

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

VOL. 107 405 W. MAIN AVE. SUITE 4-A, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, MARCH 2024 NO. 3

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

ND American Legion Oratorical Contest

McKinnlee Haberman a junior of Wyndmere Public School sponsored by Wyndmere Post #153, was named the North Dakota American Legion Oratorical Champion following the 2024 State Contest on January 27th at the Bismarck Hotel in Bismarck.

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

State Champion Haberman received a \$250 cash scholarship provided by the ND American Legion, a \$175 Cash Scholarship Award from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund, administered by the ND Community Foundation, and the C.W. Leifur Traveling Trophy, which will remain with her until next year's contest. She had previously won a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set as the 1st Place Eastern Division Champion along with a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 10th District Contest.

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

Second Place went to Danielle Nusz of Arnegard, daughter of David and Marievie Nusz, who won the 9th District Contest, sponsored by Watford City Post #29, and finished Second in the West Division. Danielle is a Junior at Watford City High School in Watford City. She will receive \$200 from the ND American Legion and \$125 from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund for Second Place to go along with the \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder

Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 9th District Contest and \$200 Cash Award and a pen set for Second Place in the West Division.

Sigryn Henke, a Junior and homeschooled, will receive a \$150 cash scholarship from the North Dakota American Legion and \$50 from the Kennelly Scholarship Award for finishing Third at State. As the 7th District winner, she received a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. Malachi finished First in the Western Division Contest and earned a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set. Sigryn is the daughter of Randy and Sue Henke.

Levi Woodrow, a Senior from Munich High School, finished in Fourth Place at the State Contest and he will take home a \$100 Cash Award from the ND American Legion. Levi was sponsored by the Center American Legion Post #90. Levi won the 7th District Contest and a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. He finished Second in the Eastern Division Contest and earned a \$200 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set. Levi is the son of Rick and Lisa Woodrow. The North Dakota American Legion provides for the Cash Awards earned at the Divisional Contests. Cash won at the District level contests come from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Contest Fund now administered by the ND American Legion. District winners receive Cash Awards of \$300 for First, \$200 for Second and \$100 for Third. This year \$4,750 in Cash Awards was earned by the winners of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest in North Dakota.



Pictured from left to right: Mike Weyrauch, Dept. Oratorical Chairman, 1st Place McKinnlee Haberman, Wyndmere, 2nd Place Danielle Nusz, Arnegard, 3rd Place Sigryn Henke, Stanton, 4th Place Levi Woodrow, Munich, National Vice Commander Raymond Vail and Department Commander Clarence L. Carroll III.

1st District 1st Madeline Abbot, Fargo, Senior.

2nd District No Contestants.

3rd District 1st Place Levi Woodrow, Munich, Senior.

4th District No Contestants.

5th District 1st Place Brady Quinn, Wilton, Senior.

6th District No Contestants.

7th District 1st Place Sigryn Henke, Stanton, Junior.

8th District 1st Place Malachi Dilse, Scranton, Senior.

9th District 1st Place Danielle Nusz, Arnegard, Junior. 2nd Place Noah Crain, Williston, Junior. 3rd Place Isabelle Crain, Williston, Sophomore.

10th District 1st Place McKinnlee Haberman, Wyndmere, Junior. 2nd Place Grace Martin, Fairmount, Sophomore. 3rd Place Olivia Johnson, Lisbon, Senior.

Proclamation Signed by Governor Burgum

By Don Herry, Department Adjutant

One of the biggest issues facing us at this time is Military and Veteran Suicide. We asked ND Governor Doug Bergum to help us bring this issue into the light and raise public awareness by issuing a proclamation. We were pleased that in his 2024 State of The State address he issued a proclamation declaring 2024 as Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Year. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, I am already aware of 2

more veteran suicides that have touched our ND Legion Family since this proclamation was issued. The rate of suicide for veterans is 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. Talk with others about how you are feeling. Ask for help when you know you need it. Know there are millions of people ready to help you. Remember your family and friends' care. I ask you to "Be the One to Save Someone." If you are a veteran in crisis, call 988 and press 1 or text 838255.



Tammy Miller, Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota, Don Herry, Department Adjutant, Clarence L. Carroll III, Department Commander, Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota, Jacob Volk, Central Region Vice Commander

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, the men and women who have served or are currently serving in the military are the most honorable and extraordinary members of our nation and its states; and a service member, after their immeasurable sacrifice, should be welcomed home and receive a grateful and dignifying life filled with love and care; and

WHEREAS, military service, while noble, increases the risk of behavioral health challenges due in part to the high stress aspects of service and deployment, chief among these concerns is the elevated risk of suicide for both veterans and actively serving military members; annually, suicide takes the lives of over 6,000 veterans and military members in the United States and many in North Dakota — a suicide rate more than 50% higher than the general public; and

WHEREAS, the safety and wellness of veterans and military members is a priority in the state of North Dakota, and all North Dakotans are encouraged to raise their awareness of the warning signs of mental health crises and the treatments available so that more people will be knowledgeable of how to save the lives of endangered persons; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion's "Be The One" program creates opportunities for people to clearly connect with veterans struggling with thoughts of suicide, by destigmatizing the fear of asking for mental support, providing peer-to-peer support and deploying FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find them the resources needed for their support; and the American Legion has declared 2024 "Be The One" Year; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Challenge, led by ND Cares in partnership with federal, state and community leaders, looks to prevent suicide among veterans, actively serving military members and their families by increasing screenings for risk, promoting better connectedness and care transitions, training veterans to be peer support specialists, educating health care and mental health providers about military culture and evidence-based treatment methods and providing education about lethal means safety; and

WHEREAS, for those struggling with mental health-related distress and unable to speak with a loved one, the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline is a valuable, accessible and free resource which can be called or texted at any time or accessed online through 988lifeline.org; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to learn more about the American Legion's "Be The One" program, the Governor's Challenge, the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline and other suicide prevention and mental health initiatives and resources to increase their awareness and understanding of challenges veterans and military members face and so that by any of these means they might assist in the saving of our veterans' and military members' lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
2024, VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS YEAR in
the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE

North Dakota Boys State Session

By Neil Litton, Director and Garrett Anderson, Deputy Director Recruitment

The North Dakota Boys State Program will educate and inspire young future leaders from around the state in June. The program runs from June 9-14, 2024, for students currently in their junior year of high school. Again, this year, Boys State will be held on the campus of North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

We have started our new timeline of recruitment for ND Boys State, and it seems to be having some positive results. By the time this is out in the newspaper, we are somewhere between 40-50 delegates registered for the 2024 session of Boys State.

Thanks to some help from members in the area we did have some school visits set up with one of the Boys State staff able to come and give a presentation to students in Underwood, Washburn, and Center. This is a great time to reach out to me and my recruitment team about getting school visits in. With enough notice and planning, I try to make these mini tours and line up a staff member available for those visits.

Please keep recruiting for the Boys State program, you are in the communities and know the families better than I will and can have a different approach to reaching these young people of the communities you all live in.

Each year, Legion members across the state work carefully to select junior high school boys from their community to participate in the program. We encouraged the Posts to make contact with their local high school to talk with the junior boys about attending. They most likely will never know about the program unless a member of the Post takes the time to arrange for a meeting.

Applications for Boys State can be completed on-line by visiting www.ndboysstate.org. Online applications are emailed to Department Headquarters first and then are fed back to the local Post for their follow up with the respective student. If you haven't visited our website yet, we encourage you to do so. Brochures and other registration materials were mailed out to all posts, high school counselors and emailed to high school principals in December.

Once selected, the delegates enter a weeklong program that teaches them the form, function and responsibilities of state government. This is done by having the boys run their own simulated state government.

The delegates form political parties, campaign for elected office, and write and publish a newspaper of each day's events. On Tuesday, they elect a governor

who presides over the session. They also elect other state and local governmental positions. This "learn by doing" method is the backbone of all Boys State programs.

Among the highlights of the week is the emergency management exercise that places delegates in the role of leaders facing a string of simulated disasters to which they must respond. The disaster management exercise is conducted in real time, using telephones and a computer network to deliver news and updates to the delegate-run command centers.

Outstanding delegates, cities and counties are recognized at an awards ceremony at the end of the week. The delegates compete for the following awards during the week: The Leroy Pease Memorial Award – Boys Nation, The M.B. Zimmerman Award – Boys Nation, Arve Dahlen-Milt Rue Award, Harold Piper Award, A.D. Mckinnon Award, Harry Edblom Award, John K. Kennelly Memorial Award, The Jack Williams Trophy, The Marcus L. McDonald Award, Kirk Smith Award, Emergency Management Award (Pod Award), The David Wolf Memorial Award, Director's Award for Excellence.

Again, this year, we are able to provide half credit for civics education for a delegate's high school graduation. Also, we are expanding the opportunity to assist with the delegate's high school requirements. The NDAL Boys State and Girls State will both be administrating the ND High School Civics test which is required before graduation.

More than 31,000 young men have graduated from North Dakota Boys State and many have gone on to become leaders and role models. These include North Dakota Senator John Hoeven, Judge Kirk Smith, retired North Dakota Justice Ralph Erickstad, basketball coach Phil Jackson, and Past National American Legion Commander H.F. "Sparky" Gierke. Nationally, the program boasts numerous impressive alumni, including former President Bill Clinton.

At the end of the week, Boys State staff members select two outstanding Juniors from each state to participate in Boys Nation, a national program that parallels Boys State. Boys Nation takes place in Washington DC in July.

Know someone that should go? If you have a potential delegate you would like to nominate or have additional questions, please contact Garrett Anderson, Deputy Director in charge of Recruiting, at 701-799-0306 or garrett.anderson@ndboysstate.org (student must currently be in their junior year of high school).

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. There are now ten \$10,000 scholarships (2 from each region), ten \$5,000 scholarships (2 from each region) and eighty Department finalists \$1,250 scholarships awarded guaranteed.

Scholarships are restricted to high school juniors who complete either a Boys State or Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.

Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school and community activities, community service and financial need. Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War veterans receive special consideration. One winner is chosen during the week of Boys State and awarded a \$500 scholarship and entered as a finalist in the national pool. A few years ago, North Dakota had a finalist that received a \$20,000 scholarship.

Support ND Boys State

North Dakota Boys State, a non-profit organization of the North Dakota American Legion, is facing ever-increasing costs the week at the North Dakota State College of Science and the preparation activities that go into making it a success.

Boys State is unquestionably the finest youth program sponsored by the North Dakota Legion and one that we can be very proud of. We, of the Legion, realize how important the program is in the state of North Dakota and that every effort must be made to maintain the high standards that have always been upheld by the program.

It seems that each year expenses and charges from the college and for supplies necessitates an increase in costs for the program. The registration fee is \$300 per delegate. To help hold down yearly sponsorship fees in the coming years, donations are requested to help defray housing, food, supplies and other necessities of the program.

We urge Posts and individuals to consider a donation to North Dakota Boys State to help manage the costs for the boys from across the state who participate in North Dakota Boys State each year. With your help, we will be able to maintain the high quality of the program from year to year.

Use the form to send your donation to North Dakota Boys State, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078. Thank you for your continued passion and support, you truly are making a difference in the lives of others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or comments regarding ND Boys State can be addressed to: Neil Litton, ND Boys State Director, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078 or by calling the Department Headquarters at 701-293-3120. For specific inquiries contact Teri at Department Headquarters at programs@ndlegion.org

North Dakota Boys State Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Amount of Donation: (\$25) _____ (\$50) _____ (\$75) _____ (Other) _____

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Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather we are having. I cannot remember the last time in January we had 40 plus degree days. There is still a lot of winter left, so don't take the swim shorts out yet.

On January 23rd, I had the opportunity to attend the Governor's State to State with our Department Commander and Department Adjutant at Dickinson State College. The Governor signed the Proclamation declare 2024 Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention.

I attended the Winter Conference in Bismarck January 25-28. I highly recommend the Central Region to attend next year. A lot of good information was handed out in the meetings.

Central Region has their District Meetings set. District 3 will be held in Rolette on March 23rd with Social at 6:00. District 4 will be in Jamestown on March 24th with Social at 6:00. District 5 will be in Bismarck on March 24th at 12:00. I would like to see as many Legionnaires there as possible. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meetings.

As of now, the Central Region is #1 in membership. Let's keep it up so West Region does not beat us!!!

Jacob Volk
Central Region Vice Commander

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



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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

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

Periodical Publication # 12629

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Don Herryly, 701-293-3120
E-Mail: adjutant@ndlegion.org
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COMMANDER COMMENTS

CLARENCE L. CARROLL III - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



As the winter months move further into our past, I pray that everyone had a great Holiday season and welcomed the New Year (2024) with health and vigor ready to tackle the work of The American Legion. Admittedly, it was a nice pause from all the work that our Department has accomplished, but now it's time to roll up our sleeves and continue our service to our Department, our cities, and each other.

