make Him known to others. When the shepherds saw the baby Jesus in the manger, "they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child." (Luke 2:17). When Andrew discovered Christ, he "first found his own brother Simon" and told him about the Savior and "brought him to Jesus" (John 1:41-42).

When the risen Christ appeared to the women at the gravesite, "they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to bring His disciples word" (Matthew 28:8). When the disciples were forbidden from preaching Christ in Jerusalem, they said, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

So, who are we? What defines us? Do we want to live a life where we are in total control? Or do we invite Jesus into our lives and in humility, let Him give us the honor of being known as a Child of God? As we get to know our Lord better, we want the whole world to know Him more. What can we do to make Him known?

It always begins with who we are. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

"Heavenly Father, help us to realize how important we are in Your eyes. Let us reach out to others so they realize they need to invite you into their lives also. Help us to reach out and share Your message of love to everyone we meet – today and every day of our lives. Amen."

Rose Laning



District 10

Greetings to all.

I hope this finds you well. This Auxiliary year is already one-third over. I hope you are working hard on our programs and working on membership, recruiting new members, retaining old, and reinstating former members. Find out why they have not paid in the last year or two and listen to what they say. Let them know that they matter to the unit.

Do not hold onto membership renewals. Send them in to the Department often. When you receive information from the Department staff, be sure to share it with your unit members. Reach out to our veterans and their families. Some are too proud to ask for help. Remember them this Holiday season and all through the year.

We held our 2023 Fall District meeting in September in Fairmount. It was an informative meeting. If your unit is struggling, please contact me and I will help in any way I can. If there is a unit that has extra Pocket Flags they are willing to share, please let me know.

We really need someone to step up to be the next District 10 President and Vice President. My term as District President expires in June and I will not be taking the position again. I have served as your District President for fourteen years and six as Vice President and it is time to pass the baton. Serving as District President is a rewarding experience and the job is not a difficult one. I am willing to mentor someone and will assist you in any way I can. Please consider stepping up and serving as District President. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want more information.

I am looking forward to working with all of you this year. Make your plans to attend the 2024 Winter Conference to be held in Bismarck in January. May your holidays be safe and memorable while spending time with family and friends.

Gigi Moore
District 10 President



Poppies

The Auxiliary's Poppy Program has been busy. Poppy Co-Chairman Ginny Stendahl has been collaborating with staff and residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. She has been working to wrangle enough volunteers to assemble poppies for distribution to our Auxiliary units across the state of North Dakota.

Several units and individual members have stepped up and are assembling poppies as fast as they can. Ginny and I appreciate all the help. Thank you everyone. If you know a member or a veteran who would like to assist us with assembling poppies going forward, please reach out to the staff at the Department Office.

We have already distributed 8,200 poppies and are awaiting the arrival of more from our dedicated assemblers. If you have not already received your poppy order, we will mail them out as soon as they arrive.

We are raising funds for our veterans programs with the sale of poppy puzzles, playing cards, pinocle cards and placemats. These are a great holiday idea for a special veteran in your life. You will also find poppy coloring books at www.ndala.org/poppies-2/ and www.ALAforVeterans.org/Poppy

Carol Wolf and Ginny Stendahl
Poppy Co-Chairmen

In Memoriam

District 1
Betty J. Terry, Hillsboro
Gloria A. Boeddeker, SLM, Hillsboro
Jean A. Ulland, Hatton
Sheila K. Verke, Hatton
Helen F. Johnson, HLM, Hannaford
Marion D. Johnson, HLM, Hannaford
Ilah Lettenmaier, SLM, Sanborn

District 2
Mildred Machart, SLM, Larimore
Georgia A. Matejcek, Lankin
Betty Brekken, Tolna

District 3
Loraine Ohm, Rugby
Geraldine Holien, SLM, Cando
Marlene A. Striker, SLM, Dunseith
D. Lorraine Haas, SLM, Rolla

District 4
Charlotte Broten, Jamestown
Joann E Deede, Jamestown
Doris Lauer, McClusky
Mabel Tkach, McClusky
Aileen Astrup, Wimbledon

District 5
Jeannette G. Neil, SLM, Washburn
Bernice Kautz, SLM, Linton
Marlene Eckholm, Wing

District 6
Mildred Edwards, Minot
Georgiann E. Desilets, Velva
Jacquelyn L. Krumwiede, Velva
Claudette Merck, SLM, Velva
Cindy Meyer, Willow City
Delores Swehla, SLM, Bowbells
Ardella Johnson, Donnybrook

District 8
Ellen J. Gregory, Belfield
Shirley Kitzan, Richardton

District 9
Ruth Rolfson, Watford City
Judy L. Meyer, Crosby
Gladys Homdrom, SLM, Crosby
Geraldine M. Moum, SLM, Crosby
Lavon Grubb, Powers Lake
Eleanor Enget, Powers Lake

District 10
Marlene Miller, Wahpeton
Sharon M. Larson, Wahpeton
Alma M. Siemers, PUFL, Wahpeton
Roberta O. Johnson, Ellendale
Oline Nelson, Milnor
Ardyce Snyder, Wyndmere
Cordy Farsdale, SLM, Walcott

Unit 500
Harriet Drury, SLM
Jane Grage, SLM



We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.
Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Do you know someone who wishes to donate to a foundation to support American Legion Auxiliary programs such as Girls State? The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation positively impacts the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the American Legion Auxiliary today and for future generations.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation was founded in 2007 to assist in conducting the educational, charitable, and other exempt purposes of the Auxiliary by raising funds for, assisting in conduct of, and providing support to the Auxiliary programs. As a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, the ALA Foundation provides a resource to engage investors interested in supporting our mission.

