NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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

Mamie Havelka – Newly Elected Department Commander

Michael Weyrauch – Newly Elected Department Commander-Elect

Delegates to the annual Department Convention in Bismarck, ND, confirmed Mamie Havelka, as the 2024-2025 Department Commander to lead the North Dakota American Legion throughout the next year.

Mamie is a member of Post #1 in Bismarck and has served as Post #1 Commander, Department Judge Advocate, Department Membership Chair and Department Executive Committee as well as other committees and projects at Post, District, and Department level.

Michael Weyrauch was elected Department Commander-Elect. Mike is a member of Ray Post #9 and has served as Post #9 Adjutant, West Region DEC, West Region Vice Commander, 9th District Commander and Vice Commander and Department Oratorical Chairman.

Three Department Vice-Commanders were also elected during the convention. Jon Veile member of Hope Post #18 serves as the Eastern Region Vice-Commander; Jacob Volk member of Devils Lake Post #24 will serve as the Central Region Vice-Commander; and Jason Anderson member of Scranton Post #151 will serve as the Western Region Vice-Commander.



Dept. Cdr Mamie Havelka



Dept. Cdr-Elect Michael Weyrauch

'Living in the moment' gets North Dakota Back to American Legion World Series



2024 American Legion Baseball Central Plains Regional Champions, Post 2 from Fargo, N.D. Photo by Chet Strange

By Richard Walker
Aug 14, 2024

The hardest path to an American Legion World Series from the 64-team regional field is a loss in the opening round.

Prior to this season, only 15 teams advanced to the ALWS in the previous 190 regionals after dropping their first regional contest, and none since 2019.

This year, lightning struck three times as Wilmington Delvets (Del.) Post 1, Billings Scarlets (Mont.) Post 4 and Fargo (N.D.) Post 2 recovered from regional-opening losses to reach the ALWS.

And for Fargo, it marks the second time in the last five tournaments to pull off the feat as Post 2 lost its 2019 regional opener before advancing all the way to the ALWS title game against eventual champion Idaho Falls (Idaho) Post 56.

Is it the Fargo way to lose the opener of the regional in order to make the ALWS?

"It must be," said 12th-year Fargo head coach Luke Rustad. "Maybe we just like playing with a little extra pressure."

Rustad, who notched his 500th coaching victory earlier this season, thinks the extra pressure also created extra focus from his veteran team that finished fourth in the 2023 Central Plains regional after advancing to the winner's bracket final of the eight-team tournament.

"We have a veteran team and a team that made it to the regional last year," said Rustad, whose 2019 team made Fargo's first ALWS appearance since 1992. "We made it to the undefeated game and then didn't finish the regional the way we wanted to.

"But with the kids we had coming back, we felt really good about our chances this year."

In this year's Central Plains regional at West Fargo, N.D., Elkhorn (Neb.) Post 211 edged Fargo 2-1 in its opening regional game.

"Navigating it back was just playing better in every game," Rustad said. "I know it's cliché, but you have to take it 'one game at a time.' If you start thinking about losing or advancing further, you're not living in the moment. You have to play the game that's in front of you."

Post 2 did just that and won the next five games, and all by comfortable margins.

Fargo beat Renner (S.D.) Post 307, 8-2; West Fargo Post 308, 7-4; Cedar Rapids Swisher (Iowa) Post 671, 13-4; Farmington (Minn.) Post 189, 17-3 in five innings; and Swisher again, 9-3 in the regional final. The win over rival West Fargo avenged a 2-1 loss in 10 innings on a walkoff home run in the North Dakota state tournament championship game on Aug. 3.

Sam Ovsak earned Central Plains regional MVP honors as Post 2 clinched its fourth ALWS appearance; Fargo went 0-2 in 1969, 1-2 and 1989 and 1992 and was 3-2 in its 2019 runner-up season.

Rustad hopes the regional turnaround will carry over into this year's ALWS.

"Hopefully, you just continue to play better each game and get some momentum," Rustad said.

2024 Fall Meetings for the American Legion and Auxiliary

District 1 meeting will be held in Hatton, ND, Community Center, Railroad Ave. E., Thursday, October 17, 2024. Social at 5:00 pm. Meal 6:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm followed by training.

District 2 meeting will be held in Park River, ND, American Legion building, 505 Railroad Ave. W., Friday, October 19, 2024. Registration/Social 1:00 pm. Meeting at 2:00 pm followed by training.

District 3 meeting will be held in Rugby, ND, Legion Club, 224 2nd Ave. SE, Friday, October 18, 2024, Registration/Social at 5:00 pm. Meeting at 6:00 pm followed by training.

District 4 meeting will be held in Jamestown, ND, basement of the All-Veterans Club, 116 1st St. SE., Thursday, September 26, 2024. Registration/Social at 5:00 pm. Meal at 6:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm followed by training.

Districts 5 & 7 meeting will be held in Bismarck, ND, AmVets, 2402 Railroad Ave., Friday, September 20, 2024. Registration/Social at 5:00 pm. Meal at 6:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm followed by training.

District 8 meeting will be held in Belfield, ND, at the Legion Building, 107 2nd Ave. E, Saturday, September 14, 2024. Registration/Social at 5:30 pm Mountain Time. Meal at 6:00 pm Mountain Time. Meeting at 7:00 pm Mountain Time followed by training.

Districts 9 & 6 meeting will be held in Watford City, ND, Legion Building, 313 12th St. SE, Saturday, September 14, 2024. Registration/Social at 11:00 am Central Time. Meal 12:00 pm Central Time. Meeting at 1:00 pm, Central Time followed by training.

District 10 meeting will be held in Wyndmere, ND, Legion Building, 449 4th St. S., Saturday, September 21, 2024. Registration/Social at 4:00 pm. Meal at 5:00 pm. Meeting at 6:00 pm followed by training.

The District Commander will conduct the District meeting with the assistance of their District Vice Commander and under the guidance of their Regional Vice Commander. Various Department Officers will be on the agenda to bring Legionnaires up to date on their programs. Each District Commander and/or "Host Post" will be mailing out additional information to the posts within their respective districts.

Band Manager and Director Retire After Years of Dedication

By Cathy Keogh, Band Member

Your North Dakota American Legion State Band is finishing their 100th year. Looking back at all those involved since the beginning we are amazed by all that has been accomplished by this outstanding organization. We look forward to the new memories that will be part of the next hundred years.

As the National Convention in New Orleans will be concluded, the Band will be saying "Thank You" and "Good-Bye" to two of our long-time members that have decided it is time to "retire".

Glen Wolf was a playing member in our euphonium section from 1985 until 2003 when he was chosen as our person out front to be our new director. Glen retired from his position as the director of the Red River High School band program in Grand Forks and has faithfully returned to North Dakota to play and direct our band at State Conventions and Winter Conferences from his retirement locations in Texas, Colorado and now Arizona. Glen has been an integral part of this organization for 39 years and his musical expertise is second to none while directing the concert/marching band and the dance band. He will now be enjoying his next chapter in his new home in Arizona.

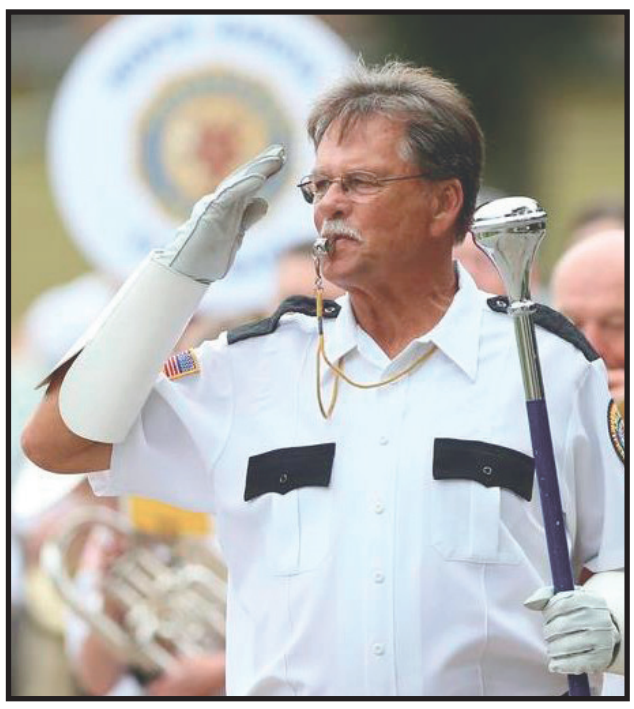
Since 1989 the State Band has been under the leadership of Bruce Holtan. As Band Manager he has had to wear many hats and has led the organization on the many Department and National Conventions and special appearances in Washington D.C. for War Memorial dedications. As the State Band is absorbing the news that Bruce has decided to retire, we want to wish him well and thank him for being a great part of the legacy of the State Band. The Holtan name has been a part of the organization for years dating back to 1956 when Bruce's father Orville Holtan, a 36-year veteran of the band, first became a member of the State Band. Bruce's brother, Tim Holtan (Colonel, retired commander of The US Army Band – "Pershing's Own"), played with us at the National Convention in Chicago in 1982, Bruce's son Joshua Holtan played in 1997, and his sister Barb Schulz played in 2023. Bruce has performed for over 53 years as a member of the ND State Band playing trumpet. And now, after also managing the band for the last 35 years, we want to wish him nothing but the best as he plays out his next chapter in South Carolina.

A PERSONAL THANK YOU FROM BRUCE HOLTAN

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thank you to all of the Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, Adjutants and office staff for the help and support you have provided me over the years. I have spent 70% of my life affiliated with the American Legion and particularly the North Dakota American Legion State Band and it has been a wonderful ride. There isn't another band in the country that produces the quality of music we do in the time we have to do the work, and I hope you continue to appreciate and support what this great band provides.



Band Manager Bruce Holtan and Director Glen Wolf



Drum Major Bruce Holtan



It's hard to believe fall is just around the corner. Hope everyone has had a safe and good summer.

The Department Convention Meetings were held and good information was passed out. It would have been nice to see more members from Central Region attend. New officers were sworn in. Thanks everyone that supported me for re-election for Central Region Vice Commander. I am looking forward to another great year working with the new District Commanders and District Vice Commanders.

District 3 Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2024, in Rugby, ND, at the Legion Building. Social at 5:00 to 6:00, Supper 6:00 to 7:00, Meeting to follow, District 4 is scheduled September 26, 2024, in Jamestown at the All Vets Club. Social 5:00 to 6:00, Supper 6:00 to 7:00, Meeting to follow. District 5 is planning a joint meeting with District 7 on September 20, 2024. Social at 5:00, Meal at 6:00, Meeting at 7:00. Now is the time for the District Commanders to get in touch with their Post Commanders to encourage their members to attend their District Meetings.

I would also like to thank the District Vice Commanders for stepping up for their District.

On August 22-30, I will be attending the National Convention in New Orleans. I am looking forward to attending meetings and being on the Convention floor. It is also good to meet other legionaries from around other States.

Jacob Volk
Central Region Vice Commander



Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I still find it hard to believe that the Summer is almost over and Fall meetings are just around the corner and yet here we are. Feels like just yesterday we were in Bismarck at 2024 Convention.

I am still overjoyed and humbled that the West Region has given me the opportunity to serve as your Regional Vice Commander. I will do my very best to represent the region and the North Dakota Legion to the best of my ability.

Once our busier summer season slows down a bit I plan to make as many post meetings and other events as possible.

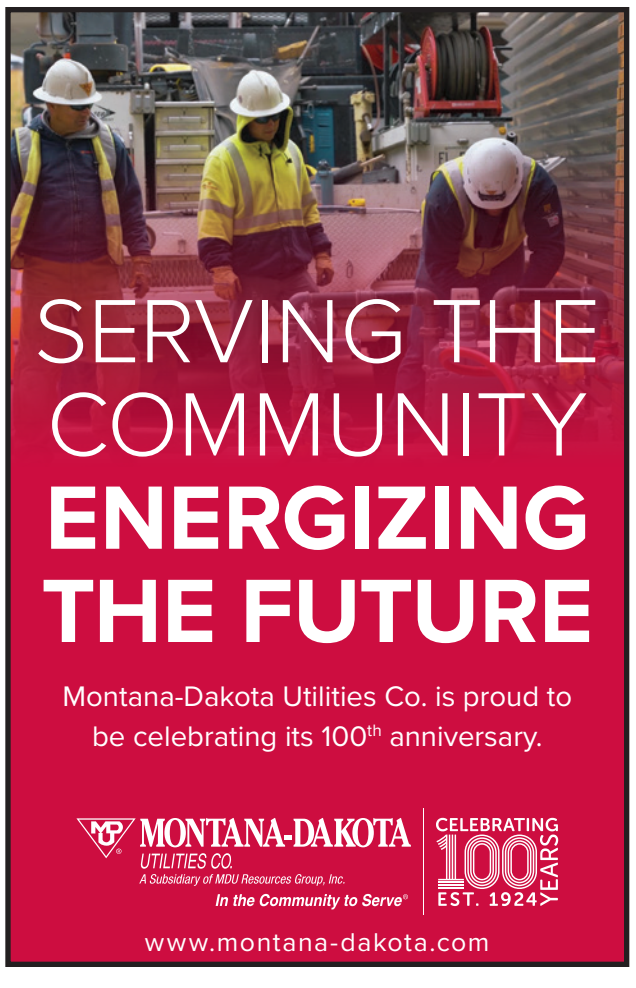
I am always available for post, district, or regional questions that should come up. If I am not able to answer your questions, I can very easily find the right person who can.

