

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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

Mandan to Host Winter Conference

The 2026 Winter Conference will be hosted by Mandan's American Legion Gilbert S. Furness Post #40 on January 23-25, 2026, to be held at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Mandan.

This year, National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer from Nebraska will be our guest speaker for the banquet on Saturday.

Landkamer was elected as a national vice commander of The American Legion on August 28, 2025, during the 106th National Convention in Tampa, FL.

A Vietnam veteran, Landkamer's eligibility in The American Legion comes from his service in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed at Naval Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA, with Fighter Squadron 1 (the first commissioned F-14 Squadron), and then onboard the USS Enterprise CVAN-65.

A Legionnaire since 1975, Landkamer is a member of American Legion Post 16 in Norfolk, NE, where he serves on the honor guard. He has held offices at every level of the organization, including post, county, district and area. Landkamer served as Department of Nebraska commander from 2006 to 2007. He also served as an Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2008-2012, and National Executive Committeeman 2012-2016.

Landkamer served on numerous national commission and committees for The American Legion including

Americanism, Law & Order and Homeland Security, Veterans Preference Committee, National Executive Committee liaison, Legislative Committee, and Committee on Committees. He has been involved in the Washington Conference since 2004, serving as a national legislative vice chairman for Nebraska since 2016. He has also been active with Cornhusker Boys State.

Landkamer is a member of The Sons of The American Legion, ANAVICUS, Past Department Commander's Club, the Knights of Columbus, and is a lector and Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norfolk, NE. He is employed by Lou's Thrifty Way Grocery Store in Norfolk. In his spare time, he enjoys making cabinetry, furniture and other woodworks.

Married to his wife, Starla, since 1992, the couple has one son Thomas and his wife Emilea, all of whom are American Legion Family members.

The State High School Oratorical Contest Finals are on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 pm with Department Oratorical Contest Chairman Jason Anderson overseeing the contest.

If you want to pre-register for the Winter Conference, mail in your Advanced Registration and Banquet ticket form. The price of the pre-registration banquet ticket is \$40 and increases to \$45 after January 6th. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk and is on a first-come first-served basis so order your tickets in



National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer

advance. Advanced Registration forms will not be accepted after January 14, and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

The Legion Family receives a discounted room rate with the Baymont Inn and Suites. Please call the hotel directly to make your room reservation by calling 701-663-7401. Discounted rates are through January 6, 2026, by 5:00 pm.

Legionnaire Training Session in Mandan

One of Past Department Commander Mamie Havelka's projects was training for Legionnaires. Thanks to all the generous donations received, she is able to continue training Legionnaires throughout North Dakota. The next training session will be at the Baymont Inn and Suites (2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND) prior to the Winter Conference on Thursday, January 22, 2026, starting at 1 pm and ending by 5:00 pm.

Training is available for all Legionnaires and is not limited to officers. A wide range of topics will be covered: MyLegion.org, conducting a meeting, awards, color guard and many more topics.

There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is appreciated to help with planning. Please call 701-293-3120 or email info@ndlegion.org to register for this training session before January 9, 2026.

American Legion Department of ND 2025 Veteran's Day Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Monday, November 10th at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are listed on the website: ndlegion.org

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Leon Schmitz of Park River Post 147

\$1000 Prize Winner
James Hawley of Bismarck of Post 1

\$200 Prize Winners
Lawrence Walsh of Parshall Post 121
Roger Murphy of ND Post 500

\$100 Prize Winners
Robert Fritel of Knox Post 217
John Bullinger of Bismarck Post 1
Larry Junker of Medina Post 245
Orlan Hall of Garrison Post 49
Steven Pelvit of Wyndmere Post 153
Willard Rose of Bismarck Post 1

The Future of the ND Legion – Update

Dear Legionnaires,

We are excited to shift our focus from the Department Service Office expenses to the exceptional work and dedication of our Department Service Officer, Summer Kristianson. Summer has had an incredibly busy year, tackling challenges head-on and earning well-deserved recognition for her service and commitment.

National Recognition at the AL National Convention

At the American Legion National Convention in August, Summer was once again one of the six top Service Officers in the nation. This prestigious recognition highlights her tireless efforts and the impact she has made on veterans and their families. Congratulations, Summer, on this outstanding achievement!

Top Graduate at the DSO Symposium

During the most recent Department Service Officer Symposium, Summer received the honored award of Top Graduate. Her hard work, determination, and dedication to continuous learning have truly been inspiring. We are so proud of your accomplishments, Summer, and grateful for your leadership.

Adapting Through the Government Shutdown

As the government shutdown continues, Summer has been required to work from home. Despite these challenges, she remains committed to serving North Dakota veterans, including our own Legionnaires. She continues to assist via email, ensuring that benefits are being paid, claims are being processed, and healthcare services remain accessible.

This shutdown marks the first time in history that Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) have been instructed not to work in the Regional Offices, instead being sent home. The adjustment has been significant, but Summer has risen to the occasion, finding new ways to continue her vital work.

Our Appreciation

Best wishes to Summer and heartfelt congratulations on her many accomplishments. Your dedication and achievements have not gone unnoticed. We are proud to have you serving our community and representing North Dakota veterans with distinction. Thank you for your hard work and perseverance, Summer!

Respectfully,
Mamie Havelka
Legionnaire



Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson
Application for Gaming Funds to help on page 3.

Thank you for your hard work and

North Dakota State Band

Cathy Keogh, Band Manager



In the season of thanksgiving family and remembrances, your ND American Legion State Band is thankful for all the continued support from the ND Legion family – Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL this past year. Excited to be going into the 102nd year of existence, this organization continues to bring the traditions of music, ceremony and celebration of the armed services to the Department Conventions. We remember those who passed in the last year who were important members of this organization – Kermit Rosendahl – Fairmount, ND (29-year member), Everett Rollie – Fargo, ND (32-year member) and Fran Ely – Bismarck, ND (50-year member).

Like the American Legion itself, your State Band has been built on dedication, tradition and service.

We would like to recognize a current member David Stern, who is currently the longest serving member of the State Band. Since 1974 he has been a dedicated member of this organization for over 51 years and has never missed a formation. Always willing to fill in as needed, he has directed both the State Band and the Dance Band besides playing his trombone. His legacy starts with his father, E. C. “Stub” Stern who was a member for 37-years. David’s wife Virginia also has been called on occasionally to fill in on keyboards for the Dance Band. Stub Stern’s grandson Corey Burgum completes the three generations of commitment playing his trumpet with the State Band for over 24-years.

This past Department Convention, David Stern

did double duty with playing his trombone with the State Band and directing the Dance Band. David is a member of the Grenora American Legion Post 116. He is a past Post Commander serving twice for Post 116.

Thank you to all who continue to support your State Band with financial donations. We look forward to continuing the tradition of performing military service songs or a favorite march and bringing great dance music for the Commander’s Banquet. Our commitment to providing music is to honor ceremony, to continue tradition and to foster and maintain Esprit de Corps of the ND American Legion organization.

The NDALF Rolfson (Administrative) Fund

Fifth in a series about endowed funds held within the NDAL Foundation

By Harvey Peterson, Chair

One never knows the impact or the lasting result of doing something for someone else. That is exactly the case that resulted in the formation of the Rolfson Fund, more commonly known as the Administrative Fund.

Nels I. Rolfson of Mayville, after his service in WWII, spent a great share of his life in the VA Hospital in St Paul, MN. Department Adjutant Jack Williams assisted him with handling his veteran’s pension that included setting up a number of investments that grew over the years. Upon his passing, the family thought it appropriate to make a gift to the American Legion in appreciation of the assistance provided by Mr. Williams. The family did not designate a specific use of the funds, but they were agreeable to initially use the funds for the management of the Foundation.

Minutes of the May 16, 1998, NDALF meeting record: “Resolved, that the earnings from The Nels I. Rolfson Estate Gift be designated for use towards

the operating expenses of the Foundation.” The gift was \$50,000 and was originally set up as a separate account. Later, on January 26, 2018, the Rolfson (Administrative) Fund was merged into the Managed Account held by Stifel, but the identity and the principal of the Rolfson Fund remains intact for the purpose for which it was given and subsequently is being used.

In the minutes from June 27, 2010, the Foundation agreed to reserve 10% of the income to the Foundation to be placed into the Rolfson fund to continue to pay the administrative costs. The original motion set up the reservation of 10% of both earned income and from donations. However, the 10% reservation from donations was dropped sometime later as it appeared to be unnecessary to maintain or increase the fund balance. Through sound fiscal measures and the fact that no directors have taken any meeting expense money since 2014, the only income needed has been 10% of annual earning of the Foundation assets. Thus, the balance of the Rolfson Fund has increased to \$63,516 as of the end of 2024.

*Merry Christmas
Legion Family!*

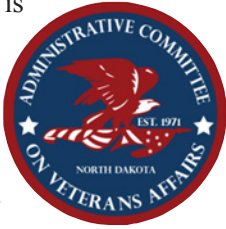
**THANK YOU, DONORS,
FOR BRINGING THE
FOUNDATION OVER A
MILLION IN 2025!
WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU AT THE
WINTER CONFERENCE
AND WISH YOU THE
BEST FOR A HAPPY AND
PRODUCTIVE 2026!**

ACOVA REPRESENTATIVES

Don Herrly, Department Adjutant

Each year our Department is asked to present two names to the Governor for their review to select one individual to be appointed to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA). The ACOVA is comprised of fifteen appointed veterans, three from each of the five principal veteran organizations: The American Legion, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans of America. There are four additional members on the board that are non-voting members of the Committee. The individuals are appointed to serve a three-year term.

If you are a member of The American Legion Department of North Dakota and you are interested in serving as one of our representatives on the ACOVA,



please submit a letter of application to Department Headquarters and include a short biography. Include your military service, civilian occupation, relevant education or schools attended, and why you think you would be a good candidate to be our representative. You have the option of including a resume if you desire.