Grants are available to departments and units in their efforts to support local veterans, military, and their families by offering three different grants.

Veteran Projects Fund – For any Auxiliary unit,

district/county, or department that identifies a new, one-time need for your local veterans or active military.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival – To aid in the well-being of veterans by introducing them to art therapy through a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival or offers art therapy courses that feed into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Subgrant: American Legion Auxiliary units, districts, or departments that have identified a source for grant funding from a foundation or corporation that requires the recipient to be a 501(c)(3) can have the ALA Foundation serve as the recipient. The ALA Foundation will then, in turn, sub-grant the full amount to the unit, district, or department according to the terms and conditions of the grantor.

To learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation or to apply for a grant, visit the national organization's website at www.alafoundation.org (Information sourced from the Foundation website)

McVile Post 135 Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor®

Three members of Ole Semling Post 135 McVile were honored recently with beautiful Quilts of Valor®.

Richard (Rick) Urvand who is currently residing at Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo was back for a few days for the celebration of 'McVile Days.' Rick served in the US Army (1966-1968). Although Rick spent the weekend in the Nelson County Hospital, Mark Olson arrived at the hospital to visit and was presented with a quilt as well. Mark served in the US Army (1969-1970).

Judy Sateren, Commander of Post 135, was the recipient of the third quilt. The presentation to Commander Sateren took place at McVile Park during the Community Dinner. Commander Sateren served for 35 years starting in 1967 in the active duty Army and Guard Reserve.

The 'Homebound Quilters' from area communities create the quilts with love and dedication. These quilts are machine or handmade and presented to Service Members or Veterans who have been touched by war. The Quilts of Valor® Foundation is located in Iowa, but there are many volunteer quilters in many states who volunteer their time and material to make these special quilts.

The Quilts of Valor® ladies from the area who create the quilts are appreciated for their generosity, dedication, and the love that goes into each of the beautiful quilts. To help defray costs to make these masterpieces, Post 135 of McVile made a generous donation to the Quilts of Valor® organization. A big 'thank you' to all involved in this loving project.

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

Article and photos submitted by: Unit 135 President Judy Twete



Quilts of Valor® recipients Richard (Rick) Urvand (left) and Mark Olson.

Volunteers Honored at September Event

On September 18, 2023, the VAMC Center for Development and Civic Engagement honored area volunteers at a banquet held at the Moorhead American Legion.

Pictured (l-r): MN Auxiliary Department President Sharon Cross, ND Auxiliary Department President Gloria Covert, Unit 2 President and VAVS Rep. Carol Wolf, and Department VA&R Chairman LaVonne Matthews.



Gackle Unit 250 Donates Books

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle donated funds to the Gackle-Streeter School to be applied toward the monthly Scholastic book order. This places a personal book into the hands of each elementary school student.

Scholastic Book Club books have been going home for years. So many times, kids are unable to order books because of limited funds. The Auxiliary donation provides each elementary student an opportunity to receive books during the school year. Books are sent home with students to keep as their own and share and read with their families.

Article and photo submitted by: Unit President Elaine Ackerman



Gackle-Streeter smiling first grade students with their new books.

2024 Winter Conference Pre-Registration

Pre-order your conference banquet tickets at \$35 each no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Banquet tickets will increase to \$40 after January 10, 2024

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, (hotel formerly known as Ramkota)
800 South 3rd St., Bismarck, ND 58504
Hotel Direct Phone: 701-660-8063

Meetings – January 26-28, 2024

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

Please send this form along with payment to the
American Legion Auxiliary Department Office, 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
Auxiliary registrations received after January 18, 2024, will be held for on-site registration at Winter Conference.

District Reports



Jon Veile
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,

As I sat in front of the computer composing this letter for the winter edition of the Legion paper, I first wanted to thank the Peterson-Olson Post in Finley for hosting the fall District meeting. They did a great job of hosting the meeting. Thank you.

Fall meetings are difficult to plan for as there are so many factors that come into play. The weather cooperated for the meeting but also for harvest and I am sure we lost more than a few members to the great harvest weather. The forecast today is for snow and wet weather. What a difference a couple of weeks make.

We also need to focus on membership. It is that time of the year when we need our members to renew their membership. I know that for a lot of the members there are still crops in the field and other concerns that need to be taken care of before the white stuff hits us again. I would urge you all to take care of renewing your membership now rather than later. In the words of Larry the Cable Guy "Git R Done".

November 11th is Veterans Day. I would urge all of you to look after the veterans in your community. For a variety of reasons some are not able to get out into the community. A visit from another veteran can mean a lot to someone who can't get out. Whatever your post has planned to remember Veterans Day, I would urge you to remember our fellow veterans.