I am also very much looking forward to attending the 2024 American Legion National Convention in New Orleans this year. Hopefully lots of good things will come from the convention and I will report back at the fall district meetings.

Thank you all for all that you did, are doing and will do. Never hesitate to Be the One and have a great rest of 2024.

Jason Anderson
West Region Vice Commander

Have You Paid Your 2025 Membership Dues?







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COMMANDER COMMENTS



MAMIE HAVELKA - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

First and foremost: THANK YOU for your support. Your well wishes were warm and appreciated. Working together is an exciting adventure for the coming year, and I look forward to our year together.

My motto is "Proud to Belong, Forever Strong". This was built from one of the mottos Past Department Commander John Schafer liked, "It's Great to Belong". Our Legion is built on pride, and it shows throughout the years and will in the future as well. The patriotism and pride within our state is strong and we are all a part of this. Our post activities are an essential part in giving opportunities to stand proud and show our patriotic outlook. Thank you each and everyone!!

The time flies by and NDAL Posts have been very busy in the summer months. Park River 4th of July Parade was awesome. It was an opportunity to walk the parade with National Commander Daniel Seehafer and area Post Legionaries, then to lunch with fellow legionnaries and the community. Other parades were Roughrider Days with Post 3 in Dickinson. We handed out handheld flags, it was wonderful to see the wave of red, white and blue all along the route. Then the Bowman County Fair Parade with Bowman Post 48, Scranton Post 151 and Rhame Post 188 was another great time and this is my home county. Finally, the ND State Fair Parade with Minot Post 26.

The trip to the International Music Camp Legion Family Day was another highlight. The relationship with this program is deep and endearing. I encourage all to attend sometime in the future.

The first Youth Trooper Academy was amazing. The participation was three days filled with a busy schedule of learning and doing. Two scholarships were given at graduation; Kaylee Hughes, Mandan and Jace Peterson, Bismarck. Congrats!!

The fall district meetings are soon. This is an opportunity for the District to give a briefing during the meeting on what the posts have been doing. Or set some time within the meeting to have the posts share their activities. We know posts do something, and it would be worth our time to know what is happening.

Again - I look forward to our time together and am excited to see and hear about your Post.



Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires. I hope that this news article finds you all in good health and enjoying the last parts of summer and the beginning of cooler temperatures and the change of seasons. This is my first news article as your East Region Vice Commander and I want to bring to your attention the information I have received about the Fall District meetings. The first meeting will be on Saturday, September 21st at the Legion Building in Wyndmere for District 10. Registration starts at 16:00 pm. There will be a meal at 17:00 pm and the meeting will start at 18:00 pm.

District 1 will be having their meeting on October 17th at the Hatton Community Center in Hatton. Registration starts at 17:00 pm. A meal and social will start at 18:00 pm with the meeting starting at 19:00 pm.

District 2 will have their meeting on the afternoon of October 19th at the Legion Building in Park River. Registration will start at 13:00 pm and the meeting will start at 14:00 pm.

At each District meeting there will be training for Post Commanders and Adjutants following the meeting and for anyone who would like to attend.

As I write this article, I am sure that there will be more information coming out, but I wanted to touch on the highlights. I hope to see a good turnout for these meetings. Your respective District officers have worked hard to set these meetings up. I have been a District Commander and I know the effort to find a Post willing to host a meeting and also find a date that will work can be frustrating at times. So please show your appreciation to your District officers and to the Post that is hosting the event. There is a lot of effort that goes on behind the scenes and a "Thank You" would be much appreciated.

I also would like to visit the Posts in our East Region and meet with you on your home turf. I would appreciate an invitation. I will do my best to make it to your meeting. I do not intend to show up unannounced and will talk to a Post officer if I plan on coming to visit.

I look forward to meeting you all at your respective District meetings. Best wishes to you all.

Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander

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North Dakota Boys State

Neil Litton, Boys State Director

Rhett Lindell of Park River was elected Governor of North Dakota Boys State, a gathering of 74 participants for a week on the North Dakota State College of Science campus in Wahpeton. Sponsored by the American Legion and running from June 9-14, 2024, North Dakota Boys State brings together outstanding young men between their junior and senior years in high school. Selected from schools across North Dakota, these delegates come to the NDSCS campus for a week of activities focusing on leadership and government.

At North Dakota Boys State, delegates participate in hands-on learning activities including city and county government functions, disaster simulation exercises, and the production of daily broadcast media that is created and edited by delegates. In addition to this "learning by doing" process, delegates have the opportunity to experience speeches and debates from visiting dignitaries.

In addition to electing a governor, delegates also elected the following state officeholders: Lieutenant Governor Edward Orukotan, West Fargo; Secretary of State Jakody Lewis, LaMoure; Attorney General Benjamin Guthmiller, Bismarck; State Treasurer Joseph Gourde, Harwood; Superintendent of Public Instruction Andrew Jean, Hankinson; Agriculture Commissioner Andrew Zikmund, Park River.

NDSCS has been the host of Boys State for the last 32 years. Visitors to the program include: Congressman Kelly Armstrong; The Hon. Douglas Bahr, North Dakota Supreme Court Justice; Dr. Rod Flanigan, North Dakota State College of Science President; Joel Heitkamp, radio personality; Corey Mock, North Dakota House of Representatives; and Breanna Koval, Director of Wiklin County Emergency Management.

American Legion Department of ND 2024 Convention Sweepstakes Winners

This drawing was held on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are also listed on the website ndlegion.org.

$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Francis Walsh of Parshall Post 121

$1000 Prize Winner
Alan Larson of Gwinner Post 191

$200 Prize Winners
Gerry Hedberg of Parshall Post 121
Arnold Jordan of Langdon Post 98

$100 Prize Winners
Paul Aslakson of Park River Post 147
Dennis Madsen of Fargo Post 2
William Schlicting of Fargo Post 2
Rod Olin of Jamestown Post 14
Paul Aslakson of Park River Post 147
Ralph Tucker of St. Thomas Post 168

ADJUTANT'S CORNER



DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

I am having a hard time writing this edition of the Adjutants Corner. I'm not sure why, but for some reason I am struggling to find the right words. Surely there must be some magic words that I can say and suddenly everyone will realize how important the mission of The American Legion is, and everyone will renew their membership, and the young veterans will seek us out. Sadly, even if I were to find these magic words, how do we get people to read them. I struggle to find pertinent information for this column and the other information that we put in the ND Legion News. I am discouraged because people ask me questions about the very things that we have answered here in the Newspaper. As the old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't get him to drink.

I had something prepared for this space and just this morning, with the deadline for submission tomorrow, after reading an analogy, here I am rewriting the whole column. I will paraphrase the analogy due to space constraints. It seems that a mouse saw the farmer unpacking a mousetrap. He immediately informed the chicken who said, "Well that's not my problem". The rodent then went to the lamb and the cow with the same results. In the middle of the night there was a loud snap, and the farmer's wife went to check out the noise and found that a poisonous snake had his tail stuck in the trap. The snake bit her and she became very ill. The farmer took her to the doctor who sent her home with a high fever. The farmer proceeded to kill the chicken to make soup to nourish her. Everyone came to visit, and it was necessary to slaughter the lamb to feed them all. Unfortunately, she did not survive so the farmer was forced to sell the cow to the butcher to pay for the funeral. The next time you hear about someone else's problems, in this case our declining membership. Don't just dismiss it as if it's not my problem. The world is not going badly because of the wickedness of the bad, but because of the apathy of the good.

When I was invited to join The American Legion 51 years ago, I didn't know all the ways that The American Legion serves veterans and their families, or how they safeguard current benefits even as they seek expanded benefits. I didn't realize all of the programs they offered to the youth. I honestly didn't even realize that Legion Baseball was really American Legion Baseball.

In a previous version of this column, I mentioned many of us old has-beens (we know who we are) that have been the backbone of this organization for many years. Then I mentioned several younger members that I hope will be guiding this organization into the future. I am not going to do that, because I don't want you to think that just because I didn't mention your name, it's not your job. The responsibility of our organization lies with all of us, young and old. Hopefully you can come up with the right words or the right approach to appeal to this younger generation of veterans and get them to become one of us and hopefully us old geezers will support those efforts and make the next generation feel welcome.

When I served as your Department Commander from 1993-1994 our membership was at 27,281, which was less than the year before and more than the year after. We cannot sit idly by and watch our numbers continue to drop. Our current membership level is less than 11,000 members. Some of the reasons for not renewing membership or becoming a member that I have heard is that we don't even have a club anymore. While it may be true that you no longer have a bar or a restaurant operation, we still have a group of individuals that you share a common bond with and understand what you have been through, ready to listen to and support you. Ready to stand over your grave and render honors when you pass on. Others say that I don't have time, or I am no longer able to attend meetings. While we appreciate and need those members that attend, those that just pay their dues are important too. When we go to the Legislature or Congress to lobby, all they care about is how many members we have, they don't ask how many attend meetings. Plus, it costs money to do business. We have to pay the expenses of those that do the actual lobbying. That is one reason I encourage you to check out the Paid-Up for Life Program so that if someone else ends up making your financial decisions as you age, that you still can remain a part of this vital mission.

At our last Department Convention Past Department Chaplain Mark Antal spoke of seeing a headstone at Arlington with the simple inscription "If not me, Who?" When it comes to helping your fellow Veterans and keeping our organization strong, I say, "If not you, Who?" Until the next time, May God Bless a strong and free America and "Keep your powder dry!"

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



CLARENCE L. CARROLL III - CHAIRMAN

As I assume my new position as Chairman of the Department Executive Committee, I would be remiss if I didn't thank you for a successful convention and a wonderful year as YOUR Commander. I look forward to watching and supporting Commander Havelka in my new position and as a Past Department Commander.

Your Executive Committee met on Sunday June 23rd immediately after installing Mamie Havelka as YOUR Commander for 2024-2025. As Chairman I called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm with proper respect given to our nation's colors. My first order of business was to recognize Past DEC Chairman Dan Brown for his time as DEC Chairman and ensure our heartfelt thanks for his service was documented in the minutes.

A discussion was had regarding the success of the convention which included positive aspects as well as what issues we had with the aging facility and lack of services. Next Commander Havelka presented her committee appointments and officer nominations to the DEC for approval. In closing DEC members completed conflict of Interest statements and Commander Havelka passed out her pin and membership shirts. Before closing the meeting Commander Havelka announced a "joint" Homecoming on September 28, 2024, which will include The Department Commander, Department Auxiliary President, and The Son's of The American Legion Detachment Commander.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Foundation Donation Match Update

By Harvey Peterson, Chairman

As of August 13, 2024, a total of $32,541.79 has been donated to the ND American Legion Foundation to be matched by an anonymous donor(s). The total increase to the principal of the Foundation so far by doubling those donations equals just over $65,000! That leaves over $37,000 still available for matching funds from the original offer of $70,000.

There is still time for anyone, individuals or Posts, to donate to the Foundation and be matched and make their donation worth twice as much. This offer remains in effect until December 14, 2024, after which time the donor(s) must make arrangements for the matching money to be transferred to the Foundation to qualify for their personal tax purposes.

If anyone, person or Posts, have thought about donating to the Foundation, now is the time to get it done. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to significantly increase the principal of the Foundation.

The Foundation greatly appreciates the donations to date, sincerely thanks those donors and welcome all future donations.

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

On 3 May 1945, a week before Germany's surrender, British Operational Order 73 was sent to squadrons of Hawker Typhoon fighter-bombers in the Netherlands. It said "Destroy concentration of enemy ships in Lubek Bay." Four squadrons took to the skies with ammunition, bombs & rockets. At 2:30 PM, two attack waves hit the Hamburg-Sud Amerika cruise-liner in Lubek Bay with 64 rockets & 15 bombs to sink it. The Thielbeck & the Deutschland were also sunk in the attack. Had the pilots paid attention as they strafed the sinking ships, they would have noticed that even the German soldiers on shore were shooting survivors before they reached safety. Why? Because the three ships were loaded with prisoners of war. Over 7,000 prisoners of war that had survived Nazi concentration camps & the forced march to the bay, lost their lives in the worst friendly fire incident in WWII.