It is imperative to understand that The American Legion and these appointments are not political positions, so please do not include any party affiliation or political positioning.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of the Department Commander, the Commander-Elect and the Department Adjutant who will conduct interviews with qualified applicants during the Winter Conference in January. The committee will select two candidates for Department Executive Committee approval to be submitted to the Governor’s Office. We are required to submit two

names for consideration and the Governor’s Office makes the final decision of who is appointed to serve a 3-year term.

The ACOVA usually meets four times a year, but more often if needed, especially during the legislative session. This committee works closely with the ND Veterans Coordinating Council, and both are responsible for preparing and presenting bills to the legislature that would affect veterans.

If you are interested in a position on this committee, submit your information by regular mail or email, to arrive at Department Headquarters no later than Monday January 19th, 2026. Interviews will be held at the Winter Conference in Mandan January 23rd – 25th, 2026. The American Legion is currently represented by Steve Anderson (Term ends 2026), Jacob Volk (Term ends 2027) and Nate Huntington (Term ends 2028).

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Best Wishes American Legion!
State Representative Jon Nelson

Thank you for your service

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Publisher and Editor, Don Herrly
Assistant Editor, Teri Bryant
PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078
Email adjutant@ndlegion.org --- www.ndlegion.org
Phone 701-293-3120

Department Commander, Mike Weyrauch, 641-1105, airepair@nccray.com
Department Cmdr-Elect, Jason Anderson, 449-9424, 1wlb4all@gmail.com
Department Vice Commanders:
Eastern Region, Jon Veile, 789-0136, majveile@bektel.com
Central Region, Robert Wishart, 550-9998, rjim@outma.com
Western Region, Scott Post, 641-6780, spost@nccray.com
Department Adjutant, Don Herrly, 293-3120, adjutant@ndlegion.org
Department Finance Officer, Derrick Childs, 351-8476, dchilds62@gmail.com
Department Chaplain, Mark Honstein, 580-4587, mhonstein@co.mckenzie.nd.us
Department Executive Committeemen:
Eastern Region, Sven Mickels, 788-4248, svenm@midco.net
Central Region, Jacob Volk, 350-0560, msgvolk@yahoo.com
Western Region, Lance Renville, 406-489-2672, renvila@restel.com
DEC Chair, Mamie Havelka, 340-1621, mamie.havelka@gmail.com
Dept. Sergeant-At-Arm, Bryce Crosby, 662-2809, crosby@gondtc.com
NEC, Steve Anderson, 370-0073, usmcanderson7797@gmail.com
Alt NEC, Mark Antal, 331-1173, m.antal@polarcomm.com
Department Judge Advocate, Reed Johnson, 590-0066, reed_johnson@outlook.com
Department Historian, Karen Meier, 463-7344, bgkjmeier@restel.net
Department Service Officer, Summer Kristianson, 451-4646, summer.kristianson@va.gov
Dept. Membership Chair, Lucinda Bolyard, 256-605-9113, lucinda.bolyard@yahoo.com

District Commanders:
First District, Harlan Johnson, 218-779-9450, harjohnson125@gmail.com
Second District, Bryan Ohlhauser, 304-0148, bohlauser@gmail.com
Third District, David Boucher, 550-9961, dasubou@outlook.com
Fourth District, Michael Allmer, 269-1662, Michael.allmer@gmail.com
Fifth District, Russell Kroshus, 426-5102, rkroshus@bis.midco.net
Sixth District, Kathryn White Bear, 605-569-0481, kwbluvjesus@yahoo.com
Seventh District, Lawrence Montclair, 891-9676, lmontclair@catholicindianmission.com
Eighth District, Herb Quamme, 928-0268, herb.quamme@hotmail.com
Ninth District, Doug Eckert, 339-5312, Rubber.cowboy@hotmail.com
Tenth District, Gordon Vosberg II, 301-9799, sotafisloer@yahoo.com

District Vice Commanders:
First District, Virginia Kraushaar, 412-1333, ginakraushaar@hotmail.com
Second District, Brandin Weninger, 247-3175, brandin.t.weninger@gmail.com
Third District, Demarqua Pratt, 350-7786, prattsfamily88@outlook.com
Fourth District, Cory Haugen, 840-2206, haugc_2010@live.com
Fifth District, Bruce Zimney, 720-7376791, bkzim@msn.com
Sixth District, Allan Magnuson, 818-4788, magnusonallan@yahoo.com
Seventh District, NA
Eighth District, Michael Gant, 226-9696, bluecollar1980@my.com
Ninth District, Ginny Watterson, 770-1819, dgwatterson@gmail.com
Tenth District, Quentin Larson, 403-3898, larsonq@hotmail.com

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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



Greetings from your Department Commander,
As of the 10th of November, I have been busy attempting to attend all the invites I have received. I'm proud to have been chosen as your Commander and I will do my best to live up to your expectations. If any of you have an event you would like me to attend, please give me a call and I will do my best to meet that commitment. You can reach me at 701-641-1105.
Thank you to all that were able to attend my homecoming. I was very pleased with the attendance (I know several traveled some distance to attend) and appreciated all the camaraderie, humor and gifts throughout the night. Hope you enjoyed the meal.
As of the last membership report, the Department is doing very good with a few exceptions. The posts that are

under 70% need to pick things up as we are hoping to be 100% by 31 December 2025.
Our Department Adjutant has forwarded a couple of emails from National regarding the SAL and how they are to be treated in our canteens. Make sure you are following those guidelines as that will keep you on the good side of the IRS.
With Veterans Day, I was in Watford City for their program. I hope all of you had a very blessed and happy Veterans Day.
I look forward to seeing all of you at the Winter Conference in Mandan at the end of January. Please try to attend as we will have our National Vice Commander present for our membership drive and the department Oratorical Contest.



Greetings from the East Region. I have not had much time to spend on Legion business. My son has had an undiagnosed case of Lyme disease for what we estimate for five years. He was diagnosed this year when he could not get the crop planted. He is now on treatment but I am still having to fill in for him on the farm. In my job as a crop insurance adjuster, I have come across individuals who had the same symptoms as my son. I have urged them to get tested for Lyme disease and as it turned out they had it too. The common fallacy is that if you don't have a bullseye, you don't have the disease. However, in 30% of the cases, there was not a bullseye even though they had the disease. So long story short, if you have unreasonable fatigue, anxiety, or panic attacks get tested.
The winter conference will be coming up in January. I hope you are making plans to attend. To look further down the road, we will be electing new district officers at the spring district meetings. It is not too early to start thinking about who you would like to see in the various offices.
I do not have much more to add at this time as the combine is calling me.
Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander



Greetings from Central Region Vice Commander
I hope everyone had a good summer. I hope to see you all at the Winter Conference in Mandan and I wish everyone Happy Holidays.
Robert Wishart
Central Region Vice Commander



Western greetings to all. It was a busy fall with festivities, District meetings and a homecoming. Districts 9 and 6 held a fall joint meeting in Minot. Little disappointed with the attendance, we were centrally located and still struggled with participation from several posts. Host post of Sherwood did an excellent job. Great patriotic atmosphere was displayed by White Shield's Auxiliary. Once the meeting was adjourned, Veterans and family enjoyed free bowling sponsored by Williston Post 37. I was unable to attend district 8 fall meeting due to the flu bug.
On to a joint meeting of District 5 and 7 in Bismarck, meeting was held in the basement of the AMVETS club. This is tough but I have to be honest here. Home of one of the largest memberships in the state. Where was everyone, we have better participation in some of our monthly Post meetings. My assumption is this: lack of interest due to the location for one reason. It was a dungeon of 4 gray walls and a flag, No patriotic display, No history of the post. How do we get interest from younger veterans when this is what we offer. Come on, we can do better. I've seen better, for example, Dickinson's Veterans building. It gives you a sense of pride and patriotism that makes you want to belong! Be Visible! Be active! Be proud!!
I attended my first National Convention this past summer, what a great time. Very informative with some amazing leaders. Hope more of you can attend next year in Louisville, Kentucky.
Commander Weyrauch's Homecoming in Ray was very memorable, great food and entertainment. Being the MC of a roast of a great friend is difficult. "We haven't spoken since!" No just kidding.
The Commander and I were invited to Grenora for a Fall Veterans supper. We were treated like royalty. Visited with a Korean war vet with 70-years in the legion and a World War II vet with 81-years in the legion. We salute you both!
As usual, District 9 is bringing up the rear like the past two years. Time to hit the igniter and finish in first place like the past two years.
Thank you all, see you at Winter Conference.
DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY!
Scott Post
West Region Vice Commander

Have You Paid Your 2026 Membership Dues?

The Future of the ND Legion



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

Organization

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

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



So much to say and so little room to print it. Normally, for a December issue I would expound on the upcoming holiday season and all our blessings. I still want to wish each one of you a joyous and blessed holiday season, but there is so much information that I want to share with you this time that I will have to leave it with a simple “Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas!” Admit it, you sang that last part!

Where to start, as of July 1, 2026, the ND per capita dues will increase \$5.50 from \$18.00 to \$23.50. National per capita dues are \$23.50 which means that your local dues will need to be at least \$47.00 per year for your Post not to become “upside down”. When a post is upside down, meaning their published dues are below the combined national and department per-capita members cannot renew online or through myLegion. Don’t forget to add on any amount that your wish to collect for your local Post. So, if your dues need to be adjusted, now is the time to act on it at your local meeting and report the new amount to us at Department Headquarters so we can report them to National Headquarters. Remember, dues increases do not affect Paid Up For Life members.

One stone won’t kill two birds. This note is for all you cheap skates, and I include myself in this group because I used to do the same thing. When you are sending in your sweepstakes tickets, please do not include other mail for the office in the same envelope. Like you, I used to think that since the address was the same that I might as well send the other things that I have for department headquarters in the same envelope. The problem arises in that we don’t open sweepstakes envelopes here. We put them in a box and send them to the company that handles our sweepstakes. So, if you send something in the same envelope, it first goes to the sweepstakes company, then when they open it and they must send it back to us. So, it delays getting whatever it was that you sent us.