Last but not least I would like for the posts to consider sending delegates to the Winter Conference. It will be held in Bismarck, January 26-28. The location is the Bismarck Hotel which is the former Radisson Hotel. It would be great to see every post in District 1 participating in the conference. I hope to see you there.



Jon Metz
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,

A big thanks to everyone who attended the fall district meeting and thank you to Commander Carroll for also attending.

We have cold and snow now, which is the norm for North Dakota this time of year, so please be careful when you are out and about. Take time to help your fellow veterans and neighbors by shoveling snow and helping them get around if you are able.

Gackle American Legion Post 250 will be hosting a Veteran's Day program on November 11th with supper at 6 pm and a program to follow. All are welcome to attend.

With the holidays fast approaching, I hope you will have great times with family and friends. Invite a fellow veteran to join you, and keep in mind the ones currently serving and cannot be with their loved ones.

Thank you for your service to our county and the American Legion.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!!!



Vernon Laning
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,

Well, the big thing from District 7 this past quarter was our fall meeting which was held in Hebron, ND, on October 16. The meal for the evening was particularly great as endorsed by our Commander Carroll's second helpings and verbal accolades. And then Hebron, being the original home to our Department Adjutant Don Herrly, received additional attention and harassment from nearly everyone there and was enjoyed by all. Overall, the meeting was well attended with several department reports given.

Another visit was made to Fort Yates Post 173 for their efforts in getting it re-established. My congratulations to them for being the first post in the district to reach 100% of their membership goal for the year. There is a growing interest in keeping the post going and growing. Particular thanks goes to Arnie Havelka for his help finding members and getting them signed up.

Along those lines, I want to encourage everyone to keep after the membership renewals and also new members. Arnie Havelka has sent out several lists of Post 500 members which should be contacted to attempt to transfer them into your respective posts for permanent membership. They should also be encouraged to attend your meetings and be more active. Our Legions future and legislative influences depend on our numbers. So definitely keep an eye out for younger members as well.

As always, if I can assist your post in any way, please let me know. My email address has changed to vlaning@outlook.com. Thanks for all you do for our veterans.



Jason Anderson
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,

It certainly feels like winter here in the southwest corner of the state and plenty of snow around to make it look like it too. We did manage to have a productive District meeting on October 14th, though attendance was a bit on the low side, information on renewals, Oratorical contests, Boys State and several other programs was passed along. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend.

Big thanks to Department Commander Clarence Carroll, Department Adjutant Don Herrly, West Region Vice Commander Allan Magnuson and West Region DEC Mike Weyrauch for making the trip to Scranton for the District meeting. I know your schedules were very busy, but we greatly appreciate every minute we got to interact with department leadership.

Next event for us to gather together will be the Winter Conference in Bismarck, January 25-28, 2024, at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center. In the meantime, continue the great efforts to get renewals in and don't forget to check Post 500. Occasionally during the sign-up/renewal process, members don't get assigned to a local post or you may have accidentally gotten assigned to Post 500 and you already have a local post member number. The membership committee has been doing a fantastic job of getting those members sorted out, but every now and then one still slips through.

I hope everyone stays happy, safe, and warm, wherever you may be as we enter the holiday season. It's extra important to check in with our Legion Family during this time of year. Please "Be the One" that may just give that one Veteran/spouse/family member or even friend that extra rotation of the wheel of time necessary to save a life.

Thanks for all you have done, currently do, and will do in the future.



Scott Post
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,

Well winter has arrived, earlier than expected. The roads in the wild, wild west have been hazardous and costly.

Hope all our safe and doing well. I would like to thank Watford City for hosting our fall district meeting. They displayed top notch professionalism and provided a great meal.

As commander I was disappointed that we didn't have a better turn out. Several posts didn't have any representation. Not only are these meetings very informative, but it is also the friendships gained and comradery that are lasting. I'm asking all posts to work on membership renewals. We are below the target percentage, if you need any assistance, please reach out to me or our Vice Commander.

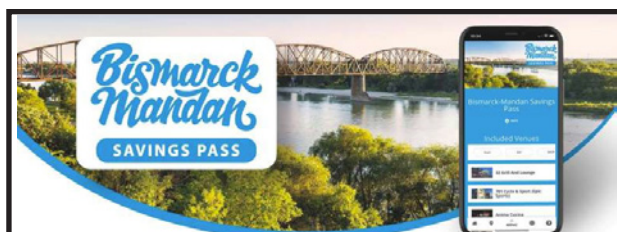
Commander Carroll's homecoming in Medora was a great time with an amazing performance in the old town theater. A lot of laughter was had by all!

Veterans Day is approaching quickly. Hope all Posts are having activities and recognizing Veterans in your communities. I will be visiting area Veterans in assisted living and presenting them with Veterans pins.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays, hope to visit with all of you soon.

Duty, Honor, Country!