Just prior to Winter Conference, Governor Burgum signed a proclamation declaring 2024 Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Year. I, along with Adjutant Herryly and Vice Commander Volk attended the State-of-the-State address where we were presented the proclamation and received recognition for being the lead organization making this proclamation possible, increasing the awareness of military suicide and breaking the stigmas associated with seeking help. I could not be prouder for the work that was accomplished to make this happen. Remember, "Be The One" isn't just a catchy phrase from National, it's our mission!

For those in attendance, I hope you would agree with me that the Winter Conference was a huge success. I remain in awe at the core group of faithful's who prioritize the work and fellowship. It is YOU that make our conferences and conventions fun for everyone. A special thanks to National Vice Commander Ray Vail for spending time with us and

for his remarks at our Saturday evening social and banquet.

Another special event that showcased the professionalism of The American Legion was the JE Dunn Flag Raising Ceremony at The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. A heartfelt Thank You to Dickinson Matthew Brew Post 3 for their support of this monumental event. This was especially significant because The American Legion was asked to raise the very first flag ever to be flown. This flag will at a later date, be lowered, certified, and donated to The American Legion for safekeeping until it can someday be displayed at the North Dakota military museum.

Next week I will accompany the delegation from North Dakota to the 2024 Washington Conference. Strangely, this year The U.S. House of Representatives will be on recess when The American Legion "storms" the capital. Therefore, the national commander's testimony will take place on Wednesday, March 13th. I will still receive The American Legion's legislative priorities in February and look forward to sharing them with you at our spring district meetings.

As always, 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 abnavnlte@yahoo.com or on my personal cell 910-584-8773. Look forward to seeing you at Spring District Meetings.

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!

Have You Paid Your 2024 Membership Dues?

Youth Trooper Academy Becomes Reality

Some years ago, Curt Twete of Post #135 in McVille, learned about a Legion Program provided in South Dakota, and various other Departments, for young adults with an interest in law enforcement. The program, run by Larry Price for many years in SD, brought together high school juniors and seniors to learn about law enforcement as a career. This program was also sanctioned by The National American Legion as a program in 2005.

Seeing this as a real need in ND and an experience high school students would not otherwise be able to experience, Curt began to lobby for The American Legion Department of North Dakota to initiate a Youth Trooper Academy with the help and backing of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The concept was approved as a ND Legion Program by the Department at the June 2022 Convention.

Twete's collaboration with the ND Highway Patrol and the Department Executive Committee has resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the Highway Patrol, to not only support the concepts of the program, but to take a major lead in its inception, operation and management. The 2024 session of the Academy will be limited to 16 students and will be held at the Law Enforcement Training Facility in Bismarck, ND, July 30 through August 01, 2024.

The YTA brochure describes the Academy thusly: "The YTA is an intensive 3-day residential learning program for young adults who are entering their senior year of high school or have just graduated high school. The YTA is not a summer camp and is not designed for troubled teenagers. The program is both mentally and physically demanding. The YTA uses a paramilitary approach to training and discipline is strict. Candidates should be highly motivated, of good moral and ethical character and have an interest in a career in law enforcement."

To fund this program, Curt and Judy Twete have made an endowment of over \$33,000 to the North Dakota American Legion Foundation to be invested and the proceeds be annually made available to support the YTA. In addition, Past Department Commander Dan Brown, a strong advocate of the program, has designated \$15,000 from funds through his Commander Project raised while serving as ND Department Commander in 2022-23.



Hello fellow Legionnaires,
Not much to report on from the East Region. We just had our Winter Conference which was held in Bismarck at the end of January. The students that did the oratorical contest did not disappoint us as they did a very wonderful job.

I also am looking forward to seeing everyone at the spring district meetings coming up in March and also at State Convention.

As I may have mentioned before I enjoy going across the state and meeting everyone and seeing new and old faces at the district and state conventions.

Brennan Bell
East Region Vice Commander



Hello to all from the West Region.

As of February 7th, all 4 Districts have set their district meetings. I am looking forward to meeting all of the legionnaires in each district that attends their respective district meeting. Thankfully this spring I will not record as much

windshield time as I did back in October.

I enjoyed meeting all the legionnaires that attended the Winter Conference along with their spouses. Our banquet speaker National Vice Commander Vail did a great job and after the banquet I was very surprised that he expressed interest in at some point attending the Memorial Day event in Sherwood. I decided that I would check to see what was required to an official state invite to National Headquarters to request that he be able to attend American Legion Post 213 in Sherwood on Memorial Day as our guest speaker. Department Adjutant Don Herryly and I have submitted the official request to National Headquarters. This year will be Sherwood's 87th consecutive year of exchanging colors with our Comrades from Canada.

I have to congratulate both Center and Fort Yates for achieving the highest membership percentage on the 31st of December for their respective categories.

I will be running for the West Region Department Executive Committee position in June at the Department Convention in Bismarck.

Allan Magnuson
West Region Vice Commander

Legionnaire of the Year



Virginia Kraushaar

Nominated by Fargo Post #2, Virginia Kraushaar has been selected for the 2023 recipient of the Legionnaire of the Year Award by the ND American Legion.

Virginia graduated from St. Cloud School of Nursing with a RN diploma in 1977. She continued her education with her BSN from the University of Mary in 1989. She completed her formal education with a Master of Strategic Leadership from the University of Mary. Virginia joined the NDARNG Nurse Corps in 1989. She traveled the state to ensure troops medical readiness and her last assignment before retiring was as the deputy commander of the state medical detachment. She was on active-duty deployment from 2005-2007 to Bosnia for six months and then Camp Williams in Utah with the Wounded Warriors Project and spent four months at the Minneapolis VA as the active duty military liaison at the request of the Task Force General. Virginia worked for 19 years at the Fargo VA and retired as a nurse manager. She continues to volunteer her time at the VAMC as a fill-in van driver and an Honor's Escort.

Virginia has shown initiative in all areas since becoming involved with the American Legion Post #2. She planned the first joint Food Drive three years ago and has had ongoing successful food drives. Virginia was part of the planning committee for Memorial Day and was the guest speaker. She is the Post Adjutant and has been instrumental in assisting the 1st Vice Commander with the membership role, coordinating emails to the membership with updates on Legion activities and meetings. She has 21 continuous years of membership with the American Legion. Virginia has recently been appointed to the VAVS committee as the ND American Legion Deputy Representative. She is a member of Post 2, Fargo VFW and the Fargo AMVETS. Virginia has been an active member of both Post 2 and Fargo VFW Honor Guard for funeral details and presenting colors and many community events.

Virginia is married to Steve and they have two children, Thomas and Michelle and six grandchildren. A member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church in West Fargo. Virginia volunteers for special events within the church community. Post #2 selected Virginia to be Legionnaire of the Year based on service to the Legion and community. She will be recognized on Sunday, June 23, during the American Legion's Department Convention on June 21-23, 2024, in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel.



DON HERRY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires and members of the Legion Family.

As the English poet and author Geoffrey Chaucer said in the 1300's "Time and Tide wait for no man" and that statement is just as true today as it was then. It is hard to believe that another 3 months have passed, and it is time for another edition of The North Dakota Legion News.

We had a successful Winter Conference in Bismarck, and we are busy planning both our Spring District meetings and Department Convention. It was nice to see so many old and new faces. It is always encouraging when new people attend for the first time. I will never forget back in 1990 when I was asked if I would be willing to serve as the 7th District Commander. At that time, I had never even been to a District meeting. I told them that I was honored to be asked, but I already had out of state travel plans which would preclude my attendance at our District meeting and they surely would not elect me if I wasn't even there. Well, they did, and this was the beginning of one of my life's most rewarding journeys. In the spring of 1990, I headed off to Grand Forks to be sworn in as the new 7th District Commander, where I met an enthusiastic young Legionnaire by the name of Curtis Twete, who was seeking the office of Department Commander. He was successful in his quest, and it was an honor to work with him that year. Thirty-four years later, Curt Twete and I are no longer the young legionnaires that we once were. Curt

is the most Senior Past Department Commander having served in 1990-1991 and I am number two having served in 1993-1994. Our faces might look like a road map of North Dakota from all the miles that we have put on attending Legion events, but we are still just as enthusiastic about The American Legion as we were then.

In March, I will have the honor to stand beside my friend Lester Mutschelknaus at a meeting of Post 100 in Hebron as we receive our 50 Continuous Year Membership awards. I remember when they only gave those to old people! It has been rewarding to see the many people that have followed us in leadership roles, hopefully we have been a mentor to them. To those currently in office, I hope that this time has been as rewarding an experience for you as it has been for me.

I ask you to think back to when you were first asked to serve as an officer. Most likely you, like most of us, were hesitant to step forward but we did. So, as we approach our spring district meetings, I charge you to find and mentor that next person who will serve our organization. Serving as an officer is not only an honor, but it is also personally rewarding. Nobody ever plans to fail; however, we do fail to plan. Make sure that you have someone ready to take over for you and give some thought as to whether you are willing and able to take that next step up the ladder.

2024 SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Registration is \$5 and does not include a meal.

District 1	Monday, March 11 th	West Fargo VFW at 7:00 pm and meal at 5:00 pm
District 2	Tuesday, March 12 th	Larimore Willy's Bar at 7:00 pm and food is available at the bar
District 3	Friday, March 22 nd	Rolette Memorial Hall at 7:00 pm and meal at 6:00 pm
District 4	Saturday, March 23 rd	Jamestown Vets Club at 7:00 pm and a meal at 6:00 pm
District 5	Saturday, March 23 rd	Bismarck AMVets at 1:00 pm and food is available at the bar
District 6	Friday, April 5 th	Kenmare Memorial Hall at 7:00 and a meal at 6:00 pm
District 7&8	Saturday, April 13 th	Richardton Legion Hall at 2:00 pm MT and a meal at 1:00 pm MT
District 9	Saturday, April 6 th	Ray Auditorium at 1:00 pm and a meal at noon
District 10	Thursday, March 14 th	Ellendale Veterans Club at 7:00 pm and a meal at 6:00 pm



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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

BRAD HUBER - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Alright folks, we are getting close to the end of our membership drive for 2023-2024. We currently have roughly over 1,000 Legionnaires from 2023 that haven't renewed their membership. Post Commanders and Adjutants, District Commanders, and Membership Team members, I will be contacting you with the intent of getting your help or assistance in reaching out to these remaining veterans, so we get them back onboard with our Legion Family.

Every year our membership drive starts out strong until the end of the campaign season where we seem to coast to the finish line. Let's break this trend and finish strong for once! But I need your help in reaching that goal.

Unfortunately, we didn't achieve my goal of 100% Membership by 31 December, but we still have an opportunity to finish at the top for membership. The American Legion has a variety of tools on how to recruit and retain veterans, one example is a pamphlet titled "Why You Should Belong", which briefly discusses the American Legions purpose and what it does for veterans and our communities. Reading this is a great starting point when we need to speak to any veteran about why they should belong to this great organization.

Another point I want to bring up is the Governor of North Dakota himself, during his State of the State address, stressed the need to double down on efforts to make North

Dakota the most military-friendly state in the nation. One of the best ways to make that statement a reality is by strengthening our numbers, through membership. As your Membership Chair I cannot do this alone. I need your help, one last ditch effort, contact the remaining Veterans of North Dakota and try to convince them to be part of our Legion Family. Let's finish this strong and show everyone who is the greatest Department in the American Legion.

It's been my pleasure to be your Membership Chairman, I'm here for you and to help your Post's the best way I can.

Have a fine Legion day!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

DAN BROWN - CHAIRMAN



Great news, Winter Conference 2024 is behind us. We were blessed with beautiful travel weather this year that I am sure we are all grateful for.

The Department Executive committee held meetings during the 2024 Winter Conference. Thursday January 25th was committee reports, confirmation of Commander Carroll's request to pay Don Herrly a \$15,000 stipend, a new travel policy for out-of-state travel was adopted, approval of a Department fund raising raffle of 4 rifles that belong to the Department. We completed our annual conflict of interest statements. A request was made, and discussion was held on the use of District Chapters instead of individual Post Chapter for Legion Riders, the

consensus not to adopt this policy change. Discussion was held in reference for Don Herrly to remain Adjutant at least through the 2024 National Convention. Don has been doing a fantastic job. It is within our best interests to keep Don for as long as he has a desire to stay. We thank him for his diligence, dedication, fortitude, and counsel in the adjutant position. Discussion was held on unsealing executive sessions from June 25th, 2023, September 15th, 2023, and December 5th, 2023, it was voted on and passed to unseal these sessions. There was also a correction made to the unsealed minutes of September 15th, 2023.