There have been 1,000's of friendly fire accidents in recorded history, & what's always the same is that those opening fire think they are shooting the enemy. They get so focused on the target, so determined to accomplish the mission, they lose sight of who they are truly fighting & do harm to their allies. In Matthew 20:20-28, Jesus saw a different kind of friendly fire with his followers. James & John's mother asks that her sons sit at places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. The other disciples heard, became indignant at the request, & began verbally attacking them while the brothers shouted back. Jesus interrupted them & said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, & their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, & whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, & to give His life as a ransom for many."

Jesus knew things were going to get bad for his disciples & the last thing they needed was to fight amongst themselves while the whole civilized world was against them. Sadly, we see the same thing happening today in our own country. People on the same side of an issue, with the same goals, seek to defeat each other to have their own way. It happens in politics, it happens in business, & yes it happens in our ND American Legion family. The Legion Constitution's Preamble closes with these purposes "to promote peace & goodwill on earth, to safeguard & transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom & democracy, & to consecrate & sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." These words stand in direct conflict with anything we do or say against each other as legionnaires. Having ambition & desires or wanting to support the ambitions & desires of our friends are good things. But when they lead us to attack each other, or resent our brothers & sisters in arms, we find ourselves in opposition to the very purposes of our organization. We must be sure as a Legion family, to focus on the right enemy. So, when we have missed the mark, & have wounded a fellow legionnaire, the only thing we can do is make amends & ask for forgiveness. "I'm sorry. I got carried away. Can you forgive me?" goes a long way.

I am humbled & honored to be your Department Chaplain this year, & I am at your service. May God bless & prosper the work of our hands.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Plan Your Future Now

No one likes to talk about the future of not being here. But the truth is, there will come a time where we will all reach this point. Having a plan for your future and your loved ones can be an important piece of your legacy. So, what benefits are available through the VA?

Burial Benefits. The VA may pay for some burial expenses to include funeral, transportation, or plot/interment allowance for veterans. Veterans who are service connected automatically qualify (excluding those who have a bare to benefits). Veterans who are not service connected may still qualify. It is important to speak with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to discuss your options and apply.

National Cemetery. Veterans and spouses may be buried at National Cemeteries throughout the country. Most veterans are eligible to be buried at a National Cemetery (exception veterans with dishonorable discharges and those who have been convicted of capital crimes post service). The cost of the burial is no charge to the family and a headstone is included. The family would still be required to pay for any cost associated with the funeral itself.

Headstones or Markers. For veterans who wish to be buried at a local cemetery, the VA will provide a headstone or marker at no charge. Speak with a VSO to discuss what options are available and apply.

Dependent Indemnity Compensation. If the veteran passes away from a service-connected condition, a condition which could have been related to service, or had been service connected at 100% for 10 or more years, his/her spouse may be entitled to Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC flat rate paid each month similar service-connected compensation.

If you have any questions about what benefits you or your family may be entitled to, please reach out to a Veteran Service Officer near you https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso

I will be at Winter Conference 2025 with additional resources for veterans and their families on how to better prepare for the future. Please stop by to see me!



The Future of the ND Legion – Update

TO: ND American Legion Posts
DATE: September 2024

The ND American Legion Department Service Office (DSO) accomplishments are impressive and 100% are dedicated to our veterans.

DSOffice Expenses: 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 for your generosity!.

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: PO Box 5057	City: West Fargo	State: ND	Zip Code: 58078

Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds:

Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.

1. **American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)**
2. **American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)**

Applicant agrees to retain documentation of the use of the funds for three years from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.

Signature of Applicant: Don Herrly — Date:

Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date	Eligible Use Code
						-

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



LUCINDA BOLYARD - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Greetings American Legion Family,

I would like to express my gratitude for being given this opportunity to be your Membership Chair. I have been a member of Post 37 in Williston for ten years and have held the positions of Post Adjutant and Commander, District 9 Vice Commander and Commander.

The American Legion is one of the largest organizations of U.S. veterans. Our time in uniform may have ended, but our commitment to our country has not. Our membership in the American Legion provides us with a path to ensure our future veterans will have the benefits they deserve. I have enjoyed some of the benefits that many fought for before I wore the uniform. I may never be able to thank everyone involved, but I can do my part to ensure that they are there in the future.

I, along with the membership team, will continue to work on the membership lists of: Post 500, Project Stay Alive, the expired list, and all other membership recruitment lists. I look forward to a great year.

For any questions or information, please feel free to contact me: Lucinda Bolyard, Membership Chair: (256) 605-9113, Email lucinda.bolyard@gmail.com or Arn Havelka, Assistant to the Membership Chair: (701)340-2965, Email ajhavelka@yahoo.com

ND Youth Trooper Academy

Congratulations and thank you to all who took part in the first year of our Youth Trooper Academy! The three-day event was made possible by your generous donations to Past Department Commander Dan Brown's Commanders Project, an endowment from Legion Family members Curt and Judy Twete, and the assistance of the North Dakota Highway Patrol.



ND Youth Trooper Orientation



Col. Solberg graduation speaker



Class of 2024

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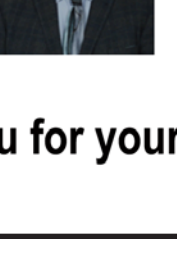
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The Message

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National Auxiliary President Visits North Dakota

The Department of North Dakota had the honor of hosting National Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson of Fairbanks, Alaska, in mid-July. We treated Lisa to 2 days of showing off our state and visiting with Legion and Auxiliary members. Hosts included: Tammy Ryberg, NEC; LoAnn Dick, Department President (2024-2025); Gloria Covert, Past Department President (2023-2024); and Andrea Neshem, Department Historian.

The traveling group lodged in Minot and traveled from that point. We spent a day up north with our first stop at Annie's House at the Bottineau Winter Park. Dwight Olson from Bottineau served as our tour guide and told us how Annie's house was created. Annie was a native of Stanley, ND, and worked in one of the World Trade Center towers that was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. At Annie's House, disabled veterans use the adaptive summer and winter program free of charge because of generous donations.

The International Music Camp was our next stop, where Camp Director Tim Baumann served as our tour guide. We enjoyed listening to practice groups sitting out on the lawn rehearsing their music lessons. The American Legion and Auxiliary built and help maintain the practice huts for students known as American Legion Row.

After Music Camp, we headed for the International Peace Gardens where we had lunch at the café, toured the cactus conservatory, and wandered around the Peace Gardens. We enjoyed the tranquility of the gardens.

Our next stop was Mystical Horizons, the only authentic working stonehenge in North Dakota. The



Legion riders escort National Presidents tour. Pictured (l-r): LoAnn Dick, Department President; Ted Asp, Legion Rider; Lisa Williamson, National President; Steve Anderson, Legion Rider; Gloria Covert, Past Department President.

Canadian smoke was pretty thick, so the view was not as pretty as it usually is. On the return trip to Minot we stopped at the large wheel turtle located in Dunseith and visited the geographical center of North America located in Rugby.

On our second day we traveled to Washburn for a meet and greet with members of the American Legion Family from around the area. We enjoyed an impressive noon meal prepared by the Washburn Post and Unit members.

National President Williamson is a member of the



Washburn meal and social. Pictured (l-r): Arliss Koski, District 5 Vice President; Gloria Covert, Past Department President; Peggy Moran, District 5 President; Lisa Williamson, National President; LoAnn Dick, Department President.

Legion Riders in Alaska. Steve Anderson and Ted Asp of the Cando Legion Riders and Milo Wallace of William G. Carroll Post 26 Minot escorted the entourage to Washburn and back to Minot. The traveling group visited the beautiful Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and then headed to Fort Mandan for a tour.

We appreciate National President Williamson for taking time from her busy schedule to visit North Dakota. We also appreciate Ed and LoAnn Dick for serving as our chauffeurs for two days on the road.

Article and photos submitted by Past Department President Gloria Covert

Homecoming Announced

Join us for a memorable evening as we celebrate and recognize Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Auxiliary President LoAnn Dick. We cordially invite all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and their guests to be a part of this special event on September 28 in Bismarck. See page 16 for details.

Sparrow Wins 2024 Unit Member of the Year

James Roberts Unit #124 of McClusky proudly and enthusiastically nominated Deb Sparrow for the 2024 American Legon Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year. At Department Convention, Past Presidents Parley Chairman Sharon White Bear presented a gift card and certificate to Unit 124 President Lynn Helm on behalf of Deb, who was unable to attend. Deb's dedication to our veterans and her service were celebrated by the McClusky unit.

In their nomination, unit members described Deb as one who exemplifies the values and ideals of the Auxiliary to the utmost degree. Her impact on the program of work in the McClusky unit is without measure.

Deb further shows dedication to her community by playing organ and supporting other church projects. Deb has served on election boards and, of course, votes as is her duty as a citizen. Veterans are always on Deb's mind when doing activities with the Auxiliary. Honesty, dependability, and responsibility are all character traits of Deb. She is respectful to all she encounters. Along with all these characteristics, Deb is a retired school speech therapist, who served children in three schools for several decades. Finally, Deb is a dedicated wife of a rancher/farmer and is an enthusiastic supporter of her children and grandchildren as well.



Deb Sparrow

Deb Sparrow has held several local unit offices including secretary, historian, public relations chair, and most importantly, junior leader. With the support of our unit, she was the member responsible for the revitalization of our Junior Auxiliary. While we have always had Junior members, the group had not been active for many years. Several years ago, Deb restarted the program and gave it new energy. The Junior members have been a vital part of our program activities since then because of Deb's leadership and encouragement. She has taught our young members patriotism by example and the Junior members have responded to this with enthusiasm. Members of the McClusky unit are proud of and grateful for Deb's contributions to her family, community, veterans, and our unit.

Information submitted by McClusky unit members

Convention Speaker Puts Fargo VA Program on the Map

Audrey Beauchesne, Representative of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) -Fargo, was a guest speaker at the 2024 Department Convention held in Bismarck in June. The story Audrey shared with our Auxiliary members deeply touched those members in attendance. Her story also drew the attention of her supervisor who in turn sent it to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough in Washington, DC.

Audrey recently returned from the VA's Military Sexual Trauma Symposium held in Nashville, TN. VA teams who work with the VA's Military Sexual Trauma programs across the country were invited to attend the symposium to learn and share experiences.

It was at the Symposium's dinner on Tuesday, July 30, that Audrey and two other VA representatives from other states were recognized for their work with the VA's Military Sexual Trauma program. Their stories were shared by Secretary McDonough in his speech to the event attendees. Audrey's story put the Fargo VA's Military Sexual Trauma program on the map.

Thank you, Audrey, for sharing your story as an example of the excellent work the VA is doing for all of our military veterans.

Department Staff article



Audrey Beauchesne

2024 Fall District Meetings

*Meetings subject to change without notice.
Please see updated information at
www.ndala.org/districtmeetings/

District 1 – October 17 - Hatton
Community Center, Railroad Ave. E.
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting

District 2 – October 19 - Park River
Legion Building, 505 Railroad Ave W.
1:00 PM Registration/Social • 2:00 PM Meeting

District 3 – October 18 - Rugby
Community Center, 224 2nd Ave SE
5:00 PM Registration/social • 6:00 PM Meeting

District 4 – September 26 - Jamestown
All Veterans Club, 116 1st St. SE
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting

District 5 and District 7 joint meeting - September 20 - Bismarck
Amvets, 2402 Railroad Ave.
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting with training to follow

District 6 and District 9 joint meeting – September 14 - Watford City
Legion Family Building, 313 12th St. SE
11:00 AM (CDT) Registration/Social • 12:00 PM (Noon) (CDT) Meal • 1:00 PM (CDT) Meeting

District 8 – September 14 - Belfield
Legion Building, 107 2nd Ave. E
5:30 PM (MDT) Registration/social• 6:00 PM (MDT) Meal
7:00 PM (MDT) Meeting

District 10 – September 21 - Wyndmere
Legion Building, 449 4th St. S
4:00 PM Registration/Social • 5:00 PM Meal • 6:00 PM Meeting

Department President


LoAnn Dick

Greetings to all American Legion Auxiliary members.

We have now started the new Auxiliary year. We are aiming to make this an "It Is What We Make It" year! We will go back to monthly or maybe quarterly Auxiliary meetings. We will work hard to get every unit to 100% membership.