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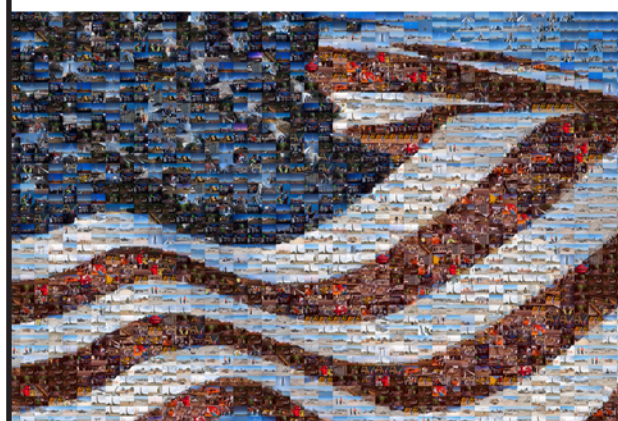


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SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Growing and Striving for Excellence

Greetings! The 2024 membership year is off to a strong start, but there is still time to get renewals in from 2023 too, so don't forget to reach out to your members who still haven't renewed, as we don't want members losing their membership on January 1.

I was honored and privileged to speak at the 4th, 7th, and 9th District meetings and Vice Commander Keith Kinneberg attended the 10th and 1st District meetings. It was great to meet friends and update everyone on how we are doing.

We have our free Triple Nickel pins for the members who were a part of winning the award for that year, so reach out to Vice Commander Keith and me. I also have our general membership pin that is \$5 to cover costs, raise funds for projects. Send the money to the State Headquarters for the Detachment.

We have new Squadrons joining our Detachment with

Page and Grand Forks receiving charters. We welcome them to our ranks and wish them success and growth. There is interest in charters in Milnor, Flasher and Carrington. Let's get an additional three or four Squadrons chartered and make a run at the Triple Nickel for 2024.

We are in the top in membership among the Detachments in the Midwest Region and have recently been in the top ten nationally. Keep up the great work. National Vice Commander Terry Harris and Membership Chair Mike Monserud are both pleased with what we are doing in ND.

I want to hear from Squadrons about your activities on Veterans Day and what you all are doing during the holiday season, I will share your awesome work with the Legion Family.

I want to encourage you to attend the Winter Conference in Bismarck and let the officers and I know what activities you want to have for training and social that

can make it worth you joining us. We want to make it a fun time and also provide things for our youth.

Please also try and hold some training in your home Squadron by taking Legion Basic Training and working on the Ten Ideals and Five Star Program of Service, which are not just for youth, but adult members can also take it. Share when you do these, so I can share it and also help you get recognized for your work.

Please remember our veterans and their families this holiday and "Be the One" to our veterans and families by reaching out and doing buddy checks. You never know what difference you can make in a person's life.

In closing, I want to make myself available to you, my email is daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com or call/text me at 218-791-3804. Thank you for all you do and keep up the great work.

For God and Country.

National Membership Dues Increase

Effective 7/1/24 the National Portion of dues will increase \$5.00 per year from \$18.50 to \$23.50 per year. Department dues will remain unchanged at \$18.00 per year. Please keep this in mind when you set and report the amount of your Post dues on the Post Data Report Form due in April. Effective 7/1/24 you will need to collect this \$41.50 plus any amount required by your post. Now is the time to purchase that Paid-Up-For-Life Membership you have been putting off!



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POST EVERLASTING

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

Bismarck - Post #1	
Brosseau, Terry	07/04/2023
Shipman, Thomas G.....	09/14/2023
Froelich, Richard	07/05/2023
Rogers, Vance	11/01/2023
Carlson, Denis.....	01/15/2023
Henry, Harley.....	11/04/2023
Zainhofsky, Frederick	11/02/2023
Fargo - Post #2	
Fillner, Albert.....	07/03/2023
Hillsboro - Post #4	
Swanson, George.....	09/28/2023
Grand Forks - Post #6	
Johnson, Richard.....	09/07/2023
Melby, Michael J.....	09/03/2023
Olson, Clayton.....	10/08/2023
Lisbon - Post #7	
Stroh, Kenneth.....	10/10/2023
Mayville - Post #8	
Baker, Steve	Unknown DOD
Brudvik, William J.	Unknown DOD
Ray - Post #9	
Thronson, Richard.....	07/20/2023
Hickel, Donald	09/12/2023
Buffalo - Post #10	
Zaun, Larry	Unknown DOD
Snyder, Rev. James.....	Unknown DOD
Wilcox, Randall L.....	09/22/2023
Hicks, James	Unknown DOD
Cavalier - Post #11	
Eddington, Garnett	Unknown DOD
Nord, Gary	Unknown DOD
Washburn - Post #12	
Frank, Robert P	09/09/2023
Fischer, Wilmer.....	10/29/2023
Jamestown - Post #14	
Bertsch, Clayton	Unknown DOD
Frey, Kenneth	Unknown DOD
Aneta - Post #16	
Youells, Charles.....	Unknown DOD
Hope - Post #18	
Gruber, Victor	06/19/2023
LaMoure - Post #19	
Gentzkow, Rodney	08/08/2023
Lakota - Post #21	
Rainsberry, O'Neil.....	Unknown DOD
Rugby - Post #23	
Sherwin, Elwood D.....	05/31/2023
Minot - Post #26	
Jeannotte, Vernon	11/03/2023
Harvey - Post #28	
Heitzmann, Ted.....	09/30/2023
Oakes - Squadron #36	
Stahlecker, Ron	Unknown DOD
Schmaltz, LeRoy	09/22/2023
Williston - Post #37	
Jacobson, Thomas	05/2023

