

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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

Michael Weyrauch – Newly Elected Department Commander Jason Anderson – Newly Elected Department Commander-Elect

Delegates to the annual Department Convention in Fargo ND, confirmed Michael Weyrauch, as the 2025-2026 Department Commander to lead the North Dakota American Legion throughout the next year.

Michael Weyrauch 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.

Jason Anderson was elected Department Commander-Elect. Jason is a member of Scranton Post #151 and serves as Post #151 Commander, and has served West Region Vice Commander, 8th District Commander and Vice Commander, 8th District Representative for Boys State 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; Robert Wishart member of Cando Post #79 will serve as the Central Region Vice Commander; and Scott Post member of Tioga Post #139 will serve as the Western Region Vice Commander.



Dept. Cmdr Michael Weyrauch



Dept. Cmdr-Elect Jason Anderson

American Legion Centennial Classic



Greetings my fellow Legionnaires,

I want to preface this article by saying, I have never been a big sports fan. I do enjoy attending an event every now and then, but don't follow any particular sport genre or teams. However, when given the opportunity to attend the American Legion Baseball Centennial Classic Tournament in Milbank, South Dakota, July 11-13, 2025, I felt a certain pride in myself that I am sure athletes feel when they have been selected or qualified for an important game. A sense of obligation to represent our Department at this celebration became the first and foremost thought in my mind. This once in a lifetime event celebrating 100 years of American Legion Baseball at the recognized birthplace of Legion Baseball was a time in my life I won't soon forget.

At the time of Legion Baseball founding July 17th, 1925, Milbank, SD had a population of around 2200 and hosted the South Dakota Department convention that year. It was at that convention that the Big 10 Conference Commissioner John L. Griffith asked the Department of South Dakota to develop a youth program that would impart citizenship, discipline and good sportsmanship. In few months American Legion Junior Baseball was approved at the national convention in October of that same year as a program under the American Legion Americanism Commission. Then in 1926, more than 52,000 players from over 3600 teams, from 15 states played that first full year and culminated to THE first American Legion Junior World Series, which was played during the 8th American Legion national convention in October of 1926 in Philadelphia. Yonkers, NY defeated Pocatello, ID, 23-6. One hundred years later the number of participants and teams has stayed very steady with all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada supplying teams now. In those 100 years though, over 10 million players have graced the nations diamonds with their baseball prowess.

The 2025 opening ceremony was at Legion Field at Farley Park. The teams were sent from several states bordering South Dakota, the host team from Milbank Post

9 represented South Dakota, Minnesota was represented by a combined team from Glenwood Post 187 and Lowry Post 253, Nebraska was represented by Broken Bow Post 126 and North Dakota was represented by LaMoure Post 19.

Opening Ceremony started with several dignitaries including National Vice Commander Gary Leach and Chairman of the American Legion Americanism Commission Mark Avis giving a few short remarks. The first match-up was between MN and ND and as the game played on the smoky sky began to clear. ND started strong but ultimately fell to a heavy hitting MN team, 10-2. NE and SD swung during the second game of the day. NE dominated the innings and defeated SD 11-0.

Day 2 – Game 3 was between ND and SD in the losers bracket from Day 1. ND brought their A-game today and defeated SD, 8-3. MN and NE were up next in Game 4 with MN barely defeating NE, 6-5. Our ND boys had a few hours off while waiting for the MN and NE game, as they would play the loser from Game 4. So the third outing of the day for Game 5 saw ND and NE duking it out for the championship spot against MN. ND fought hard and defeated NE, 3-2.

Day 3 – The first few innings saw ND very strong scoring early for a 4-1 thru 4 innings. However, inning #5 was met with a dinger from MN to start their big push and that 7 run inning would seal the fate and our ND players would lose 9-4. With their heads held high, they would accept runner-up position in a once in a lifetime event for these players.

LaMoure fought hard to get to the championship match-up. They should be proud of themselves knowing they have lots more baseball to play this season and years to come. I am certainly a happy baseball fan, and I hope that all of North Dakota continues to support our fantastic teams from all classes.

Jason D. Anderson, Commander-Elect (2025-2026)
American Legion, Department of North Dakota

Bryant Receives Commanders Award

Commander Mamie Havelka 2024-2025 presented Teri Bryant the Department Commanders Award at the Department Convention on June 29, 2025 for her outstanding dedication to serving veterans. Teri has been dedicated to helping veterans throughout the Department over the past 42 years. She has gotten to know and care about many veterans throughout North Dakota. Less than a week after receiving this award, her husband Weldon had a stroke. Teri has since been out of the office caring for her husband. At the beginning of August her husband was moved to hospice care at St Catherine in Fargo. Weldon passed away on August 10th. Teri is very appreciative of all the prayers and support her and Weldon received from the Legion Family during this difficult time.



Commander Mamie Havelka, 2024-2025 presenting Commander's Award to Teri Bryant

National Commander James A LaCoursiere Visits Department of ND



National Commander James A. Lacoursiere speaking to hundreds of veterans at Medora Musical.



Unexpected Visitor



National Commander James A LaCoursiere, NDAL Commander Mikey Weyrauch, West Region DEC Lance Renville



Francine Hauck, National Commander James LaCoursiere, Past President LoAnn Dick



Post 39 Commander John Holmen and National Commander James LaCoursiere

All State Band

As the 2025 Department Convention concludes, your ND American Legion State Band continues to celebrate their 101st year of providing music throughout the Convention weekend. The State Band was busy with performances for the Past Commanders banquet, before the joint sessions, Auxiliary and Legionnaires. Saturday evening the Dance

band provided music following the Commander’s banquet. Current director, Bob Briggs, who is a member of Minot Post 26, was recognized for 50 years with the State Band. The State Band looks forward to continuing to provide service and support to the ND Legion family.



The Legion Convention is behind us and now we begin a new year with new District officers and new goals and plans for the new year. There are a few things I would like to mention to all the officers at both the Districts and Posts.

Start working your memberships. Recruiting and retention is our life blood as an organization. I would suggest that you ask yourselves and your community what would it take to make our posts more attractive to someone who might be interested in joining. I feel that we tend to get so wrapped up in the business and ceremonies of a post that we forget the “Fun and Fellowship” of belonging to a group of fellow veterans. I ask our group what was it that first brought you into the Legion? Is it still a place you want to be? What can we do to make it better?

Another item to be thinking about and implementing is a plan to get the Consolidated Post Report completed in a timely manner. I would suggest that a running logbook be kept of events or community involvement that the post performs be listed every time that an activity happens. A CPR form can be started at the beginning of the year in pencil and updated whenever an event happens.

The last thing I would mention is the Fall District Meetings. It is very possible that we will have a late harvest this fall due to delayed spring plantings of row crops. I would suggest that your farmers will be out trying to get their crops off and so maybe unable to attend the meetings or be on the roads with their equipment. It would be nice if meetings could be scheduled so that there would be some daylight for trips home and that we recognize that your members who are farmers be encouraged to get their fall work done even if their post is hosting the meeting.

I hope to see you at your respective Fall meeting.
Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander



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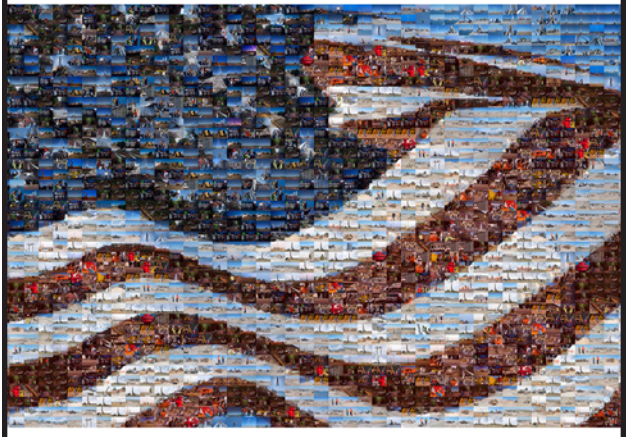


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ND Department Executive Committee: Chair Mamie Havelka, Dept. Cmdr. Michael Weyrauch, Finance Officer Derrick Childs, Dept. Adjutant Don Herrly, Cmdr-Elect Jason Anderson, DEC Sven Mickels, DEC Jack Volk, and DEC Lance Renville.

COMMANDER COMMENTS

MIKE WEYRAUCH - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



The Commander’s Homecoming will be 25 October 2025 at Ray Auditorium: 215 Main St, Ray ND. Please advise Department Headquarters, (701)293-3120, if planning to attend. The current meal is planned as a seafood boil.

There will be a live two-piece band with dancing. Social will begin at 1730 with meal to follow about 1830. There will be a DEC meeting at 1430, Ray Senior Center: 8 2nd Ave West, Ray ND.

Rooms are available in Tioga. 15 rooms at MainStay Suites, (701)644-8000 and 20 rooms at Microtel Inn & Suites, (701)644-3405. Rooms are under Legion Commander’s Homecoming and Michael Weyrauch.



Greetings from the west, hope everyone has been enjoying this summer. As your new West Region Vice Commander, I have been out attending a few parades. Meeting new legionnaires is the best part of this position.

Hope to meet many more of you down the road. Summer convention in Fargo went really well, meetings, food and entertainment were excellent. All district positions were filled with outstanding leaders.

Friendships were made not only amongst legion members but also our Auxiliary, SAL and ALR. Looks like fall district meetings are set. Now we need to work on attendance, Districts six and nine are offering free bowling for members and family following the meeting. they have reserved ten lanes at North Hill bowling in Minot. Encourage your members to attend, Minot offers a lot for families (mall and a zoo for example.) Enjoy the remainder of the summer, continue to work hard on memberships.

Again, thank you all for this opportunity. SEE YOU ALL SOON!

Duty, Honor, Country!
Scott Post
West Region Vice Commander

American Legion Department of ND 2025 Convention Sweepstakes Winners

This drawing was held on Monday, June 23rd at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters.
The winners are listed at ndlegion.org

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
John Forbes of Cavalier Post 11

\$1000 Prize Winner
Gerry Gannon of Sarles Post 276

\$200 Prize Winners
James Ehnert of Maddock Post 123
Norbert Kessel of Belfield Post 144

\$100 Prize Winners
Rocky Mundt of Bottineau Post 42
Wesley Argue of Cavalier Post 11
Ken Helland of Cavalier Post 11
Jack Brown of Gwinner Post 191
Donald Moore of Watford City Post 29
Roy Homes of Forbes Post 277



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Confirm rooms by 25 September to receive the reduced rate. Plans are in the works to have transportation from the hotels to Ray Auditorium, to be figured out. We need a driver.

As for other business, National Convention will be on us shortly, I am looking forward to seeing all of you that can attend. The National Commander’s visit went very well starting with Medora events. Membership is always a hot topic, we need everyone to work on recruiting new members. They are out there, just ask them. Don’t forget the SAL as they need more members as well.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and belief in my ability to be your commander this year.



NDAL Commander Michael Weyrauch and spouse Chloe



Robert Wishart
Central Region Vice Commander

Greetings from Central Region Vice Commander. My name is Robert Wishart. I hope you all had a great summer. We had a great American Legion Convention in Fargo and we learned a lot there. If anyone needs anything, please call me or email at robertwishart2@gmail.com.