I have not heard of any problems here in ND, probably because we don’t have many dedicated America Legion

Canteen (Bar) operations, but these issues could arise here. SAL squadrons, detachments, and the national organization are not stand-alone Veteran Service Organizations, but, rather, must coexist through the adoption and sponsorship of a post and cannot have their own EIN and tax-exempt status. This means the SAL is under the full autonomy of its sponsoring post. If the post chooses to allow the squadron to use the post’s EIN and tax-exempt status, that would be predicated on whether the squadron (program) is in full compliance with the Four Rules of a Program. Moreover, the rights and privileges of a program are not the same as those of a Legionnaire. For example, the post bar, restaurant, canteen, or other social activity is intended for Legion members (veterans) of the post, with the revenue staying in the tax-exempt category. Social non-members are not eligible for membership in The American Legion. The members of the SAL squadron would be considered social non-members, and therefore, any sales or revenue generated from social non-members can also be subject to tax by the IRS. Should you be contacted by the Internal Revenue service and asked to provide a roster of your members, it is imperative that you only send your Post Roster. You would not send a roster of your Baseball Team, Boys State Delegates, SAL members or any other program that you sponsor.

Another issue that I have stressed in the past and will continue to push is to make sure you maintain your tax-exempt status. It is very easy to keep and very difficult to restore it. While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. What are the consequences of losing your tax-exempt status? You could be subject to paying tax on your fund-raising activities and donations to your Post may not be eligible for a tax deduction by the donor. It is a simple matter to make this filing online, however if you have lost it you most likely will need to pay someone to help you get it back plus

there is a \$600 filing fee. So, the minimum it will cost you is the \$600 filing fee and then add on whatever you pay a professional to do the paperwork for you.

It is important that you have your Post incorporated with the ND Secretary of State. By Incorporating you protect your members by creating a separate legal entity that provides limited liability protection. This means that directors, officers, and members are typically not personally responsible for the organization’s debts or legal judgments if they conduct themselves ethically and responsibly. This does not protect you from personal liability if you conduct yourself in a reckless manner or commit unethical actions. To remain active, you must file an annual report with the office of The Secretary of State and pay a ten-dollar fee.

It saddens me to have to address this subject, but as of late there has been rumblings of Post closures. Should you decide that the time has come when you can no longer keep your Post open, there are forms that need to be filed. There is also another option where you merge with another Post. If you close your Post, any members that do not request a transfer go into the Department Holding Post known as Post 500. If you merge with another Post, then all your members are transferred into the Post that you merge with. If you have ceremonial weapons they must be returned to the Department of The Army, they cannot be kept by your members or sold. Any remaining funds must be donated to an eligible organization; this balance cannot be divided up among the remaining members. Of course, I would like to put in a pitch that it comes to the Department, but it can be donated to any eligible non-profit.

I have more things that I would like to cover but I have already taken up a lot of space and others have things that they want to share too. With that I want to once again extend my wishes for a joyous and happy holiday season. I wish you good health and prosperity in the upcoming New Year. Until the next time; May God Bless a Strong and Free America and “Keep your Powder Dry!”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAMIE HAVELKA - DEC CHAIR



Legionnaires,
The meeting of the North Dakota American Legion (NDAL) Department Executive Committee was called to order at 2:30 PM at the Senior Center in Ray, North Dakota, 25 October 2025.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved.

Reports:

- The financial report was presented and acknowledged by the committee.
- Committee and other reports were accepted as presented.

A focused discussion was held regarding the discontinuation of the Youth Trooper Academy program. A motion was made and approved to hold all related funds until scholarships are awarded and any outstanding expenses are paid. Committee Chair Twete will work toward reinstating the program.

Old Business:

- A motion was made and approved to enter NDAL into a Big Game Raffle Lottery.
- The Adjutant job advertisement was revisited, and

- suggested updates were made for future use.
- The Investment Policy and proposed changes were reviewed and approved.
- Commander Weyrauch presented the Commander-appointed committee chairs and members, who were confirmed and approved.
- Conflict of Interest Statements: All statements were completed, found in good order, and acknowledged.

New Business:

District/Post Matters: District areas were discussed, as well as the attendance of posts at district meetings other than their own. A motion was made that districts will remain as currently organized. Members may attend any district meeting but may vote only in their own district meeting. Motion approved.

Social Media – Neon Loon: A motion was made for Post 1, Bismarck ND to cover Neon Loon’s services until June 30, 2026, with the pending donation to be included in the next budget year. The motion was approved.

Personnel Policy Manual: The annual review and proposed changes to the Personnel Policy Manual were

discussed. The review and proposed changes were moved and approved.

40 et 8: A motion was made to charge 40 et 8 for the actual cost of meeting rooms plus a minimum of \$50 for labor and associated expenses of the book, and at the Department Conference and Convention, scheduled at the Department’s available time and venue. The motion was approved.

Copier Lease: With the copier lease ending in November 2025, a motion was made and approved to lease a new machine.

ACOVA Interviews: ACOVA interviews will be held at the Conference. Ads will be placed in the December issue of Legion News and in a bulletin. A motion was made for the interview panel to include the Commander-Elect, Commander, and Adjutant. The motion was approved.

The meeting concluded with all agenda items addressed. The next meeting date and location will be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Mamie Havelka, Department Executive Chair

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



“The SITREP of Your Soul”

The SITREP, for those of you not familiar with the term, is a Situation Report that summarizes in short fashion the situation to date, actions taken, next steps, risk assessment and needed decisions. It came out of WWII as a quick way to give the command structure the low down on what was happening in the field but has been adopted by businesses because of its efficient approach and analysis. The SITREP asks four questions. What is happening right now? What actions have been taken up until now? What actions are yet to be taken? What are the risks and things that require immediate attention or decisions? The answers to these questions for the SITREP allow those in the lead to evaluate the situation from several angles and make the necessary changes for a successful outcome. As we wrap up another year and prepare to welcome a new one, it is a good time to give ourselves a SITREP, a SITREP of our souls so to speak.

The Bible often speaks of the importance of examining ourselves. At the end of Psalm 139, King David asked the Lord to search him, “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any

offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” The prophet Jeremiah wrote “Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.” (Lam 3:40) The apostle Paul wrote on the importance of self-examination several times in his letters to the church. “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” (Rom 12:3) “If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.” (Gal 6:3-5) One of the greatest evangelists of the New Testament reminded the people to remain humble and examine themselves to confirm their faith and move forward.

Whether you are a Christian or not, the importance of self-examination can be demonstrated in other ways. If you were one degree off course flying from San Francisco to Washington, DC, you would be 40 miles off course by the time you got there. If you were going to the moon, you

would be over 4,000 miles off course. It is important to evaluate where we are and where we are headed so we can make course corrections along the way.

So, where are you today physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually? What is the SITREP of your soul? Are you where you want to be? What actions have you taken that have brought you here? What actions are you planning to take moving forward? And what are the risks or necessary decisions you need to make in order to do that? As a Christian, that course correction is pretty simple. James writes, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (Jam 1:22) And John writes, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) The great thing about course correction as a Christian is that Jesus has already provided the path through His death and resurrection.

As we enter the Christmas season, may we all spend some time examining ourselves to get the SITREP of our souls so we can make those necessary course corrections. Blessings on the new year and we will see you at the Winter Conference.

(December 1, 2025 Publication)
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14,767	15,091
13,036	13,328
1,554	1,609
0	0
0	0
14,590	14,937
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
14,590	14,937
177	154
14,767	15,891
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Planning for Your Worst Day

No one wants to plan for their worst day. But the fact of the matter is, we will all reach the point where we are no longer here. Having a plan for your future and the future of your loved ones can be an important piece of your legacy. Knowing what VA benefits you may qualify for now may save a lot of time, when there may not be much time left.

Burial Benefits: The VA may provide for some burial reimbursement for expenses for funeral costs, transportation costs, and/or plot costs for veterans. Veterans who pass away from a service-connected condition automatically qualify for these benefits (excluding veterans who have a statutory bare to benefits). Veterans who are not service connected may still qualify for burial reimbursement. It is

important to speak with a VSO to discuss options as there are time limits to apply.

National Cemetery: Veterans and dependents may be interned at any National Cemetery throughout the country. Most veterans are eligible to be interned at a National Cemetery (exception veterans with dishonorable discharges and those who have been convicted of capital crimes post service). There is no cost for the burial to the family, and the headstone is included (note: the family is required to pay any funeral cost – only the burial/headstone is no cost to the family).

Survivors Benefits: If the veteran passes away from a service-connected condition, a condition which could have been related to service, or had been service connected

at 100% for 10 or more years, his/her spouse may be entitled to Dependent and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC flat rate paid each month similar service-connected compensation. If the spouse does not qualify for DIC and is low income, he/she may be eligible for survivor's pension (pending additional eligibility requirements).

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

I will be at Winter Conference 2026 with additional resources for veterans and their families on how to better prepare for the future. Please stop by to see me!

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Mid-Year Progress and Gearing Up for Conference

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota! Fall District meetings are behind us and we are gearing up for the Winter Conference, January 23-25 in Mandan. As we wrap up 2025 and say hello to 2026, let's keep up the work we are doing in our communities and for our Posts.

On the membership front, we are hitting our target dates on time, but I want to encourage Squadrons to not sit on memberships and turn them in as soon as possible. We are in last place in the Midwest Region in membership and I know we can do better than that because we have been towards the front in past years. Our goal from National is 1,160, but I would like to see us crack 1,200. I know you can do it. Also, get your members renewed so they do not expire on January 1.

The officers and I made efforts to attend what Fall District meetings we were able to and share about the

great work the SAL does. On October 25, Joe Camisa and I attended Department Commander Mike Weyrauch and Department President Candace Berg's Homecoming in Ray. It was a good time.