It makes me sad that the COVID lock downs and concerns caused so many of our units to stop meeting and gathering for projects. This has had a devastating effect on our units, our friendships, our veterans projects, and in some cases, a massive loss in memberships. I would like to ask each of you to remember why you joined the Auxiliary. Remember the veterans through whom you joined and let us get excited about what we can do to honor them. We have big things to accomplish for our veterans! Let's never let them think or feel that we have forgotten them or our mission in supporting them. They are our purpose! They are our heroes! They are our heart! Let us stand up and wholeheartedly support them.

Most of the 2024 Fall District Meetings have been set. Let us all surprise our District President by showing up in large numbers to support them, to learn all that they have planned to teach us, to gather with old and new friends alike. It is so much fun to get together and talk about our units, our successes and maybe our challenges, our lives, our kids, and all those things friends love to talk about. You will find more information on District Meetings elsewhere in this publication and online at www.ndala.org/district-meetings/. Your leadership teams are working hard to make the District meetings as informative and fun as possible. Please join us! See you there.

By the time we have our District meetings, all those who represented you at the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans will be back in North Dakota. Their heads will be full of new things they learned, fun things they experienced, and all the things they want to share with you. They will bring you ideas on how to excite your units, teach your members, and help you make your units run better than ever.

It is my greatest honor to serve you as your Department President this year. With God's assistance, I will strive to lead with the best of my ability. With God on your team, who can be against you. Let us work together to make the Department of North Dakota a department we can be proud of. Let us work together to excite and inspire every unit to be the best it can be. Let us work together and make our 2024-2025 theme and purpose "It Is What We Make It." Let us make it great!

Yours for our veterans.

LoAnn Dick

Department Chaplain


Rose Laning

How do we live our lives? Do we daily listen for God's voice and ask Him to lead us? – Or do we charge ahead living our lives as we wish giving no heed to God who is watching over us.

Do we talk to Him? Do we thank Him? Sometimes we would like to see progress, and we look for evidence that God is at least doing something.

God loves us because we are human beings created in His image. While God loves us because we are human, the world despises our humanity. Our culture is constantly sending us messages that being human is not enough. Advertising constantly tells us we are not beautiful enough, not sexy enough, not healthy enough, not clean enough, not young enough, not happy enough, not well-dressed enough.

Human beings may be dehumanized by numbers. But Jesus calls each of us by name. "Of how much more value are you than the birds!" Matthew 6:26

When God looks at us, what does He see? Well, He sees human beings. If we are doing our part, He sees the cross, and He sees Jesus. We are enough in His eyes.

"I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14

Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us as we are. Forgive us for the times we ignore you, for letting the noise of this world make us deaf to your voice and drowning out the one we need the most. Open our hearts to your love so we can hear you and tell others about you. In Jesus name. Amen.

Rose Laning

Department Secretary


Marcy Schmidt

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Where has the summer gone? By the time you read this article the 2024 National Convention will be in the rearview mirror and the delegates back home preparing for 2024 Fall District Meetings.

Watch for a mailing coming to your unit contact person (Unit President and/or other member). This mailer will include the (green) 2025 Required Contributions and (pink) 2025 Poppy Order forms. Send your unit's poppy order early so our poppy assemblers can ensure enough poppies are available.

Mark your calendars for your District's Fall Meeting and make plans to attend. You will find the meetings informative, and you will have an opportunity to visit with members from around your District and catch up on the 'news.'

Have you reviewed your unit's Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules? Make it a point to complete that task this year. Keeping your governing documents up to date is important to the success of your unit. Email your completed document for review to Chairman Chloe Weyrauch at constitutionbylaws@ndala.org .

God Bless America and God Bless our veterans!

Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer


Susan Degner

Hello Everyone!

I am so excited to be your new Department Treasurer. I am both honored and grateful to succeed such a distinguished treasurer as Sonnie Otto. Happy retirement, and good luck in your move home to Nebraska. Thank you for your service to the Department of North Dakota.

I have over 40 years of experience in accounting and payroll. I work part-time as the Finance Manager for Grafton Drug. I also have my own small tax preparation and bookkeeping practice.

I have been an active member of Paul Farup Unit 147 in Park River since 2004. I have held unit offices as Secretary, Chaplain, and am currently Treasurer. I also just finished a two-year term as District 2 Vice President. I did not move up to District 2 President, as I opted to run for Department Treasurer instead. Luckily, our wonderful District 2 President, Shelley Schuster, agreed to serve a second two-year term. She still needs a vice president, so if you or anyone you know would be willing to serve and learn under her capable example, give Shelley a call!

I want to remind all of our units to remember to file your annual Form 990-N (e-Postcard) with the IRS. This is not a tax return, per se, but has been a government requirement for some years now in order to keep your unit's non-profit status. The due date is the 15th of the 5th month after the close of your unit's fiscal year. In order to file, you will need an account with the IRS. I can walk you through that process. Ideally, each unit should have at least one member (does not necessarily have to be the unit treasurer) willing to create the "ID.Me" account necessary to file. All filings are required to be done electronically—paper filing is NOT an option. If you do not have a unit member assigned to file, I am a tax preparer with an IRS account and can file for you.

If you need to reach me, please email me at: treasurer@ndala.org.

I look forward to working with all of you as your Department Treasurer.

Susan Degner

District 5



Hello District 2 Members!

Thank you to District 5 unit members for submitting your 2023-2024 volunteer hours and narrative reports! Ten of the twelve units in District 5 reported, which included 28,656 hours of volunteer service and $41,906 spent in providing support and services to our veterans, active military, and their families. This also included supporting Children and Youth programs, Community Service, Department Scholarships, and ND Flickertail Girls State. These numbers are awesome and were included in the Department's report to National Headquarters. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

As we begin a new service year, we have renewed excitement coming off the summer 2024 Department Convention. There were 96 members from 40 units registered at this June event. At the June Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, it was voted to approve splitting the Memorial Funds 50/50 to support both the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN and the Western ND Honor Flight programs. We were reminded that all unit constitutions, bylaws and standing rules need to be reviewed and updated, with copies to be sent to Chloe Weyrauch, Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman.

Once again, we had the pleasure of hearing the North Dakota State Legion Band several times during the Convention. The State Legion Band organization is now 100 years old and they will be attending the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, LA, in late August!

I am interested in visiting with members of all District 5 units and would love to attend one of your meetings this year. Let me know when and where you meet.

Check elsewhere in this publication for information on the Fall District Meeting. It will be great to have as many units represented as possible when the time comes. See you soon!

Peggy Moran
District 5 President

District 7



I recently attended the annual organizational meeting in Jamestown where we learned information to pass on to you.

Membership chairmen, send those 2024 dues in as soon as possible and start collecting and sending in 2025 dues. Don't let your unit have a goose egg as we enter into Fall. Contact your former members and continue to recruit new members. Sign up those granddaughters and great-granddaughters, too. Do not hold memberships. Send dues in as soon as you receive them. National Headquarters will mail reminders on September 15, 2024, to all members who have not yet paid 2025 dues. Let's work toward being a 'Goal' District in 2025!

The Department is trying to get more information to individual members by using an email platform called Constant Contact. I want to remind all members to update your mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses when sending in your dues. Chairmen, please update the information in ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) or send to the Department Office to update.

Districts 5 and 7 will meet together in Bismarck for the 2024 Fall District Meeting. The Department Office will send out more information as it becomes available. You will find more information on the front page of the Legion News. Make plans to attend the Fall District Meeting. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Department President LoAnn Dick are planning a joint "Homecoming" event for Saturday, September 28, 2024. More information will be available soon. Make plans to attend. See you there!

God Bless our veterans and God Bless our Auxiliary members.

Lualice Stockert
District 7 President

District 9



Hello District 9 Auxiliary Members!

It was great to see you at the 2024 Department Convention in Bismarck where we had four District 9 units represented. Let us make it a goal to have each of our 12 units represented next time. It would be great to have at least one person from each unit at both the Winter Conference in January and the 2025 Department Convention next June. We can do it!

LoAnn Dick and her husband brought their soft-side hyperbaric chamber to Department Convention so our veterans and spouses could get more information about mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy (mHBOT). Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is used to treat wounds and other medical conditions by supplying oxygen in a pressurized environment. Several attendees experienced the benefits and said that they felt well-rested at the end of their time in the chamber. One of President LoAnn's goals is that each American Legion Post would have a hyperbaric chamber for veterans and families to use. What a benefit that would be to the health of our veterans and families.

A Homecoming Event for Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Department President LoAnn Dick will be held on September 28 at the Bismarck Amvets Club.

District 6 and District 9 will have a joint Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 14, at the Watford City American Legion Family building starting at 11 am Central. More information can be found on the front page of the Legion News. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

May God bless you and our American Legion Family.

Ronda Rudnik
District 9 President

Community Service

Following are just a few examples of the activities units submitted in year-end reporting.

Unit 121 of Parshall sponsored several projects. One project, known as Parshall Auxiliary Cares, reached out to those who once lived in the community. They also reached out to active-duty military personnel. Monthly correspondence and small gifts were included in care packages.

Unit 14 of Jamestown went to all the elementary schools where they displayed the folding of the flag and its meaning.

Unit 116 of Grenora and other units reported participating in and serving a meal after Memorial Day services, assisting during community events or funerals, sponsoring a poppy poster contest, and visiting veteran friends that are shut-ins.

Unit 112 of Willow City donates funds to the Wreaths Across American program.

Unit 201 of Minto reported 1500 volunteer service hours by members which includes: Fall supper, collecting food for food pantry and giving tree, and cleaning the church.

Unit 6 of Grand Forks made donations to the Salvation Army, the Northland Rescue Mission, and to the Senior Center for activities and home meal delivery. Several members reported assisting at their churches for funerals and special events.

Unit 258 of Halliday (an all PUFL member unit) purchased 83 metal crosses and placed them before Memorial Day to honor veterans laid to rest in their local cemetery.

These are just a few of the numerous activities that Auxiliary members were involved in to lend support on behalf of veterans and their families. Thank you, members, for the impressive body of work you do to honor and support veterans and their families in your communities. Each of you is important to the success of the Auxiliary's mission.

Verna Wightman
Community Service Chairman

Poppies

The poppy program is alive and well in North Dakota. The Department of North Dakota distributed approximately 27,000 small and 1,800 large poppies this year. We also mailed poppies to three out-of-state units.

Our poppy assembly work nearly ground to a halt after the 2023 death of Alfred Steiger, a veteran and resident of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, ND. Alfred assembled poppies for the Department of North Dakota for over 20 years. We estimate that in his time with us he assembled over 500,000 poppies. After some searching, the poppy committee was lucky enough to find a retired Auxiliary member to step in to help assemble poppies and several units have volunteered to assemble their own orders as well. The poppy committee reached out to Boy Scout troops who, along with their leaders, lent a hand as well.

Overall, the Poppy Program is well supported by units across the state of North Dakota and for some units serves as its main fundraiser to support our veterans programs.

Carol Wolf and Virginia Stendahl
Poppy Co-Chairmen

Americanism

Excerpts from Programs Year-End Reports.
For full report information, please visit
www.ndala.org/2024-department-convention/



I was honored to be the Department Americanism Chairman again this year. What a wonderful program. I learned a lot and was thrilled to read some wonderful essays from the Americanism Essay Contest. The hard work, skill, and love of country was evident in the students' writing. We have some very talented and patriotic youth that I am confident will be great assets to the workforce and country in coming years.

Nine units sponsored essay submissions at the Department Level. We had students compete in all six class levels. We also had 2 entries from home-school students. A total of 21 entries were judged and 6 were sent to the NW Division. I am grateful to Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt for including the essay contest in a unit mailing and school mailing in December. We got full class participation from several high schools in history/social sciences classes where educators had the essay become part of the curriculum.

We received the Star Spangled Kids Kit in early September. We (as a Department) decided to showcase this part of the Americanism program at our Winter Conference in January. We felt that more units would be reached through this method. I created sample kits from the items that were mailed to us in September. These sample kits, including an explanatory letter and list of kit ideas, were distributed at Winter Conference with the remaining kits distributed at Spring District meetings. A unit mailing to all Department units was sent out in February that had a letter and kit ideas regarding the Star Spangled Kids program.

I truly appreciated the information in the quarterly newsletter from the NW Division and National Americanism Chairmen. I could not have completed my job without the wonderful help from Ann Ritacco, Sallie Rossman, and the others at national during the quarterly meetings. Thank you all!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I continue to appreciate the new insights and encouragement that I have received from the American Legion Auxiliary. What a wonderful organization with truly patriotic members.

Shauna Dubuque
Americanism Chairman

Public Relations

My experience serving not only as Department Secretary, but as co-editor of our Department's quarterly publication 'The Message' and Department Public Relations Chairman has given me an insight into the workings of many of our most active units.

I have received numerous articles along with countless photos submitted by unit presidents and members-at-large from across the state of North Dakota. Those articles include the dates and times of unit activities submitted for publication in our Department newspaper as well as the names of those in photos. Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, we are unable to publish all of the photos and articles received, however, the editing team utilizes as many as possible.