Fall District Meeting Schedule

District 1 Meeting is on Monday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm at the West Fargo VFW (444 Sheyenne Street Suite 101). Social and registration start at 5:30 pm with a spaghetti dinner served at 5:00 pm for \$10 per person.

District 2 Meeting is on Friday, September 19th at 7:00 pm at the Lakota Till House Saloon (116 Main Street). Social and registration start at 5:00 pm with a meal served at 6:00 pm for \$10 per person

District 3 Meeting is on Saturday, September 20th at 7:00 pm at Rolla Post 235 (302 1st Street SE). Social and registration start at 5:00 pm with a meal served at 6:00 pm for \$10 per person.

District 4 Meeting is on Friday, October 3rd at 7:00 pm at Jamestown All Vets Club (116 1st St East). Social and registration start at 5:00 pm with a meal served at 6:00 pm. The cost of the meal is \$25.00.

District 5 Meeting is a joint meeting with District 7. It is on Saturday, September 27th at 1:00 pm at the Bismarck AmVets Club (2402 Railroad Ave). Social and registration start at 11:00 am. Food will be available to order off of the AmVets menu starting at 11:00 am.

District 6 Meeting is a joint meeting with District 9. It is on Saturday, September 20th at 1:00 pm at the Minot Moose Lodge (400 9th St SW). Social and registration start at 11:00 am with a meal served at noon for \$5 per person.

District 7 Meeting is a joint meeting with District 5. See District 5 for meeting information. The listed times are Central Time.

District 8 Meeting is on Friday, September 26th at 7:00 pm at the New England Memorial Hall (925 Main Street). Social and registration start at 5:00 pm with a meal served at 6:00 pm for \$10 per person.

District 9 Meeting is a joint meeting with District 6. See District 6 for meeting information.

District 10 Meeting is on Saturday, October 4th at 6:00pm at the Hankinson Community Center (112 Main Ave S). Registration starts at 4:30 pm with the social and meal served at 5:00 pm. The meal is a free will offering.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



It was great to see so many friends, some of whom I had lost touch with and had not seen in years, at the Annual Veterans Celebration which was held in Medora on July 13th. Our National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. from Connecticut gave the opening greeting before both performances of the Medora Musical that day. The National Commander and Department Officials then went on to have community meet and greets in Watford City, Vela and Richardton, all were well attended and well received.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs commissioned a welcome home coin for Vietnam Era Veterans. North Dakota is the only state to have done this. The Department of ND American Legion has been very active in trying to get coins presented to as many Vietnam Veterans as we can. If you have not received one you can contact your County Veterans Service Officer or the North Dakota Department of Veterans affairs to arrange to get coins for yourself or your Post members. NEC Steve Anderson and I also have a limited number of coins left and have presented hundreds of these coins already and will continue to distribute them when and where we can.

In the past I have stressed how important it is for your Post to file your 990 tax returns annually to maintain your

status as a 501 (c) 19 tax exempt Veterans organization. After three years of not filing returns your tax-exempt status will automatically be revoked. Once this happens any money you make could be subject to income tax and money donated to your club may not be an eligible deduction for the person donating it.

Once you lose your tax-exempt status it is a long and winding road getting it restored. You will need to file IRS form 1024, which must be done online and carries with it about six hundred dollars in fees. Plus, more than likely you will need to pay someone, a CPA or Lawyer, to complete this form for you. The form 1024 will ask for a copy of your governing documents including your Constitution & Bylaws, these should show what section of IRS code you plan to operate under. Information from the ND Sec of state showing what kind of entity that you are, this is the form that you pay \$10 each year to renew. They should also have a dissolution section/clause this is where you will show where assets will go upon closing, it must go to another non-profit or government entity.

Maintain your status with the ND Secretary of State's office as a non-profit corporation. In the event of a lawsuit against the post, it would become joint & severable amongst all of the members since the post is not a recognized entity

if you are not up to date on your filing. It is only \$10 year to maintain this and takes about 5 minutes to do this online. If you have let this slip or never registered this is a pretty simple matter to do yourself and only costs around forty dollars to register. In addition to filing as a nonprofit corporation, if you wish to solicit charitable donations you should also register with the ND Secretary of State's office as a charitable organization. This too has an annual reporting requirement with a \$10.00 annual fee. It takes a little longer to fill out, but it's not bad. Recently I found out that the Department was delinquent in filing the charitable organization filing. They had stopped sending us notices because we had been delinquent too long. Past Department Commander Havelka brought to my attention that this situation existed and I had to register three of our programs as charitable organizations and it did not take real long to get it done. Fortunately, we will now be notified annually, if we continue to file, to renew these filings.

I better bring this to a close before we run out of room. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming fall district meetings and some of you at the National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Until next time, May God Bless a Strong and Free America and Keep Your Powder Dry!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAMIE HAVELKA - DEC CHAIR



First and foremost, let me express my deepest gratitude for an extraordinary year—one filled with camaraderie, service, and the unwavering spirit of the North Dakota American Legion family. As the NDALP Commander 2024-2025, representing all ND Legionnaires, I am honored to say: everyone is truly awesome and forever cherished in my heart. Thank you for your dedication, your fellowship, and the countless ways you make a difference.

Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting — 26 June 2025, the DEC convened for another important chapter in our shared journey. DEC Chair Carroll started by a salute, the pledge of allegiance, and a moment of prayer for guidance.

Key Motions and Approvals: Adjutant Job Description Draft: The committee made a recertification of the motion to discuss the draft Department Adjutant Job Description. The motion was brought forward and received unanimous approval.

Special DEC Meeting Recognition: The special DEC meeting previously held on January 24, 2025, was officially approved to serve as the spring DEC meeting.

Committee Reports and Activities: NDAL committees have demonstrated exceptional dedication, working

diligently on events and activities across the state. Their reports reflected the vibrant energy and outreach of our organization. Each committee's submission was carefully considered; this collective effort showcases the strength and diversity of our programs.

Department Executive Committee Meeting — 29 June 2025, Post-Convention

With due respect to our nation's colors, the meeting was called to order following the conclusion of the annual convention by the DEC Chair, Mamie Havelka. Committee members expressed satisfaction with the convention's success, noting that the sharing of information and opportunities for socialization greatly enriched the experience for all in attendance. Looking ahead, Commander Weyrauch announced intentions to present committee appointments at the upcoming Fall DEC meeting, ensuring continuity of leadership and engagement across our initiatives.

Financial deliberations addressed the Stifel reserve: in the spring of 2023, \$200,000 had been withdrawn, but not all funds were utilized. A motion was made—and unanimously approved—to transfer the remaining \$80,000 back to the Stifel fund. Additionally, the prospect of holding

a Big Game Raffle was discussed, with further details to be shared at the Fall DEC meeting as planning progresses.

Budget: Commander-Elect Weyrauch's proposed budget was reviewed in detail. The budget was balanced by utilizing a \$30,000 carryover from Stifel funds of the previous year. In addition, a decision was made to discontinue the Department's social media engagement with Neon Loon.

The committee also undertook a review of proposed changes to the Policy, Procedures, and Internal Control Manual. The changes were approved.

As we look back on this year, let us celebrate not only our achievements and decisions, but also the spirit of fellowship that has made every success possible. These milestones—whether administrative, financial, or programmatic—reflect the collective dedication of Legionnaires who serve with honor and heart.

Thank you once again to every member, officer, and committee who has contributed to another remarkable year. Together, we continue to build a legacy of service, unity, and pride for the North Dakota American Legion and those we serve.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

LUCINDA BOLYARD - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Greetings American Legion Family,

I would like to express my gratitude for being given this opportunity to be your Membership Chair for another year. I have been a member of Post 37 in Williston for 11 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.

North Dakota American Legion's membership, as of 7 August was 10,475 – 95.66% of goal. We were 9th in the nation. This is an accomplishment we should all be proud of. THANK YOU for your commitment and service!!!

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 another 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

Beck-Sherven-Foreman
American Legion Post 290



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

Senator David A. Clemens
District 16, West Fargo/Fargo



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YOUR NEC REPORT

STEVE ANDERSON- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



Hello everyone. Going to give a brief run-down of what’s going on with your NEC. As your new National Executive Committeeman (NEC), I’m working through things that are coming down from National. As I have said in District Meeting regarding National Appointments and Call Ins, I will NEVER bump someone from a chance to go to Washington DC or Indianapolis for meetings. If someone is willing to step up and accept an Appointment then its only right, they are offered the opportunity to attend. The really cool thing about going to any National Meeting is it gives you the opportunity to get a glimpse of how National does things.

We have 22 North Dakota Legionnaires on National Appointments. National HQ will email me how many I can send and what meetings are going to be in session. I then look at who is appointed and check with individuals to see if they can attend. If the 1st person I contact can’t attend I will then check with another that is also on that council, Committee or

Commission. A Council Appointment is a 1 yr term; Committee is a 2 yr term and a Commission is a 3 yr term. Every year I reassign or appoint new individuals to these positions. I submit the names to National Headquarters by National Convention then meet with the National Commanders Team during Fall Meetings to explain why I submitted who I did.

Let me give a run down on past and upcoming National Meetings.

Washington Conference, February 23-26 we had 5 Call Ins, Clarence Carroll III for Legislative Commission, Ed Dick for Law & Order Homeland Committee, Bryan Ohlhauser for National Security Council, Scott Post for National Security Commission and Kenny Wiederholt for Veterans Education & Other Benefits Committee.

Spring Meetings in Indianapolis IN, May 5-8, there were 3 Call Ins. Dan Brown for Media & Communications, Jason Anderson for Americanism Council, Wayne Satrom for

Convention Commission and myself as NEC.

For the upcoming National Convention in Tampa, FL, we have 9 Call Ins and me as NEC. Dan Brown for Media & Communications Commission, Clarence Carroll III for Legislative Commission, Derrick Childs for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Summer Kristianson for Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee, Allan Magnuson for Veterans Affair & Rehabilitation Committee, Scott Post for National security Commission, Troy Reemtsma for Americanism Council, Wayne Satrom for Convention Commission, Jack Volk for Media & Communication Council and myself as NEC.

If you ever have questions regarding any of these don’t hesitate to get ahold of me. I hope this explains a little better what my responsibilities are within the Department.

CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE

MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



“We Are the One”

I remember reading the Obituary of Someone Else years ago & it stuck with me. “We were all saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our community’s most valuable members -- Someone Else. Someone’s passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, & for every one of those years, Someone did far more than the normal person’s share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. “Someone Else can lead that project.” “Someone Else can work with that group.” Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone’s lips, “Let Someone Else do it.” It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the community. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would cover it. Else sometimes appeared almost super-human, but one person can only do so much. Were the truth known,

everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? As sad as it is, we can’t depend on Someone Else anymore.”