As oratorical contests gets going across the state, I hope you are able to assist with the contests in some way, and I encourage you, if helping at a local or District contest, to talk about the SAL and Auxiliary to the contestants and see if they have eligibility to join. It is also not too early to start talking about Boys State with our young men in your community that you may know who are eligible and would benefit from the program.

I want to encourage members to attend the Winter Conference in Mandan in January and help us have a strong presence and show the Legion that we are a strong component of the Family. Reach out and let us know you are sending members from your Squadron so we can

have an idea to plan things for our membership. Also, our business meeting will be held to discuss where we are at so far and to look forward to the end of the membership year, so please come and let your voices be heard.

In closing, I wish you all the warmest of holiday seasons and ask you to keep our troops and their families in your thoughts, especially those on deployment and those veterans struggling. This is a great time to do those buddy checks to see how everyone is doing.

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,

North Dakota Boys State

Hello Legionnaires,

We are coming off another great summer at the Boys State program and I am excited for some of the behind the scenes changes that we have working with the Staff so that the program can continue to improve for these young men that make the choice to step outside of their comfort zone (or possibly be pushed out by someone in their lives that cares about them) and join us in Wahpeton for a week that can truly change a young man's life. I can speak from experience about how much this program has done for me in my life not just in understanding how a government

should run and serve the public but also in many other parts of my life.

It is that time of the year again for North Dakota Boys State where the recruiting process will be hitting the ground running so that we (you and the Boys State Staff) can inform the young men of the state about the amazing program you sponsor. By this time our mass mailer should be out which informs a good number of potential students that could benefit from being involved with the Boys State program through their participation in school activities.

This is where I need your help, talk in your communities

to those that you know that have a high school Junior in their lives about applying on the ND Boys State website to attend Boys State in on June 14-19, 2026. I would love to expand our school visits with you and a member of our past delegation to talk about the program. Boots on the ground end up doing a lot for our recruitment efforts.

Thank you for all you do for the Legion and the Boys State program. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions about recruitment.

Garrett Anderson
ND Boys State Deputy Director- Recruitment
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2026 Winter Conference

National Auxiliary President Pam Ray will be a guest of the Department of North Dakota at the 2026 Winter Conference to be held in Mandan on January 23-25. She will be the keynote speaker at the Auxiliary workshops on Saturday, January 24.

Pam is a 69-year PUFL member of the Department of Illinois. She has been an active member of the Auxiliary since her parents signed her up as a child. She served in all Junior offices in her Department, including serving as honorary Department Junior President in 1972. She continued her service as a Senior member including serving

Gackle Shows
Community Spirit

American Legion Auxiliary Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle supports numerous community service projects, recently donating funds to the following organizations:

- \$12,965 to Legion Post 250 of Gackle to refurbish its kitchen.
- \$1,062 to the Gackle-Streeter Public Schools to be applied toward the monthly Scholastic book order to place a personal book into the hands of each elementary school student.
- \$900 to the Gackle Community Food Pantry
- \$900 to the Western North Dakota Honor Flight, serving veterans from western North Dakota.
- \$100 to the Gackle-Streeter Public School to be applied toward student school supplies.

Members of the Gackle Unit are proud to support these worthy community causes.

Article and photos submitted by: Elaine Ackerman, President Unit 250



Gackle - Streeter School students with their books



Western ND Honor Flight Donation. Western North Dakota Board Members Crystal Strand and Patience Mosbrucker with Gackle Auxiliary member Marella Koenig (middle).



Gackle Food Pantry Donation. Pictured (l-r): Gackle Food Pantry representatives Jane Schoonover, District 4 President and Peggy Schroeder with Elaine Ackerman, President Unit 250.

in various offices in her Unit, as District President, and as Department President in 2010-2011.

Pam dreamed about becoming a nurse from an early age. She achieved that dream in 1977 and had a wonderful 47-year career, working in and caring for people in a burn center, pediatrics, and neurosurgery. Pam spent much of her career caring for head and neck cancer patients and their families.

Pam has been married to Harl (Butch) Ray for 46 years. They are the parents of two beautiful daughters and two grandchildren. Pam's passion has always been helping

Membership and
Education in McVile

Being creative can be a big plus when it comes to getting membership dues paid. For many, years, Ole Semling Unit 135 in McVile has written a letter to each member, telling of the events and programs that we have taken part in the past year. We share what we did to accomplish program goals and what we do to make our community and our veteran's lives better as well as how we serve our active military members. The letters are also accompanied by the membership card for the upcoming year. The letters are always well accepted and membership seems to come in more quickly with a personal letter.

Well, we decided that a new wrinkle to membership collection would be a fun undertaking. A plan was made and things were under way. Several members contributed coffee cake. Coffee was prepared by the Legion Café and a postcard was mailed to all local McVile Auxiliary members to come and do 'Membership and Coffee' on a Monday morning.

We had a nice turn out with a lot of visiting taking place and dues got paid too. We know area towns do membership picnics and include the Legion members as well, but this seemed like an easy, 'Ladies Morning Out' thing to do. Perhaps this is an idea your unit could utilize in the future.

Prior to the start of school this fall, the Nelson County Welfare Office contacted our Unit asking if we could donate school supplies for four students in the District who might not otherwise have them to fulfill the teacher's requests.

With school about to start, a unit member who has four small children of her own gladly volunteered to pick up the extra supplies. With a long list of supplies in hand, this young unit member set off to complete her assigned duties and delivered the supplies for distribution to the children. From crayons to backpacks each of the four lists was complete. This was quite a task and we are so proud of her for taking on this project, doing her part in our mission to support our children and youth, veterans, and our communities. Thank you Kia.

Articles and photo submitted by: Judy Twete, President Unit 135



Americanism is Alive in Scranton

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 151 of Scranton is proud to announce that Natalia Martinez was a winner of the 2025 Americanism Essay Contest at the Northwestern Division. Terry Freymiller and members of Unit 151 presented a certificate, gift cards, and a journal to Natalia at Bowman High School with her instructors and many of her peers in attendance.

Congratulations Natalia!

The Scranton unit thanks Bowman High School instructors Lisa Halstrom and Jace Myrnak for encouraging their students to participate in the Americanism Essay Contest.

Articles and photos submitted by: Terry Freymiller, President Unit 151



Natalia Martinez, Americanism Essay Contest Northwestern Division Winner (left) and Terry Freymiller, Unit President.



Pictured (l-r): Auxiliary members Anne Gruber; Donna Robinson; Cindy Miller; Lisa Halstrom, instructor; Natalia Martinez, contest winner; Jaci Myrnak, instructor; Terry Freymiller; Carol Miller; Devin Anderson; and Laci Coates, Bowman County Veterans Service Officer.

people and she has found that the ALA's 'Mission' is a way to continue to do that. Her family is her other passion, and what better way to bring the two together than with her theme of 'Mission Driven, Family Focused.'

The Department of North Dakota welcomes National President Pam Ray.



Pam Ray National President

American Legion Auxiliary
2026 Winter Conference

January 23-25, 2026

(Tentative schedule/subject to change)

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Friday, January 23

- 2:00 – 7:00 PM Auxiliary Registration
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM Department Executive Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 24

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration
- 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM.....Joint Session / Membership Workshop
- 9:30 AM.....Auxiliary Workshops – National President, Pam Ray
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Auxiliary Workshops Department Chairmen
- 12:00 PM.....Lunch
- 1:00 PM.....Legion Family Programs Joint Session
- 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM ...Oratorical Contest Finals
- 4:00 PM.....Reception for National President
- 5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet Social
- 6:00 PM.....Winter Conference – Commanders Banquet

Sunday, January 25

- 7:00 AM.....Catholic Mass
- 9:00 AM.....Worship Service



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Department President

Hello Auxiliary Members,

A quote from John C. Maxwell, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This famous quote has been a favorite of mine since I first saw it about 20 years ago. As Auxiliary members and spokespeople and advocates for this organization, it is a reminder of our "why." It reflects our legacy of supporting this organization and its mission with a caring and supportive attitude.

Recently, I realized I am one-third through my year as your Department President. I have been reflecting on my year so far, and as I do so, I cannot help but smile at the great honor it has been. I had the pleasure of attending the 2025 Fall District Meetings across the state. The food, the fellowship, the meetings, and special moments before, during, and after the gatherings were very valued. The American Legion Family atmosphere at the District meetings was inspirational, and I am thankful to have a Department Commander whose theme and goal is ALA Family focused as "We are one."

During District meetings, I asked each of the Districts to consider bringing a basket or items for the "Chinese raffle" that will take place at Winter Conference with proceeds going to my president projects. I would gladly also accept any personal/individual items that people would like to donate to the raffle. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to donate.

During District meetings, I also distributed a check-in sheet with options for committees and information to fill in. Thank you to all who provided me with information. I am reviewing the details and will be formulating a plan for next steps toward goals for the year.

Winter conference is soon upon us. We are planning a great event that we hope many are planning to attend. Please fill up your vehicles and bring as many members with you as possible. National Auxiliary President Pam Ray is planning to attend our conference and will provide inspiration to all in attendance.

My team of program chairmen have been working diligently on their programs and positions. Updated information on our programs and the 2025-2026 Department year can be found on the Department website at www.ndala.org. For even more information, visit the National website at www.alaforveterans.org. A lot of work goes into these websites, so please check them frequently for updates.

One of my goals this year is to increase the number of people involved in leadership through opportunities for growth, education, and refreshment. I want to empower more members to become confident leaders for the future of the Auxiliary. Online ALA Academy training courses are free, self-paced, and take about an hour to complete per module. Online training can be found at: www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy

Thank you to all who have donated toward my president projects: 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. I am getting to the end of my supply of pins, so if you are interested in one, please reach out to me as soon as possible to reserve one.

The new North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page is now active. I encourage individual members to share Auxiliary activities going on in your communities. The page is there for everyone to be uplifted and inspired by what others are doing across the state. Please share pictures and a few short sentences or an article on this site: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary

With the 2026 membership year in progress, statistics show that North Dakota is sitting at 45% of goal as I write this article. We are nearly halfway to our goal of 100%. Every member is on the membership team and every moment is a potential membership moment. Kudos to everyone helping with membership! There are three easy options for paying membership: (1) through your unit, (2) through the Department, (3) paying online or by calling National HQ at (317) 569-4570. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact the Department Office at (701) 253-5992.