Cogswell - Post #38	
Gehring, Robert.....	06/28/2023
Rust, William A.	04/29/2023
Velva - Post #39	
Navaratil, Fred J.....	Unknown DOD
Brevig, Clayton W.....	Unknown DOD
Mandan - Post #40	
Blasco, Michael R.....	Unknown DOD
Anheluk, Victor	08/25/2023
Grafton - Post #41	
Brekke, Elton	06/22/2023
Collette, Roland.....	10/17/2023
Johnson, Robert D.....	10/20/2023
Bottineau - Post #42	
Simon, Dale G	Unknown DOD
Goodrich - Post #56	
Vanvleet, Robert G	08/26/2022
Wing - Post #65	
Hoppe, James M	Unknown DOD
Birkholz, Marvin H	Unknown DOD
New England - Post #66	
Koller, David	09/15/2023
Ketterling, Larry Q	10/11/2023
Flasher - Post #69	
Schafer, John A.....	07/01/2023
Cando - Post #79	
Knutson, Robert.....	Unknown DOD
Lidgerwood - Post #84	
Biewer, Henry	09/09/2023
Podhola, Francis.....	10/14/2023
Center - Post #90	
Dardis, Lawrence	10/15/2023
New Salem - Post #91	
Eggers, Wesley	07/01/2023
Moltzen, Lyle	09/27/2023
Powers Lake - Post #96	
Skalicky, Gene D	Unknown DOD
Larimore - Post #97	
Vetter, Larry A.....	09/09/2023
Kensal - Post #103	
Huus, Carl.....	08/20/2023
Fairmount - Post #106	
Meyer, Robert D.	Unknown DOD
Willow City - Post #112	
Fecho, Loren	Unknown DOD
Sanderson, Alton G	Unknown DOD
Hettinger - Post #115	
Edd, Howard.....	Unknown DOD
Hehn, Larry J.....	09/03/2023
Grenora - Post #116	
Olson, Harvey.....	05/06/2022
McVille - Post #135	
Dahl, Willis.....	08/20/2023
Tioga - Post #139	
Copes, Benjamin G	08/27/2023
Pederson, Llewellyn	08/21/2022

Park River - Post #147	
Padden, Jay.....	09/02/2023
Page - Post #154	
Baasch, Michael W.....	09/02/2023
Edinburg - Post #156	
Sveen, John N.....	Unknown DOD
Wilton - Post #163	
Haman, Richard.....	Unknown DOD
Osnabrock - Post #164	
Hursman, Lewis.....	Unknown DOD
St. Thomas - Post #168	
Robinson, Joseph.....	Unknown DOD
Buxton - Post #172	
Gunderson, Russell E.....	07/04/2023
Richardton - Post #180	
Amann, Norbert M.....	09/22/2023
Fingal - Post #187	
Holt, William.....	09/2023
Schmidt, David	03/2023
Rhame - Post #188	
Wood, Errol.....	08/11/2023
Galesburg - Post #210	
Lyng, Kevin P.....	Unknown DOD
Kloster, James M.....	03/31/2023
Rutland - Post #215	
Young, Gwen	Unknown DOD
Erie - Post #223	
Hanson, Kenneth C.	Unknown DOD
Rieke, Larry	Unknown DOD
Ross, Charles T.	Unknown DOD
Noonan - Post #243	
Priebe, Marvin	Unknown DOD
Elgin - Post #246	
Warren, Guy	Unknown DOD
Will, Emanuel.....	Unknown DOD
Gackle - Post #250	
Ward, Dayton D	08/08/2023
Forest River - Post #251	
Schultz, Roger A.....	10/15/2023
Fredonia - Post #260	
Gackle, William.....	07/30/2023
Belcourt - Post #262	
Larocque, Kenneth E.....	Unknown DOD
Mooreton - Post #283	
Ford, Harold.....	09/09/2023
New Town - Post #290	
Hettich, Benjamin	07/27/2023
Harwood - Post #297	
Lee, Roger.....	10/11/2023
Schreiner, Anton	08/13/2023
West Fargo - Post #308	
Belling, Richard	10/24/2023



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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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.

Minnewaukan Post #86

The Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion Post 86 of Minnewaukan received a \$10,000 gift from the New Salem American Legion Post 91 gaming fund. The money comes from gambling machines Legion Post 91 installed in the cafe owned by Jody and Duane Saari in Halliday, ND. The Saaris are part-time residents of Minnewaukan. The funds will be used to put a new rubber roof on the Post 86 building in Minnewaukan and to also install a handicapped accessible chair lift in the building.



Left to right are Donald Foster, Post 86 commander, who arranged for the gift; Floyd Dessen, a representative of Post 86; cafe owner Jody Saari; Richard Peterson, adjutant of Post 86; and Duane Saari.

Devils Lake Post #24



American Legion Tim Running Post 24 Devils Lake, ND, donated \$6,000 to The Honor Flight to be used to send Veterans to Washington, DC, to view all the monuments and Viet Nam Wall. Presenting the check to Tony Schmalz and Shane Dieseth is Commander Jack Volk, Vice-Commander Jim Moe and Post Adjutant Bryce Crosby.