We had the privilege of hosting National Commander LaCoursiere at our post in Watford City this summer. The commander’s emphasis has been the “Be the One” Campaign. Along with him were the ND Past Department Commander Havelka & Commander Weyrauch. Commander Weyrauch’s emphasis for this year is “We Are One.” Their visit was in conjunction with the VA’s Open House for the ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth thru Local Area Stations) Pod at our post. When our former adjutant & National Vice-Commander, Glen Wahus, suggested getting the pod, we decided to be the one in our area to provide that service, & we were one in our unanimous vote to bring the ATLAS Pod to Watford City. We saw a need in our community and decided “we are the one to

address that need.” Amazing things can be done when posts, districts & departments speak with one voice. In Ephesians chapter 4 in the Bible, the Apostle Paul encourages the church, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body & one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all & through all & in all.” In the American Legion, while we are made up of members, posts, districts, departments, & our national command, along with the 250 posts that make up FODPAL outside the US, we are all one big organization that has power when we speak with one voice. As we approach the 24th anniversary of 9/11, let us remember that we, as the American Legion, are one. We are divinely called to work together towards our mutual goals. We are one & we are the one (singular) to get it done. May God bless our endeavors this year. Amen.

The Future of the ND Legion – Update

This snapshot shows the dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment of the Department Service Office (DSO) to those it serves. As the calendar turned from January to May 2025, every interaction—be it a face-to-face meeting, a phone call, an email, or the rigorous completion of digital forms—became a testament to the Office’s central role in supporting the needs and aspirations of its community.

Office Visits: 61 - In a world increasingly shaped by digital connection, the value of in-person meetings cannot be understated. Sixty-one office visits in five months represent not only the physical presence of individuals seeking assistance, but the Office’s open doors and welcoming spirit.

Calls: 489 - Every phone call is a bridge. With 489 calls fielded, the DSO proved herself as able listener and resourceful problem-solver. The volume of calls reflects the trust placed in the Office and the confidence that help is just a phone call away.

Mail: 769 - Traditional mail continues to be a vital channel for communication. With 769 pieces of mail processed, the Office maintains a thread of connection for those who rely on paper correspondence. These letters may carry forms, questions, documentation, or heartfelt thanks.

Email: 1940 - In today’s fast-paced world, email has become the backbone of professional communication. The Office received and responded to 1,940 emails, each one an opportunity to assist, clarify, or advocate. The digital inbox is a space of tireless service, where timely responses are not just valued, but essential.

VetraSpec Forms Completed: 466 - The completion of 466 VetraSpec forms over five months represents a significant investment of time and expertise. Each form is a step in the journey—whether it’s securing benefits, updating service records, or facilitating critical claims.

VetraSpec Documents Uploaded: 1300 - Uploading 1,300 documents into the VetraSpec system is more than a technical task; it is the careful archiving of lives, stories, and entitlements. This number is a measure of trust, organization, and a commitment to preserving the integrity of the Office’s work.

VetraSpec Communications: 3648 - With 3,648 communications recorded in VetraSpec, the Office demonstrates its dynamic and responsive approach to serving its constituents.

Monthly Award Totals: \$359,014.84 - Financial awards granted through the Office amount to \$359,014.84 over the snapshot period. Each dollar awarded represents a tangible enhancement of quality of life for veterans and their families. This sum is a direct reflection of the Office’s expertise in navigating complex benefit systems and advocating for rightful entitlements.

Retro Payment Totals: \$2,272,214 - Retroactive payments awarded, totaling \$2,272,214, underscore the Office’s profound impact in correcting past oversights and ensuring fair compensation. These payments can change lives—paying overdue bills, providing critical medical care, and restoring dignity through acknowledgment of service.

Interpreting the Numbers: A Story of Service: Each statistic, though impressive in isolation, tells a larger story when considered together. The DSO is more than a sum of its activities—it is a living commitment to compassionate, professional, and effective service.

Looking Forward: The first five months of 2025 reveal an Office that is both proactive and responsive, balancing tradition and innovation to better serve its community. These numbers are not merely metrics—they are markers of lives improved, stories heard, and promises kept. The DSO stands as a beacon of support, and its dedication is evident in every statistic. Thank you for your support and donations for the Department Service Office expenses.

Legionnaire Mamie Havelka

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APPLICATION FOR GAMING FUNDS

ND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

GAMING DIVISION

SFN 9801 (2-2024)

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds		Contact Person for Applicant		Telephone Number	
The American Legion Department of North Dakota		Mamie Havelka		701-340-1621	
Mailing Address		City	State	Zip Code	
PO Box 5057		West Fargo	ND	58078	
Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds:					
Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.					
1. American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)					
2. American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)					
Applicant agrees to retain documentation of the use of the funds for three years from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.		Signature of Applicant		Date	
		Mamie Havelka			
Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date
					Eligible Use Code
					-

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Are you feeding the sharks?

Claim sharks are ‘professionals’ who use aggressive tactics to take advantage of veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Their goal? Money.

Following the historic expansion of benefits under PACT Act in 2022, we have seen an uptick of claim sharks targeting veterans and their survivors. The question often asked is what the difference between a claim shark and a veteran service officer is, and how can a veteran spot the difference.

A claim shark is an individual or company which illegally charges fees to “assist” or “consult” a veteran or survivor with filing their VA benefit claim. These claim sharks are not accredited with the VA and use deceptive advertising techniques. They make promises of being able to “accelerate” the claims process or guaranteeing a percentage to a veteran. They convince veterans or survivors to sign contracts with deceptive or unfair terms

which will require large payments or percentage of benefits.

However, what these claim sharks will not do is sign representation paperwork for VA claims file access. Further, once they have “completed” their initial paperwork, they will not assist a veteran in appealing any decision.

Veteran service officers (VSOs), on the other hand, never charge fees for their assistance. VSOs are required to be accredited, whether through a service organization such as the American Legion or a state department and undergo yearly training. VSOs understand the ins and outs of the claim process to include how the VA rates and reviews claims. VSOs understand that no one entity can accelerate a claim process for a veteran or guarantee a percentage. Veterans and survivors will never be required to sign a contract with a VSO.

Often, veterans have already been working with a VSO when they switch to working with a claim shark. The claim sharks never file updated representation paperwork

with VA. This means a VSO is still the one accountable for their claim once the new claim is filed, even though representation is not updated. Veterans and survivors are paying claim sharks to not update representation, and often for poor representation.

While this list is not comprehensive as new claim sharks are constantly coming out of the woodwork, here is a list of common companies: Trajectory Medical, Vet Benefits Guide, Veterans Guardian, VA Claims Insider, Telemedica, Patriot Angels, Veteran Care Services, Vet Comm, VA Claims Academy, and Vet Assist.

If you or someone you know has been victim of using a claim shark, reach out to your local County Veteran Service Officer. They are accredited and ready to assist through the next steps of your claim process. <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/veteran-service-officers-vso>

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



From Your SAL Detachment Commander: A New Year and Time for Growth and Development

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! Convention has come and gone and we’re into a new membership year. I look forward to working with our leadership team in the Department in both the Legion and Auxiliary to grow and develop the whole Legion Family in the coming year.

Our SAL Convention went fairly well and I was privileged to deliver remarks to the joint session on the successes of our Detachment over the last year. Our business meeting covered the necessary business and we elected our officers for the coming year, with the only changes coming as Kieran Dale from Grand Forks Squadron 6 as our Adjutant and Joe Camisa will assume the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman. Leading Candidate for Legion National Commander Dan Wiley delivered remarks to us and it was an honor to have him, as he is a member of the SAL as well from the Detachment of Kansas.

On the membership front, we hit our goal for the year and hopefully will make an all-time high on membership. You all did great to get us to that mark and I encourage you to start the 2025-26 year off strong and hit the ground running with renewing your Squadron members and start planning your recruiting strategies for the coming year to

grow your Squadrons and increase your comradery and activities in the coming year. I have not heard our goal for the year as of this writing, but as soon as it is out, we will begin planning an attack strategy to hit it this year.

On July 19, Joe Camisa and I participated with members of Squadron 26 in Minot at the North Dakota State Fair parade. We walked the route, passed out candy, and rode the float for the Legion Family in Minot. We joined Commander Weyrauch, Past Commander and DEC Chair Mamie Havelka, and Auxiliary President Candace Berg, representing the Department, and it was a good time getting to represent the SAL and the Legion Family.

I do want to try and hold a Detachment activity sometime in the coming months to bring us all together for some fun and fellowship. As District meetings are finalized, I want to urge SAL members to attend and be seen by the rest of the Legion Family to let them know we are here and want to serve and help. The officers and I will do our best to attend those meetings we can.

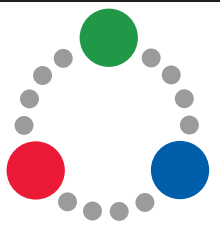
I want to encourage Squadrons to send in photos of your activities to Snapshots of Service. Photos related to one of the four pillars involving your members wearing their SAL caps, or apparel can be submitted via the form at <https://www.legion.org/sons/publications>. Consider submitting a photo and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

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.

For God and Country, Dan Sauerwein, Detachment Commander



North Dakota State Fair Parade: Mike Weyrauch, Candace Berg, Mamie Havelka, Dan Sauerwein



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Carol Rogen Unit 29 of Watford City celebrated the 99th birthday of Lucille Broderson, a 75-year Auxiliary member. Lucille (seated) is pictured with Sharon Leiseth, Unit Secretary (left, standing) and Jill Carstens, Unit President. Photo submitted by Jill Carstens.

Lynn Helm Named 2025 Unit Member of the Year

American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is proud to announce that Lynn Helm of McClusky, ND, was selected as 2025 Unit Member of the Year by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota.

Lynn was nominated for this distinguished honor by James Roberts Unit 124 of McClusky. Lynn exemplifies the values and ideals of the Auxiliary to the utmost degree. Her leadership in the McClusky Auxiliary unit is exemplary.

Lynn's accomplishments and activities have been in direct relationship to the values of the Auxiliary. As a true patriot, Lynn supports the Auxiliary's Americanism program. She shares ideas and lessons with the public school from the suggested Americanism project and was instrumental in organizing a community flag retirement ceremony held this spring. Lynn further shows dedication to community as president of her church's ladies group and by supporting projects for her church.

In true leader fashion, Lynn's strength, dependability, and responsibility help get things done in every group she is a member of. Lynn is a retired Sheridan County Recorder and is the wife of a retired rancher/farmer.

As president of the McClusky unit, Lynn remains focused on veterans and leads her unit to support important veterans projects. Always with a 'get it done' attitude, Lynn stays informed on new and existing Auxiliary programs and is helpful in organizing programs to benefit our veterans. Lynn's Auxiliary activities include '10 for Education', American Education Week, recognition of our teachers, the local annual Auxiliary Awards Luncheon, Gift Baskets for Vets, Christmas gifts for veterans residing in nursing homes, and fundraising for the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, as well as many projects benefiting the McClusky community.

Congratulations on a job well done, Lynn!
Excerpts from nomination submission



Lynn Helm



Thank you all for providing me the honor of serving as your 2025-26 ND American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) President. I am incredibly grateful and thankful to all of you for paving the way for me since this organization began in 1919! Now, 49 years after I began my membership with the ALA, I am here to help make this the best year possible for all of you: Auxiliary members, our military, veterans, and their families.

We are over 6,000 members strong in ND. We have a lot to celebrate! But we also have a lot to do to continue our mission of support. Thank you for your selfless contributions and for serving and keeping your membership with the ALA. I ask for your support and positive attitude as we all work – humbly paying it forward as the ND ALA team, supporting each other and continuing to be inspired by our mission.