Some unit presidents and members also use social media such as Facebook to publish their pictures and activities and make announcement for upcoming events. This will be the trend going into the future.

Newspapers and I mean those that used to be found in the local diners or purchased at a local grocery store are becoming a rarity in the state of North Dakota. Units with access to local hometown newspapers regularly submit articles and pictures of American Legion Family events held in their communities. Americans today live such a fast-paced lifestyle that we sometimes forget how it feels to be part of a community and simply gather for camaraderie and fun. The pictures and articles that are shared with me show that age does not matter. Young and old gather to enjoy meals together, play bingo, participate in flag burning ceremonies, distribute poppies, march in parades, and participate in Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs.

I am so proud of Auxiliary units and members who take the time to record, photograph the activities, and author these wonderful little articles. It is nice to know that the American Legion Auxiliary as an organization is recognized and continues to remain relevant in North Dakota.

Department Certificates were awarded to the following North Dakota units.

District 1 - Sigvard B. Aasen Unit 210, Galesburg
District 2 - Ole Semling Unit 135, McVille
District 4- Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 Jamestown
District 4 - Mayer-Morlock Unit 250, Gackle
District 4 - Adam Job Unit 245, Medina
District 4 - Barry Hoff Unit 72, Napoleon
District 8 - Harry W. Lindberg Unit 151, Scranton
District 10 - Bergman-Evenson Unit 215, Rutland

Marcy Schmidt
Public Relations Chairman

Children & Youth



It was an honor to serve as your Department Children and Youth Chairman this year. Thank you to all units that sent in year-end reports. There is a lot of work and volunteer hours going on out there. The following is a sampling of the activities units and members are involved with throughout the year. They work in conjunction with their local posts and enlist the participation of community school students.

- Donations to children's causes such as St. Jude's Hospital, Shriners Children's, and Toys for Tots.
- Donations of schools supplies and backpacks to students.
- Sponsoring poppy poster contests and poppy coloring books for 1st graders.
- Sponsoring "Veterans in the Schools" and Veterans Day and Memorials programs.
- Volunteering at concession stands at local high schools and community events.
- Making homemade Valentine's Day Cards, Easter Cards and Veterans Day cards for hospitalized veterans.
- Participate in flag burning ceremonies and distributing poppies in May

Jill Carstens
Children & Youth Chairman

Education

It was an honor to serve as Department Education Chairmen this past year. I enjoyed the role while learning about education and opportunities units provide in their communities. I have put together a brief glimpse of what North Dakota units have accomplished on behalf of Education.

Units celebrated educators and staff during American Education and Teacher Appreciation Weeks by furnishing treats. Other units donated funds to local libraries recognizing teachers and staff or donated to local elementary schools to assist students with lunch and milk needs. Units participated in the "Give 10 to Education" program with local schools and members also provided school kits for world education through World Relief. Units provided scholarships to send students to International Music Camp and participated in the "Veterans in Community Schools" program.

Units sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications to be sent to the Department. Several units also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs. Units continue to help educate youth through community safety and health fairs.

I am so grateful for the units and Districts that reported on their wonderful activities. I know that there are many things going on out there that might not be shared at the Department level. Regardless, I know that this program has a great impact on youth and others in the community.

Gloria Covert, Carla Bickert, and I had the distinct honor of judging over 50 scholarship applications for both the National scholarship program and the Department Education program in 2024. Wow! What a great group of students, all with an eye to the future and drive to succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders in our North Dakota schools.

Peggy Moran
Education Chairman

National Security

I will try to give you a brief glimpse into the highlights of my trip to the National Security Conference held in Washington, DC, in February.

Ann Rehbein, National Chair for Border Security, Enforcement, Defense State, BASE Program: Some of the discussion items included: visit bases to determine quality of life, securing a better life for those serving in harm's way, networking, and sharing information.

Pam Ray, National VA&R Chairman - Need more volunteers and reporting.

Donna Dillard, National Legislative Chair – ALA Advocacy Guide, study TAL Legislative Agenda brochure, Point papers.

The PACT Act was discussed as well as paying the Coast Guard, as it is still under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD.

The Defense-State Liaison office spoke about State Policy Priorities for 2024. The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life. This is part of the Defense Department's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families.

The American Legion brought to the floor a discussion regarding making the Gold Star Family a Federal Holiday.

It was an honor to be invited to the National Security Conference and I enjoyed the opportunity to gain knowledge about all of the programs the American Legion Family supports. I enjoyed reminiscing with other members of the American Legion Auxiliary and our Legion Family.

Sandra Petermann
National Security Chairman

2024-2025 Department Officers

President
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President-Elect
Candace Berg .....C: 701-740-7144... presidentelect@ndala.org

Vice President
Sandra Smith.....C: 701-550-1025.... vicepresident@ndala.org

Secretary
Marcy Schmidt .....C: 701-253-5992.....secretary@ndala.org

Treasurer
Susan Degner.....C: 701-331-9328..... treasurer@ndala.org

Chaplain
Rose Laning.....C: 701-226-8115..... chaplain@ndala.org

Historian
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Parliamentarian
Holly Eslinger.....C: 701-891-1909... parliamentarian@ndala.org

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NEC Alternate and Finance Board Chairman
Gloria Covert.....C: 701-370-0055.....financeboard@ndala.org

President District 1
Berniece Froiland.....C: 701-789-1110..... district1@ndala.org

President District 2
Shelley Schuster.....C: 701-520-1525..... district2@ndala.org

President District 3
Cheryl Gustafson .....C: 701-895-8187..... district3@ndala.org

President District 4
Jane Schoonover .....C: 218-298-1434..... district4@ndala.org

President District 5
Peggy Moran .....C: 701-315-0568..... district5@ndala.org

President District 6
Linda Siewert.....C: 701-720-9133..... district6@ndala.org

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Lualice Stockert.....C: 701-391-1820..... district7@ndala.org

President District 8
Beverly Wolff.....C: 701-872-6150..... district8@ndala.org

President District 9
Ronda Rudnik .....C: 701-648-9805..... district9@ndala.org

President District 10
Beverly Bozovsky.....C: 515-296-8578..... district10@ndala.org

A full list that includes mailing addresses is available from the Department Office, or may be downloaded at www.ndala.org/contact-information/

Membership

This year our theme for membership was the North Dakota Great Buffalo Roundup for Membership.

We have struggled greatly with trying to get our units to 100% renewal. We do have 14 units at 100% or more, 34 in the 90% range, and 38 in the 80% range. Of those in the 80-90% range, 13 lack just 1 renewal, and 20 lack just 2 to 4 renewals. We are working to get those in to push their units to 100%. There are quite a few more that lack just 5 to 8 renewals. I know we can get our numbers up, but it is taking longer than I expected. We are making calls to the units, getting more of them on ALA MIS so that the process can be easier and faster, and working to get as close to 100% as possible.

We are excited by National's new system of goal setting and are sure we can do a better job of getting our Membership up to 100% in 2025.

I attended National Membership Zoom calls and I know they can be highly effective. The Zoom calls are informative because you can hear what other Departments are experiencing.

Congratulations to the following North Dakota units for achieving 100% or more of their 2024 Unit Goal.

Community	Unit Name	Unit #
Galesburg	Sigvard B. Aasen	210
Cavalier	Lavern J. Thompson	11
Park River	Paul Farup	147
Pisek	Novotny-Kachena	208
Mountain	Bjornson Sigfusson	227
Medina	Adam Job	245
Washburn	Victor B. Wallin	12
Fredonia	Clifford Ost	260
Portal	Woods-Roan	109
Elgin	George W. Snook Jr.	246
New England	Anton Ulijohn	66
Milnor	Albert Smith-Lewis Thune	148
Walcott	Hagen-Helgeson	166
Mooreton	Robert Bergman	283

LoAnn Dick and Candace Berg
Membership Co-Chairmen

Tolna Legion Family Hosts Membership Picnic

It was a warm and windy Tuesday afternoon when the American Legion Family held a membership picnic in the Tolna Park. This annual event is a great way to share comradery as well as enjoy a picnic-style membership drive for the American Legion Post, Sons of the American Legion, and Unit 162 of Tolna.

An array of lovely looking food items graced the picnic tables under the shelter, and a great turn out of Legion and Auxiliary members were sharing fellowship and a meal.

Tolna Unit President Cheryl Donahue assisted Judy Twete in arranging another event to take place during this time. Judy and Curt Twete had been invited to participate in the surprise event that was going to take place that evening. There was no previous notification of the "Quilts of Honor" presentation to any of the guests.

Veterans were surprised when presented with "Quilts of Honor," made by the Devils Lake, Lakota, and McVille area Homebound Quilters group. Each of the quilts had a label with the veteran's name and the group that created them. Those in the quilting group include Brenda Swenseth, Kristi Berdal, Macine Lukach, Barb Anderson-Pishtek, Jill Nesheim, and Gayle Gette. These ladies donate their time and funds to make these beautiful quilts and donate them for presentation to veterans.

Those presented with a quilt that July evening were: Keith Forde, Paul Donahue, Harry Conley, Brian Nelson, and Steven Donahue. It was a wonderful experience to have family and fellow Legion Family Members witness the heartfelt appreciation of these men when they were presented with their quilts.



Judy Twete, NEC with Quilt of Honor recipient.

Article and photo submitted by: Judy Twete, NEC

2024 Department Scholarship and Contest Winners

National Presidents Spirit of Youth Scholarship
Breanna Martin - Grand Forks – NATIONAL WINNER

Department Education Scholarship
Jayden Bondy - Petersburg
Jayden Pederson - Valley City
Andaleen Nelson - Mandan

Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship
Tessa Page - Carrington

Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship
Madison Lipper - Aneta
Jayden Pederson - Valley City
Megan McCarthy – Bismarck

Poppy Poster Contest Winners

Class I	Makayla Halverson, Carrington
Class II	Maxwell Veller, Wilton
Class III	Ashlyn Chavers, Rock Lake
Class IV	Jenna Homola, Jud
Class V	Kyla Lybrand, Gackle
Class VI	Olivia Lange, Gackle

Americanism Essay Contest Winners

Class I	Adlyn Neumiller, Washburn
Class II	Ryan Richards, Grand Forks
Class III	Rachel Boeshans, Carrington
Class IV	Emersen Knott, Hope-Page
Class VI	Gunner Cahoon, Center-Stanton
Class V	Amber Schmidt, Hope-Page *NW DIVISION WINNER

We are so proud of all participants and winners! Way to go!!



This photo and several headshots courtesy of Candace Berg / IceBerg Art

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In Memoriam

District 1
Joy Berntson, Sanborn
Ilene M. Kyllo, Galesburg
Frances Folstad, SLM, Harwood
Beverly Brummond, PUFL, Department
Ardene D Cramer, Department

District 2
Irene Meiers, HLM, Grand Forks
Carol Johnson, HLM, Grand Forks
Del Johnson, Lakota
Cecilia M. Durand, Grafton
Judy Marie Jiskra, Grafton
Bertha Campbell, Grafton
Ramona Horter, Grafton
Betty Fisher, HLM, Northwood
Wilma , Larimore
Josephine M Kelly, Edinburg
Rose Sigurdson, Edinburg
Mary A Kavli, SLM, Lankin
Kathy S Daniels, St Thomas
Polly A Dusek, Pisek
Lori Larson, Michigan

District 4
Bernice L Schaffer, Jamestown
Genevieve Klein, Carrington
Muriel , Carrington
Arvilla M Weber, Carrington
Doris Wolsky, Carrington
Ella M. Neumiller, Carrington
Gail Bischoff, Wimbledon

District 5
Anna M Hagel, Wilton
Darlene N. Holznagel, Wilton
Claryce Johnson, Garrison
Frances Becker, HLM, Napoleon
Gladys Brosy, SLM, Wishek

District 7
Theresa Renner, Glen Ullin
Orletta L Kilen, SLM, Almont

District 8
Cleo Kulish, Dickinson

District 9
Dorris A Baker, Noonan
Geraldine H Birdsbill, SLM, Little Shell

District 10
Diana M Speidel, Wahpeton
Laureen E Puetz, Wyndmere

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

District Reports



Duane Kram
2nd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 2,

It was another great 4th of July in Park River. The parade was led by Park River Post 147 Color Guard and members of Pisek Post 208 and Lankin Post 157.

A big thank you to Department of ND Commander Mamie Havelka and American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer for joining us in the parade and celebrating the 4th. Grand Marshall of the parade was Dorothy Novak, life member of the Auxiliary Park River Unit 147. Members of Park River Squadron 147 served brats and burgers after the parade.