Devils Lake American Legion Post 24 Adjutant Bryce Crosby, Brandon Paldilla and Commander Jack Volk presented a check for \$1,000 to Brandon in support of the Devils Lake Rodeo.

Grand Forks Post #6

It was almost 8 months ago that a longtime friend of mine from the Air Force, David Froiseth (LtC Ret), asked if I wanted to join him on a life-changing journey. We worked together making plans and reservations for a D-Day Anniversary trip to Normandy, France. After all, it will be 80 years on 6 June 2024, since the invasion.

We discovered a tour group which specifically designed visits to the key battle sites and villages that made up the D-Day experience. **Beaches of Normandy (BoFN) Tours** was our first and only choice for our visit. In six days, we visited all the military landing sites for the Allies to include the Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword beach embattlements. We learned how each beach landing was not only designed to make a foothold in Europe for the Allies; but also had a specific purpose or mission in mind which would follow that first wave of men hitting the beach.

Of course, my Dad was US Navy during WWII and did not fight in Europe but the statue of "The Lone Sailor" on Utah Beach, set the wheels in motion. That statue is dedicated to **ALL** US Navy veterans that fought in WWII



Dennis Almer, Post 6 Adjutant and David Froiseth, LtC Ret.

Fargo Post #2



The third annual food drive was completed this August for the Great Plains Food Bank which benefited the Fargo community. Under the leadership of Post #2 Adjutant Virginia Kraushaar the success of the food drive was a reflection of Veterans organizations working together. Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 Legion and Auxiliary joined forces again with the Fargo VFW and West Fargo VFW and Auxiliaries, the Fargo AMVETS/Riders/Sons of AMVETS and Auxiliary. A "Drive up/Drop off" was held at the Fargo AMVETS on two Saturdays and collection boxes and an on-line food drive for a two-week period.

This year's drive was the most successful so far, raising \$4,700, of which \$4,200 was doubled for a grand total of \$8,900. The food drive also collected 700 pounds of food to help alleviate hunger in our community. The planning for next year's food drive has started with all the Veteran's Organizations – Veterans Strengthening America.

and future wars and was a most fitting tribute to my Dad as he had fought during the Battle of Leyte in the South Pacific. The flag in hand was his burial flag which I carried in every part of Normandy while there.

I was glad to represent my Post 6 Family there also and to be able to hear the stories and experiences of the Tour Group with us. Some 44 American souls making their way through the almost 80 years since 6 June 1944. Each had their own personal stories of courage, determination, and heroism in their own right.

And, of course, it would not have been complete without a visit to the Normandy Cemetery which is at the "higher ground" of Omaha Beach. It was believed that every life lost on those beaches that morning were trying to make that objective of the "higher ground". And by purposeful design, that's how the Normandy Cemetery became a reality for all those troops ... successfully achieving the mission they were so graciously entrusted with.

The visit to Normandy, France, was truly the Pilgrimage I had been promised and will always cherish.



Normandy Cemetery

Ray Post #9



A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Clayton Grove from Ray for attending Boy's State. Left to right Michael Weyrauch, Ray Post 9 Adjutant and West Region DEC, Clayton Grove, Virginia Watterson Ray Post 9 Commander, Scott Post 9th District Commander and Post 139 Commander.



A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Skylar Stratton for attending Girl's State and Tristan San Nicolas (not pictured) for also attending. Both girls attend High School in Ray. Left to right Michael Weyrauch, Ray Post 9 Adjutant and West Region DEC, Skylar Stratton, Virginia Watterson Ray Post 9 Commander, Scott Post 9th District Commander and Post 139 Commander.

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Or, if you are in the Detroit Lakes area, donate the value to the VFW Color Guard Fund.

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

Senator Curt Kreun

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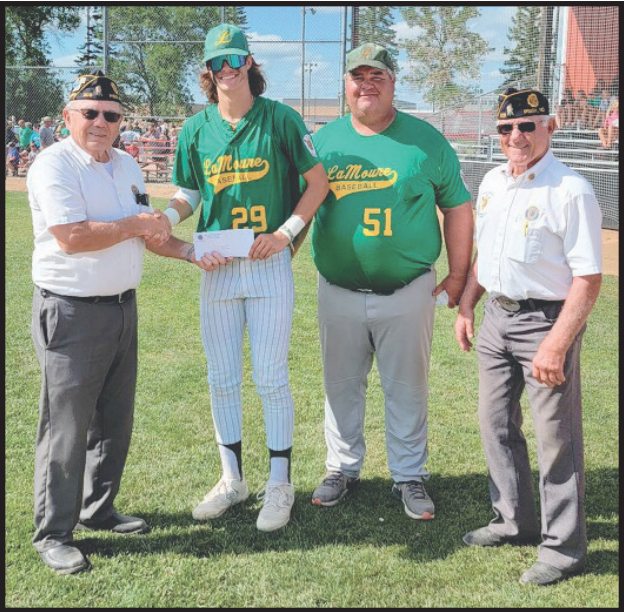
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f t i n

Local Posts in the News

Baseball Scholarship

The American Legion Class B Baseball Tournament was held in Carrington, ND, July 26-29, 2023. The presentation of the North Dakota American Legion Scholarship was presented during the tournament. This year the scholarship of \$1,000 was given to Anthony Hanson of LaMoure American Legion Post #19. Congratulations Anthony and best wishes for your future!