I finished my first month and I have already had great experiences. I was able to attend events alongside Mike Weyrauch, our Legion Department Commander – the International Music Camp, the National Commanders visit, and the North Dakota State Fair in Minot. Commander Weyrauch's theme is "We are one" and his goal is to work closely with the ALA.

My theme is: "To serve and protect, you answered the call; Salute to our veterans, we honor you all."

My projects for the year are the Honor Flight Network for Eastern/Western North Dakota and the NDSU Bison Strides Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies Program for veterans and their families. My President's pins, which will raise funds for my two presidents projects, are available for purchase for \$5. Additional donations for my projects are welcomed and may be sent to the Department office.

During my presidency, I want these words to reflect my upcoming year- positive, encouraging, supportive, genuine, uplifting, personalized, impactful, and fun! I am working on ways to incorporate promoting the ALA through supporting our programs, activities, events, and all the ways we support our mission in positive, proactive ways.

I want to motivate and encourage membership in several ways. Award drawings will take place at next year's Department Convention. Those completing the following goals by June 1 will be entered in the award drawings: individuals who sign up 10 new members, units posting 100% membership, and districts posting 100% membership.

Not only do I want us to motivate each other, I want us to take care of each other and work as a team. I am considering forming a "Care and Concern" committee and am looking for a few people who would be willing to serve on this committee. I am also looking for a few people to be on other committees, including a Communication Committee, a Strategic Planning Committee, and a Resolutions Committee. Please reach out to me at 701.740.7144 or president@ndala.org. I am just getting started on my year and look forward to being proactive, innovative, and creative in how we promote the current and future ALA. For anyone waiting for more direction, our team will be bringing information to share with you at the upcoming Fall District Meetings.

You will notice we are becoming more "visible" through Facebook, Constant Contact, and other means. The ND ALA team wants to hear from you! Please let us know what is happening in your communities, districts, and across the state. Please share a few short sentences or an article, along with pictures for posting to social media. Let us get out there and market ourselves and promote our programs. We have so much to be proud of! When we see what else is going on around us, it is motivating and encouraging and reminds us why we are part of this organization.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you as your Department President. I am immensely proud to be a part of the American Legion Family and will proudly make the upcoming year the best possible!

Candace Berg



Candace Berg



2025 Fall District Meetings

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

District 1 – September 22 - West Fargo
VFW, 444 Sheyenne St Suite 101
5:30 PM Registration/Social • 5:00 PM Meal \$10
• 6:00 PM Meeting

District 2 – September 19 - Lakota
Lakota Till House Saloon, 116 Main Street
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal \$10
• 7:00 PM Meeting

District 3 – September 20 - Rolla
Rolla Post 235, 302 1st Street SE
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal \$10
• 7:00 PM Meeting

District 4 – October 3 - Jamestown
Jamestown All Vets Club, 116 1st St. East
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal TBD
• 7:00 PM Meeting

District 5 and District 7 joint meeting - September 27 - Bismarck
Amvets, 2402 Railroad Ave.
11:00 AM Registration/Social • Food available off AmVets Menu • 1:00 PM Meeting

District 6 and District 9 joint meeting – September 20 - Minot
Moose Lodge, 400 9th St SW
11:00 AM (CDT) Registration/Social • 12:00 PM (Noon) (CDT) Meal \$5 • 1:00 PM (CDT) Meeting

District 8 – September 26 - New England
Memorial Hall, 925 Main Street
5:00 PM (MDT) Registration/Social • 6:00 PM (MDT) Meal \$10 • 7:00 PM (MDT) Meeting

District 10 – October 4 - Hankinson
Hankinson Community Center, 112 Main Ave S
4:30 PM Registration/Social • 5:00 PM Meal (free will)
• 6:00 PM Meeting

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Time goes quickly when you are busy. I hope your summer was fun and eventful. By the time you read this article, 2025 National Convention will be history. 2025 Fall District meetings will be planned, harvesting will begin, and North Dakota schools will be in session. Look for information on 2025 Fall District Meetings on pages three and seven.

Our new administrative year is just beginning and I know units are already planning activities in support of our veterans, communities, and children and youth. I encourage units to promote the Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest, Education and Scholarships, Children and Youth, and so many others. Look for program information coming to you in monthly Unit Mail Packets. Pick a favorite program and make it your own. I encourage everyone to continue to track the hours and funds you spend volunteering and then report

those to your District Presidents next spring.

Be sure to look for that special unit member who exceeds expectations as a volunteer and nominate her/him for 2026 Unit Member of the Year. That application is under 'Leadership' and more information can be found at www.ndala.org/leadership/. If you need information on Auxiliary programs, go to the National website at www.alaforveterans.org or the Department website at www.ndala.org.

Keep our veterans, active-duty military, their families, and our country in your prayers. Take care of yourself and others. God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Chaplain

Is it really the end of July? The summer of 2025 will soon be history and I wonder what I have accomplished? This is the story of my life. It seems like yesterday I was packing for 2024 National Convention in New Orleans.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says it all. Thank you Lord, for the many seasons of life. Thank you for this very season of our lives that we are enjoying right now, even with the struggles involved. Help us to remember that this season will endure for such a short while, and then a new season-a new fall will come into our lives followed by winter.

We know this is because You are a God of forward movement and as we find some enjoyment in this present season, we know that in the future there will be "a time for" what you have planned for us next.

This all reminds me of the story "The Train Of Life." At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant: our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our lives. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we do not realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery for everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seats empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I sincerely wish all of you a joyful journey on this train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. Lastly, I thank you all for being passengers on my train.

Virginia Satrom



Virginia Satrom

Department NEC

As Department Convention commenced, I was unable to attend as I was hospitalized with pneumonia. I may not have been there in person, but I was there in spirit. I had many caring texts and phone calls from members. I was kept up-to-date on all the weekend events.

Life has gone on and things seem to be going somewhat better. I want to congratulate our new Department President, Candace Berg, for her plans for a better and brighter future for the Department of North Dakota.

I think as members of this great, although not so large, Department of North Dakota, we have so much to offer our veterans, our service personnel, their families, and our communities. We need leadership training to start prior to the first steps on the path to higher leadership positions in our organization. Members need to be willing to find the methods to become more informed about our programs, our governing documents, our history, and all the training the National Organization has to offer.

There are many leadership opportunities to make our job be one we are proud of holding and one that makes our Department better for all involved. The National Organization is full of helpful suggestions. The Department has mentors who are willing to share their experiences and knowledge.

As North Dakota's NEC and a Past Department

President, I hope you are considering making your membership something where you are more involved. Check out what you can do to make your leadership desire be filled with knowledge of what really needs to be learned before you take the very first steps on that path. Seek helpful suggestions from past leaders that have had successful progression to executive leadership.

There are many paths to traverse that have been well traveled by other successful leaders. Seek out a great path and become the best you can in each position you seek, whether it is a beginning step as a Unit Chairman or a higher-level District leadership position. You need leadership skills beginning before any of those steps happen. Experience counts!

I did not get to this position by making my own path. I got involved and informed before I took my first important step on the path I sought to follow. I thank all those important mentors and the leadership training programs I took advantage of to get me here. I am available for anyone interested in my help.

Judy Twete



Judy Twete

Past Department President

Dear Auxiliary Members,

I want to express my deepest thanks to each of you who have made such an impact on my life this past year. I have met so many of you and have loved meeting and talking with you as we traveled from event to event. As many of you know, my husband, Ed, drove me to my events all year. He met so many of you and enjoyed meeting and getting to know you as well. Thank you for your kindness and loving acceptance of us both. You made my year wonderful, fun, and unforgettable! God bless you all! I love all of you!

And to the Officers and Chairmen, you were amazing! You all did everything that could be asked or expected.

Our accomplishments as a group of ladies working for our Department to make it stronger and better were, I believe, blessed by God! Thank you for your efforts, your sacrifices, your tireless work! I am forever in your debt! God bless you! I love you all!

With all my love,

LoAnn Dick, Past Department President (2024-2025)



LoAnn Dick

Department Historian

Good Day North Dakota.

Great day to be alive making memories. We have so many opportunities to make memories in our lives. Memories are just part of our history.

We had Department Convention, making memories for all who attended, which may be shared by sending reports and pictures to me. The shared items may, in turn, be included in 'The Message' or in monthly Unit Mailings.

We have completed 4th of July programs and parades. We have observed veterans traveling on honor flights. We

have visited the North Dakota State Fair and parade which had celebrations for veterans and current service men and women. These are all memory-making events that I want to include in our history for this year. Please send me copies of your reports (small as they may be) and pictures so I can include them in the Department's history.

I want to thank you all for supporting me and voting for me to be your Department Historian for 2025-2026.

Carrie Heinz

Department Treasurer

By the time you receive this, National Convention in Tampa will be over and we head straight into Labor Day weekend. Fall is not my favorite season, but I know that many people love it. I consider it a race against time to get everything cleaned up, cleared out, and buttoned up for the winter months and snow ahead.

Fall means that most units will resume their monthly meetings. Your unit should receive the green required contribution and Poppy Order forms in early September. We ask that those be returned to the Department Office no later than November 1st. Contributions received on time are sent to their respective programs in December. Contributions that are received at a later date are not forwarded to the designated program until June. I urge you to complete the form at your October meetings and get it sent in so that these programs can receive their funding before the beginning of 2026.

I have been working diligently with our units regarding tax-exempt status with the IRS, as well as registering as a non-profit operating in the State of North Dakota. These are completely independent requirements. It is quite simple and straightforward to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. I have done this many times, and am only a text, phone call, or email away to assist your unit. The IRS is a trickier matter. If you have lost your tax-exempt status, you will need to reapply to regain it, and it is a \$600 fee. Otherwise, your unit is required to file an annual tax return, even if you have no income. Please contact a local CPA to help you navigate this requirement. Several units have been successful in regaining their tax-exempt status. Make sure to keep this status by filing your 990-N every year! If you are unsure of whether or not your unit is compliant, check with me and I will look it up for you.

In this season of generosity, I want to thank each one of you for the great things you do for our veterans in North Dakota. Many of you work hard on projects within your units and Districts across the state. Our veterans surely appreciate it.

Susan Degner, CPA
treasurer@ndala.org
Phone: (701) 331-9328



Susan Degner

District 3

Happy Fall everyone!
I am so excited to start my journey as a District President. It is weird to change my hat after serving as Department Historian for the past 7 years. I am excited for the opportunity to learn new things!

I have paid my membership dues for the year, have you? Log on to www.alaforveterans.org to complete them!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. If I do not have the answer, I do know my resources to get the answer for you! As this next journey of mine starts and moves forward, I know I have new things to learn. I hope that with your support, patience, and guidance, I will have the best time as your District 3 President.

Andrea Neshem
District 3 President



District 5

THANK YOU to District 5 unit members for submitting your 2024-2025 volunteer hours and narrative reports! Six of the twelve units in District 5 reported hours. This included 21,241 hours of volunteer service and \$30,774 spent providing support and services to our veterans, active military and their families, Children and Youth, Community Service, Department Scholarships, and Girls State. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

2025 Fall District Meetings are coming up! It will be great to have as many units represented as possible. District 5 will install Arliss Koski as President of District 5. Keep in mind, we will be looking for a new Vice President for District 5 as well.