On Friday January 26th the DEC meet, bids for the 2028 Winter Conference and 2028 Convention were presented

by the Fargo Post, Bismarck/Mandan CVB and the Minot CVB. There was a unanimous vote to award the bid to the Mandan Baymont Inn presented by the Bismarck/Mandan CVB for the 2028 Winter Conference.

2028 convention bid was tabled until further information was received by the Minot CVB.

The American Income Life Insurance Company presented a proposal for supplemental insurance for the members of the Department of North Dakota. No action was taken at this time.

The conflict-of-interest statements were reviewed, and no conflicts were found.

The Future of the ND Legion – Update

Financial snapshot of the Dept of ND financials, a comparison of 31 Dec 2023 and 2022.

	2023	2022
Dues:	\$302,741.00	\$299,801.00
National Dues: Minus	(\$107,154.00)	(\$104,215.00)
Totals	195,587.00	195,586.00
Main Fixed Expenses:		
Minus	(\$273,886.00)	(\$277,493.00)
Totals	(\$78,299.00)	(\$81,907.00)

After other income and expenses there is another -\$36K in the red (in the hole). In 2023: Donations for DSO was \$78K - DSOoffice Expense 2023: \$77K. All DSOoffice Expenses were covered for 12 months. Awesome! Thank you each and every one for your donations - you made a difference!

Prediction for 2024 is -\$110K and up in the red (in the hole).

PRESENT, 2024: It is evident financial assistance is still very important. The goal is to stay in the good (the black) for the coming year.

FUTURE OF ND LEGION - LONG TERM: A working committee met at the Winter Conference with the objective to devise a plan for the solvency of the Dept of ND American Legion forever. The goal is to raise \$10M in the next five years and exist off the interest. With your help we can do this! There are several avenues we will pursue. One avenue will be to have donations go in the American Legion Foundation. All monies given to the endowed Foundation account are eligible for a 40% State of ND tax break. This is very exciting - donating in the upcoming years will receive yearly tax breaks. Check with your accountant or tax preparer.

NOW: DSOoffice Expense would be eligible use code D-50. Department Headquarters eligible use code D-99

All Posts may contribute, gaming posts can use the below form.

Thank you and hope to see you throughout the year.

Best regards,
Mamie Havelka, Legionnaire



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

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds		Contact Person for Applicant		Telephone Number	
The American Legion Department of North Dakota		Don Herrly		701-293-3120	
Mailing Address		City	State	Zip Code	
PO Box 5057		West Fargo	ND	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	Eligible Use Code
					☒



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State Representative Jared Hagert



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Senator Dale Patten



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Senator Kent Weston



Thank you for your service

Best Wishes American Legion!
State Representative Jon Nelson



Thank you for your service

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE
MARK ANTAL - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

“Who’s In Charge?”
Recently in my daily Bible reading, I have been reading in one of the oldest books of the Bible, The book of Job. In Job Chapter 1 we see how Job lost everything of value to include all of his children. All of this loss took place on the same day. Job became ill, as he suffered with terrible sores on his skin. Three of his friends came and sat with Job for seven days and seven nights without saying a word, “for they saw the great pain of Job”. Job Chapters 4-37 tell the story of the discourse between Job and his friends. These are hard and confusing chapters to read. Job tries to defend himself and his friends try to show him that all his suffering came about because he must have been very sinful.
THEN, God speaks, “Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your lions like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct me! Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth! Tell me if you have understanding. Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it?’ “The Lord continues with question after question, to which Job has no answer.

The real question is: Who is in charge? Who is in charge of our health, finances, family, marriage, workplace, government, the military and yes ... The American Legion? We live in a society and world that is vying to be in charge. Individuals, government programs, world leaders and nations (and everyone in between) seem to desire to be in charge.
The answer to this timeless question remains the same. When we surrender our will to God, he then gives the direction on how to treat others, lead, and love. There is only one person who can answer this pressing question for you. That person is you. The answer is one of daily renewal, “Heavenly Father I asked that you come into me, take over, lead me in the path that is right.” I personally usually add, Lord help me fix my stupid self. He has. He does. He will.
The American Legion is volunteer/servant led at every position. In a world where everyone seems to want to be in charge, our Legion history tells a different message. Serve one another, even when it is hard. From every post, every squadron, every detachment, every chapter, every district, every region, may this message ring true, “For God and Country”.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER
SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

The Importance of Evidence in a Claim
While no claim filed within the VA system is the same, there are aspects of each claim which are similar and can be the turning point within the claim. The most important piece of any claim is the existence of evidence to support the claim. Evidence which can be used in support of a claim may include medical and personnel records from service, medical records post service, support statements, medical opinions, and/or research articles, to name a few.
Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) play crucial in assisting veterans in knowing what types of evidence they may need to support their claims. However, in many instances, VSOs are not able to gather this evidence without the support of the veteran. Medical records are a prime example of evidence which is often needed to support a claim. While many hospitals/clinics will provide this information with a release of information (ROI), it may be easier and faster for a veteran to obtain this information by requesting this in person, then providing the records to the VSO.
Other key pieces of information which may be beneficial in many cases include personal statements from either the veteran, fellow service members, or family members. These statements assist the VA with information which may not be able to be captured in a compensation

exam or supports statements provided by the veteran regarding incidents which occurred during service. Without the help of the veteran identifying these people, we are not able to provide VA with these statements.
Medical and personnel records from service should be able to be obtained by VA directly. However, in some circumstances, veterans were provided the only copies of these records at discharge. In these cases, the veteran needs to provide these records to the VSO to make copies to provide VA. Without these records, VA is not able to verify if a condition is the result of service. In 1973, the National Personnel Records Center had a fire. This fire caused a significant loss to many records, however, the records lost have been misunderstood for years by veterans. Records for the following periods were lost Army Personnel discharged between 11.1.1912 – 1.1.1960 (estimated loss 80%) and Air Force Personnel discharged between 9.25.1947 – 1.1.1964 with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James (estimated loss 75%). VA has a process in place to assist those veterans affected by the fire to reconstruct possible records for VA claims purposes.
If you have any questions or want to begin the claims process, please reach out to a Veteran Service Officer near you <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso>

North Dakota State Legion Band

So many stories and so much history are all part of your ND State Legion Band and the 100 year anniversary of the Band’s existence. The music provided by your State Band invokes memories of the Legionnaires time in the military. With the playing of the service songs or a favorite march, the reason for music continues to be ceremonial, tradition and Esprit de Corps.
The Department Conventions in June continue to provide an opportunity to share music throughout the weekend. Providing music before the joint sessions and for the Auxiliary, providing music for the Past Department Commanders dinner and ballyhooing in the community where the convention is held. The music continues into the evening with the “Dance Band” providing music after the Convention banquet for your listening and dancing pleasure.
In 1982 the band participated in the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. A return trip to Washington D.C. was made in 1995 to help dedicate

the Korean War Memorial. Representing the ND American Legion again in 2004 we were the only Legion Band to participate in the dedication ceremonies for the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. The band was very busy for this dedication playing a concert on the Mall, at the Smithsonian Center and marching in the annual Memorial Day Parade. With the versatility of the Band, a performance at the National American Legion Association VIP reception was accomplished with the Dance Band. The World War II dedication was made even more special by the introduction of our performing WWII veterans – Don Loder, Cooperstown; Ed Koshney, Cando; Kermit Rosendahl, Fairmount; Elmer Buckhaus, Hankinson and Leo Ehli, Lidgerwood.
As your State Legion Band looks to the future and the next 100 years, we look forward to being part of the ND American Legion by continuing to provide great music and memories. Thank you to all who continue to support the State Band with monetary donations.

American Legion Department of ND 2024
President's Day Pillars Sweepstakes
The drawing was held on Friday, February 16, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are listed on the website ndlegion.org and are posted in the March 2024 issue of the ND Legion News

- | | |
|--|---|
| \$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Justin Glasser of Mott Post 71 | \$100 Prize Winners
Thomas Wolter, Sr. of Larimore Post 97
Marcus Hamann of Langdon Post 98
James Ekren of Harwood Post 297
Larry Kallias of Minot Post 26
John Wisnewski of Lidgerwood Post 84
Kayo Isaak of Bowman Post 48 |
| \$1000 Prize Winner
Larry Amundson of Finley Post 13 | |
| \$200 Prize Winners
James Rohrich of Linton Post 54
Dan Stenvold of Park River Post 147 | |

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December Gift Shops A Success

Thank you to all units and members for your donations to the Department earmarked for Gift Shops at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon and the VA Medical Center in Fargo.

Residents of Lisbon were treated to a catered dinner on Friday, December 22, 2023, and each received a blanket for Christmas. Patients at the VAMC were given the opportunity to choose a gift for themselves and a family member. After three years of COVID shutdowns, it was a pleasure to be able to sponsor an in-person gift shop again!

The Philanthropy and Youth (PaY) group from Northern Cass High School donated tie-blankets to the VAMC Gift Shop. We also received a wonderful donation

of vintage wrapping paper for the project from Jim, a veteran who attended an early morning appointment at the VA that day. Jim heard about the 'gift shop' and donated several rolls of embossed red and green paper. A great team of ladies assisted veterans in choosing a gift, wrapping them, and preparing them for mailing. Santa is proud of his VAMC elves.

A Creative Arts competition is planned and will be held at the VAMC in Fargo on September 10, 2024. Any veteran enrolled in the Fargo VA system is eligible and encouraged to participate. More information can be found on the VA's website at www.va.gov/fargo-health-care/. Look under the programs link for the Creative Arts competition. The

last competition was held at the Fargo VAMC in 2018, so this is exciting news that it is happening once again.

The 2024 National Creative Arts Festival is being held in Denver, Colorado, in May. The date for the 2025 festival has not yet been announced. Winners from the 2024 competitions will participate in the 2025 festival.

Please be sure to report your Year-End volunteer hours and funds spent in support of our Auxiliary mission to your unit president. In turn, we can report your good deeds to our Northwestern Division and National Headquarters.

Thank you.
LaVonne Matthews
VA&R Chairman



MaKayla Allmaras (left) and LaVonne Matthews, Department VA&R Chairman, shown with tie-blankets designed, assembled, and donated by the Philanthropy and Youth group from Northern Cass High School.



VAMC Gift Shop Elves (l-r): Jeanine Allmaras; LaVonne Matthews, Department VA&R Chairman; Marge Gourde; Geri Langseth; Virginia Borgen; Faye Majerus, Department VAVS Volunteer Rep for VAMC Fargo; Gloria Covert, Department President; Virginia Kraushaar, Adjutant Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 Fargo.



Wrapping paper donation - Jim (center) with Department President Gloria Covert (l) and VA & R Chairman LaVonne Matthews (r).

Upcoming Dates

Americanism Essay Contest – Due March 15
Education and Parley Scholarships – Due April 1
Poppy Poster Contest – Due May 1
Unit/ Service Member of the Year – Due May 1
ALA Flickertail Girls State Applications – Due May 15
ALA Flickertail Girls State Program – June 9-14
Department Convention in Bismarck – June 21-23

*Gackle Unit 250 Hosts
Patriot Time*

Mayer-Morlock Auxiliary Unit #250 of Gackle hosted Patriot Time at the Gackle-Streeter school on Thursday, November 9, 2023. Students in pre-school through 6th grade participated. There were two breakout stations. The students rotated between the breakout stations spending approximately 20 minutes at each station.

One breakout station was "Flag Etiquette/Veterans Day Holiday." The session started with students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and included discussion of flag etiquette. Jay Posselt, Gackle resident and Navy Seal veteran of the Vietnam War, talked about his time in the military.

Another breakout station was "Cards/Art for Veterans." Students were asked to create cards or other art for veterans. Their artwork was given to veterans attending the Veterans Day program held at the Legion Hall.

Elaine Ackerman, Unit President



Veteran Jay Posselt with students at Gackle-Streeter school.

*Rutland Unit 215
Sponsors Virtual
Trick-or-Treat Event*

For the seventh year in a row, Bergman-Evenson Unit 215 of Rutland has sponsored a "Trick or Treat" for homeless veterans in October. Until 2020, members of the unit went door-to-door in late October, collecting warm clothing, personal care items, and food donations.