I am immensely proud to be a part of the American Legion Family and working to make this Auxiliary year the best possible. Let us continue to humbly pay it forward, as the ND American Legion Auxiliary team, supporting each other and continuing to be inspired by our mission to serve our military, veterans, and their families.

Candace Berg



Candace Berg

Department Chaplain

My hope today is that you are enjoying this lovely autumn as much as I have. In all my years, and believe me there are many, I have never been more content to sit on my patio reading a book and enjoying a cup of coffee while enjoying the peace and quiet. Then I read the newspaper or listen to the news and realize things are not quite so peaceful.

Returning from Tampa Bay where the National Convention was held in August, many hours were spent on issues that needed to be ironed out. Through all the discussions, I marveled at the ability of people to discuss and state opinions and still be civil. No one left the convention center in anger and went home. Our Auxiliary was a shining star as an example of how to deliberate. Even if we disagree about everything, we can still be kind to each other. Disagreements are an inevitable part of life, a testament to the diversity of thought and experience that enriches our world. But even when our beliefs clash, even when our perspectives diverge, we can still choose to treat each other with kindness and respect. Kindness is not a sign of weakness but a testament to strength, a recognition that our shared humanity transcends our differences. By extending compassion to those who hold opposing views, we create bridges instead of walls, fostering dialogue instead of division. May we remember that kindness is a universal language, a powerful force that can soften hearts and build bridges even in the face of disagreement.

Winter Conference is coming up in January. There will no doubt be issues to discuss that likely will have a multitude of opinions. That's just fine. We can practice deliberation, discourse and parley, and go away loving one another and perhaps being educated by the process.

I often revert to a song by Tim McGraw entitled "Always be Humble and Kind." Included in the verses is a message saying "Hold the door, say please, say thank you, Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't lie. I know you got mountains to climb but always stay humble and kind. When those dreams you're dreamin' come to you, when the work you put in is realized. Let yourself feel the pride but always stay humble and kind. Don't take for granted the love this life gives you when you get where you're going don't forget to turn back around and help the next one in line. Always stay humble and kind."

There is so much value in that song that I challenge you to research.

Matthew 5:44-48

But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even scoundrels do that much. If you are friendly only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even the heathen do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Virginia Satrom



Virginia Satrom

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

The Department Office has been busy keeping up with membership and working on Unit Mailing packets, Flickertail Girls State, 'The Message' articles, and archiving old membership and Department records when time allows.

The 2026 Winter Conference is just a few short weeks away and I encourage everyone to attend. National President Pam Ray will be a special guest of the Department and you do not want to miss meeting her in person. President Candace and her team of Department Chairmen are putting together workshops for members planning to attend. You will find a 'tentative' schedule and pre-registration and banquet ticket order forms printed elsewhere in this publication. I encourage anyone who is planning to attend to make your hotel reservations early! Let us make this a memorable event for National President Pam and Department President Candace.

Thank you, Unit Membership Chairmen, you have done an amazing job getting dues in.

North Dakota 2026 membership goals are at 45% as I write this. Armed with the dedication and hard work of all Auxiliary members we can make 100% well before convention next summer. Unit membership chairs, do not hold memberships, pay them in the ALA MIS program if you can or send them to the Department office as soon as they arrive.

My family and I wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season. Stay well, stay safe, and I will see you in Mandan at the 2026 Winter Conference!

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer

As we enter this season of giving, I am so grateful for each and every one of you! Contributions from Units across our beautiful state have been coming in at a faster pace than this time last year! This means that the Department will have more funds to disperse from Unit contributions at the end of this calendar year. I can't wait for our veteran's programs to receive the checks that are made possible as we pool our funds together to give back to our veterans. This is our stated purpose—we are a Veterans Service Organization. I know that your generous contributions make a difference to these programs and those they serve. Thank you to each and every Unit – you are all a blessing!

As we go into the New Year, let's do our best to keep up the good work of 'Service not Self.' It can be hard to keep a cheery attitude through the dark, dreary days of winter.

My hope is that Units continue to reach out – perhaps making a monthly or quarterly calendar of one thing the Unit can do each month or quarter to keep those generous vibes going. Maybe it's sending birthday cards to Unit members and veterans in the local nursing home. Another favorite is sharing a meal with your American Legion Post. Everyone loves a potluck, and the combination of foods always seems to come together just right.

Enjoy the season – then keep it going. One moment at a time. Thank you for your generosity.

Susan Degner, CPA



Susan Degner

District 4

We had a great District 4 Fall Meeting. At the joint session, Auxiliary President Berg presented Lynn Helm, a member of James Roberts Unit 124 of McClusky, with a framed certificate for being chosen North Dakota's 2025 Unit Member of the Year.

At the ALA meeting, our special guests were Department President Candace Berg, President-Elect/Membership Chairman Sandy Smith, and myself as Department Junior Activities Chairman. We talked about getting the Junior members involved. If we can get just one Junior member participating, hopefully more will follow.

We voted to donate to President Berg's project by purchasing something for the Chinese Raffle to be held at the Winter Conference in January. District 4 also elected to form its own Facebook page to keep up with Unit events. Our Facebook page is: ND American Legion Auxiliary District 4. If you have an event you would like to share for your Unit, please contact me so we can share it with the members of District 4.

Legion Department Commander Mike would like us to help with each other's events when possible. Auxiliary President Candace suggests that we visit the Department website at www.ndala.org and the National website at www.legion-aux.org for more information. There is a wealth of helpful material on these two websites.

I hope to see many of you at the 2026 Winter Conference January 23-25 in Mandan.

**Jane Schoonover
District 4 President**



District 10



Hello District 10 Auxiliary Members!

My name is Leila Ptacek, and I was recently elected President of District 10. I have been an Auxiliary member for 34 years. I joined under my father, who is a World War II and Korean War veteran. I am excited to see what this position entails and what I can do to improve membership numbers. The current goal is 60% membership by November 10th.

Our District meeting was held on October 4th in Hankinson. I want to thank members of the Hankinson Unit for preparing and serving a delicious meal. We were honored to have Department President Candace Berg in attendance, along with Sandy Smith, Department President Elect & Membership Co-Chairperson, and Carol Wolf, Poppy & VA&R Chairperson.

President Candace encouraged units to put any information or unit events on the new Facebook page, "ND American Legion Auxiliary - www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary". Her President's projects are the Honor Flight Network for Eastern/Western North Dakota and NDSU Bison Strides Equine Therapy for Veterans. Both are excellent choices to help our veterans. Think of what your unit can do when you donate to these worthy veterans' groups. Ask around for ideas.

The 2026 Winter Conference is scheduled to be held in Mandan on January 23-25 and the 2026 Department Convention will be June 26-28 in Fargo. Fargo is close to District 10 units, so please make plans now to attend.

I have a lot to learn but I am willing and will do my best to help keep your units thriving. If you are on Facebook, take note of who is posting about their veterans on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, military birthdays, etc. Send them a letter inviting them to be a member and brag your unit up on what your events and activities are. Be sure to include a membership application with a benefits flyer. Do not forget to sign up potential Junior members too!

I would love to visit with members of all District 10 units, so if you are planning a meeting or unit event, please send me an invitation. I am looking forward to meeting and visiting you.

Leila Ptacek
District 10 President

Community Service

Hello Auxiliary Members!

Community Service is one of the many important programs that are part of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is one where our members have an opportunity to engage with the public and show them what we do, how we do it, and why we do it.



There are a number of community events to take part in:

- 11/11/25 – Veterans Day Programs
- 1/19/26 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- 4/25/26 - American Legion Family Day
- American Legion Family Day- Start planning now. Involve the entire American Legion Family.

Share pictures and information about your event to receive an American Legion Family Day Citation from ALA National President Pam Ray, National Commander Dan Wiley, and SAL National Commander Bill Clancy III. Must have participation from members of all the American Legion Family.

Other types of Community Service events include: 5K freedom walks with proceeds going to Auxiliary programs, clothing drives, volunteering to serve a meal at a homeless shelter, hosting a blood drive, volunteering at church or school, sew or knit for a nursing home, donate food for a food drive (do a Truck or Feed instead of Trunk or Treat), parades. These are just a few examples of the almost endless list of community events. Some community events are considered part of other programs like: Children & Youth, Education, Americanism, VA & R, National Security.

If you are unsure how to count your volunteer hours, let me know and I will find the answer for you. Submit your event photos, and include who, what unit, and what event. Send pictures in high resolution JPG or PNG format. I will forward them to our Northwestern Division Chair for her monthly newsletter. Email to communityservice@ndala.org or KLSSCS@gra.midco.net

I look forward to hearing from every unit. Let us help North Dakota stand out with all our Community Service events! Thank you.

Shelley Schuster
Community Service Chairman

Are you signed up for monthly Department e-newsletters?

Send an email to news@ndala.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line. In the body of the email, please list your name, unit number, and position held (if applicable). You will be added to the Constant Contact group list.

Children & Youth

Hello Auxiliary Members!

As your Department Children and Youth Chairman, I was able to attend a few District meetings this fall as well as the Homecoming Celebration for Department Commander Mike Weyrauch and Department President Candace Berg. It was wonderful to get together and have some great conversations at these events.



I'm looking forward to spending more time with our Legion/Auxiliary family at the Winter Conference.

Remember to keep an eye out for youth in our state doing incredible things! We would love to show our appreciation by nominating them for an award. We have two categories:

- **GOOD DEED AWARD** - Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in the community.
- **YOUTH HERO AWARD** - Youth has demonstrated a physical act of valor.

Nominate these exceptional youth at: www.alaforveterans.org. In the menu, simply click on **HOW WE SERVE** for more information on how to complete your nomination. You may also visit the nomination webpage at: www.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards

I also encourage each of you to invite a fellow Auxiliary member to join us at Winter Conference. Let's have a great turnout in Mandan! See you there!