Peggy Moran
District 5 President



Americanism

The following students submitted winning 2025 Americanism Essays at the Department level. Congratulations to the sponsoring units for selecting the students who took the time and carefully and creatively crafted their ideas.

First Place winners received certificates and a \$25 gift card. Second Place winners received certificates.

Class	Student Name	Sponsoring Unit
Class I	Amelia Kaufman	Washburn
Class I	Chloe Anderson	Michigan
Class II	Natalia Martinez	Scranton
Class II	Olivia McFadden	Cavalier
Class III	Bennett Mewes	Hope
Class III	Ella Hanson	Donnybrook
Class IV	Hunter Beckett	Hope
Class IV	Allison Ova	Hope
Class V	Annalise Gunderson	Hope



It was my honor to judge the entries and I am proud of the students for sharing their thoughts and taking the time to put them to paper. Thank you!

Gigi Moore
Americanism Chairman 2024-25

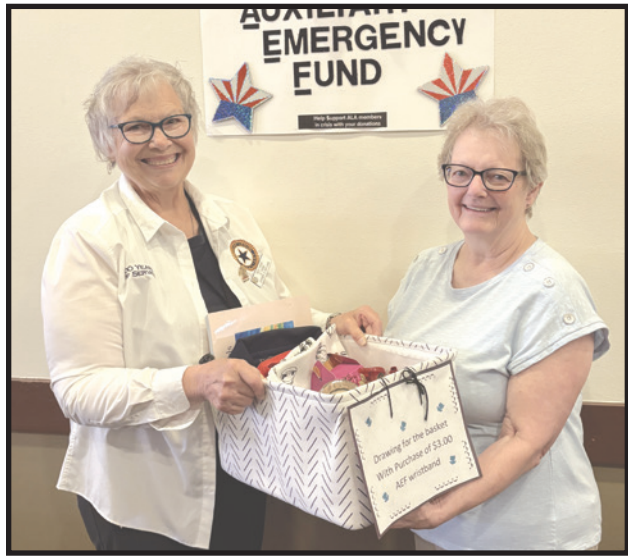
Auxiliary Emergency Fund

The 2025 Department Convention is over and we have new elected officers. I am confident that they will uphold the values we strive for as the American Legion Auxiliary. I am pleased to announce that \$284.00 was collected when the hat was passed at convention. My wristband project brought in \$677 and our state contributed a total of \$9767.86 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

I am so proud of the support from all Auxiliary members. I know everyone is always asking for donations, but you really stepped up to the plate. Lynn Helm from McClusky, who was our unit member of the year honoree, was the winner of the giveaway basket on Saturday, which also happened to be her birthday. Congratulations Lynn!

Please support your new AEF chairman. Thanks again for making my chairmanship enjoyable.

Cheryl Evenson
AEF Chairman 2024-25



AEF Chairman Cheryl Evenson (left) presents giveaway basket to winner Lynn Helm at Department Convention.

Community Service

It was good to see everyone at Department Convention in June! There were some excellent ideas and activities reported for Community Service this past year.

- “Be the One” Picnic in the park by Hankinson Unit 88.
- “Stuffed Bears” presented to local first responders by Park River Unit 147.
- Annual Thursday Night Cookouts by Minto Unit 201.
- Helping at church for funerals, choir, special events, teaching religion classes, and cleaning.
- Donations to local food pantries, Salvation Army, Rescue Missions, and Senior centers.
- Donations to Giving Hearts Day.
- Donations to local Legion & Fire Departments for fundraising meals.
- Donations to Designer Purse Bingo. Proceeds support a local non-profit.
- Sponsoring a blood drive
- Sending out greeting cards to deployed veterans and shut-ins.

There are so many ideas that are too numerous to mention. Please continue to do community service projects and send in your reports. We want to continue sharing what amazing work you all do.

Keep up the good work everyone!
Shelley Schuster
Community Service Chairman 2024-25



Education

You probably recognize the name or the “mug shot” from the five years I served as Department Historian. Once again, thank you for all the information you reported that helped me write the Department History and compile the President’s Scrapbook. This year, I am serving as the Department Education Program Chairman.

Education is near and dear to my heart. I taught Home Economics for eight years, subbed almost daily for seven years, and taught first grade for nine years as well as serving as a School Counselor for fifteen years. To quote last year’s Chairperson, Peggy Moran, “Education helps open a multitude of doors for people in a variety of ways and can drastically change their circumstances.” I could not agree more!

To keep this short – the “bullets” to National’s ALA Education Program will be enclosed in monthly Unit mailings. Please select one that is suitable for your unit and put it into action letting me know which one and how you are promoting it by dropping me a note or email. Enclose pictures if you have them. If you are able to do more that would be great!

First up is ‘10 for Education’ and National Education Week - November 17-21, 2025.

I am a firm believer in education through reading. Encourage your unit or individual members to purchase used books over a variety of levels and distribute them at a little free library. This could be in cooperation with a local business or in a place of worship.

As the year rolls along, look for more information in Unit mailings and The Message. Promotion of Auxiliary scholarships is important. The Auxiliary offers several scholarship opportunities including: Past Presidents Parley Nursing, Department Education Program, and National Presidents scholarships.

Feel free to contact me at: education@ndala.org or PO Box 1088, Rolla ND 58367-1088 if you have questions, suggestions and/or reports.

Lynn Tomlinson
Education Chairman 2025-26



Flickertail Girls State

Hello everyone,
This year’s ALA Flickertail Girls State event was a success! On Saturday, June 7, staff arrived and after getting settled in, the counselors hit the ground running with training and prepping for the week. On Sunday, forty-four students arrived ready to get the week started and worked on community service projects. They assembled poppies and filled and sewed neck pillows for VA patients while getting acquainted with everyone.

Our theme this year was “Our Veterans, Our Heroes, Our Freedom.” We were honored to have National Auxiliary President Trish Ward and Northwestern Division National Vice President Deb Albers join us this year.

The Girls Staters enjoyed many activities while attending the annual week-long event. This included electing Minou Babingui as Girls State Governor and Alexia Schaible as Lt. Governor and finally graduating on Friday, June 13.

The Flickertail Girls State Staff thanks all of you for supporting this wonderful program and we look forward to another successful event next year.

Amanda Dinger
Girls State Director 2024-25



Membership

Department President LoAnn Dick emphasized membership in 2024-2025 and North Dakota units responded in a big way. Fifty-nine certificates were awarded to Units achieving 100% or more membership at the 2025 Department Convention held in Fargo. Thank you to Department and Unit Membership teams for leading the charge to support the ‘Mission’ of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Pictured (l-r): Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary; Susan Degner, Department Treasurer; Rose Laning, Past Department Chaplain; Victoria Babingui, Minou Babingui, 2025 Flickertail Girls State Governor; LoAnn Dick, Past Department President 2024-25; Sandra Smith, Department President-Elect; and Candace Berg, Department President 2025-26

It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This!

On Thursday, July 31st, Eberhard Post and Unit 88 hosted several residents of the Lisbon Veterans Home at our beautiful Legion site located on the shores of Lake Elsie near Hankinson. All branches of our military were in attendance. Glorious!

Our guests arrived around 10:30 am and enjoyed some fellowship and drinks. Included in the price of admission (it really was all free) was a guided tour of the site. Guests were seated on a trailer pulled by two of our very own Legionnaires, Quentin Larson and Harry Emdee. Tour guide was Anne Biewer, member of Unit 88, who has spent countless hours at the site teaching students from the local school the beauty of nature and growing their own produce. The grounds are maintained by volunteers who put in many hours of upkeep and it shows. There is also a huge pentagon shaped building that has walls of plaques

with the names of our servicemen on them. A wall of remembrance.

Once the group returned to the facilities, they were served a picnic meal of grilled burgers and hot dogs, prepared by Legion and Auxiliary volunteers. Shala Krump, Unit 88 President, welcomed everyone and introduced our speakers. Everyone enjoyed hearing the veterans stories, including those of our oldest veteran, Del, who will soon turn 102.

We are planning to promote the Hankinson Veterans Memorial Park so this event will become an annual gathering with other posts, units and the public welcome to visit this beautiful facility. We could not have chosen a better day to honor our vets.

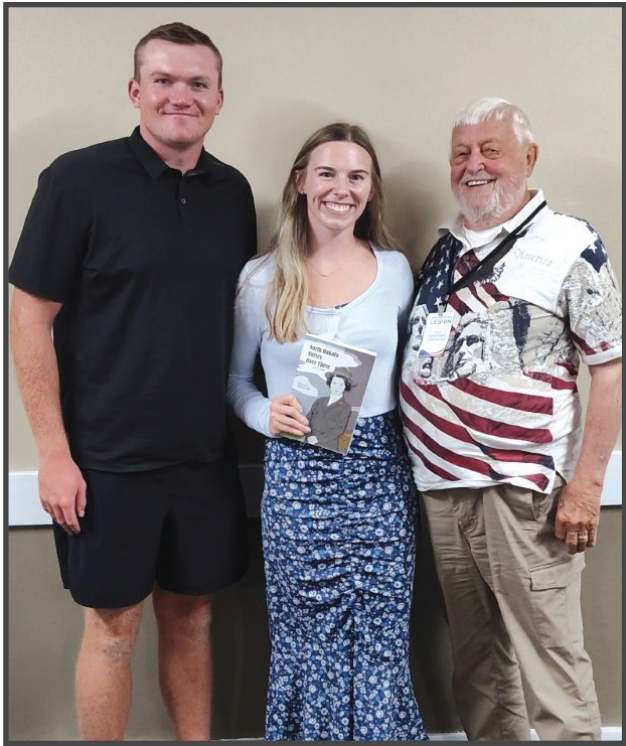
Submitted by Unit 88

2025-2026 Department Officers

President	
Candace Berg C: 701-740-7144.....	president@ndala.org
President-Elect	
Sandra Smith C: 701-550-1025..	presidentelect@ndala.org
Vice President	
Shelley Schuster.....C: 701-520-1525...	vicepresident@ndala.org
Treasurer	
Susan Degner C: 701-331-9328.....	treasurer@ndala.org
Secretary	
Marcy Schmidt.....C: 701-253-5992.....	secretary@ndala.org
Historian	
Carrie Heinz C: 701-550-0962.....	historian@ndala.org
Chaplain	
Virginia Satrom C: 701-238-1542.....	chaplain@ndala.org
Parliamentarian	
Holly Eslinger C: 701-891-1909.	parliamentarian@ndala.org
NEC (National Executive Committeewoman)	
Judy Twete.....C: 701-739-8705.....	jktwete@gondtc.com
NEC Alternate	
LoAnn Dick.....C: 714-334-4798....	necalternate@ndala.org

President District 1	
Carol Wolf C: 701-566-1244.....	district1@ndala.org
President District 2	
Larissa Schmitz C: 701-866-1709.....	district2@ndala.org
President District 3	
Andrea Neshem C: 701-340-4965.....	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
President District 7	
Annette Zeller C: 701-204-5187.....	district7@ndala.org
President District 8	
Beverly Wolff.....C: 701-872-6150.....	district8@ndala.org
President District 9	
Abby Salinas C: 623-236-4626.....	district9@ndala.org
President District 10	
LouAnn Lee C: 701-640-0321.....	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/



Mallory Kvilvang of Northwood, ND, was awarded one of four 2025 Past Presidents Parley Scholarships. Mallory is currently studying in the Nurse Practitioners Program at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. She is pictured with her husband, Christian Kvilvang (left), and her grandfather, Curt Twete, of McVile, ND.