When COVID entered the picture in 2021, our unit decided to do a virtual "Trick-or-Treat" event. The event was well advertised at the beginning of October and drop boxes as well as donation jars were scattered around the community. It was a phenomenal success! Since then, the "Trick or Treat" for homeless veterans has been a virtual event and has covered a wider area. The collected donations are sorted, packed, and delivered to the Gladys Ray Shelter and Veterans Drop-In Center in Fargo. The Center "supports" homeless individuals seeking temporary shelter and operates a drop-in center for homeless veterans seeking rest and other supportive services.

Our unit contacts the Gladys Ray Shelter in September and requests a list of the Center's most needed items. This list is then included in our advertising. Socks are always at the top of the list along with hats and gloves. This year, our unit was able to collect and donate 132 pair of men's socks, 30 pair of women's socks, 13 hats, 5 pair of gloves, 3 heavy-lined hoodies, some personal care items, and \$657.65 in cash donations.

American Legion Bergman-Evenson Post 215 of Rutland is a staunch supporter of the "Trick or Treat" for homeless veterans and generously donates cash for the project.

Bergman-Evenson Unit 215 feels fortunate to have such widespread support for all of our endeavors. We cannot thank all of our donors enough for helping us help our veterans.

Submitted by Unit Members

2024 Department Convention

June 21-23 in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center.
Call 701-660-8063 for reservations. More information will be available at www.ndala.org/2024-department-convention/

*2024 Spring
District Meetings*

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

District 1 - Monday, March 11 - West Fargo
VFW Bar and Grill, 444 Sheyenne St
5:00 PM – Registration & Social, 6:00 PM – Dinner (\$10) VFW Spaghetti Night, 7:00 PM – Meeting

District 2 - Tuesday, March 12 - Larimore
Willy's Bar, 114 East Main St.
6:00 PM – Registration and Social, food from bar menu
7:00 PM – Meeting (ALA to Senior Center)

District 3 - Friday, March 22 - Rolette
Memorial Hall, 503 2nd Ave S
5:00 PM – Registration & Social, 6:00 PM – Dinner (\$18),
7:00 PM – Meeting

District 4 – Saturday, March 23 - Jamestown
Jamestown Vets Club, 116 1st St E
5:00 PM – Registration & Social, 6:00 PM – Meal (\$15)
7:00 PM – Meeting

District 5 - Saturday, March 23 - Bismarck
Amvets, 2402 Railroad Ave
12:00 PM (noon) – Registration and Social
(Attendees welcome to order off the AMVET's menu)
1:00 PM – Meeting

District 6 - Friday, April 5 - Kenmare
Memorial Hall, 5 3rd Street NE
5:00 PM – Registration & Social, 6:00 PM – Meal
7:00 PM – Meeting

District 7 & 8 - Saturday, April 13 - Richardton
Legion Hall, 122 North Ave W
12:00 PM (MT) – Registration and Social, 1:00 PM (MT) – Meal (\$5)
2:00 PM (MT) – Meeting

District 9 - Saturday, April 6 - Ray
Ray Auditorium, 215 Main Street
11:00 AM – Registration & Social, 12:00 PM – Meal (\$10)
1:00 PM – Meeting

District 10 - Thursday, March 14 - Ellendale
Veterans Club & Event Center, 82 Main St.
5:00 PM – Registration & Social, 6:00 PM – Meal
(free will offering)
7:00 PM – Meeting

Department President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
I want to start off with a huge thank you to the members who donated to the silent auction held at the 2024 Winter Conference and to the bidders who helped raise \$1,500. The auction proceeds were donated to my President's Projects. I appreciate the wonderful support from the American Legion Family.

Thank you to the Washburn Auxiliary unit who were the hosts for Winter Conference. The members who assisted with registration did a wonderful job with their duties and looked very sharp in their red blazers. We were glad to see and visit with 64 registered attendees, but a better turnout for the event was anticipated.

We presented an ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) workshop during meetings on Saturday. It was attended by 11 members who said they learned a lot of information that they previously did not know. We also added 3 more members to the full user level. We now have 86 members using ALAMIS from 61 units. 19 members are full users which means they process their dues and update their database at the local unit level. ALAMIS is located on our national website www.alaforveterans.org. A member must request permission through the Department Office to become an ALAMIS user. Send your request along with your name, email address, unit number, and the type of access you would like. The Department Office forwards your request to National HQ and you will receive information from National on how to use the program along with a unique user name and password. The reports on ALAMIS are a great resource for units.

Constant Contact is the new mass email platform utilized by the Department Office. We will be using this email more and more to get information out to members in a timely manner. We currently have approximately 300 email addresses. Our old system had about 1800 addresses. Units, we need your help in obtaining the email addresses of members that would like to receive Department information. We would appreciate any assistance from units and members to get this information platform up and running effectively. Submit email addresses, name, unit number, and unit position (if any) to the Department Office

and specifically state it is for Constant Contact.

Department Chairmen need pictures and narratives of events that units have sponsored and organized. This information will be forwarded to our Northwestern Division Chairmen who will publish it in their monthly newsletters. The newsletters can be shared in our monthly mailings as well as through Constant Contact. Remember to send this information to our Department historian, Andrea Neshem, for the President's scrapbook and to the Department Office for publication in "The Message". Visit our Department website at www.ndala.org for chairman contact information.

North Dakota Flickertail Girls State information will be updated the first week of February at www.ndgirlsstate.org. The registration fee for 2024 has increased to \$325. Units, please contact your schools as soon as you have the information as we do need a number boost this year. Information will also be distributed via a paper unit mailing.

Our National Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson will be visiting North Dakota from July 15-18, 2024. We are currently planning a visit to the International Peace Garden, Annie's House adaptive recreation center, and Mystical Horizons. Sharon White Bear, Past Department President, is working on a mini pow-wow at White Shield. We would like to include Medora but haven't got that worked in yet. If you or your unit would like to assist with this visit, please contact me. Any help would be appreciated.

There are several units that have reached their 100% membership goal. Congratulations on your effort!! A second renewal notice has been sent out to members. All units - please follow up right away and get those members' dues paid.

Units are doing a fine job of helping our veterans, youth, and their communities. Keep up the awesome work you are all doing. I appreciate all that members do for their "why".

Always be kind
Gloria Covert



Gloria Covert

Department President-Elect

Hello North Dakota Auxiliary Members,

I want to reiterate my constant call for 'membership, membership, membership.' We need every Auxiliary member to pay their dues! We in North Dakota are active, involved members of our country and communities! We love our veterans! Remember why you became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our mission is to support our veterans and active-duty military members and their families.

We must never let our Auxiliary members forget how important they are and how critical paying their dues is in our efforts to support our mission of advocating for veterans and their families. North Dakota is known for the number of men and women who have served and continue to serve in the military, for how well we honor our veterans, and for our wonderful generosity on behalf of veterans.

Remember that Congress acts on behalf of our veterans in direct proportion to our membership numbers in the American Legion Family. We just cannot let our veterans down. Bills such as the GI Bill, health bills related to Vietnam and Camp Lejeune, the Choices Bill that allows veterans to go to local doctors when they live 40 miles from a VA care facility, the PACT Bill regarding burn pits, and so much more have all been passed for veterans. These important Congressional actions would not be possible without the help and support of numbers in our organizations, our volunteer hours, and our donation of funds spent on behalf of our veterans.

Remember the 'Be The One' program and its focus on the well-being of our veterans. Watch over your veterans and if you see one in need or going through hard times, reach out to them and assist them in any way you can.

For God and Country.
LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Fred and I just returned from the Winter Conference in Bismarck. The weather was extraordinary for this time of year and Shelby did not miss us at all with grandson Owen dog sitting with her. Hopefully, the weather we have experienced for much of January and February continues through the final breakthrough of Spring. I can see Spring from here!

Now it is time to prepare for 2024 Spring District Meetings. As I draft this article, I do not have all the details, but more information is available elsewhere in this publication and online at www.ndala.org/district-meetings/. Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend the 2024 Spring District Meeting being organized in your district.

The North Dakota Flickertail Girls State program will be held on the UND Campus in Grand Forks on June 9-14, 2024. Girls State applications have been updated and are available on the Department Girls State website at www.ndgirlsstate.org. Units, contact schools in your community

to let students know about the Girls State program. We are looking for 'City Moms' for the Girls State event. Applications for the City Moms positions are also available on the Girls State website and have been sent in a paper unit mailing.

Auxiliary members, remember to report to your Unit President all of your volunteer hours and dollars donated in support of our 'mission' and for your community. Every hour and every dollar counts but only if you report it. All of this information is reported to the ALA National organization and the American Legion for their work with Congress on veterans issues.

Take care of yourself and others. May God Bless you and God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer

Winter Conference is behind us, and spring is around the corner! It is always wonderful to see friends at this annual event. It was a fun and productive weekend. We learned that our governing documents are a bit unclear, and there were some great discussions on how to clean them up. A committee was formed to review the Department's Constitution and Bylaws and clarify the Department Standing Rules. This committee will make recommendations that will be presented for a vote at the Department Convention in June. It is important that as many members attend our 2024 Department Convention as possible to vote on what language should be in our governing documents. Department Convention is always fun - and the State Legion Band keeps us all going!

I am happy to report that Unit Contributions for veteran's programs had a 26% increase this year! It is always gratifying to send these checks out to programs that help our veterans in so many ways. Thank you units and unit members for sharing your time, energy, and treasure to benefit veterans and their families.

Winter Conference attendees heard me speak of my resignation at the end of the fiscal year (June 2024). My husband, Todd, and I are retiring this year and will be relocating to our home state of Nebraska in the fall. I have enjoyed my position with the Department of North Dakota and have met so many people that I might not have had the opportunity to meet if not for this position. I learned so much about the organization and the programs we support. We had two members who were endorsed for the Department Treasurer position at the Winter Conference, and I am confident that either candidate will serve our Department well. This is another reason to attend the 2024 Department Convention - to vote for and meet your Department Officers for the upcoming year!

One last thing, if you are a Unit Treasurer - be sure to complete your Annual Report and 990-N to ensure your EIN (employer identification number) is compliant as a non-profit organization! It takes about 10 minutes and \$10.00 to complete. If you did not receive an email from me though the Department Office with instructions, please let me know! I can be reached at treasurer@ndala.org or by phone. I will certainly email that information to you or snail mail it if that is what needs to happen.

Enjoy your spring! I hope your units all have some fun events coming up this spring! See you all in Bismarck in June!

Blessings,
Sonnie Otto



Sonnie Otto

Department Chaplain

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is "the joy of the Lord is my strength" Nehemiah 8:10. Growing up, we sang Sunday school songs of that verse. It has remained a favorite because in times of questioning, difficulty, or even depression, this verse comes back to me.

Wondering how joy could be my strength, I looked up the meaning of the word 'joy' in a Hebrew dictionary and it actually means rejoicing. With an 'ing' ending, it is a verb, so it is something we need to do. I love listening to Christian radio and can rejoice in the Lord with so many beautiful songs.

The biblical story around Nehemiah 8:10 is Ezra, the priest, found the book of the law (which had been lost) and he gathered the people together, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. Ezra and the priests read from the Book of the Law of God with clear meaning so the people could understand what was being read. The people were so joyful that they wept when they heard the words. Ezra told the people this day was holy to the Lord and not to be grieved for the 'joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Can you imagine losing God's law? And besides losing it, they forgot it. It had been long forgotten and broken by the people so that they wept and grieved. Besides learning they had broken God's law, they remembered

their many sins of the past and their tears were mingled with a thankfulness that they were God's people and now had a strong desire to worship Him. Ezra reminded them that they are to be thankful and glad, and that the purest form of worship is the worship of God with great joy! Therefore, the joy of the Lord is your strength.

What can we take away from this verse? It gives us a sense of acceptance with God and also gives us rest for our spirits, but we must also grieve and ask forgiveness of our sins. We will have a stronger and more intimate relationship with God which can take away any fear that lies before us or any anxiety that lies within us.

The upcoming Easter season is a perfect time to draw closer to God realizing that He wants to have a closer relationship with all of us. That is why He sent His Son, Jesus, as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. By accepting that sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have great joy - and the joy of the Lord will be our strength!

Rose Laning



Rose Laning

District 1



Happy New Year to our American Legion Family members across the state of North Dakota. It is impossible to imagine that we are already into our second month of 2024. This is a crucial reminder that we have some work ahead to make it the best year ever.

When things feel insurmountable, take a deep breath and think for a moment, “If you can’t fly, then run; If you can’t run, then walk; If you can’t walk, then crawl; but whatever you have to do keep moving forward.” A quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. Try to relate this to your work within your unit. Remember if you are working on something that you really care about, you do not have to push or be pushed.