Jill Carstens
Children and Youth Chairman

Belfield Auxiliary Donation



American Legion Auxiliary William C. Blair Unit 144 of Belfield donated five gift cards to be given to local veterans in need. Pictured are Cheryl Evenson, Unit 144 Treasurer (left) and Jessica McClellan, Stark County Veterans Service Officer.

Education

Scholarships Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary



Supporting military veterans, current military members, and their children and grandchildren is the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Considering this mission, the following educational scholarships sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary are available. Each scholarship has unique criteria and deadlines. All are available online. Some require membership in one of the American Legion Family organizations, others do not. I encourage local senior and returning college students to review each scholarship's criteria and apply if he or she meets the criteria.

The following scholarships are sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota and may be downloaded at www.ndala.org/education/

- Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD, Nursing Scholarship
- Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship
- Department of North Dakota Education Program Scholarship

The following scholarships sponsored by the National American Legion Auxiliary are available online at: www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships/

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members
- Member Loyalty Scholarship
- Non-traditional Student Scholarship

For any scholarship application, I encourage parents to work with their child to stress authenticity as AI detection is utilized as well as promote neatness and completeness (especially being specific on all activities, awards, volunteer work, leadership positions, obstacles overcome). Are all questions answered and required documents included? Following specific letters of reference is important as is adherence to due dates.

Lynn Tomlinson
Education Chairman



At ALA Girls State, participants don't just learn about the government process- they are the process! North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State is for girls who have just completed their junior year of high school. We would love to have you join us this year! Scan the QR code below to fill out the online application form, or print out the application and return the completed form to the unit sponsoring you. Need a sponsor? No problem. We can help you find one! Contact ndgirlsstate@gmail.com for assistance.



ndgirlsstate.org/registration/

JUNE 14-19, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

CONTACT US
NDGIRLSSTATE@GMAIL.COM
(701) 213-3908

In Memoriam

- District 1**
Elizabeth A Hanson, Hillsboro
“Catherine A Swenson, PUFL”, Finley

District 2
Esther Estvold, Lakota
Lavon G Dardis, Lakota
Denise A Mork, Lakota
Helen L. Schumacher, Grafton
Shirley Vavrovsky O’Toole, Grafton
“Joann Votava, SLM”, Park River
Mary Ronkowski, Minto

District 3
Janet Norsby, Rugby
“JoAnne A Curl, HLM”, Cando
Irma N Dulmage, Leeds
“Hollys Peterson, PUFL”, Minnewaukan
Fern Simons, Rolla
- District 4**
Marlys Boughton, Jamestown
“Sharon Merrick, SLM”, McHenry
Lillian Ward, Gackle

District 5
Frieda Szczur, Garrison
Sandi Lawler, Linton
“Eugenia Schumacher, HLM”, Linton

District 6
Phyllis Allen, Minot
Donene Gjellstad, Verva
“Minnie J Flynn, SLM”, Bowbells
“Sue Ann Locker, PUFL”, Butte

District 7
Frances Bohl, Flasher
Georgene Vredenburg, Mandan
- District 8**
“Charlotte Wanner, PUFL”, Dickinson
Betsy Wiegand, Mott
Ella S Pederson, Richardton
“Ann Bogers, PUFL”, Halliday

District 9
“Ottilia P Johnson, HLM”, Crosby
“Loretta Bird, PUFL”, Little Shell
Clarine Packineau, Little Shell

District 10
Darlene J Olson, Lamoure
Eileen L Overby, Wahpeton
Regina Frigen, Oakes
Patricia G Bardell, Oakes
“Elsie Schock, HLM”, Ellendale
“Patty Enderson, HLM”, Wyndmere

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

VA & R and Poppies

I thought I would catch you up on what is happening at the VA Medical Center in Fargo. The medical center is doing great, having recently undergone and successfully passed several facility inspections. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ensure healthcare providers and supplies meet federal health and safety standards needed to participate in Medicare/Medicaid programs. The organization recently awarded the VAMC-Fargo the only 5-star facility in North Dakota. The Joint Commission, an organization that accredits more than 22,000 health care organizations and programs had minimal findings in the Fargo facility.

The Outpatient Mental Health Building foundation work in the north parking lot is complete with steel construction currently in progress. Great progress has been made to the south addition of the hospital, which will serve as an extension of primary care. Steel framing is complete, and concrete work for floors and roofing is currently underway. Completion of both building projects is set for Fall 2026.

The design for a parking ramp is nearing completion; however, construction is delayed due to budget limitations and logistical considerations (impact on parking) associated with simultaneous construction of the Mental Health Building, Outpatient Mental Health Building, and parking facilities.

Fisher House land acquisition and due diligence are in



Carol Wolf, Department VA&R Chairman (left), presents a check to volunteer services personnel in support of the North Dakota Creative Arts Festival held at the Fargo VA on August 21-22, 2025.

progress. The project is being managed externally from the Fargo VA. Officials are confident that a suitable location will be secured soon for meaningful progress to get underway.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is again sponsoring the annual “Gift Shop” on Wednesday, December 3, at the VA Medical Center-Fargo. Residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home-Lisbon have elected to have a catered meal again this year.

Poppy orders continue to arrive, and I will be mailing them out soon. I am looking for units who wish to sponsor a “Little Miss Poppy” this year. We have not had one in North Dakota, and it would be nice to have one this year.

Carol Wolf
VA&R and Poppy Co-Chairman

2026 Dates and Deadlines

- Winter Conference – January 23-25

Americanism Essays Due – March 15

Reporting – March and April

Department Scholarships Due – April 1
- Unit Member of Year Due – May 1

Poppy Posters Due – May 15

Flickertail Girls State – June 14-19

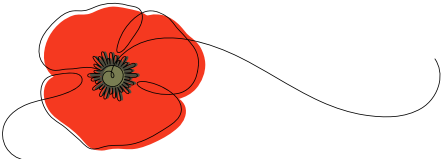
Department Convention – June 26-28

Poppy Poster Winners

Members of American Legion Auxiliary Paul Farup Unit 147 of Park River presented a certificate, gift card, and art supplies to Kain Lee, Northwestern Division 2025 Winner (Class IV) Poppy Poster Contest. Kain was one of many contestants who participated in the Poppy Poster Contest sponsored by the Park River unit. Kain’s artwork was judged and sent to Northwestern Division in May 2025. Congratulations Kain!



Front (l-r): Susan Degner, Department Treasurer; Ms. Kain Lee, and Laura Rutherford, Unit 147 Poppy Chairman, Back: Kyann Lee (Kain’s mother).



American Legion Auxiliary Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle sponsored a Poppy Poster Contest at the Gackle-Streeter Public School. Twelve winning posters were selected. Those twelve winning posters were then forwarded to the North Dakota Department Poppy Chairman for judging.

Six winning poppy posters were selected at the Department Level. Three of the six state winning poppy posters were from Gackle-Streeter. Department winners were announced at the Gackle-Streeter All School Assembly on October 9, 2025. Each winner received a certificate, a \$25.00 gift card and 10 note cards personalized with their poppy poster on the front.

Congratulations!



Students with winning poppy posters. Pictured (l-r): Jenna Homola, Emma Heller, and Courtney Remboldt. Article and photo submitted by Elaine Ackerman, Unit 250 President.

2026 Winter Conference Pre-Registration

Pre-order your conference banquet tickets for \$40, no later than Wednesday, January 6, 2026.
Banquet tickets will increase to \$45 after January 6, 2026

(Menu: Slow-cooked beef served with gravy, dinner roll, salad, potatoes and a vegetable)

Meetings – January 23-25, 2026
Baymont by Wyndham, 2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND
(Hotel was formerly known as Seven Seas)
Phone: 701-663-7401

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration	Banquet Ticket Orders		Total Amount
		Number of banquet tickets ordered	\$40.00 each	
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
Total Amount Enclosed				

Please send this form along with payment to the
American Legion Auxiliary Department Office, 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
Auxiliary registrations received after January 6, 2026, will be held for on-site registration at Winter Conference.

District Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
With district meetings completed, we now look forward to the Winter Conference. This year the conference will be held in Mandan on January 23, 24, 25, 2026.

At the time of this article, we are looking forward to Veterans’ Day. I hope Veterans’ Day programs were well attended in your area.

The holiday season is also coming upon us. This is a time when many veterans struggle with emotional and mental issues. BUDDY CHECK! Call upon your fellow veterans, check up on them, make sure they are doing ok.

Membership and retention are still on the forefront of your posts and district. Keep updating your CPR’s (consolidated post report). This will help in the spring of the year with your final report.

I wish you all the best through the holidays. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Always remember the 4 pillars of the American Legion.



Russ Kroshus
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,
As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow Legionnaires. Together, we share a bond built on service, sacrifice, commitment to our country, our communities, and to each other.

The spirit of the American Legion shines brightest when we support veterans, honor the fallen, and continue serving in our local posts. This season reminds us how fortunate we are to belong to such a dedicated and caring family of veterans.

May your holidays be filled with peace, pride, and the warmth of comradeship. Here’s to a safe and joyful New Year as we continue to serve “For God and Country.”



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,
Districts 6 & 9 combined Fall meeting was held September 20, 2025, in Minot, ND, at the Moose Lodge #822. Thank you to Commander Douglas Rathburn and Bothum-Peterson, Post 213, Sherwood, ND, for being our District 6 Host Post and District 9 Commander Doug Eckert, and Post 96 for joining in efforts with us, and the assistance of Vice-Commanders Allan Magnuson (6) Post 213/and Ginny Watterson (9) Post 9.

Post 139, Tioga, was represented by the West Region Vice-Commander, Scott Post, who presided over the joint meeting, and Pastor Mike Olson offered the prayer.

Reports were given, as well as Children & Youth Chairman, Don Weible, Wilton, Post 163 sending a report so that we could still be informed.