Excerpts from Programs
Year-End Reports

For full report information, please visit www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/

Past Presidents Parley

THANK YOU!

I want to thank Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo and Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 Harwood as well as Gloria Covert, Past Department President, for donating door prizes for the 2025 Past Presidents Parley Luncheon held on Saturday at the Department Convention. Through your generosity and support, there were many winners.

Sandra Petermann
Past Department President (2023-2024)



2025 Department
Scholarship Winners

National Winner - Member Loyalty Scholarship
Annabelle Schauer – Grand Forks

Department Education Scholarship
Jada Rose Bonogofsky – St. Anthony
Nikki Bristow – Williston
Zachary Clark – Hankinson

Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship
Jada Rose Bonogofsky – St. Anthony

Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship
Mallory Kvilvang – Northwood
Alyssa Martian – Bowman
Emily Williams – Mountain

Public Relations

It was an honor to serve as your Department Public Relations Chairman this year. Thank you to all units and members that shared pictures and articles showing the many activities North Dakota units sponsor and are a part of. I am so proud of Auxiliary members who take the time to record, photograph unit 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 - Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 Harwood
- District 2 - Ole Semling Unit 135 McVile
- District 2 - Paul Farup Unit 147 Park River
- District 2 - Lavern J. Thompson Unit 11 Cavalier
- District 2 - Tolna Unit 162 Tolna
- District 4 - Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 Jamestown
- District 4 - Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle
- District 4 - Adam Job Unit 245 Medina
- District 4 - John Raymond O-Hara Unit 25 Carrington
- District 8 - Matthew Brew Unit 3 Dickinson
- District 10 - Eberhard Unit 88 Hankinson

Marcy Schmidt
Public Relations Chairman 2024-25

2025 Poppy Poster Contest
Department Winners

Class I – Paul Farup Unit 147 Park River
Kain Lee

Class II – Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle
Emma Heller

Class III – Sidney Britsch Unit 268 York
Ashlyn Chavers

Class IV – Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle
Jenna Homola

Class V – Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle
Courtney Remboldt

Class VI – Jefferson Steinke Unit 18 Hope
Britan Richards

Congratulations on a job well done!

Carol Wolf and Virginia Stendahl
Poppy Co-Chairmen



(701) 532-4000

641 32nd Ave. W.
W. Fargo, ND

Military and Senior Discounts



In Memoriam

District 1
Carol Elston, Hope
Janice Grotte, Hatton

District 2
Mary Krogh, SLM, McVile
Corrin Molmen, Tolna
Ramona Slivicki, Minto
Corrinne Chapman, Minto
Rosella Anderson, Michigan
Dorine Gerstner, Michigan

District 3
Lyla Bertsch, Rolla

District 4
Shirley Packard, SLM, New Rockford
Helen Bulzomi, Wimbledon
Nedina Denning, Gackle

District 5
Barbara Geffre, Napoleon

District 6
Carol Thoreson, SLM, Velva
Margaret Hass, SLM, Bowbells

District 7
Bernice Rehling, Hebron

District 9
Lenore Hodenfield, Tioga
Mary Nauman, Tioga

District 10
Judith Meisch, Lamoure
Marlys Gira, Wahpeton
Violet Barton, Oakes
Diane Meyer, Oakes
Shirley Daniels, Oakes
Barbara Malmberg, Oakes
Gloria Shelton, Oakes

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

District Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
State Convention is behind us, and the new State Commander, Mike Weyrauch, is now head of the North Dakota American Legion. The convention was a success. Thank you to Fargo Post 2 for hosting the event.

One item focused on at the convention was the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). It was suggested that if each post were to keep a monthly journal of the different contributions that you were involved with, it may help with the CPRs at the end of the year.

District meetings are being scheduled now. District 1 meeting is planned for September 22 at the West Fargo VFW. Registration will start at 1730 hours, meal service will begin at 1700 hours, and the meeting will start at 1900 hours. I hope to see you there.

Baseball season is coming to an end. I hope your team had a successful year. Mayville's Dan Keating, (KMAN) has been inducted into the American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame for his years of dedicated broadcast of Legion Baseball.

In closing, be involved in your community, children and youth, Americanism, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Check on fellow veterans to make sure they are doing okay. Stay active in recruitment and retention. Have a wonderful rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our District meeting.



David Boucher
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,
District 3 fall meeting will be held in Rolla ND Post # 235 at their new legion building.

- Address is: 302 1st St NE
- 5:00 Social, 6:00 Meal, 7:00 Meeting.
- Meal: chicken fried steak & potatoes. • Cost \$10.00

Post commanders please call your members and encourage them to attend. This will be a great place to share concerns about your post and ideas that you have. Also, this would be a great time to check out their new hall that they worked so hard to rebuild. I would like an opportunity to meet and greet all members, and this will be a great time to get together to share stories and information.

I hope to see and visit with everyone going to the National convention in Tampa FL. Aug 22-28th.

As fall is approaching, remember to call your post members and veterans to check on them (BUDDY CHECK).



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,
Hello everyone!
May this find you well.
It is a great honor and privilege to be the newly elected Commander for District 6.

Many of you already know Allen Magnuson. I appreciate that he decided to run for an Officer position, despite health concerns, and was elected District 6 Vice-Commander. A good year for the District is anticipated with his experience and commitment to the ND American Legion.

It is an interesting start to say the least. On July

District 6, cont'd

15th, 2025, our District was honored with a visit from our American Legion National Commander, James A. LaCoursiere Jr., US Air Force. Commander LaCoursiere is of Godreau-McMahon Post 91, Moosup, CT. The importance of the Be the One Program, regarding Veteran Suicide and their dependents, was the focus of his message.

Commander LaCoursiere's "Meet and Greet" was hosted by the Joseph I Weller, Post 39, Velva, ND. A special thank you to them and newly elected Commander John Holmen. ND Post 39 also had recently hosted the Spring District 6 meeting on April 12, 2025, at the Legion Club, 200 N Main, Velva. Their time, assistance, and support are greatly appreciated.

I will be attending, as a Delegate, the 106th American Legion National Convention 2025, in Tampa, FL on August 22 - 28, 2025. I look forward to learning and bring new information to keep us informed and prepared in carrying out our American Legion mission.

Just around the corner, is the District 6 and District 9 Fall meeting, which will be held on September 20, 2025, at the Moose Lodge, 400 9th St SW, Minot, ND. Registration/Social at 11:00, Meal 12:00, and Meeting 13:00.

I encourage you or a representative from your Post to attend, not only for the free bowling that is planned after the Fall meeting, but because it is an opportunity to meet with the dedicated Department Officers of Headquarters whose expertise can help make your Post function easier and more efficient.

It's a new term, so we can get a good start and improve on some familiar but important matters like Membership and Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs). Everything the Post does can be listed and then categorized in the report. An additional page can be added if a Post activity does not seem to be a category in the report. Your valuable input is included in a final report presented each year to Congress by the National Commander.

Thank you to those of you that completed your Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) and maintained or increased your Post membership in a timely manner. District 6 membership finished 95.91% as of 5/27/25.

By our combined efforts we can achieve our goals, overcome challenges, and create a stronger, more inclusive Post community.

I had the pleasure of meeting some of you when I was Vice-Commander and I look forward to meeting more of you at the Fall meeting! God Bless!



Gianni Ruffo
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,
My name is Gianni Ruffo and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the District Commander for our district. I also want to send a special thank you to our Vice Commander, Lawrence Montclair, for his assistance these past few months, as well as all of the officers running the posts all over our district. Your hard work and dedication is what keeps this organization relevant.

Now down to the business side of things. Many times I have read these updates from Commanders and they typically focus on driving membership and getting our numbers to the best possible place. I understand that membership is what keeps the lights on in our organization, but I am also focused on continuing the Mission of our organization. It is imperative that we continue to enhance the wellbeing of all of our fellow Veterans, our families, and communities through our helpfulness and involvement. I challenge all of us to get out of our comfort zone and continue to be active citizens. Our service to our Country did not end with our military separation, and very often our community involvement is the best recruitment poster.

Thank you all again very much for your involvement in this organization and for all you have already been doing in your community. We will have our District 7 meeting jointly with District 5 fall meeting on 27 September at the Am Vets Club in Bismarck, with registration beginning at 1200 and the meeting beginning at 1300. Hope that you all can make it and if there is anything you need, please feel free to reach out.



Gordon Vosberg
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,
I am Gordon Vosberg of the Wyndmere Brown Nelson, Post 153. I am your newly elected 10th District Commander. Quentin Larson from the Hankinson Post 88 is your newly elected Vice Commander of the 10th District. We are excited to be serving your post in the upcoming year.

To all of our posts within our district please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know about your legion meetings, upcoming legion events, and any concerns you may have. We look forward to meeting with you all.

So far, we have had a busy summer with legion events. Hankinson had a 4th of July parade where both the Hankinson Legion and the Mantador VFW participated with a float. Fairmount also recently had a parade where the Fairmount post, Sons of Legion, and Auxiliary also had a float. The Wyndmere Brown Nelson Post had its annual Memorial program and Community picnic. Post commander of Wyndmere, Dan Thompson, had the pleasure of handing out awards to Gerald Puetz (30 years of legion service) and the Wyndmere High School music instructor, Callie Girodat, for her work with a Veteran's Day program that has been held on an annual basis for the last few years.

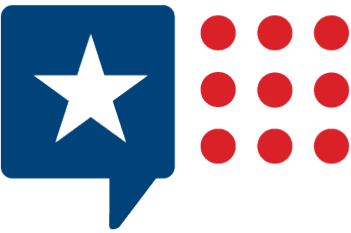
Our spring district meeting was held in Fairmount, ND and was sponsored by the Fairmount Legion Post. This event was very successful and had a great turnout. Thank you to all the posts that were able to attend this meeting as this is a very important event for all of us to come together and collaborate.

10th Districts fall meeting will be held at the Hankinson Community Center in Hankinson ND.

In addition, the Hankinson Post will be hosting a veteran's event on July 31st starting at 11 am. This event includes a meal and a tour of their veteran's memorial park which is located at Lake Elsie. All are welcome to attend.

In closing, thank you to the 10th District American Legion, auxiliary, and the Sons of Legion. Thank you for what you do in your communities, your post, and everything you do to continue to promote the Legion.

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www.vueccu.com
NMLS# 191824

Local Posts in the News

Grand Forks Post #6

Post Adjutant Denny Almer of Legion Post 6 made a presentation on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14, at the Grand Forks Listen Center. Ryan Kaste, the Commander of Squadron 6 Sons of the American Legion, asked me to say a few words fitting for the dedication of their new flags at the Listen Center. The Listen Center is a nonprofit organization in North Dakota on a mission to raise the bar on accessibility and services for people with disabilities, a facility for local developmentally challenged clients.

Squadron Commander Ryan has been working with Julie Nelson the Director for over the past year. Ryan was in on the planning from the very beginning and helped trench and erect three new flag poles at the facility entrance.