My hope is that District 1 members will think back on why they became an Auxiliary member in the very beginning. Let us hope that vision never fades. Part of our mission is to provide to our youth both educational and leadership opportunities. These opportunities uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism for our country. Also, our mission is to support the lives of our veterans, the military, and their families both at home and abroad.

Which brings me back to work. We need to step up participation in District 1. Attendance at our District Meetings has been dismal and this shows a lack of interest, desire, and effort on the part of Auxiliary members. Never give up. Unit 210 of Galesburg struggled for several years to the point where I did not know if we would survive as a unit. Fortunately, we were blessed with several new members who have proven to be energetic, ambitious, and filled with ideas as well as the willingness to implement these ideas.

I am so proud of these members as they chose to donate \$500 to each of the 3 local food pantries, another \$500 to the ND/MN Veterans Honor Flight program, \$500 to the gift shop programs for veterans at VA Medical Center in Fargo and residents at the North Dakota Veterans Home at Lisbon. This truly has been rewarding for us as a unit because we were never able to do this in the past.

I extend an invitation to anyone to visit one of our meetings to witness the enthusiasm. We meet the second Tuesday of each month April through December at 7:00 PM in the Galesburg Memorial Hall. You can find us stuffing pillows for veterans, planning our next fundraiser, working a Poppy Day project, or volunteering at a Memorial Day Program.

Wayne and I just returned to Arizona after attending the 2024 Winter Conference in Bismarck. We were a bit surprised that the weather seemed almost spring-like. Mark your calendars as a reminder to attend the 2024 District 1 Spring Meeting at the West Fargo VFW. More details and information can be found in another section of this publication.

Virginia Satrom
District 1 President

District 3



Hello District 3 Auxiliary Members.

2024 Winter Conference in Bismarck was a great event this year and the weather was almost like spring.

I would love to see more District 3 members attend Department Conferences and Conventions and especially our Spring and Fall District Meetings. Get a group of members together and plan to attend the 2024 Spring District Meeting. You will meet Department Officers who are always happy to answer questions and share information important to units members and veterans. We would love to have you be a part of these important meetings. We need your input to make our District stronger.

Spring is just around the corner and that means our 2024 District 3 Spring Meeting is close by. All District 3 American Legion Family members are welcome to attend. Mark your calendar and plan to come out and meet old and new friends. We will be meeting on March 22 at the Memorial Hall in Rolette. Look for more information elsewhere in this publication.

Proudly serving you as President of District 3,
Cheryl Gustafson

District 5



What a pleasant Winter Conference this year with exceptionally warm temperatures! We learned that our National Auxiliary President, Lisa Williamson, will be traveling to North Dakota July 15-18, so watch for more details to come regarding her visit.

Department leaders gave updates on many of the programs. Sonnie Otto, Department Treasurer, reminded us of the importance of reports that need to be filed with the state and IRS (990-N) to maintain our unit non-profit status. She also announced that she is moving out of state and will be resigning in June 2024. There will be an election at the June Convention as two candidates were endorsed already at the Winter Conference.

In the education report, it was stated that there are multiple scholarships available from both the American Legion and Auxiliary. There are three (3) national scholarships that are only available with applications submitted online and a fourth national scholarship is available through the local Auxiliary units, all of which are due **March 1, 2024**. The Department of North Dakota Education scholarship and nursing scholarship applications are due **April 1, 2024**. Attendees of Girls State may apply for the Samsung scholarship on the first day of Girls State, so applicants need to have researched and put together required documents before going to Girls State.

The Children and Youth Program promotes the Youth Hero and Good Deed awards. Gloria Covert, Department President, informed us that National is promoting working with the American Legion on programs such as the Oratorical Contest.

The Leadership Chair brought up the Unit Member of the Year Award, due **May 1, 2024**, for which the nominee cannot have held a position higher than Unit President. She would like one nominee from each District. She also mentioned the ALA Academy courses and suggested involving junior members who may be able to help with technology and fundraisers.

The Constitution & Legislative Chair mentioned that she is following pending bills in the Senate and active bills in the North Dakota Legislature; and is collaborating with a committee to review the ALA Department Constitution for improvements. The VA & R Chair talked about Wreaths Across America, Fargo VA Medical Center and Lisbon gift shops, as well as the re-activation of the Creative Arts Festival in Fargo (September 10, 2024). Americanism reported the Essay Contest is due March 15 and must have the cover sheet attached. We were encouraged to support the Legion baseball program and the Oratorical Contest in the future.

The Membership Chairman reported nine (9) units have achieved 100 percent of their membership goal. Girls State is tentatively set for June 9-14, 2024, as the committee is working with UND at Grand Forks.

Department President Gloria Covert reported that any unit can apply for Unit Foundation grants up to \$2,500, collect email addresses for the Constant Contact email system, and utilize ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) which provides many reports and access for membership updates.

Spring District meetings are coming up. District 5 will be Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the Amvets in Bismarck at noon. Please continue keeping track of volunteer hours/expenses for reporting to the District President by April 15.

SPRING IS COMING!
Peggy Moran
District 5 President

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE**

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District 7



Hello District 7 Auxiliary Members.

I hope you all got over the cold weather and no one fell on the ice. By the time you read this article, the 2024 Winter Conference will be a distant memory. We learned more about each of the Auxiliary’s sponsored programs and how units are supporting our veterans.

Some units seem to be struggling with their membership and we learned several ways to help us increase the collection of member dues. If your member has a phone number or email, reach out to them and ask if you can assist them in any way. Let your units and members know that their membership matters. Send a card as a reminder and when you do receive their dues, send them in right away. Do not hold dues.

Unit Presidents, the Year-End Impact Reports are due by April 15, 2024. Report on your unit member’s volunteer hours and funds spent in support of our mission. The forms are on colored paper and were mailed to units in December so they should be easy to find. The forms are also online at www.ndala.org/reporting/. When the unit report is complete, send it to me and I will compile all District 7 units into one report. I would like to see 100% reporting from District 7 units.

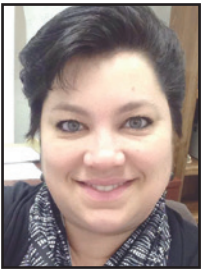
Spring meetings are being planned now and will be coming up soon. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend. Bring your questions and concerns so we can answer them.

Although I have one more year to serve as your District President, I would like for someone to step up and take the reins to lead District 7 into the future. I will not accept this job again. Being a District President is an experience you will love. It is fun to meet members from around the District and state. You will learn so much and you will receive a lot of support from the Department Officers and other District Presidents.

Thank you, District 7 Auxiliary members and Department Officers for the assistance and support I have received from you. You are all special and serve our veterans well.

God Bless you and our veterans.
Lualice Stockert
District 7 President

Leadership



The ‘Unit Member of the Year’ award recognizes members of our units who exemplify the value and ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary. Those members work hard to support their units, improve the unit’s programs, and have a positive impact on our communities.

Look for that special member in your unit that exemplifies those ideals and has not held an office higher than Unit President. Then, nominate them for the ‘Unit Member of the Year’ award.

The nomination forms can be found at www.ndala.org/leadership/. Wouldn’t it be great if we received a nomination from every District in our state?

‘Unit Member of the Year’ nominations are due to me no later than May 1, 2024.

Have you heard about the ALA Academy? This is an incredible educational opportunity for you to learn about the Auxiliary and what we do. There are 8 main courses and many other live courses available to help mentor our newest members. I personally have completed 4 of them and I was amazed at the history of our program and the amazing individuals that made it all happen. This is a great opportunity for our Junior members to learn about the Auxiliary as well. They are the future of our program. There are even some E-courses designed specifically with our juniors in mind. You can enroll in any of the self-paced courses at www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Academy. I encourage everyone to try them. You will not be disappointed!

Lastly, how can you get our Junior members involved in your units? In a recent Zoom leadership meeting, we discussed the importance of mentoring our Junior members and involving them in our monthly meetings, fundraising events, preparing meals, and assisting in planning events and activities. Your juniors will amaze you with their use of technology and social media. Ask them to help with public relations and advertising your events. Juniors are our future, get them involved now. Get a few juniors excited to join our organization and they will reach out to others to help grow our membership.

Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org to learn what others are doing to involve their juniors and to familiarize yourself about programs designed for them.

Heidi Wakefield
Leadership Chairman

2024 Year-End
Reporting Deadlines

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



21 FIRST AVENUE S.E., MINOT, ND
(701) 852-0561
OPEN 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

In Memoriam

District 1

Betty J. Terry, Hillsboro

District 2

Barbara Lundby, Larimore
Lois D Peterson, Larimore
Marian Onstad, SLM, Park River
Mildred Hagen, SLM, Park River

District 3

Phebe H Ratzlaff, Langdon
Betty M Nelson, Langdon
Marlyce Geir, Milton
Carol Goodman, Milton
Debra E Johnson, York

District 4

Linda Kust, SLM, Jamestown

District 5

Shirley A. Heil, Ashley
Alvina Piatz, Napoleon
Verella J Hansen, SLM, Napoleon
Patricia A Wahl, SLM, Turtle Lake

District 6

Donna R Lausch, SLM, Minot
June Springsted, Lignite
Jeanette Bonsness, Columbus

District 7

Betty Dohn, SLM, New Salem
Fay M. Peterson, Almont

District 8

Rita Frank, Beach
Eleanor Bohn, Beach
Mary L Combs, Beach

Norita Roll, Mott

Marie Makaruk, Belfield
Edith M. Wolf, Belfield
Genevieve Fisher, SLM, Scranton

District 9

Jean Halverson, Wildrose
Verena Knox, Tioga
Lila Lalim, Tioga
Bernice N. Nicholson, Tioga

District 10

Kathryn Rosendahl, Lamoure
Faye Murie, Edgeley
Beatrice Foertsch, HLM, Wyndmere

Department Unit #500

Lucille Nygaard, Bismarck

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

I am honored to be your representative from the Department of North Dakota on the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Committee of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Fargo. Recently, I attended our quarterly meeting and will highlight some of the programs and developments that are being planned and/or considered for roll out in the near future.

Veteran Transportation Service or the VTS program has begun its soft opening in Fargo and is providing transportation for veterans. At this time, the vehicle on loan from the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) is not equipped for special mode transportation, but the Fargo VA has secured two vehicles from Texas that are properly equipped for wheelchair-bound patients. Once confirmation comes that the vehicles are en route, the VA will begin hiring additional drivers. More vehicles and drivers will be added over time as the program continues to grow.

Beneficiary Travel update reported that the goal for beneficiary travel is to process all travel claims within ten days. Currently, staffing is down 70% which has significantly impacted the speed in which claims are processed. To combat this, the Fargo VA has partnered with the Veteran Travel Program Office nationally for assistance.

Parking Ramp Update: The parking ramp proposed for the VAMC campus is still in the design phase with intent to award the construction contract in the future. The ramp will add an additional (net) one hundred parking spaces and allow for further infrastructure improvements in the future.

Mental Health Outpatient Clinic: The new building, slated for construction in Fiscal Year 2024 will offer easily accessible mental health care for outpatient veterans as well as add approximately 17,000 square feet of space at the facility. Initial bids exceeded the estimated costs. Additional efforts are needed to bring bids down to an acceptable level before the project can move forward.

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC): The Fargo VAMC is in the process of building new facilities in Fergus Falls, MN, and Grand Forks, ND. Both facilities are in the design process; the Fergus Falls facility will be three times larger than the current facility, and the Grand Forks clinic will be double the size of the original. Currently, efforts are underway to identify and acquire all medical

equipment needs for these two sites and to assure everything needed is in place before these two sites 'go live' in early calendar year 2025.

Fisher House Updates: The construction of a Fisher House will provide veterans' family members who must travel long distances a place to stay while their veteran undergoes medical procedures at the VAMC Fargo. The Fisher House project is still currently in the land acquisition phase. After discussion with local homeowners and community members, it has been decided that our initial proposed site will not be pursued further. Other well-suited sites are being explored at this time.

Guest Speaker: Katie Hanson, Clinical Pharmacist, presented information on the VA's new pharmacogenomics program. Pharmacogenomics is the study of how genes affect a person's response to medications. Working in conjunction with Sanford Health, the VA is offering free pharmacogenomic testing for veterans.

The Veterans Creative Arts Competition is returning this year. The Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a national program that aims to recognize veterans and their creative accomplishments as well as educate and demonstrate to the community the therapeutic benefits of art therapy. The program, co-sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, will be held on Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, in the VA's 3rd floor auditorium. A flyer containing links, due dates, and additional information is available on the Auxiliary Department website (www.ndala.org/var/). Eligible veterans must be enrolled in care with the Fargo VA Health Care System and may compete in any of fifty categories including painting, metal work, poetry, woodworking, and music. More information will be available in March.