Presenting the scholarship Eugene Kachena, Class B Commissioner Legion Baseball, Anthony Hanson, Coach J. R. Theigles and Rodney Kadlec, Class B District 5

Hazen Post #189



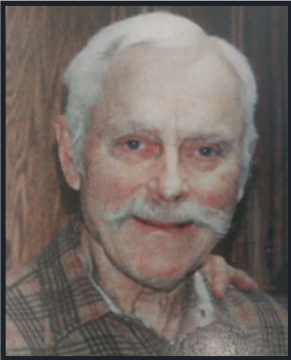
George Reichenberg with the Clark Grosz Post 189 of Hazen American Legion presented a check from the Legion to Hazen American Legion Baseball with Dan Frei from Hazen Parks and Recreation receiving the check for the team.

Bismarck Post #1



Lloyd Spetz Post 1 celebrated Past Commander's Night on October 9, 2023. Left to right: Dennis Mock (1988), Arnie Havelka (2016), Mamie Havelka (2022), Vern Fetch (1978), Martin Bless (2005), Bob Bird (2017), Mark Swartz (1997), Ed Stern (2015), and Janette Fetch (2019, 2020, 2021)

Harvey Post #28



American Legion member Ted Heitzmann from Post 28 in Harvey passed away September 30, 2023, at the age of 100. Military Rites were by the Harvey Color Guard (L to R) Melvin Arndt, Steve Volk, Dean Johnson and Ricky Rittenbach.



Tioga Post #139

Tioga American Legion held its 4th annual car and bike show. It is held every year during Tioga's Farm Festival the 2nd weekend in September.

We had a great turn out of over 60 entries. This event is a great opportunity for legion members and the community to share stories and meet new friends.

A commander's trophy was added this year. It is given to the most unusual or jaw dropping entry. Also, we were honored to have Past Department Commander Dan Brown and West Region Vice Commander Allan Magnuson as our guests.



Rediscover Park River Coliseum: "A spectacular venue" with exciting updates

Published June 2023 - Edited By Allison Olimb of The Walsh County Press
The Park River American Legion Coliseum is an iconic venue surrounded by the scenic Hillcrest Golf Course just off County 12 in Park River. Major updates have been made to the near-century-old building, which can hold more than 400 people, and community members already are seeing the benefits.

The Coliseum was built in 1931. One of the men commissioned with putting together the massive space was David Meberg. The story of how the Colosseum came to be is posted near the doors as you exit the building. The Meberg's continued to contribute to the longevity of the building across the decades.

Members of Park River American Legion Post 147 and the Park River Sons of the American Legion Squadron 147 have been collaborating to ensure the future of this building for what they hope is the next 100 years.

The Sons have picked up more of the day-to-day responsibilities and maintenance. The Sons facilitated the interior renovations to the bathrooms but the primary responsibility for the siding on the outside of the building was done by Legionnaires. Last year, new windows were added, the addition of Wi-Fi access and were able to connect to Walsh Rural Water, which if you ask the members of the Legion who have had to manage that location over the years, is a real game changer.

All of the work completed on the Park River American Legion Coliseum was done by volunteer hands under the guidance of Eugene Kachena, who served as the foreman on site. If you ask the Sons, they couldn't have done it without the Legion. If you ask the Legion, they could've done it without the Sons.

Much of the funding from the Park River American Legion side comes from gaming. A lot of the funding from the Sons side comes from various fundraiser efforts that they participate in throughout the year.

For inquiries on rental availability call the Park River American Legion at (701) 284-6655 after 4 p.m.

To follow along with the Sons of the American Legion's efforts, follow along with Park River Sons of the American Legion Squadron 147 on social media.



Park River American Legion Coliseum

Fairmount Post #106

By Charles Campbell, Fairmount Post Adjutant
Fairmount Post 106 has been busy this fall. First, we hosted the 10th District meeting on September 22. We had a great turnout and many of our members participated in hosting the event, including our youngest SAL members participating in the POW/MIA table setting. We were very pleased that Department Commander Clarence Carroll III, Commander-Elect Mamie Havelka, Dept Membership Chairman Brad Huber and Department Adjutant Don Herrly were also able to all be in attendance to this small community in the very southeast corner of North Dakota.

But now we really get active as we host an All You Can Eat breakfast the first Sunday of each month starting in November and ending in April. Our breakfast includes pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy, fresh scramble eggs, pork sausage links, (deep fried and grilled) pork patties (new to menu), ham, ring sausage juice and coffee. A few years ago, we had to give up this breakfast as it was too much for the legion members alone to sustain it. But since Squadron 106 got up and running we have acquired

it back along with working with the Explore America high school group and legion ball players assist in the cleanup. We used to think serving two hundred and fifty people was a good day, but the numbers of people coming to the breakfast last year has gone as high as 430 people, that is close to the whole population of Fairmount. All we did was add biscuits and gravy to the menu.