Legion Family members of District 2 are invited to the Fall District meeting on 19 October 24 at Post 147 in Park River. Social hour and registration will be at 1pm and meeting at 2pm.



Robert Wishart
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

I hope you all had a good summer.

We had a good American Legion Department Convention in Bismarck. I would like to welcome David Boucher as our District 3 Vice Commander.

The District 3 fall meeting is October 18 in Rugby. It will be held at Post 23 located at 224 2nd Ave. SE Rugby. I would like to see you there. The social will be at 5 pm, meal at 6 pm and the meeting at 7 pm.



Randy Entzminger
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,

Gackle Mayer-Morlock Post #250 marched in the Gackle Independence Day Parade. As usual, the Colors were presented by the Post Honor Guard. This year however, a second row of flags were added. The Gackle Post #250 Flag was joined by the District 4 American Legion Flag, carried by the District 4 Commander, Randy Entzminger (of Gackle) and accompanied by the Fredonia Post #260 Flag, carried by Rick Schlecht, Post #260 Adjutant.



Pictured are: Front row: Jay Posselt and John Long (guards), Jon Metz (with American Flag) Back row: Dave Paulson, Randy Entzminger and Rick Schlecht Post #250 Member Loren & Peg (ALA Member) Schroeder were honored as the Grand Marshals for the 2024 parade.

Best Wishes American Legion!
State Representative Clayton Fegley



Thank you for your service



Janette Fetch
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

Hello everyone, my name is Janette Fetch, and I am the newly elected District 5 Commander. I would like to take this time to share a little bit about myself.

I joined the Army National Guard at 18 and retired after 20 years of service in 2005. My roles were varied, but I particularly enjoyed my time as a Recruit Training Company instructor, teaching young men and women essential soldier skills. This experience shaped my leadership style.

In 2006, I became the Military Funeral Honors State Director for North Dakota. This incredibly rewarding role involved establishing a statewide program to ensure every veteran received the honor and respect they deserved. I traveled extensively, coordinating flag-folding ceremonies, taps, and rifle volleys with local veteran organizations.

I've been the Post 1 Adjutant with the American Legion for 11 years, Past Post 1 Commander, and District 5 Vice Commander for one year. My husband, Mick, and I have been married for 31 years and have three children. Mick retired from the National Guard in 2022, following in the footsteps of his father, Vern a fellow Legionnaire. Our family has a strong military tradition; my father and uncle served in the US Army, my sisters served as well, and our two sons are active-duty Air Force.

When I am asked "Why should I join the American Legion or any veteran organization"? My response is "Who is going to fight for veterans on capital hill if we (veterans) do not have a voice"? The American Legion is a way to bring veteran issues to the surface and assist with a solution. We need to stay strong in numbers to have that voice!

District 5 has a great District Vice Commander, Russ Kroshus. Russ and I have known and worked together for almost 40 years. We are committed, we will be there to assist in any way we can, and we are honored to serve as your District 5 Leadership.

Districts 5 and 7 will have a joint District meeting on September 20th at the AMVETS, 2402 Railroad Avenue, Bismarck, ND. Registration/social will start at 5:00 p.m., buffet meal starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Vernon Laning
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,

Well, we are off and running with a new membership year. The dues increase is understandable with the cost of everything else jumping up. While we don't particularly like it, the organization has to pay its bills too.

I'd like to encourage everyone to get an early push for renewals and new memberships. Members, please send in your dues right away so it doesn't slip your mind and require phone calls from the adjutant. He/She has enough paperwork without the extra headaches.

This fall our district will be partnering with District 5 in Bismarck at the Amvets club on September 20 starting with registration starting at 5 pm CT. There will be a buffet meal starting at 6 pm. Each attendee will be charged for their meal at the registration desk. I don't know what the meal cost will be but we need to ask everyone to please plan on eating at the club so we can avoid the $250 hall rental fee. Write the date down and try to keep it open to attend. Our new commander has requested a little extra time for a training session so it's additionally important to try to be there. Many of us could use a little memory refreshing about our organization.

Regarding our new Department Commander, Mamie Havelka, also set aside September 28 for her Homecoming at the Bismarck Amvets along with Auxiliary President LoAnn Dick. We need to help them kick off their year of command as well.

With that, have a great and safe fall.



Lance Renville
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,

I appreciate the confidence from District 9 to elect myself and Douglas Eckert as your District Commander and District Vice Commander for the coming year. We will do our best to represent the District with honor and respect to our fellow members!

Our District meeting is set for September 14th as a dual meeting with District 6 at Post 29 in Watford City. There will be a registration and social starting at 11:00, lunch at 12:00, and a meeting at 13:00. Training will follow the meeting for Commanders, Adjutants and anyone else that would like to attend.

I look forward to visiting as many posts as possible throughout the year. If you would like Douglas or myself to attend a meeting or an event at your Post, please give us a call. Remember it's the start of our yearly membership drive. Let's get off to a great start. Last year with Scott Post's leadership we finished first even after being in last place and District meeting.

I would like to wish Scott Post well and I hope to see him back in a leadership role in the near future. Thank you, Sir!!!

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or requests.



Cory Metcalf
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,

For those that don't know me my name is Cory Metcalf, and I am your Commander for District 10 this year. I am also the Post Commander for Post 106 in Fairmount and last year I was your Vice Commander for District 10. This summer has been busy with parades and unfortunately a few funerals. If your Post is having an event this year that I could attend, please e-mail me and let me know. I would like to attend all your events this year if possible. I would like to invite all of you to Post 153 in Wyndmere on September 21st at 1600 for the District 10 fall meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Commander this year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible this year.







SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER



DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Triple Nickel in 2025-We Can Do It!

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! The 2025 membership year is starting up and summer is coming to an end. Soon the fall season will be upon us and our Fall District meetings. We have a new Department Commander, Mamie Havelka, who has challenged our Detachment to win the Triple Nickel this year, so let's answer her challenge and bring it home. The Department Convention has passed, and the officers and I are excited to work with you all to continue the excellent work you all have done in the last couple of years. It was a pleasure to work with the 2023-24 leadership team, especially Commander Clarence and President Gloria and I wish them success in their future roles in the Department.

Regarding membership, we are at 1101 members as of August 1 for the 2023-24 membership year, which is just over 102% of goal. We only need 28 renewals to hit 105% by year's end, so if you still have some members who have not renewed, please get them renewed so we can hit that 105%. That said, we are starting a new membership year, and Squadrons should have received their packets, as well as more recently the cards for your dual members that were delayed from National, but if you have yet to receive the cards for your Dual Members, please let Department Headquarters know.

On membership for the coming year, please get going on it. I don't want Squadrons holding onto and waiting until next May or June to turn in. I want every Squadron to turn in at least five members by September 30 and I want all Squadrons to increase their membership by five percent from the previous year. I know we can all do it, so let's get going on membership.

It was an honor to represent you as Commander at the Convention and give greetings to the joint session and share the awesome work we have done over the last year. We welcomed new Squadrons in the last year in Grand Forks, Page, and Streeter. Since the Triple Nickel involves chartering five new Squadrons, let's work on getting those five new charters this year. I have heard of potential Squadrons in Flasher and Mott, and will check with Washburn too, but I encourage Posts without an SAL Squadron to consider starting one, as you will benefit from having your sons and grandsons assisting you with your Post activities, also your Post members who are eligible for SAL membership through their parent or grandparent's eligibility for Legion membership can be Charter members as Dual Members.

At our Detachment business meeting, there was a good discussion about activities and how to get more participation from membership at Winter Conference and Convention. I want to hold a Youth Academy for our younger members to go through our Ten Ideals and/or Five Point Program of Service to get them active and engaged in the SAL, so please reach out to your younger members and encourage them to come to Conference and Convention and let the Detachment officers know, so we can plan other activities for them too and make it a true family gathering. The following members were elected as Detachment officers for the 2024-25 year: Commander-Daniel Sauerwein; Vice Commander-Keith Kinneberg; Adjutant-Joe Camisa; Chaplain-Gerald Puetz; Sergeant-at-Arms-Ryan Kaste; NEC-Dan Brown; and Membership Chair-Todd Rikke. We are excited to serve the Detachment in the coming year. I also want to thank Ryan for his assisting Department Sergeant-at-Arms Bryce Crosby at various points during the Convention.

I want to share that I am included in the upcoming Homecoming for the Department Commander and Department President, as the Detachment Commander. It will be held September 28 in Bismarck at the AMVETS Club, so I would love to see my fellow SAL members come out to say hello and represent our organization within our Legion Family.

I want to encourage Squadrons to get your updated officers reported to Department Headquarters, so we all can have the most updated points of contact to you all when sharing information and reaching out regarding events and membership. Plus, if you would like one of us to attend an event you are putting on, please reach out. We want to especially encourage the membership to attend their respective District meetings and get active at that level, as our eventual goal is to have District Commanders and Vice Commanders to prepare future leaders for higher offices.

I want to encourage Squadrons to send in photos of your activities to Snapshots of Service. Photos related to one of the four pillars involving your members wearing their SAL caps, or apparel can be submitted via the form at https://www.legion.org/sons/publications. Consider submitting a photo and see if you can win an award, and also be sure to plug it on social media.

Get out and active in your communities this fall and show your Post and your neighbors what the SAL is all about. Let me know about the awesome things you are doing so I can share them in this column too. Help with your Post's Veterans Day activities as well. Find ways to connect with the young people in your area too and recruit for the SAL and Auxiliary too. I would love to see a bunch of Individual Recruitment Awards submitted from North Dakota, so if you, or a fellow member recruits new members, track it and reach out to us on how to go about recognizing those awesome recruiting efforts.

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 begin this new membership year. Thank you for all you do for the Sons of the American Legion and keep up the great work.



Streeter's first meeting for SAL on April 29, 2024.

Members pictured are: Lucas Dockter, Micah Dockter, Cameron Schlecht, Mike Kramlich, Jeff Williams, Jerrold Mayer, Tyler Schlecht, Bryan Spitzer, Rick Schulz and Bruce Spitzer. Members not present were: Trent Dockter and Tom Nienow.















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
Staub, Kevin 04/22/2021
Mitzel, Daniel 03/10/2024
Metzger, Arnold 03/13/2024
Johns, Charles 06/18/2024
Nagel, Peter 06/19/2024

Fargo – Post #2
Anderson, Edward ..... Unknown DOD
Hansen, Clair ..... Unknown DOD
Kiemele, Erwin ..... Unknown DOD
Nygaard, Malcolm 07/04/2024
Timm, Roger A. 02/12/2024
Halmrast, Jerome C. 07/06/2024

Hillsboro – Post #4
Hertwig, Robert 06/27/2024
Geray, Henry J 06/02/2024

Grand Forks – Post #6
Smith, Kirk 07/08/2024

Mayville – Post #8
Perkins, Jason 12/21/2023
Baker, Steve 10/09/2023
Hlavinka, Del 02/23/2024

Ray – Post #9
Vance, Jerald 05/22/2024

Buffalo – Post #10
Ronning, Kenneth A. 10/18/2023
Grieger, Duane L 06/01/2024

Cavalier – Post #11
Bjerke, Charles ..... Unknown DOD
Robinson, Allen ..... Unknown DOD
Stark, Marvin 05/15/2024

Jamestown – Post #14
Berg, Ronald H. 12/06/2023
Burkardt, Norman ..... Unknown DOD
Finck, Richard 06/21/2023
Klose, Anthony 08/30/2022
Lerew, Alfred ..... Unknown DOD
Mielke, Arthur 02/13/2023
Rudnick, Gerald ..... Unknown DOD

Sykeston – Post #17
Finch, Elmer ..... Unknown DOD

Wahpeton – Post #20
Nielsen, Robert 11/11/2023

Lakota – Post #21
Roger C. Sateren 05/24/2024

Rugby – Post #23
Hutton, William 02/04/2024
Olaveson, Marcus 05/07/2024
Sollin, Dale 02/17/2024
Weinman, Florian 06/08/2024

Minot – Post #26
Johnson, Richard 2/10/2023
Vannett, Claude 8/11/2023

New Rockford – Post #30
Bergrud, Dennis 05/28/2024

Drake – Post #32
Krueger, Wesley 04/09/2024

Towner – Post #34
Gunter, Richard 01/25/2024

Oakes – Post #36
Haase, Edward 06/20/2024
Larson, Budd 06/09/2024
Larson, David 06/29/2024

Velva – Post #39
Schoenwald, Eugene 10/17/2023

Mandan – Post #40
Joersz, Robert 08/28/2023
Lidstrom, Andrew 04/16/2024
Roehrich, Floyd 03/13/2024
Kuntz, Frank 03/11/2024
Zueger, Arthur 04/17/2024
Olheiser, John 02/19/2024
Blasco, Michael 08/20/2023
Berg;Dennis 06/02/2023
Boehm, Ralph 08/04/2023
Cook, Dwight 01/07/2024
Huschka, William 09/28/2023
Schlegel, Clarence 09/01/2023
Lidstrom, Andrew W 04/15/2024
Zueger, Arthur 04/16/2024