Williston Post 37, Grant Carns, Commander and Dan Brown, Adjutant, sponsored free Bowling after the meeting.

Department attendance; Commander Mike Weyrauch, Adjutant, Don Herrly, NEC Steve Anderson, DEC Chairman, Mamie Havelka, Regional DEC, Lance Renville, Department President Candace Berg, and Department President Elect, Sandy Smith.

The knowledgeable guidance and gracious support from the Auxiliary are always appreciated. In attendance; Past President, Jeannie Roman, Auxiliary President, Minot Unit 26, District 6 President, Linda Siewert, and District 9 Auxiliary President, Abby Salinas. Other Past Department Presidents; Past NEC, Tammy Ryberg, and Sharon White Bear, White Shield, Unit 253.

Our 2025 Fall attendance percentage was slightly less than the Spring 2025 meeting. Number of Posts in 6th District – 24, Posts Present – 8, and Legion Members present 20.

Regardless of whether a large or smaller meeting, whether Officer or Legionnaire, everyone’s hard work and participation, be that time, financial contributions, reports, or just being present, is important to keep the American Legion in service to our communities and our mission in force.

God Bless.



Gordon Vosberg
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,
Fall is upon us, which means we are seeing the crops disappear, the leaves fall, and the colors all around us changing.

We recently had a very successful district meeting in Hankinson, ND. We had the pleasure of giving our state and region leadership a tour of the Hankinson Veterans Memorial Park. I want to personally thank all of our Legion family that were able to attend this district meeting.

Across our district, our posts are hosting and participating in a variety of events. The Fairmount post has kicked off their monthly breakfasts in November with the help of the SAL. The Hankinson SAL started Bingo as well. Information about bingo can be obtained from Jeremy Post of Post Hardware in Hankinson. The Hankinson School is hosting a veteran’s appreciation lunch and program on November 5th. The Wyndmere Public School is also hosting a breakfast for local veterans followed by a community program. The Mantador VFW is hosting a smoker on November 7th and also a Veteran’s day meal and program on Veteran’s Day.

I would like to personally thank all of the Legion family for their hard work and service. Wishing you all a Happy Veteran’s Day and upcoming holiday season.



Magnuson Announces

Candidacy for Department Commander-Elect



- 2 years 6th District Vice Commander
- 2 years 6th District Commander. Took 6th District to #1 in membership in 2022
- West Region Vice Commander in 2023. West Region finished first in membership.

My goal as Commander-Elect is to help the Department Commander improve our membership state-wide. I honestly feel that I can help make the Department of North Dakota meet our goals for membership or obtain a very high percentage during this time. I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the Winter Conference in Mandan and thank you for your support in advance.



Veterans
Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

Edgar M. Boyd

American Legion Post 37



115 1st. Avenue E.
Williston, ND



Local Posts in the News

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

Cando Post #79



Post officers of Cando American Legion Post #79 Troy Reemtsma and Steve Anderson, helping out at the Cando Veterans Day meal.

Grand Forks Post #6

From the members of Post 6 in Grand Forks: Legionnaires Gary Spicer and Denny Almer, SAL Commander Ryan Kaste and SAL Member David Dahlgren.

On Sunday, October 17, was Trunk or Treat here in Grand Forks. Post 6 participated once again and were soon overwhelmed by the sheer number of kids that were coming through the lines. Over 800 were counted in the 2.5 hour event and we were threatened with running out of snacks as last year we only had between 400 and 500 kids attending. The costumes were outstanding and had very few repeats. Among them were the princesses and police and lots of cowboys and cowgirls from the range.

Kids were very polite and well-behaved with a lot of please and thank-yous to go around. We think it was also due to Merlin the Magician (Gary Spicer) who was present at our trunk. He kept his wand handy and asked parents if he could cast a quick spell on their kids. His magic worked as he was able to conjure up spells for “good-looking” kids and “well-behaved” children. It was a short day, but we were glad of it being worn out by the over-abundance of kids and enthusiasm.



"Merlin the Magician"

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS



Fargo Post #2

Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 has wrapped up a busy fall with supporting different Veterans events across the Fargo community. Post 2 was a major sponsor for the Out of the Darkness event and had a booth with information on the Be The One program and giving out gun locks. The walk was organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to spread awareness on suicide. At the

honor bead ceremony, Jim Deremo represented the Silver bead – loss of a first responder or military member. Post 2 members also had booths presenting information about the American Legion programs at the NDSU 2nd Annual Military Affiliated Students Resource Fair and the 2nd Annual Standdown event for Veterans.

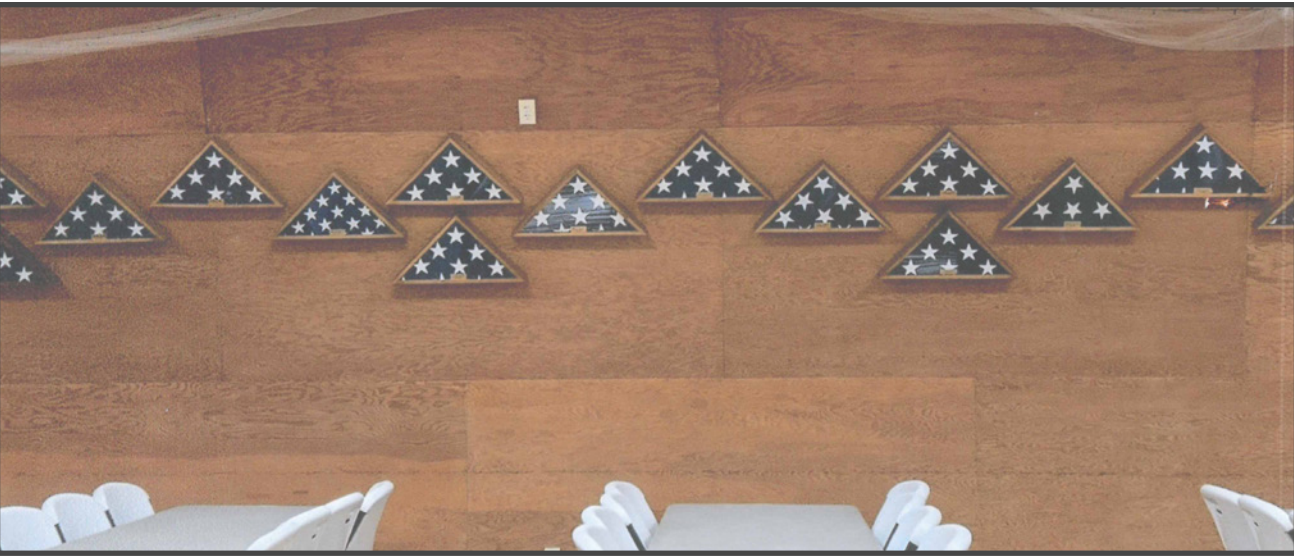


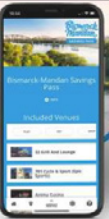
Post 2 members Dave Johntson, Cathy Keogh, Michele Grindahl, Virginia Kraushaar and Jim Deremo.

Upham Post #269

Over the last few years, Upham’s Earl Nermoe Post #269 embarked on an upgrade of their Legion Hall through local fundraising. As part of the facility upgrade, they instituted a program whereby families loan the casket flags of veterans to the Legion. For uniformity, the post provides

a flag case and name plate of the veteran and displays the flags on a wall in the Legion Hall. Flags are on loan to the Legion and can be reclaimed by the family when desired. Veteran’s flags are currently on display in the Legion Hall, two of which are 48-star flags.





GET YOUR FREE BISMARCK-MANDAN SAVINGS PASS!



How This Pass Works:



STEP 1—GET YOUR PASS
Scan QR Code with your phone's camera or visit website, below. This pass is a collection of Bismarck-Mandan attractions, retailers, restaurants and more, offering great discounts.



STEP 2—RECEIVE TEXT
Your pass will be instantly delivered to your phone via text and email and is ready to use! There is no app but your pass can be saved to your phone's home screen for easy one-tap access.



STEP 3—REDEEM
When visiting a participating business, simply present your phone to the attendant or staff members to redeem available discounts.

ENJOY!

NOBOUNDARIESND.COM/SAVINGS-PASS



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

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

Benfiet, Leonard 08/21/2025
Welk, Peter 08/30/2025
Rudrud, Merlin 09/03/2025
Steiger, Theodore 09/01/2025
Thurn, Herbert 10/07/2025
Sharff, William 10/26/2025

Fargo – Post #2

Ahlfeldt, Pastor William..... 10/14/2025
Ripplinger, Gerald..... 10/15/2024
Sauvageau, David 01/31/2025
Stringer, Donald.....09/03/2025

Hillsboro – Post #4

Rosenau, Louis..... 10/04/2025

Grand Forks – Post #6

Hanson, John 09/12/2025
Gornowicz, Vernon 08/16/2025

Cavalier – Post #11

Johnson, Darold 08/13/2025

Sykeston – Post #17

Garhofer, Bernard M.....04/25/2025

Hope – Post #18

Nelson, Gary C 12/19/2024

LaMoure – Post #19

Hornseth, Jerry 07/21/2025

Wahpeton – Post #20

Wacha, Ray 08/08/2025
Peschel, William 10/12/2025
Thimjon, Duane 10/26/2025

New Rockford – Post #30

Tillapaugh, Herbert 11/25/2024

Drake – Post #32

Ardinger, Ruth E 09/03/2025
Schmidt, Glenn 02/13/2025

Fessenden – Post #33

Becvar, Daniel 09/15/2025

Lignite – Post #35

Nelson, Dale 03/20/2025

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Geffre, John 06/16/2025

Mandan – Post #40

Schmautz, Lyle H 10/20/2025

Grafton – Post #41

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Stahl, Duane 07/17/2024

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Milton – Post #179

Soli, Gene.....03/2025

Fingal – Post #187

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Garness, Allen 10/25/2025

Harwood – Post #297

Woolery, John.....Unknown DOD

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Buchner, Jack P.....10/28/2025
Stadstad, Odell 07/16/2025
Hendrickson, Ronnie 04/12/2025

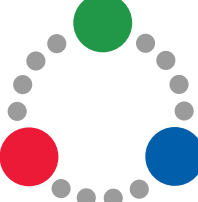
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Local Posts in the News

Gackle Mayer-Morlock Post/Unit 250 Fundraiser

The Gackle Legion Post & Auxiliary Unit 250 hosted a fundraiser on November 9th to raise funds for further renovations to our Memorial/Community Hall. The event was held in our newly refurbished basement and served approximately 125-150 people.