We hope the trend will continue as we fund 2 baseball teams, Babe Ruth and Legion, Oratorical contest participants, Boy and Girl State attendees. The breakfast income and proceeds from our gun raffle has provided for insuring monies to be there to fund this.

A few years ago, Legion members were toying with the idea of closing up shop. With the formation of Squadron 106, Legion and SAL members have worked together extremely well. It really is a great group of people to work with, from those over 80 and as low as 12 years old. We have lost members to the post everlasting, but we have recruited a couple with a few more out there.



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American Legion Department of ND Winter Conference TENTATIVE Schedule

January 25-28, 2024

The Bismarck Hotel

701-660-8063

(discounted rates through 1/2/2024)

Thursday, January 25, 2024

4:00 pm ACOVA Interviews

Friday, January 26, 2024

8:30 am Foundation Meeting
10:00 am DEC Meeting
2:00 pm Registration (until 7:00 pm)
2:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 5:30 pm)
4:00 pm Oratorical Committee
4:00 pm VA&R Committee
4:00 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:00 am Registration (until Noon)
8:00 am National Guard and Reserve
8:00 am Athletic Committee Meeting
9:00 am Legion Session
10:00 am District Vice Commanders Meeting with Commander-Elect
10:00 am SAL Meeting
11:00 am Post Service Officers
11:00 am Boys State Committee
11:00 am Legion Riders Meeting
1:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 4:30 pm)
1:00 pm Legion Family Programs Joint Session
1:30 pm High School Oratorical Contest Finals
4:00 pm M&PA
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 28, 2024

8:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 9:30 am)
8:00 am SAL Training Session
8:00 am Americanism/CY Committee
8:00 am Dist and Regional Officers Meet with Cmdr
9:30 am Worship Service

Veteran's Day Word Search

Instructions: Try to find all the hidden Veteran's Day words in the word search puzzle below. (Words can be spelled forward, backwards, diagonally, up or down.)

X W M N I W F R E E D O M D N F R E
P A P V P E A C E H D J E X C J C U
R R S M H O N O R Z M I M Z R I S D
O D T Q A R M I S T I C E O F E C E
T H E C E R E M O N Y T L I I O M P
E S X F Z Y G W E K R A R P X B T E
C F O V E A A G A L V C P B R S R C
T U B L L N A N A W A O S L E E O E
B I F F D R D I N S P E H N M R O M
R N T I U I R H M I T L O J E V P E
A F X O G O E L V U V P I O M E N T
V A C E M H A R B V A E S B B T A E
E N A E U D T I F E E B R E E W V R
R T M M E O R I W I G T A S R R Y Y
Y R C M K T Z Y N T Y U E T A I T K
I Y S I L E N C E G X J A R T R S Y
S F K W R E A T H X A I X R A L Y Q
O C O M M A N D O A R M Y A D N E B

anniversary
armistice
army
battle
bravery
cemetery
ceremony
commando
courage

defend
fighting
flag
freedom
guard
honor
infantry
liberty
medal

memorial
navy
observe
peace
poppies
protect
remember
sacrifice
silence

soldier
tribute
troop
valor
veteran
war
weapon
wreath



2024 Winter Conference

American Legion Advanced Registration and Banquet Ticket Order Form

January 26-28, 2024 at The Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck, ND

Please call The Bismarck Hotel at 701-660-8063 ask for the American Legion room block discount by January 2nd.

Please note the price of the banquet tickets increases by \$5 after January 10th. 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 18th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

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

Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee: \$25

Preregistration Advanced Banquet Ticket Price: \$35
(Cutoff for Preregistered Advanced Tickets Discount is 1/10/2024)

Banquet Ticket Price after January 10th: \$40

Banquet Menu Details

Pancetta Chicken

Chicken breast stuffed with cream cheese, garlic, spinach and sun dried tomatoes, wrapped in pancetta, and topped with garlic cream sauce.
(gluten free)

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 _____	
Winter Conf Banquet on Saturday # _____ x \$35 = \$ _____	
Registration Fee \$25	= \$ <u>25</u>
Late fee of \$5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/10/2024	= \$ _____
Total Due	\$ _____

Member Name _____	
Winter Conf Banquet on Saturday # _____ x \$35 = \$ _____	
Registration Fee \$25	= \$ <u>25</u>
Late fee of \$5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/10/2024	= \$ _____
Total Due	\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

American Legion Department of ND 2023 Veteran's Day Four Pillars Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Thursday,
November 9, 2023, at the Department
Headquarters. The drawing can be viewed on
the ND Legion Family Facebook page and is
posted on ndlegion.org.

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Stuart Loftsgard, Park River Post 147

\$1000 Prize Winner
Jimmie Wilkie, Nome Post 93

\$200 Prize Winners
Richard Bickert, Washburn Post 12
Kelly Mack, Langdon Post 98

\$100 Prize Winners
Murray Smith, Grand Forks Post 6
Charles Hetland, Cooperstown Post 143
Robert Miller, Casselton Post 15
Dennis Murray, Sykeston Post 17
Norman Johnson, Leeds Post 101
Myron Gerdon, Fargo Post 2