Grafton – Post #41
Steenerson, Donald 05/20/2024
DeSautel, John 06/17/2024
Lykken, Lee 04/13/2024
Huschka, William 09/28/2023

Bottineau – Post #42
Bonn, John F 01/23/2024

Bowman – Post #48
Stebbins, Jimmy 01/18/2024

Reeder – Post #51
Haugen, Donald R 05/29/2024

Mohall – Post #52
Otto, Gerald 11/15/2022

Valley City – Post #60
Jacobson, Charles 02/20/2024
Krentz, Phillip 05/11/2024
Miller, James 12/09/2023

Walhalla – Post #62
Karel, Stanley 03/25/2023

Kenmare – Post #64
Gravesen, Donald ..... Unknown DOD

Wing – Post #65
Sadler, Donald R 04/01/2023

New England – Post #66
Kovar, Henry ..... Unknown DOD

Hatton – Post #70
Balstad, Marlin ..... Unknown DOD

Napoleon – Post #72
Hoberg, Gordon O 07/03/2024
Leier, Christ J 04/03/2024

Crosby – Post #75
Benter, John 05/15/2024

Cando – Post #79
Benson, Dean 06/28/2024

Nome – Post #83
Eskelson, Howard 06/11/2024

Center – Post #90
Christianson, Chris 05/23/2024
Hopkins, Daniel 06/25/2024

Northwood – Post #92
Adams, Joseph Jr. ..... Unknown DOD

Portland – Post #93
Strand, Michael 05/07/2024

Langdon – Post #98
Bobynsky, I. Peter ..... Unknown DOD

Ryder – Post #99
Fjeld, Jerry ..... Unknown DOD

Crystal – Post #107
Newton, James ..... Unknown DOD

Willow City – Post #112
Getzlaff, Dwane 11/16/2023
Prellwitz, Kenneth 11/02/2023

Hannaford – Post #113
Gruman, Robert J 07/07/2024

Hettinger – Post #115
Eggebo, Melvin V 05/29/2024
Oberg, Ernest 05/30/2024

Grenora – Post #116
Hagge, Gordon 10/10/2023
Muse, Richard 12/03/2023

McClusky – Post #124
Meckle, Ted ..... Unknown DOD
Bonnet, Bernell ..... Unknown DOD

Hazelton – Post #126
Binen. Davod 07/22/2024

Ellendale – Post #137
Boniek, Royal L. 02/19/2024

Park River – Post #147
Kelly, Henry W 05/23/2024
Knudson, Lewis 07/09/2024
Lothspeich, Marlin 07/27/2024
McCartney, Robert 07/02/2024

Park River – Squadron #147
Svir, Sam 12/04/2023

Dazey – Post #149
Heinze, Tony ..... Unknown DOD
Schuler, Gerald ..... Unknown DOD

Wyndmere – Post #153
Lillestol, Jacob 04/30/2024
Larson, Loren 07/01/2024
Schubert, Curtis 08/05/2024

Lankin – Post #157
Troftgruben, Myrlin 05/15/2024

Buxton – Post #172
Soderberg, Clyde D 12/15/2023

Richardton – Post #180
Aman, Leo J 06/07/2024

Thompson – Post #181
Lemar, Edward 07/13/2024
Sporbert, Desmond 07/20/2024

Hazen – Post #189
Hagel, Ferdinand 05/20/2024
Stroup, Charles W 05/18/2024

Donnybrook – Post #195
Graff, Dale L. 04/07/2024

Pisek – Post #208
Lovcik, Francis 06/25/2024

Sherwood – Post #213
Roberts, Robert 01/16/2024

Knox – Post #217
Pieterick, Larry ..... Unknown DOD

Mountain – Post #227
Andrews, Sidney W 05/05/2018

Makoti – Post #230
Petz, Richard 04/26/2023
Schenfisch, Wilmar 11/12/2020

Neche – Post #242
Guenther, Janis 05/05/2024

Elgin – Post #246
Motis, Harvey 11/01/2023

Gackle – Post #250
Madche, Harry G 03/23/2024
Mayer, John 06/28/2024

Forest River – Post #251
Carlson, Bruce "Butch" 06/12/2024

Fredonia – Post #260
Gackle, William 07/30/2023

Almont – Post #261
Kilen, Orletta L. 05/26/2024

Sarles – Post #276
Murchie, Robert ..... Unknown DOD
Ritter, Richard ..... Unknown DOD
Sameulson, Raymond ..... Unknown DOD
Lien, Kenneth ..... Unknown DOD

Forbes – Post #277
Schumack, Ronnie 10/10/2023

Galchutt – Post #282
Flaa, Stuart 06/02/2024

Mooreton – Squadron #283
Simdorn, Scott 01/11/2023

New Town – Post #290
Ouradnik, Walter 05/29/2024

Horace – Post #293
Schossow, Maynard 12/2023

Harwood – Post #297
Peterson, Stewart 06/07/2024

Manvel – Post #299
Leiberg, Marvin 06/22/2024

Newburg – Post #302
Baumann, Bill ..... Unknown DOD

West Fargo – Post #308
Halmrast, Jerome 07/01/2024
Scherling, Calvin 03/08/2020
Seivert, Tennis 02/22/2024
Pritchard, Gaylas J 04/23/2024

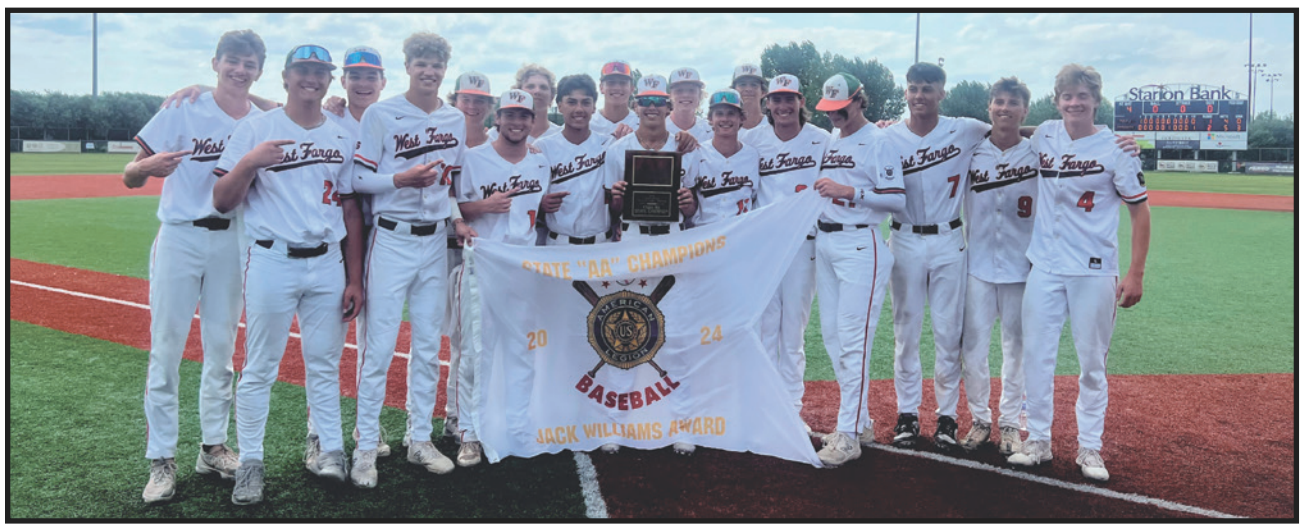
Post #500
Brewer, Kevin 5/23/2024

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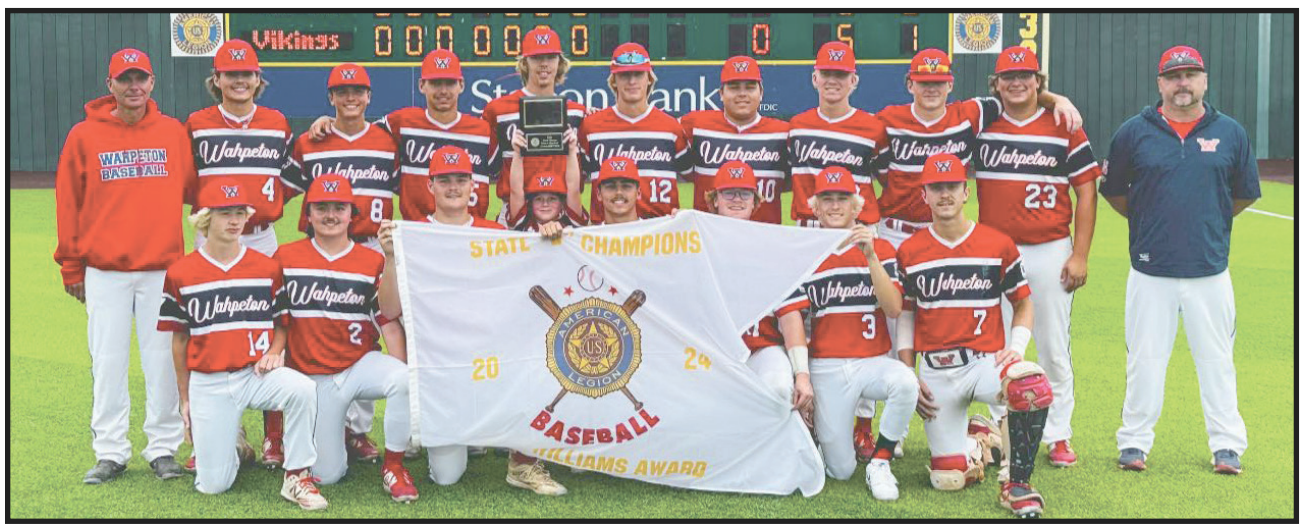
2024 NORTH DAKOTA LEGION BASEBALL