VAVS Patient Casino Night: The VAVS Committee will be hosting a patient casino night on March 18, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the VA's CLC recreation room. There are still slots remaining for service organizations and their members to participate and bring extra joy to our hospitalized veterans.

Carol Wolf

Department VAVS Committee Representative



Past Department Presidents at 2024 Winter Conference – back (l-r): Judy Twete 2001-02 (NW Division National Vice President 2015-16), Marlys Aubol 2013-14, Jeannie Román 2018-19, Marlene Boyer 2015-16 (NW Division National Vice President 2022-23), Tammy Ryberg 2004-05. front (l-r) Sandra Petermann 2022-23, Charlotte Lassonde 2007-08, Beverly Wolff 2002-03 and 2020-21, Lualice Stockert 1995-96, Diane Kraemer 2016-17.

Education

Update to the Department Education article in the December issue of The Message - since that article appeared in the December issue, I have learned that three (3) National Scholarships are available online **ONLY** and are due to be submitted no later than **March 1, 2024**.

- Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Applications are to be submitted online and no unit review is needed. The National organization will email the completed online application to each Department for review and submission to the appropriate Division Education Chairman.

Units are encouraged to work with local schools and home-schooled students to let them know how to apply for these scholarships. Visit the following website at www.ALAForVeterans.org/scholarships for more information.

The fourth National scholarship, the **Junior Auxiliary Member Loyalty Scholarship**, is also due March 1, 2024, to the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Refer to the above mentioned website for requirements and forms. The Unit forwards the certified unit entry to the Department Education Chairman (me) by March 15, 2024. The selected Department application will be forwarded to the Northwestern Division Chairman by April 1, 2024, for further judging.

As was stated in a previous article, the Department of North Dakota's Education Program Scholarship application is now available online at www.ndala.org/education/ and due to me no later than **April 1, 2024**.

Past Presidents Parley nursing scholarship applications are due to the Past Presidents Parley Chairman by **April 1, 2024**.

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.

Happy Spring!

Peggy Moran

Education Chairman



Membership

Hello to all North Dakota District Presidents, Unit Presidents, and Unit Membership Chairmen.

I trust that your efforts to round up all our members' dues in our "North Dakota Great Buffalo Roundup for Membership" are progressing well! North Dakota is far behind most of the 50 states and we really want to turn that around. We want all the other states to look at North Dakota and want to measure up to us. At this point in time, we are only at 66% of goal and we have a lot of hard work to do. We are in 38th place in the National Membership, and 7th, or last place, in the Northwestern Division! So, let us get to work! Let us enlist the help of every member to make sure that all members are renewed! Let us work to make sure that every unit achieves 100% renewal! How exciting it will be to know that your unit reaches 100% for 2024! Once that has been accomplished, then we can look for new members. Once every member is renewed, the pressure is off and we can concentrate on our fun unit activities! Remember that if a member has not paid their dues by December 31st, their membership has expired. They are no longer members in good standing. Do not allow them to simply fall away from your unit! Go bring them in! Let them know they are important to our success as advocates for our veterans and our youth! We do what we do for our veterans to honor their service to our county, our community, and for us.

Make your plan of action:

Presidents: call 10 members to ask for their renewal. Let them know how important they are and that our veterans are counting on them.

Never hold dues! Send them to the Department Office in a timely manner. Remember, when a member pays their dues, they think they are renewed as of that time. Do not let them down!

Let us all be the ones that push North Dakota to 100%! National HQ has set our February goal at 80% by February 15th. We can do it!

Attend meetings with other unit members. It was so nice to see so many of you at the recent 2024 Winter Conference in Bismarck. It is true, getting together with other unit members who are experiencing some of same things we are helps us, encourages us, fires us up! We want our units to be vibrant and active. Units that our members want to be part of, want to work with, want to belong to. I encourage all of you to make it so.

Let us make Department President Gloria proud. Let us have the most wonderful and successful "Great Buffalo Roundup" that North Dakota has ever seen.

Working with you for our veterans,

LoAnn Dick

Membership Co-Chairman



Girls State Program

American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State will be held June 9-14, 2024, on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. Information has been sent to all ND units and schools. Registration is \$325 and is due by May 15th. Visit NDGirlsState.org or call Director Amanda Dinger at 701-314-2460 for more information and applications.

District Reports



Jon Veile
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,

As I come to the end of my term as your District Commander, I want to give you my final thoughts. First off, I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your commander these past two years. They have been enjoyable as well as a learning experience. When I was a Headquarters Company Commander it became a three-year position due to our rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California. The first year was a learning experience and getting my boots on the ground. The second year was spent getting things put together so that when we had boots on the ground, we knew what had to be done. Year three was actually accomplishing the mission and reacting to the inevitable hiccups along the way. So, in respect to the time that I have been your District Commander, my sincerest thank you for having one of the best positions in the American Legion.

Some final thoughts for you all to think about. Membership is a recurring topic that is brought up every year and it is an important subject. It is rarely mentioned as to why it is important. Our national strength allows our national leadership to go to congress and tell them that they represent a national organization comprising a large number of veterans. Numbers carry weight and the more members we have, the more strength our leaders have in approaching congress. So, in that regard, membership is important and at the post level, it is important for us as a whole to keep up our membership.

As for attracting new members, we need to stop and think about what drew us to the Legion and to our local posts in the first place. Sometimes we need to stop and evaluate ourselves to see what we must look like to someone on the street looking in. Are we attractive to them? Are we going to meet their needs? Are they going to be treated as just a number? Sometimes how we conduct ourselves in a meeting becomes a dignified and stuffy affair. We have a generation of veterans who have served in the Mideast. What are their interests? How can we meet their needs? These are questions that we need to ask ourselves and do some soul searching as we adapt to meet the needs of the younger veteran. They served too.

My final thought is this. When I was a young lieutenant at the end of the Vietnam war, I thought it was ridiculous when my unit went to the field that we had to wear our branch scarves with our field uniform. Freshly pressed uniforms and shined boots as if we were going on parade instead of going to the field for training. The battalion commander desired that we have an officer's mess with table, tablecloth and silverware at the headquarters battery. When we were inspected from the air the table with its accouterments stuck out like a sore thumb. So where am I going with this. Take a step back and look at your posts. What we can we do to make ourselves attractive and relevant to a younger generation of veterans.

Best wishes to all of you and thank you again for allowing me the privilege of being your commander.



Jay Nesdahl
2nd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 2,

Now that the holidays are over, I am looking forward to start visiting your post and attending any functions that your post would like me or the vice commander to attend.

Winer Conference was a success. I enjoyed talking to all the Legion members that I knew and some members that I had just met.

So, if you have an event that you want me or the Vice Commander to attend, please contact me at jaynesdahl@gmail.com or call me at 218 779 6494.

God Bless America and may He bring our troops home safe.



Robert Wishart
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Winter Conference. It went very well. I hope everyone that attended had a great time as well.

The Spring District meeting is in Rolette on March 22, 2024. The Social starts at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m., and a meal to follow at 7 p.m. The address for the Rolette Memorial Building is 503 2nd Ave.

I will be starting post visits in February. We need to find a District 3 Vice Commander. Please let me know if your Post has a veteran interesting in filling this position.



Jon Metz
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,

I hope everyone has had a great start to the year. Thank you all who attended the Winter Conference. I heard good things, and a great time was had by all.

Spring district meetings are just around the corner. Everyone is welcome to attend the District 4 spring meeting which will be held in Jamestown at the All Vets Club on 23 March at 5pm social, 6pm meal and 7pm meeting.

Please plan to attend and enjoy the fellowship and be apart as the North Dakota American Legion as it keeps moving forward.

We will need a new district vice commander. If that is something you want to find out more about, just give me a call or email. Our current vice is a great guy and will be fun to work with!!

Spring weather will be here soon for us all to enjoy, stay positive, talk to your fellow veterans and BE THE ONE!!



Ron Dykema
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

The 2024 Winter Conference has come and gone. I wasn't able to attend very much, I had a family member's funeral, but I was able to attend Saturday night's banquet. The attendance was good and the speaker was very informative.

On to new business, the 5th District Spring Meeting will be on Saturday, March 23, at the Amvets in Bismarck. Lunch is available at the Amvets or any place of your choice with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting starting at 12:00 p.m. Hopefully, the weather cooperates, and participation is better than at recent meetings. There are several posts that have not had a delegate at the last four meetings. Please make an effort to be part of the Legion family. Looking forward to an overflow attendance!! I would like to see a good representation from all posts as well as the Auxiliary at the spring meeting.

Happy February and March.



Jason Anderson
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,

I hope the beginning of 2024 has been nice to you. I know we started out with some pretty rough weather all across this great state of ours, but we closed January strong and rather warm in the temps. I am sure many of you saw or heard that I lost my dad early in January and it was certainly not a great month overall for me. However, it did end on a high note. Even though my dad was never a member of the military, both of my grandfathers served and I think with the three of them giving me some spiritual guidance and support from on high, I decided to announce my candidacy for Commander-Elect for the 2024-2025 year at the 2024 Winter Conference in Bismarck. I'd appreciate your vote and support at the summer convention in June.

Speaking of Winter Conference, I had a great time at the conference. I sat in on the two DEC meetings and the Foundation meeting to learn more about the inner workings of the Department of North Dakota. I also had the privilege of being asked to join the workgroup for the Future of the North Dakota Legion. This group will hopefully become a standing committee and will help drive the financial stability of the Department to great success. During Department Commander Carroll's state of the Department address, he thanked each of us for our service, Past, Present, and Future. Most of us know that the call to serve is not limited to us once wearing the uniform of a military service member, or if we are currently still wearing one and that even if the uniform comes off we still feel an obligation to serve in one form or fashion. God willing, many of us are able to serve until our final days.

As of this writing, the District was sitting at 91.84% of membership goal, and four posts have met or exceeded the 100% mark already and several are in the high 90%. OUTSTANDING!! Keep up the great work and push hard for the remainder of the reporting year.

The District 7 and 8 Spring meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 2pm, social starts at 1200, lunch will start at 1PM, at the Richardton Legion Post #180. Registration fee is \$5 and meal is \$5.

From a very grateful District Commander, my heartfelt thanks go to each of you for all you have done, are doing and will continue to do.



Scott Post
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,

Since I wrote our last newsletter, I have visited several Posts or visited by phone. Membership, renewals, community involvement and meeting attendance have been discussed. Some Post membership percentages are not the fault of the member but lack of time by Adjutants and not using or trained in the automated process. We need to get everyone to use MyLegion membership Renewals. Community involvement and visibility will help with new member enrollment.

West Region Vice Commander Allan Magnuson was a guest at my Post in Tioga Post 139 for Veteran's Day. Great program with music, dinner and stories told about time in service. Members of our Post Everlasting were honored and remembered with a moment of silence and a toast (Till Valhalla).

My wife and I were guests at Grenora Post 116 for their fall supper. Great time with some really good people. Took a break over the holidays, enjoyed time with family and friends.

Attended the Winter Conference and took in as many meetings as possible. Enjoyed visiting with everyone and meeting new friends. Was proud to have senators and congressman present, who support veterans and veterans' concerns. Was honored to meet National Vice Commander Vail, he is a great speaker whose story about the blue hat was remarkable. Overall, a great time.

Myself, Past National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus, District Nine Vice Commander Lance Renville and our wives traveled to Medora. We had the honor of witnessing the inaugural flag raising ceremony at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Post #3 from Dickinson and Department Commander Carroll did an outstanding job.

Starting preparations for our Spring District Meeting. The 9th District Spring meeting will be hosted by William E. Smith Post #9 in Ray on April 6th. Let's have a great turn out, see you all there!

Duty, honor, Country



Charles Campbell
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,

Some of the activities I have attended start with Veterans Day Tributes. The first one I attended was at Richland Elementary School in Abercrombie, ND. Kindergarten through 6th grade put on a salute to the veterans by performing songs from each age group followed by the entire group finishing up together. This show was very enjoyable and was honored to see it along with Quilts of Valor giving the story of three veterans who received them.

My next stop was my Post in Fairmount, ND. We had our program and this year we gave the story of Richard Peterson who was a Fairmount Native who gave his life for our country in December 1944. The story included his life growing up and his High School accomplishments along with going into the Navy. It goes on to tell how he married a local gal and how she stood at the New York harbor as she waved good-bye to him on his new ship and was pregnant. Then it went on to tell how she was notified of his loss in a battle around the Philippines. The story was quite moving as the crowd listened intently. We then finished up with some beef stew and biscuits, and then it was on to Hankinson Post 88 for a fine Veterans Day Meal served by the SAL of Hankinson.