The ceremony couldn't have been more fitting than on Flag Day. Many Listen Center Staff and some of the clients attended the 10:00 am Ceremony. Participants included Ryan Kaste, David Dahlgren, SAL member Kirean Dale and District 2 Commander Duane Kram.



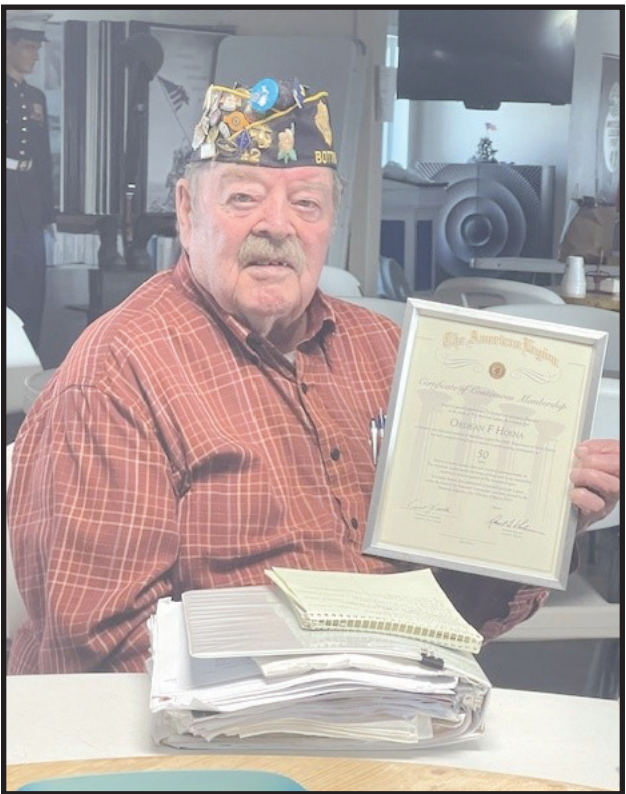
Dickinson Post #3

Post 3 in Dickinson sponsored an impactful project in partnership with the SW Art Gallery and Science Center called "Images of Freedom: Military Service Photography Exhibit." Veterans and family members were asked to submit a photo and about 100 words about the veteran's service. The Exhibit of more than 250 black and white photographs, most never before seen by the public, and depicting a wide range of service duties, branches, conflicts and wars, opened June 12 and will be on display through August, and then available to travel. Information: dickinsonlegionpost3@gmail.com



Post 3 members looking at the Matthew Brew photos, for whom Post 3 was named.

Bottineau Post #42



O'Dean Hosna of the Bottineau American Legion Post 42 was awarded his 50-year membership at the Legion June monthly meeting. The ND American Legion congratulates O'Dean for his half century of dedicated support to the American Legion.

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REMEMBER OUR VETERANS



ND Youth Trooper Academy

The 2nd Youth Trooper Academy is in The Books as "Second to None"
The 2025 class had 14 attendees from nine communities across the Department. The ND Highway Patrol Instructors did an outstanding job of informing attendees in a safe

and professional manner. Each student gained their certification in CPR and safe driving certificate to provide their auto insurance provider. Not too early to plan for year 3. Thanks to all who supported!!



Class of 2025



Commander Mike Weyrauch, Zaedyn Bechel-Minot, Mason Nielson-Wilton, Sophia Campbell-Finley, Sergeant Mike Wald

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	
Halvorson, Roger	11/12/2024
Thompson, Wallace	02/16/2024
Fargo – Post #2	
Jensen, John	11/05/2022
Uhlich, Reinard	05/25/2025
Bilstad, Peter R	01/07/2025
McNulty, Donald E.	11/26/2024
Folley, Charles E.	07/07/2025
Kenyon, Douglas M.	05/20/2025
Bryant, Weldon Jr.	08/10/2025
Hillsboro – Post #4	
Klinnert, August J.	06/17/2025
Cavalier – Post #11	
Schweitzer, Lanny W	03/17/2025
Washburn – Post #12	
Reinhiller, Tom	06/26/2025
Jamestown – Post #14	
Haupt, Howard	07/11/2025
Kudrna, Andrew	07/06/2025
Wahpeton – Post #20	
Fenske, Orville	05/12/2025
Jenson, Howard	06/20/2025
Klein, Edward	06/16/2025
Straus, Edward	06/13/2025
Rugby – Post 23	
Erickson, Duane E.	12/21/2024
Degenstein, Duane E	05/22/2025
Devils Lake – Post #24	
Herda, Alvin	04/30/2025
Minot – Post #26	
Hill, Marshall	01/21/2025
Schmitz, William	03/21/2025
New Rockford – Post #30	
Womacks, William	05/30/2025
Rudolph, William R	05/27/2025
Drake – Post 32	
Goodwin, Maurice	08/05/2025
Oakes – Post #36	
Davis, James	05/03/2025
Schwarting, Maurice	06/08/2025
Mandan – Post #40	
Mund, Charles	06/18/2025
Caya, Mark	05/01/2025
Grafton – Post #41	
Kasprick, Donald J.	04/09/2025
Nygard, Del	07/31/2025
McCann, Leroy	11/25/2024
Houska, Ronald J	11/26/2024
Ashley – Post #53	
Helfenstein, Peter	03/23/2025

Kenmare – Post #64	
Schulz, Charles	05/07/2025
Freeman, Stanley	05/20/2025
Napoleon – Post #72	
Mertz, Alvin	04/10/2025
Fischer, James E	06/23/2024
Wolf, Leo E	05/20/2024
Stockert, Van	Unknown DOD
Schumacher, Alfred J.	09/27/2024
Piatz, Simon L	09/09/2024
Janko, Jesse	01/27/2025
Gross, John J	01/10/2025
Grenz, Steve J	07/28/2024
Grenz, Harley K	11/20/2024
Geffre, Duane L	03/12/2025
Leonard – Post #74	
Nesemeier, Larry D.	12/02/2024
Larimore – Post #97	
Jemtrud, Marvin	05/08/2025
Langdon – Post #98	
Carlson, Kenneth G	04/19/2025
Klemisch, Patrick L	06/26/2025
Leeds – Post #101	
Brager, Wayne A	10/24/2024
Johnson, Dean C	02/21/2025
Ritterman, Gary J	05/24/2024
Kitzmann, Bradley J.	02/09/2025
Wohlk, Goryln D	06/05/2025
Fairmount – Post #106	
Sikorski, Jeffrey J	06/16/2024
Crystal – Post #107	
Dolney, Leroy	07/02/2025
Grenora – Post #116	
Christensen, Ronald C	07/02/2025
Kueffler, Leo J	12/07/2024
Hazelton – Post #126	
Bier, Howard	05/16/2025
Bowbells – Post #127	
Schweyen, Leland	09/07/2024
McHenry, Silas	07/23/2025
Turtle Lake – Post #133	
Gilfus, George	05/28/2025
Britton, James	06/04/2025
Klain, Edward	05/2025
Skaley, Merlyn	06/05/2025
Tioga – Post #139	
Loney, Robert	05/11/2025
Wold, Carl	11/17/2024
Belfield – Post #144	
Adams, Kenneth	06/26/205
Romanyshyn, Myron	04/01/2025
Syminow, John	05/04/2025

Park River – Post #147	
Hobbs, James F	07/18/2025
Stensland, Gary J	07/29/2025
Page – Post #154	
Grindberg, George	07/16/2025
Lankin – Post #157	
Kavli, Ronald	12/25/2025
McHenry – Post #160	
Dreher, Douglas D	Unknown DOD
Walcott – Post #166	
Oestreich, Milton H	06/20/2025
Richardton – Post #180	
Zillich, Frank J	04/06/2025
Dunseith – Post #185	
Poitra, Eugene F	02/17/2025
Hazen – Post #189	
Johnson, James O	07/08/2025
Rutland – Post #215	
Preble, Norman	03/28/2025
Makoti – Post #230	
Petz, Dennis R	01/09/2025
Markwardt, Dennis L	08/29/2024
Wimbledon – Post #236	
Goffe, Robert O	06/25/2025
Neché – Post #242	
Watts, Duane	06/15/2025
Elgin – Post #246	
Ensminger, Lester	06/14/2025
Petersburg – Post #247	
Severson, Norman	06/02/2025
Gackle – Post #250	
Vandeberghe, John L	04/14/2024
Reynolds – Post #256	
Leddige, James	04/15/2025
Streeter – Post #265	
Kienzle, David	04/15/2025
Regent – Post 273	
Wax, Robert	02/19/2025
Hollinger, , John G	07/20/2024
Sarles – Post #276	
Hotten, Ronald A	11/01/2024
Harder, Harold P	02/20/2025
Flanders, Richard A	04/03/2025
Forbes – Post #277	
Schumack, Ronnie L	10/15/2023
Moore, Clarence A	02/02/2025
Harwood – Post #297	
Heitzmann, Vernon	05/10/2025
Kosak, Bruce G	05/29/2025
Manvel – Post #299	
Stadstad, Odell	07/16/2025
Newburg – Post #302	
Boettcher – Gary W	08/13/2024

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State Representative Jon Nelson



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State Representative Jonathan Warrey

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2025 NORTH DAKOTA LEGION BASEBALL



2025 BASEBALL CLASS A SCHOLARSHIP



Brent Everson, Eli Kappes, Jason Andersons

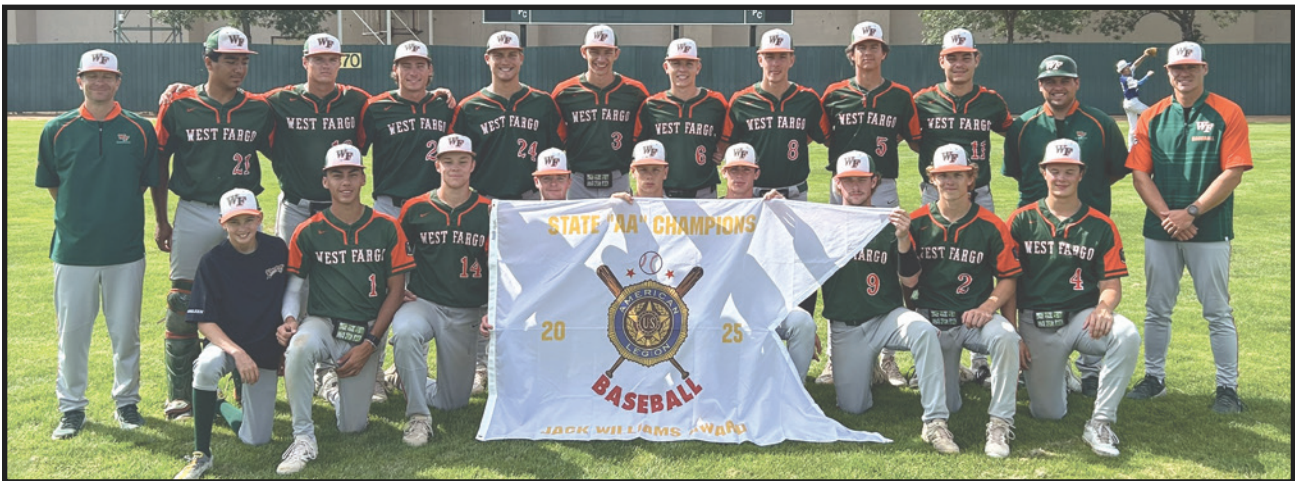
Congratulation to our 2025 Class A North Dakota American Legion Baseball Scholarship recipient, Elijah (Eli) Kappes.