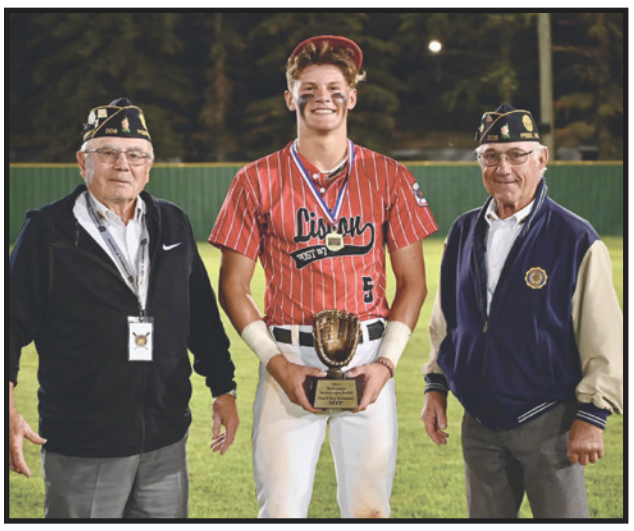
2024 Class AA Champions, West Fargo



2024 Class A MVP, Jayden King, Wahpeton



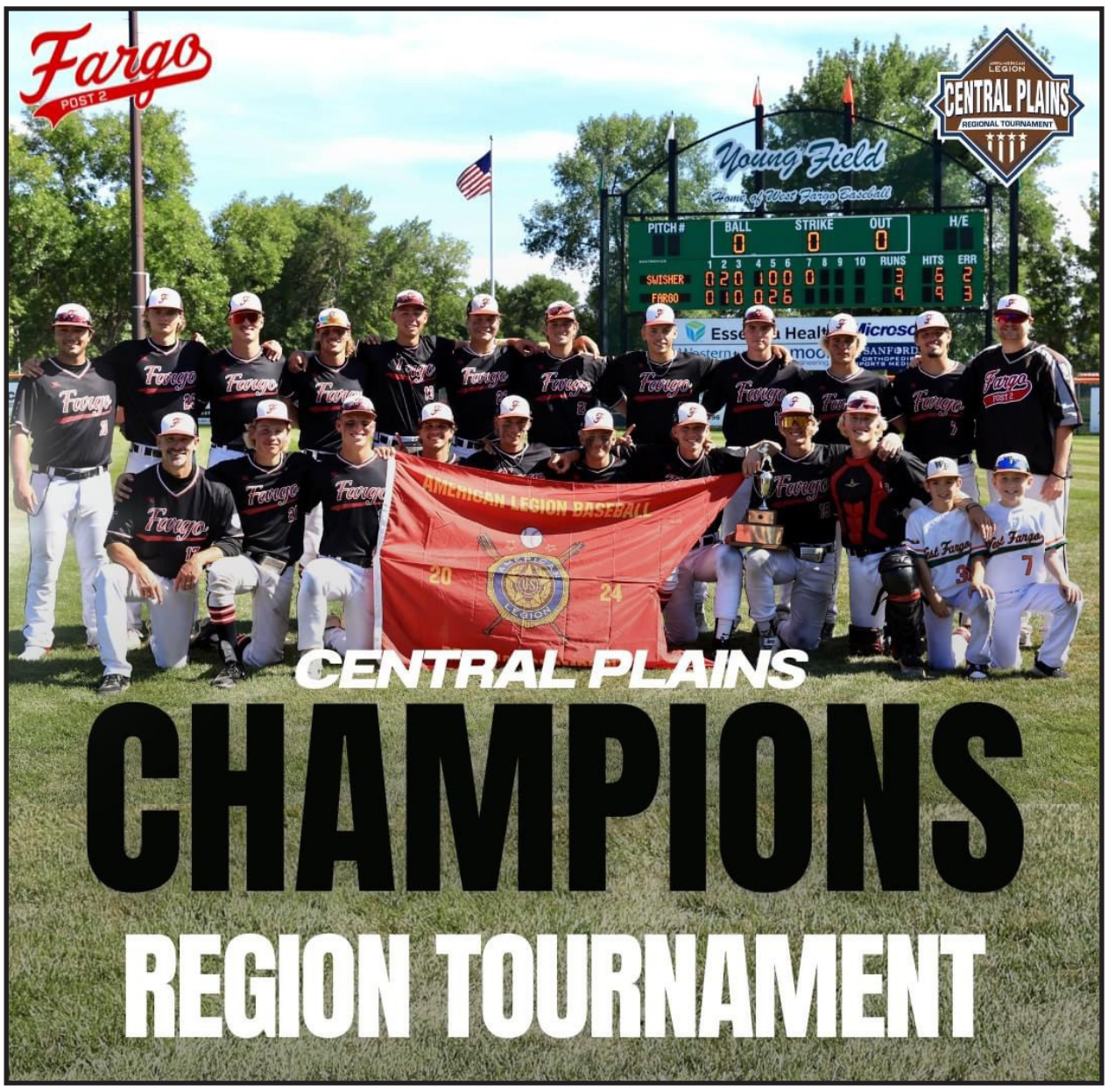
2024 Class A Champions, Wahpeton



2024 Class B MVP, Blase Reinke, Lisbon



2024 Class B State Champions, Lisbon



2024 BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Mason Oster

Congratulations to Mason Oster from Mandan, ND. Mason's application was submitted by the Mandan American Legion Post 40 Legion Baseball Team. Mason is the North Dakota recipient of the 2024 American Legion baseball scholarship and will receive $500 on the Department level. His application has been forwarded to National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN, for consideration for The American Legion All-Academic Team scholarship, sponsored by Diamond Sports – the official baseball for American Legion Baseball tournaments. Nine players will be selected from the 50 state winners and will receive additional scholarship funds. Eight players will receive a $2,500 scholarship for being selected as a member of the All-Academic Team and a ninth player the "Captain" of the All-Academic Team will receive a $5,000 scholarship. Mason also received a $1,000 baseball scholarship from the American Legion Department of North Dakota for Class AA.

Local Posts in the News

Devils Lake Scouts Help at Military Funerals

DEVILS LAKE, ND 6 May 2024 – Scouts from Troop 0031 and Troop 5031 in Devils Lake are assisting the VFW Post 756 Honor Guard with military funerals. The Honor Guard has been hurting for years with getting enough veterans to serve on the Honor Guard to fire rifle volleys, hold flags, and play Taps. Local Scouts are stepping up to help the VFW Honor Guard. The latest Scout color bearers pictured are Ethan Yanish, Conner Marquart, Illyana Nelson, and Karsen Wentz. The Scouts currently assist by holding the flags at internments and are learning proper protocols for the flags during these solemn events. If the Scouts do enough funerals and flag ceremonies, they can earn a Scouts BSA Honor Guard patch. The Scouts from Troops 0031 and 5031 also conduct POW/MIA table ceremonies and have done them for the American Legion and at the VFW Club for the Vietnam Veterans Day event.



Three Scouts earned the Honor Guard patch on 12 February 2024 at their Honor Court ceremony. Scouts receiving the Honor Guard patch pictured with Troop 31 Scoutmaster Bryce Crosby were Sara Crosby, Paul Cortez and Brady Holden The Commander of American Legion Post 24 Jack Volk which sponsors the Scout Troops was there for the presentation. Jack is also a Co-Commander of the VFW Honor Guard. The VFW Honor Guard accepts members of the American Legion, DAV and now Scouts BSA to serve on their team.

The Scouts are currently chartered by American Legion Post 24 and this service falls well into the scope of both the Scouts BSA and American Legion purposes. The Scouts learn about service and Americanism and the American Legion shows its support for child and youth activities.



Bottineau Post #42



The Bottineau American Legion assisted the Bottineau High School FBLS (Future Business Leaders of America) with a significant donation that helped them in the State competition. Bottineau American Legion Commander Heather Thompson presented a check to Alexis Hunt, Isabella Schoenborn, Ava Thorenson, Hudson McLain. Legion members in the second row are Ron Bergman, Art Lund and Les Sand. The Legion proudly supports our leaders of tomorrow.

SUBMITTED BY A VETERAN

Pilot Who Gave Ultimate Sacrifice Honored 61 Years Later

by Luann Dart, Grant County News

More than 60 years after Capt. William Richardson's F-106 aircraft crashed into the prairie between Flasher and Raleigh in 1963, a memorial was dedicated to him alongside Highway 31 in Grant County last week.

Richardson's daughter, who was 2 years old when her father died, tearfully attended the dedication, as members of the Flasher American Legion fired a 21-gun salute, and a P-51 Mustang roared overhead in a flyover.

Richardson was a fighter pilot stationed at the Minot Air Force Base flying the F-106 Delta Dart, an interceptor aircraft of the U.S. Air Force through much of the Cold War era. On December 19, 1963, Richardson was among a group of six pilots who took off from the base to practice interceptions.

Scott Nelson, a local rancher and member of the Flasher American Legion, shared history from that fateful flight in a Dakota Datebook article in 2021.

Radar contact with Richardson's plane was lost at 10:18 a.m., when it crashed in a frozen field between Flasher and Raleigh. Richardson was 33 years old when he died in the crash.

Richardson's death was directly attributed to the failure of the ejector seat, meaning Richardson wasn't able to parachute from his stricken aircraft. The incident resulted in the entire squadron being grounded, and a nose-to-tail maintenance evaluation of each aircraft was carried out, Nelson wrote.

"People have forgotten," Nelson said, which made it important to honor the fallen soldier.

But following the memorial dedication July 19, Richardson's service will be remembered.

During the dedication, the Schafer-Boye-Lange American Legion Post 69 from Flasher sounded a 21-gun salute and played "Taps." Nelson had approached the Legion to fund the memorial. A plaque in honor of Richardson is accompanied by a cutout of a fighter plane, which Flasher High School students created. The memorial, located about 3.5 miles south of Highway 21 on Highway 31, is near the crash site.

"This is so we remember," Nelson said. "You don't want to forget history."

The memorial and the dedication event were a community effort, Nelson said.

"It's the whole community. I couldn't have done it without all this help and I was just the one who suggested it. Everybody else took it and ran with it," Nelson said. "Just look at how many people showed up out there that cared about him."

Attending the dedication was Richardson's daughter, Trish Healy.

"I appreciate everyone in this area. It's like one of their own has passed away," Healy said. "It's amazing to me how they have honored my dad all these days later."

She wore a pendant containing a 50-cent piece that came from the crash site, most likely from her father's pocket.

The bent and aged coin was sent to her in 2020 by her father's crew chief, who was one of the first people at the crash site. Fifty-seven years later, he sent the coin to Trish, along with his journal entries from that day.

The crash was rarely discussed within the Richardson family, Healy said.

"My mom didn't speak a lot of it. Obviously, it was very traumatic for her," Healy said. "It broke her heart."

Trish was 43 years old before she really started unraveling what happened to her father.

"My journey started 20 years ago, when we found out in a very strange divinely inspired way that there was a building on the Minot Air Force Base named after my dad that no one in my family knew about," Healy said.

When a new dormitory was built at the Minot Air Base, it was named Richardson Hall to honor his sacrifice, and the family attended a rededication of the building in 2005 after learning of its existence.

"For the first time in my life, I think I really grieved," Healy says, who now lives in Atlanta, Ga.

"It started out as a grieving journey and now it's really been a journey of healing," Healy said. "It's very emotional."

"I'm just blown away by how all these years later, there are people that still honor my dad's sacrifice," Healy said. "For me to be here today, it brings me closure in a lot of ways, although I don't know if that's a hole that ever gets closed, but it helps fill that hole with good memories."

Over the years, local residents have found pieces of the plane at the crash site, and Nelson also gave Healy the piece of plane his father found at the site.

"To see the actual pieces of the airplane, I wasn't expecting that, so that was pretty emotional for me, too," Healy said.

Representing the Minot Air Force Base, Capt. Levi Hilgenhold attended the dedication with a unique perspective.

"The greatest takeaway from this is that the community came together through a grassroots effort to dedicate this memorial," Hilgenhold said.



The memorial alongside Highway 31 is the result of a Flasher community effort. Photo by Luann Dart

But he is uniquely familiar with the sacrifice of soldiers.

"It's something that I've experienced in my time. There are two very close friends of mine that perished in training accidents. That sacrifice and service doesn't change over the decades. It really is timeless in that regard," he said.



During the dedication, the Schafer-Boye-Lange American Legion Post 69 from Flasher sounded a 21-gun salute and played "Taps." Photo by Bert Richardson

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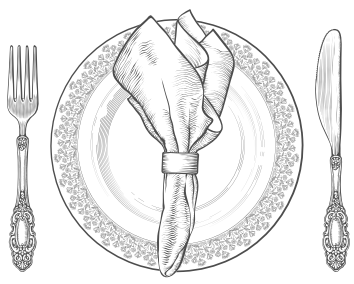


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Commander's Homecoming Banquet

Department Commander Mamie Havelka
Department President LoAnn Dick
Detachment Commander Dan Sauerwein

Hosted by Loyd Spetz Post 1 in Bismarck, ND



September 28, 2024

Social at 5:00 pm and Meal at 6:00 pm

Bismarck AmVets Club, 2402 Railroad Ave, Bismarck, ND

RSVP this form to NDAL so it is *received by September 21, 2024*.

You will have the option of Prime Rib or Shrimp for $20. Both menu options are served with a baked potato and salad. A cash bar is available.

Please RSVP and mail payment to NDAL so it is *received by September 21, 2024* to

The American Legion
Department of ND
PO Box 5057
West Fargo, ND 58078

Name _____

Post Location _____ Post Number _____

Please choose your menu option(s) below:

Prime Rib _____ (quantity) X $20 = $_____

Shrimp _____ (quantity) X $20 = $_____

Total Amount Enclosed **$ _____**

Local Posts in the News

Sherwood Post #213



Natl Vice Raymond Vail, Richard Magnuson and Regional V-Cmdr Allan Magnuson



Natl Vice Raymond Vail, David Henderson and Regional V-Cmdr Allan Magnuson

Greetings to all North Dakota legionnaires. I really missed seeing all of you at the State Convention in June since I ended up in the hospital over the weekend.

The Memorial Day services in Sherwood this year was very special. National Vice Commander Raymond Vail was our guest speaker. Vice Commander Vail really enjoyed his visit to Sherwood to partake in the 87th year of Sherwood Post 213 exchanging colors with our Comrades from Canada.

He assisted me in presenting two 50 certificates to my brother Richard Magnuson and David Henderson during the program at the school gym.

He was asked to lay the wreath at the cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Vice Commander Vail stated he thoroughly enjoyed his visit to North Dakota.

I am looking forward to serving this great organization for the next 3 years as the West Region DEC.

Veterans Village in Belcourt

Richard Marcellais, Vice Commander

On July 24, 2024, Turtle Mountain Housing Authority welcomed veterans, dignitaries and guests to the groundbreaking ceremony for its latest project. Turtle Mountain Veterans Village is a 20-unit apartment complex for Veterans with office space and conference rooms. Members of Belcourt's Lilley-Dionne American Legion Post 262 and the local VFW presented colors as Eagle Nation drum group sang an honor song.



Wahpeton Post #20

Wahpeton Hafner-Miller-Ross Post 20 American Legion attended Legion Night in support of Boy State and our attendee Carson VanEps. Pictured is Carroll Quam, Carson VanEps, Tom McGovern during the reception following the swearing in of 2024 Governor (Pictured) Rhett Lindell from Park River ND and his elected officals!