My next order of business was to get to some of the Legion Meetings. My Vice Commander Cory Metcalf and myself have made visits to Post 20, Wahpeton, Post 88 of Hankinson and Post 137 in Ellendale. We have more on our agenda to get to. Cory and I also attended the Winter Conference in Bismarck and were honored as our District 10 Oratorical Speaker McKinnlee Haberman of Wyndmere Post 153 won the competition. WAY TO GO McKinnlee.

Cory and I are trying to get to more posts before our District Meeting on March 14th in Ellendale. I surely hope to see all or most of the posts of District 10 at the meeting.

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SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Going into Spring Strong

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! The 2024 membership year continues to go well, but there is still time to get renewals in, so don't forget to reach out to your members who still haven't renewed.

On December 14, Vice Commander Keith Kinneberg and I, along with Department Adjutant Don, presented a new Squadron charter to Page. It was a great time and we welcome them into the family.

With both Page and Grand Forks receiving charters, I am excited and feel confident that with a bit of work in the coming weeks and months, we can make a run at earning another Triple Nickel Award for 2024. There is interest and the potential for Squadrons chartering in Milnor, Flasher, Carrington, and possibly Washburn. Let's get an additional three or four Squadrons chartered and make a run at the Triple Nickel. We're doing well on membership, so we can do this. Our Legion Family is stronger when there is a stronger SAL presence in communities. I encourage everyone to get out there and share why you are a member and encourage neighboring communities that have Posts to form a Squadron.

Speaking of membership, you all are doing well, with 1,010 and almost 94% of goal. We are in the top among the Detachments in the Midwest Region and have recently been in the top five among Detachments nationally for membership. We're ahead of the curve on hitting the target dates and our renewals are close behind, so keep up the

great work.

Winter Conference went well, and our business meeting was well attended. Dan Brown was elected to serve as our National Executive Committeeman for the remainder of the 2024 membership year and we thank him for his willingness to represent our Detachment at National. Members also stepped up to represent the SAL on both the Children and Youth committee and VA & R, so thanks for helping out. We will be electing officers at Convention this June in Bismarck, so if you're interested in serving, please reach out. We had a good training session Sunday morning and plan to hold a Legion Basic Training course for our members at Convention, so bring a laptop if you want to participate. We will try to also hold a Ten Ideals or Five-Point Program of Service for members as well, so bring members and come to learn.

Squadron 297 in Harwood is holding a spaghetti feed at the Harwood Legion on Saturday, March 23 from 5-8pm. All proceeds will go to the CWF, so head over to Harwood and support their efforts. Also, head to Fairmount the first Sunday of the month in March and April for their breakfast. Their Squadron is doing

amazing things in their community.

In closing, I want to thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Detachment Commander and to make myself available to you, so please feel free to email me at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com with questions, or call/text me at 218-791-3804. I wish you all success as we move through this membership year. Thank you for all you do for the Sons of the American Legion and keep up the great work.



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POST EVERLASTING

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

Bismarck - Post #1	
Huber, Rubert	12/09/2023
Cieslak, Richard	12/08/2023
Weaver, David	12/18/2023
Treiber, Louis	02/05/2024
Fargo – Post #2	
Marto, Ronald	01/06/2024
Dickinson – Post #3	
Pavlish, L Ken	01/20/2024
Beach – Post #5	
Bohn, Patrick	11/23/2023
Grand Forks – Post #6	
Bjorge, Richard	11/07/2023
Brune, Michael	12/24/2023
Lisbon – Post #7	
Devitt, Clinton	11/05/2023
Code, James E	10/04/2023
Ray – Post #9	
Knox, Craig	09/15/2023
Cavalier – Post #11	
Sturma, Gregory	09/26/2023
Washburn – Post #12	
Bauer, Fred L	11/25/2023
Jamestown – Post #14	
Schneider, Kenneth	06/25/2023
Hope – Squadron #18	
Breckheimer	Unknown DOD
Brendemuhl, Nick	Unknown DOD
Rugby – Post #23	
Peters, Dennis	11/28/2023
Minot – Post #26	
Bice, Frank	12/16/2023
Hayes, Harland	12/06/2023
Myers, Dharold	08/16/2023
Tollefson, Duane	09/16/2023
Goetz, Donald	09/27/2023
Jeannotte, Vernon	11/03/2023
Johnson, Leonard	11/06/2023
Serdahl, Ralph	11/09/2023
Bockness, Glen	01/19/2024
New Rockford – Post #30	
Bachmeier, Frank	12/08/2023
Fessenden – Post #33	
Grosgebauer, Everett D	12/15/2023
Rost, Keith	12/12/2023
Duffey, Lewis	01/23/2024
Lignite – Post #35	
Johnson, Douglas	09/11/2023
Williston – Post #37	
Rau, Clarence L	11/13/2023
Mandan – Post #40	
Boehm, Ralph	Unknown DOD
Cook, Dwight	01/07/2024
Schlegel, Clarence	Unknown DOD

Grafton – Post #41	
Monson, Glenn	11/22/2023
Baird, Willis	Unknown DOD
Hutson, Ernest	01/25/2024
Torkelson, Marlin	11/28/2023
Votava, Stanley	08/14/2023
Bottineau – Post #42	
Hetland, Lester	02/11/2023
Teske, Darrell	Unknown DOD
Killdeer – Post #46	
Brew, Roger	01/16/2020
Myran, David	Unknown DOD
Bowman – Post #48	
Stebbins, Jimmy	01/18/2024
Garrison - Squadron #49	
Daeley, David	09/2022
Reeder – Post #51	
Eslinger, Craig	11/28/2023
Linton – Post #54	
Scherr, Matthew	09/02/2023
Valley City – Squadron #60	
Komrosky, Jeremiah	05/19/2023
New England – Post #66	
Bender, Charles	11/28/2023
Mott – Post #71	
Simmelink, Altha	09/01/2023
Treichel, Wilmer L	12/16/2023
Burwick, Thomas	Unknown DOD
Cando – Post #79	
Reed, Duane	06/26/2023
Rieder, Terence	06/20/2023
Minnewaukan – Post #86	
Daeley, David	09/2022
Portland – Post #93	
Flaten, Olaf	12/12/2023
Kensrud, Vernal	Unknown DOD
Langdon – Post #98	
Blair, Allan	11/05/2023
Lundgren, Fred	03/20/2023
Banasik, Jack	12/18/2023
Kensal – Post #103	
Anderson, Kent	01/24/2024
Hannaford – Post #113	
Markuson, Douglas	08/20/2023
Plaza – Post #119	
Tranby, Odin G	12/06/2023
Ellendale – Squadron #137	
Wilburn, Alex	Unknown DOD
Tioga – Post #139	
Copes, B. G.	05/27/2023
Iverson, Maynard	10/17/2023
Marmon, Zane	10/05/2023
Solen – Post #142	
Hatzenbuhler, Matt	04/19/2022
Park River – Post #147	
Bellerud, Alfred C	12/11/2023
Gillespie, Larry	01/30/2024

Wyndmere – Post #153	
Welder, Valentine	01/09/2024
Granville – Post #155	
Deplazes, Nicholas	08/14/2023
Lankin – Post #157	
Jallo, Albert L	12/17/2023
Carlson, Ronald	12/06/2023
Lundquist, Robert	10/03/2023
Walcott – Post #166	
Boyer, Harlan L	11/01/2023
Berthold – Post #171	
Johnson, Garth	Unknown DOD
Pekin – Post #182	
Burthold, Ronald	11/18/2023
Gjovik, Lloyd	Unknown DOD
Hazen – Post #189	
Connolly, James	12/04/2023
Rolette – Post #194	
Boucher, Gordon	11/01/2023
Delorme, Robert	11/22/2018
Eckerd, Robert	11/24/2023
Sanborn – Post #202	
Pithey, Fred	Unknown DOD
Sherwood – Post #213	
Magnuson, Brian	02/04/2024
Michigan – Post #238	
Pic, Donavon	01/06/2024
Thompson, Robert	11/15/2023
Hoople – Post #240	
Fagerholt, Bruce	01/07/2024
Ginder, William	12/21/2023
Holt, Mark	12/01/2023
Elgin – Post #246	
Skretteberg, Rod	08/16/2023
Petersburg – Post #247	
Aafedt, Carleton	09/22/2023
White Shield – Post #253	
Mason, Matthew	10/20/2023
Nagel, Bruce	05/30/2023
Fredonia – Post #260	
Krueger, Raymond	Unknown DOD
York – Post #268	
Sebelius, David P	11/20/2023
Mandaree – Post #271	
Young-Bear, Clayton	Unknown DOD
New Town – Post #290	
Frye, Roger	07/18/2023
Harwood – Post #297	
Egeberg, Duane	01/22/2024
Fuerst, Daniel	11/10/2023
Hesse, August	01/17/2024
Schrader, Larry	04/28/2023
Manvel – Post #299	
Hutton, James	01/30/2024
West Fargo – Post #308	
Burdick, James	05/2023
Post #500	
Kringstad, Roy	Unknown DOD



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Thank you for your service

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.

Belcourt Post #262



American Legion Post 262 Belcourt for 2023 Veterans Day events: Lunch with the St. Ann Students and honoring the Veterans at the Turtle Mountain Community Schools in Belcourt.



Jamestown Post #14

Andy Kudrna recently was honored with a 65-year membership award in the American Legion Post 14 in Jamestown.

Kudrna served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He was a dental lab technician based in Japan during the Korean conflict. Shortly after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Kudrna joined American Legion Post 14. In the years of his membership in Post 14, he served as Post Commander, served as Post Adjutant for seven years and was a bugler for the Post 14 Drum and Bugle Corp for 17 years.

On December 21, members of Kudrna's family and Post 14 members met at Eventide Jamestown, where Kudrna now resides, to celebrate his 65 years of membership in Post 14. The Post 14 members thanked him for his service to his nation, to American Legion Post 14 and his service to the community of Jamestown.



Front row center Andy Kudrna, front row left, Julie Hansen Kudrna, Mike Kudrna, Andy Kudrna and Char Klose; back from left: 2nd Vice Commander Jim Fercho, Dean Kronebusch, Tom Thrift, Sergeant at Arms John Kartes, Treasurer Mike Allmer, Joe Woiwode and Commander Dennis Mansavage. Contributed / George Barnes

New Legion Building Progressing in Rolla

By John Rosinski
Of The Star

If all goes well, a grand opening of sorts could take place in Rolla later this year. Officials from the Fred C. Wagner Post in Rolla have spent the last year replacing a legion building that was lost in 2022 to a fire.

Mild winter weather has allowed for steady progress with cement being poured and most recently, the shell of the 55-by-70 building being constructed. According to commander Matt Dunlop, shingles and siding are next with the goal of completing the new building by this summer. "When we finish will depend on financing," Dunlop explained. "When we have the money, we can order what we need and keep things going."

The total cost of the endeavor is in the neighborhood of \$600,000. The legion received approximately \$175,000 in insurance, leaving the rest of the financing up to the legion. Dunlop said about \$150,000 has been raised with more potential grant dollars on the way. Legion member Dennis Berg is working on securing grant dollars and said the new building can be a positive addition to Rolla.

"It will be used by the legion but more importantly, it will be a building that can be used by the community, whatever the function might be," Berg said. "When it is finished and available it can be a very positive thing for this community."

In addition to looking for more grant dollars, the legion is still accepting monetary donations. Dunlop said any donations can be dropped off at Tuomala Plumbing and Heating or can be mailed directly to P.O. Box 342 in Rolla.

"We hope as people see it coming together, we can keep getting donations and keep this thing moving forward," Dunlop said. "We haven't been able to move forward as fast as we wished, but we've been fortunate to get as much done as we have."

Dunlop said members of the legion are also expected to work on some parts of the project, including insulating and sheet rock to help tamper down costs.

In Dennis Berg's travels, he has obtained license plates from close to 50 posts in ND and MN. They were all destroyed in the fire and Post 235 would like replacements. If you already have a Post 235 plate and would like to help out, send one of your post's license plates to us. If you do not have a Post 235 license plate and would like one, we can send you one and your post can send us one! You can send the license plates to Dennis Berg, PO Box 95, Rolla, ND 58367. Phone number 701-550-6363. Thank you for your help.



Mandan Post #40



Diane Martin and Tami Stroh from the Western Dakota Honor Flight present Commander Chuck Miska and Adjutant Chuck Weiand of Mandan Post 40 with a Certificate of Appreciation for the donation to the Honor Flight Program.