Eli graduated from Wahpeton High School and plays for the Wahpeton Post 20 Baseball team. Eli held a 3.327 grade point average, played football, basketball, and baseball.

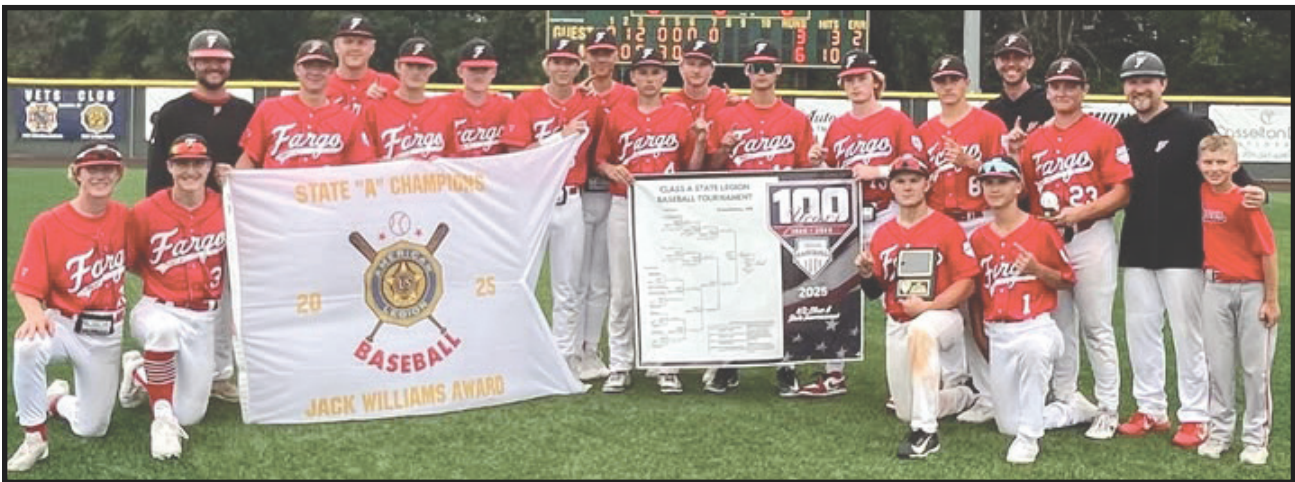
Eli plans to major in Criminal Justice at North Dakota State College of Science and play baseball while pursuing a career either in police officer or as a game warden.

This scholarship should be extra special to you in the 100th year of American Legion Baseball! Congratulations!!!!

Baseball Scholarships 2025: Class AA – Aiden Johnson; Class A - Elijah Kappes; Class B – Ezekiel Barnick



2025 Class AA Champions, West Fargo



2025 Class A Champions, Fargo



2025 Class B State Champions, Thompson Post 181

ND250 Commission Launches Community Initiative Grants to Celebrate Nation's 250th Anniversary

BISMARCK, N.D. — Communities across North Dakota will soon have the opportunity to host once-in-a-lifetime celebrations. Beginning Aug.1, the ND250 Commission will offer Community Initiative Grants of up to \$10,000 to support events and projects commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Grants are available to non-profit organizations, as well as city, county, or tribal governments, for projects related to the celebration of the past 250 years of North Dakota's people, places, innovations, and achievements contributing to the nation's story during America's 250th anniversary. Applications will be reviewed quarterly starting Oct. 1.

"This is an exciting opportunity to come together and explore what it means to be both an American and a North Dakotan," said Melissa Klocke-Joyce, North Dakota250 Coordinator. "We encourage communities to ask: What were our ancestors doing 250 years ago? And what does it mean to us today?"

- Eligible projects may include:
- Implementing tours
- Hosting exhibits or public programs

- Creating educational materials
- Organizing travel to Bismarck to visit the ND250 exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum (Opening June 2026)

Grant guidelines and the application will be available on both of the following websites:

www.nd.gov/north-dakotas-celebration-americas-250th
www.history.nd.gov/hp/grants.html

For more information, contact ND250 Coordinator Melissa Klocke-Joyce, 701.328.6073 or melissaklocke@nd.gov, or Amy Munson, 701.328.3573 or amunson@nd.gov. As set forth in North Dakota Century Code, the North Dakota250 Commission was created within the State Historical Society of North Dakota to promote North Dakota observances and activities commemorating the nation's 250th birthday.

CONTACT
Kara Haff, Public Information Officer
701.328.3547
Input by Latoya Carpenter

Have You Paid Your 2026 Membership Dues?



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Local Posts in the News

Turtle Lake Post #133

Turtle Lake American Legion Post #133 donated money to the Turtle Lake/Mercer Public School and Sheridan Memorial Home.

**Turtle Lake-Mercer Public School**
16h • 

Our Turtle Lake American Legion is at it again! A big thank you from the pep club, Dollars for Scholars, softball team, and football team for your generous support, we are so fortunate to receive funds to support our students and school!



Jamestown Post #14



From left to right - District 4 Commander Randy Entzminger, Post 14 Adjutant George Barnes, Post 14 Chaplain Jim Hood, Post 14 2nd Vice Commander Dean Kronebusch, Post 14 Commander Jim Fercho, Post 14 1st Vice Commander Mark Vrchota, and Post 14 Sergeant at Arms Dennis Mansavage. Not pictured is Finance Officer Richard Barker-Simmons.

Mayville Post #8

Vietnam Veteran Coin Presentation at Mayville State University (MSU)

16 May 2025, District 1 Commander Harlan Johnson awarded the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Coin to MSU graduate Robert Berg. Mr. Berg finished college from MSU in 1970 but drafted before he could go through graduation commencement.

After his retirement, Mr. Berg wanted to go through his graduation ceremony, 55 years later. In front of a full house at MSU, Robert was given resounding applause and a standing ovation as he received the North Dakota Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Coin.



Grafton Post #41

Gilbert C. Grafton – Post 2 continues to be part of the food drive sponsored by the group “Military Veterans Organizations that includes Auxiliary, Sons and Riders supporting the community”. The fifth annual food drive for the Great Plains Food Bank was completed August 1 – 14. Veterans groups participating included the Fargo Post 2 American Legion, Fargo AMVETS, Fargo VFW, West Fargo VFW. Money and food was collected through drop off sites, designated drive thru days and Silent Auction. Living the motto of the American Legion – “Veterans Strengthening America”



Mandan Post #40



Gilbert S. Furness Mandan Post #40 presented four Legion members with their 50-Year Continuous Membership Certificates. Congratulations!
(left to right): Ron Huff, Frank Rothschiller, Post Commander Steve Rogalla, Gene Clouston and John Kihne.

Wimbledon Post #236 Funeral Honors



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Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans at Edgar A. Fisher American Legion Post 60 - Valley City

On 15 August 2025, the members of Post 60 gathered for a revitalization meeting and an event of honor following the meeting. The event - one marked by profound

appreciation, solemn gratitude, and heartfelt recognition. It was dedicated to honoring the extraordinary service and sacrifices of Vietnam era veterans, individuals whose quiet courage and enduring commitment shaped a generation. In a gesture both symbolic and sincere, the North Dakota Welcome Home Vietnam Coin was presented to veterans as a token of the state’s enduring respect and admiration. This commemorative coin stands as a tangible reminder that the service and sacrifice of Vietnam era veterans are never

forgotten but woven into the very fabric of our collective memory. The 50 year recognition of the Vietnam Era concludes on 11 November 2025.



Photo cutline: Roger Mulvaney, Myron Jabs, Past Department Commander Mamie Havelka, Bruce Anundson, Mike Griffin and Ron Manke





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North Dakota American Legion Band Fund



Fourth in a series about endowed funds within the NDAL Foundation by Harvey Peterson

The North Dakota American Legion Band was established in 1924 from the former 164th Army Infantry Band, 1st North Dakota National Guard. It's interesting to note that "to speed organization of the band in 1924 its first officers were all chosen from Lisbon." The Band originally operated with a budget labeled LCMOF (Legion Convention Marching Organization Fund) held within the Department.

The DEC minutes of November 2,1996 state that Adjutant Schmidt ... recommended changing the name "LCMOF" account to "State Band" and that he (Adjutant Schmidt) had "put \$50,000 from LCMOF into the Foundation as directed by past action of the DEC." Due to issues regarding information about the account, Bruce Holtan, then Band Manager, proposed to DEC in 1998 that the LCMOF Fund (or Band Fund) be transferred to the NDAL Foundation with the name 'Band Fund'. According to the DEC minutes of in January of 1998, a resolution stating: "Resolved, that donations made to the Foundation in the name of the North Dakota Legion State Band be placed into a restricted account". In April of that year Band Manager Bruce Holtan notified the retired NDAL State band members that "the account is set up as a restricted fund which simply means we can access the proceeds the account generates each year, and the principal will stay intact forever...."

In another letter, dated April 3, 1998, Holtan listed 21 donations, gifts or deferred gifts (commitments) totaling \$17,520 had been received. Later, on May 9, 2001, Holtan sent a letter to Department Adjutant Schmidt inquiring about Band funds and lack of information about donations and fund balances. This letter suggested a serious lack of accountability and a need by the Band to know more about their financial position.

The value of the Band Fund, however it was initiated and how it was managed, fluctuated over the years and was one of the funds that had to be reconciled by the Foundation. By December of 2007 it had dropped to a value of \$22,069. No explanation has been found for the huge decline in value. The Band Fund has regrown since with one notable cash donation of \$5,000 and a like amount from a bequest in a life insurance policy. The Foundation silent auction in 2016 generated almost \$13,000 for the Band Fund.

With the concurrence of Band Manager Holtan in 2024, the Foundation has deemed the Band Fund a restricted endowment

The Band Fund has been and remains one of the most "popular" of Foundation held funds, annually receiving the largest number of personal donations, albeit many small ones, over recent years. Its current ending value as of December 2024 is \$70,145.

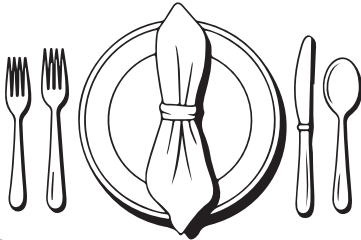
Commander's Homecoming Banquet

Department Commander Michael Weyrauch
Department President Candace Berg
Hosted by William E Smith in Ray, ND

October 25, 2025

Social at 5:30 pm and Meal at 6:30 pm

Ray Auditorium, 215 Main Street, Ray, ND 58849



RSVP this form to NDAL so it is received by October 15, 2025.

Menu: Seafood Boil Cost: \$12.00

Please reserve your hotel room by September 25, 2025 to get the group discount. The room block is under Legion Commander's Homecoming or Michael Weyrauch.

Mainstay Suites in Tioga Group Rate 701-877-2653

Microtel in Tioga Group Rate 701-664-3405



Commander Weyrauch and President Berg Homecoming

Name _____

Post Location _____ Post Number _____

Please enter the number of plates below:

Number of Plates _____ X \$12 Plate = \$ _____

Please RSVP and mail payment to NDAL so it is received by October 15, 2025 to

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Department of ND
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