GLENN WAHUS FOR OFFICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PAST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER 2022-2023

Past Local Post Offices Held

- Second Vice Commander
- First Vice Commander
- Post Commander

Currently Local Post Offices Held

- Post Adjutant
- Chairman of Local Post Committees
- Membership
- By-Laws
- Charitable Gaming

Past District Offices Held

- 9th District Vice Commander
- 9th District Commander

Past Department Offices Held

- Offices of West Region Vice Cmdr
- Department Commander Elect
- Department Commander

Currently Department Offices Held

- Executive Committee Chairman
- Chairs the Department of ND Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

Past National Offices Held

- National Vice Cmdr Midwest Region

Current National Position Held

- Commission Member of Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation

Other Achievements

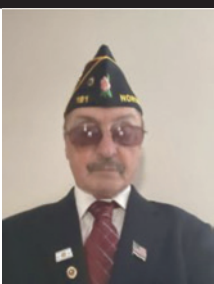
- 33-Year member of the American Legion Carl E. Rogen Post 29 in Watford City, ND
- 2015 Graduate of the National American Legion College
- Instrumental in bring back Courage Carries On
- Fund Raising for VA&R
- As Department CMDR, implemented the Helmet's for Hero's fundraising
- Appointed to ACOVA by Governor Doug Bergam and is currently on his 2nd 3-year term
- Actively involved in the National American Legion Be The One Program
- Involved in the ND Governor's Challenge for Suicide Prevention and Awareness
- VA S A V E Training



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- Past District 10 Vice Commander and Commander (2008-2010)
- Past East Region Department Executive Committeeman (2011-2017)
- Past NDAL Americanism/Children and Youth Chair (2013-2017)
- Past Credentials Committee Chair/Member (2013-2018)
- Past East Region Vice Commander (2017-2018)
- Honored to serve as your Past Department Commander (2019-2021)
- Past NDAL Foundation Board Director/Member (2017-2022)
- Represents NDAL on the ND Veterans Legislative Council (2019-2024)
- Represents NDAL on the ND Veterans Home Foundation (2019-2024)
- Served NDAL as National and Homeland Security Vice Chair (2009-2013)
- Served NDAL as National Americanism Council Member (2013-2017)
- Serves NDAL as Natl Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee Member (2017-2024)
- Dual Member of Post 191 and SAL Squadron 191
- Member of Forty et Eight Voiture Locale

I have been privileged to serve you through the years, and I would appreciate this opportunity to continue to serve you and the Department of North Dakota at the national level.



Local Posts in the News

Drake Post #32

The Drake Legion Post #32 held its Veterans Day Program on Saturday, November 11th with a meal of meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner rolls and dessert of pumpkin bars. The meal was prepared and served by ladies employed at Bravera Bank in Drake as part of their service to the community.

Thomas Weninger, Commander, gave a talk on his Honor Flight experience to Washington D.C. Local ladies provided music and years of service awards were given. A nice evening was had by all honoring our Veterans.



L to R - Thomas Weninger, Gary Hoffer and Edward Shink. All three graduated from Drake High School with the Class of 1961. Also, all three have been members of the Drake Legion for 58 years.



Oratorical 7th District Contest



7th District Oratorical Contest was held in Almont at the Memorial Hall, Saturday, December 16. Pictured winner of the contest Sigryn Henke with Post Commander Duane Sayler and 7th District Oratorical Chair Orletta Kilen.

ND Vietnam Veterans Memorial

North Dakotans and ND Vietnam Veterans have a new memorial recognizing 199 North Dakotans who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam during the United States military actions in the 1960s and 1970s. Rich Solberg, a Vietnam veteran and lifetime member of Charles Hartman Legion Post 134 in Stanley and metal sculptor, recently created the outdoor metal sculpture which will eventually find a permanent home in the Minot Park System. Temporarily the cross is on display at Solberg's home a mile and a half west of Minot. Thirteen Minot soldiers were killed in Vietnam, including a friend of Solberg.

Weighing 800 pounds and standing 12' tall, the cross is created from a 3/8" steel plate donated by Aksal Group in Minot. Attached to the plate are 199 six-inch crosses, each representing a fallen soldier. Several phrases such as never forget/some gave all as well as other symbols are on the exterior of the cross. The cross was partially financed by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Minot Area Council of the Arts. Solberg, a retired Minot Public School administrator, has been turning recycled metal into artwork for over six decades. He has won numerous awards for his artwork and has over a thousand creations, man in private collections around the country, Canada, and Norway. Solberg has scheduled his fourth, and likely final, art show at the Taube Museum of Art on Main Street, Minot in September of 2024. On display will be four dozen new art pieces, some for sale. Solberg has created two other large crosses, one on display at First Lutheran Church in Minot, and another at American Lutheran in Stanley.



Oratorical 9th District Contest



On November 18, 2024, the 9th District Oratorical Contest was held in Tioga, ND. Winners of the contest are: Left to right: 2nd Place, Noah Crain, 5th Place, Stacey White, 1st place, Danielle Nusz, 4th place, Breonna Burgess, 3rd place, Isabelle Crain.

Fairmont Post #106 Activities

We started our monthly breakfast the first Sunday in November and will have it every first Sunday of the month through April. The breakfast crew consists of Legion and SAL members along with a youth group from the school. We just had our 4th breakfast, and we are serving around 400 people each breakfast from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. This is really a great fundraiser for the Post and the Student Organization who assist us.

The proceeds are used to maintain our facilities, along with some of the funds going to support two baseball teams. Baseball players come in and help clean up after every meal and of course, partake in the breakfast we serve. The menu includes French toast, pancakes, biscuits and our special gravy, scrambled eggs, grilled or deep-fried pork links and pork patties from the famous Fairmount Locker plant located across the street, also we have ham and ring sausage along with juice and coffee.

We are also planning to have a Pinochle tournament on February 17th with the proceeds to go into the veteran's memorial fund. We are also selling gun raffle tickets to finish supplementing our income for baseball, Oratorical contestants along with funding students who want to attend Boys and Girls state.

It has been a busy year and we have acquired three new Legion members and four new SAL members. We have a great group of Legion and SAL always wanting to get the job done.

Post #106 Adjutant Charles Campbell
Squadron #106 Adjutant Anthony Luick



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STEVE ANDERSON & PASTOR MARK ANTAL FOR YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN AND ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

STEVE IS A 20-YEAR USMC VETERAN. HE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 79 IN CANDO. STEVE HAS HELD SEVERAL LEGION POSITIONS, INCLUDING DEPARTMENT COMMANDER. STEVE IS THE CURRENT AMERICAN LEGION RIDER STATE DIRECTOR. WHILE COMMANDER, STEVE'S PLATFORM WAS "REMEMBER THE FALLEN, SUPPORT THE LIVING," TO BRING AWARENESS TO PTSD AND VETERAN SUICIDE. STEVE CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARDS THOSE SAME GOALS TODAY. HE WORKED TIREDLESSLY TO TRAVEL THE STATE TO ATTEND EVENTS AND TO "SHOW UP" FOR NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS. HE WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW UP FOR THIS DEPARTMENT, SHOULD HE BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN.

STEVE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE, MICHELE FOR 11 YEARS AND THEY HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS, TAYLOR & ERYKKA AND TWO SONS, JUSTIN & BRANDON. THEY ALSO HAVE TWO GRANDSONS, LEWIS AND BODIE.

PASTOR MARK SERVED AS AN ENLISTED SOLDIER FOR 6 YEARS AND AS A CHAPLAIN FOR 20 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY. HE IS A AMERICAN LEGION MEMBER IN EDINBURG, POST 156. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE ASSOCIATION FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL, VALLEY CITY STATE COLLEGE AND THE ASSOCIATION FREE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. PASTOR MARK HAS SERVED SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS, INCLUDING BEMIDJI, LEEDS, PARK RIVER AND EDINBURG. PASTOR MARK HAS ALSO HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS WITHIN THE AMERICAN LEGION. HE HAS BEEN THE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN FOR 7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS AND WAS MOST RECENTLY THE 2022-2023 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHAPLAIN. PASTOR MARK HAS BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE, RUTH FOR 46 YEARS. TOGETHER THEY HAVE FOUR ADULT CHILDREN AND 11 GRANDCHILDREN. THEY MAKE THEIR HOME IN APPLE VALLEY, MINNESOTA.



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.
NOT THE HAT.

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



Jason is a 21-year USAF retiree and has been a member of Post 151 in Scranton for the last 20 years and became commander of the post in 2016. Jason has served as District 8 Vice Commander three times and District 8 Commander twice and has represented District 8 on the Department Boys State Committee for the last three years. Jason's current full-time job is as Director of EMS for Southwest Healthcare Services in Bowman, and he is an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician for Bowman Ambulance, Scranton Quick Response Unit and Scranton Volunteer Fire Department.

Jason is a member of the Scranton City Council, Bowman County Development Corporation Board of Directors and Sunrise Foundation Board of Directors. Jason is also a Co-owner and Managing Partner of Next Door Pizza in Scranton.

Jason is engaged to Devin with a wedding date in May 2024. Jason will have two step children, Chloe and Jaxon. I would greatly appreciate your vote and support at the Department Convention June 20-23, 2024.

Advanced Department Convention Banquet Ticket Order Form

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

Under Post # _____ in District # _____ Located in _____

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price if RECEIVED By June 7th: \$35.00

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price AFTER June 7th: \$40.00

ALL advanced ticket orders must be received by the Department Headquarters by June 12th.

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

TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

Note: Advanced tickets prices are graduated and must be received at the Department office by the correlating due date to receive the \$35 (June 7th) or \$40 after June 7th. After June 12th, tickets must be purchased at the registration desk. A limited number of tickets are available and sold on a first come first served basis.

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of ND

105th American Legion
Department Convention

June 21-23, 2024

Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Room Reservation Block Rate

Cutoff: May 21, 2024

701-660-8063

Thursday, June 20, 2024

4:00 pm DEC Meeting

Friday, June 21, 2024

10:00 am Foundation Meeting

1:00 pm Registration (closes at 5:00 pm)

1:30 pm Resolutions

2:00 pm Department Veteran Service Officer
Hours (until 6:00 pm)

3:00 pm 40 et 8 Cheminot

3:00 pm Incoming Officers Meet & Greet with
Incoming Commander & President

4:00 pm District Officers Flag Rehearsal

4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

4:30 pm Constitution and By-Laws
Committee

4:30 pm Past Dept Commanders Social and
Dinner

5:00 pm Credentials Committee

5:30 pm First Time Attendees

7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, June 22, 2024

8:00 am Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)

8:00 am VA&R Meeting

8:00 am Athletic Committee

8:00 am Americanism/C&Y Committee

8:00 am Oratorical Committee

9:00 am 40 et 8 Grand Promenade

9:00 am Department Veteran Service Officer
Hours (until noon)

9:00 am District Officers/CPR's

9:00 am SAL Meeting

10:30 am Legion Training Session

10:30 am Incoming Officers Meet & Greet with
Incoming Commander & President

11:00 am Credentials Committee

11:00 am Boys State

11:00 am Legion Riders

1:00 pm Legion General Session

3:00 pm Regional Caucuses

4:00 pm National Convention Meeting

5:00 pm Social

6:00 pm Department Convention Banquet
Dance

Sunday, June 23, 2024

8:00 am Department Veteran Service Office
Hours (until 9:00 am)

8:00 am Incoming Officer Pictures

8:00 am Registration (closes at 9:00 am)

9:00 am Credentials Committee

9:00 am Joint Worship Service

Joint Session

Legion Session

Post Convention DEC Meeting

Organizational Meeting

Monday, June 24, 2024 (tentative)

9:00 am Organizational Meeting (done by
noon)



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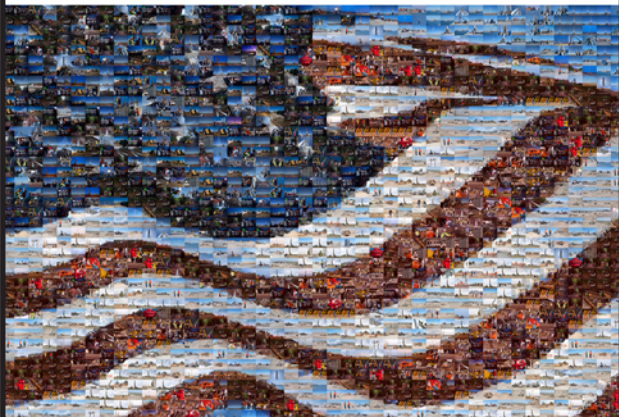
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for **serving** our country and
protecting our freedoms.



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