Eighteen Auxiliary and Legion members helped cook, serve and clean the hall. More than \$2000 was raised for hall improvements. *Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year from the Gackle folks!*



Devils Lake Post #24 Tapes Up Principal

On 31 October 2025, Tim Running Post 24 in Devils Lake ND went to the Devils Lake Central Middle School to help with the mummifying of Principal Jeff Kaffar. Through the Central Middle School House system, the students could purchase a piece of duct tape for \$1 to stick Mr. Kaffar to the wall. Post 24 Commander Jack Volk presented the school with \$100 and placed one piece of tape on Mr. Kaffar. 99 students from the school will help with the other pieces to ensure Mr. Kaffar is good and stuck. Jack also presented Mr. Kaffar with a Post 24 baseball cap with the words "Was Here" to signify the post was there to support the school and the students. The American Legion has Children and Youth as one of its pillars and frequently assists within the community by making donations to help various youth groups and activities. The event was shown live on the Central Middle School Facebook page, and it is still available for viewing. The event made for a fun start to the Halloween weekend.

Grenora Post #116



Commander Weyrauch (right) and West Region Vice Commander Scott Post (left) presenting Marvin Skabo, member of Grenora Post #116, his 70-year certificate during their fall Veterans supper.

Mayville Post #8



Mayville veteran Keith Williams stands beside the Ranger he rode in during the MSU Homecoming/Farmers' Bowl Parade in Mayville in September. Keith represented American Legion Post #8 in Mayville.

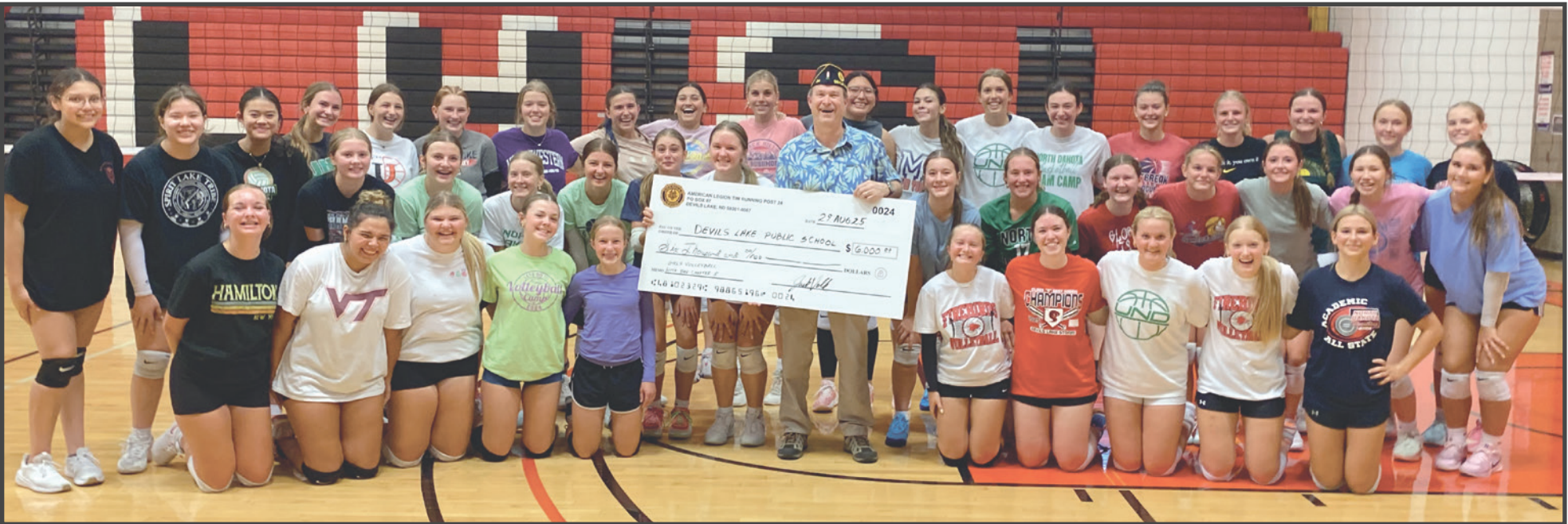


Devils Lake Post #24

On August 29, 2025, the American Legion Post 24 along with the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 5 donated \$6,000 to the Devils Lake Public School girls' volleyball teams. The funds will help Firebird Girls Volleyball receive new equipment to help make the upcoming year a huge success. American Legion member Richard Drury made a presentation to the American Legion

and Disabled American Veterans meetings and sold them on the need and how it ties in with their commitment to helping local youth. The American Legion has a national objective for children and youth to work with quality organizations that provide services for children. Helping a program that helps our local youth stay healthy and fit, get involved socially, and learn about leadership and

cooperation is a great opportunity to fulfill that objective. Now they ask the local community to come out and show your support for the Firebirds Girls Volleyball and all the local school teams. Richard stopped by their practice and presented them with the funds and took a photo with the big check.



Richard Drury presents a check to a grateful Firebird Volleyball team.

Local Posts in the News

Grenora Post #116

McHenry Post #160



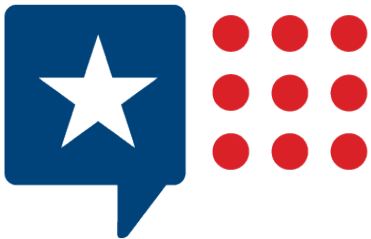
Target Field Oscar Quarne

On Tuesday night, September 16th, Oscar Quarne—age 98, World War II veteran, and proud Grenora American Legion Post 116 member— received a special honor at Target Field and was invited to take part in the Minnesota Twins’ flag-raising ceremony before the game. It was a moment that brought together small-town pride, baseball tradition, and a well-deserved recognition for a man who has lived nearly a century of service and dedication. Oscar, who served his country during World War II, was joined by a few close friends and fellow American Legion members for the memorable evening. Among them were Marvin Skabo, 96, a Korean War veteran, and Post 116 member.



Oscar Quarne and Marvin Skabo

Veterans Crisis Line



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PRESS 1



Vietnam Era Veterans honored by the McHenry American Legion Post #160 on Memorial Day. Back Row: Ron Halvorson and Larry Halvorson, Binford, ND, Denis Haugen, McHenry, James Baker. Front Row: Ed Fransworth, Ron Lenz, Doug Dreker, and Larry Erickson, Bill Ralph both of Sutton, ND.

Rolette Post #194



Five members of the Rolette American Legion Post #194 made a trip to Washington, DC, on the Honor Flight. Everyone had a great time and it was worth taking the trip. Left to right Jeff Boucher, Ron Heinz, Allen Malo, Lee Halvorson and Gary Foss.

Upham Post #269



Memorial Day Firing Squad. L to R: Courtney Arnason, Jim Bohl, Gary Kaylor, John Riley, Bill Petersen, Milton Goodman, Chris Arveson and Wesley Goodman.

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American Legion Department
of ND 2026 Winter Conference
TENTATIVE Schedule

January 22-25, 2026

Mandan Baymont Inn & Suites
701-663-7401

Cutoff for Room Block is January 6th
Room Rate is \$119

Thursday, January 22, 2026

10:30 am ACOVA Interviews
1:00 pm Training Session (until 5:00 pm)
7:00 pm Foundation Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026

9:00 am DEC Meeting
2:00 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting
2:00 pm Registration (until Noon)
3:00 pm VA&R Committee
3:00 pm M&PA and Dist Officers and RVC Meet with Cmdr
4:00 pm District Vice Commanders Meeting with Cmdr-Elect
4:00 pm Americanism/Children and Youth Committees
4:00 pm Junior Law Cadet Committee
5:00 pm First Time Attendees
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 24, 2026

7:30 am Athletic Committee Meeting
8:00 am Registration (until Noon)
8:30 am Joint Session
10:00 am VA Benefits Overview Breakout Session
11:00 am Membership Workshop
11:00 am DSO Office Hours (until 1:00 pm)
11:00 am Boys State Committee Meeting
11:00 am Legion Riders Meeting
1:00 pm Legion Family Programs Joint Session
1:30 pm High School Oratorical Contest Finals
4:00 pm Delegate Selection Committee
4:00 pm SAL Meeting – Ambassador
5:00 pm Winter Conference Banquet Social
6:00 pm Winter Conference Banquet

Sunday, January 25, 2026

7:00 am Catholic Mass
9:00 am Non-Denominational Worship Service
Commander Weyrauch Closes



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2026 Winter Conference

American Legion Advanced Registration and Banquet Ticket Order Form
January 23-25, 2026 at the Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan, ND

Please call Baymont Inn at 701-663-7401 ask for the American Legion room block discount by January 6th.

Please note the price of the banquet tickets increases by \$5 after **January 6th**. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk on a first come first serve basis. Preregistration forms and banquet tickets will not be accepted after January 14th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

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

Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee: \$25

Preregistration **Advanced** Banquet Ticket Price: \$40
(Cutoff for Preregistered Advanced Tickets Discount is 1/6/2026)

Banquet Ticket Price after January 6th: \$45

Banquet Menu

Beef Pot Roast: Slow cooked beef served with gravy, dinner roll, salad, potatoes and a vegetable.

Please mail the registration form and payment to

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

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WITH SWEEPSTAKES TICKETS

Member Name _____

Winter Conf Banquet on **Saturday** # _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Registration Fee \$25 = \$ **25**

Late fee of \$5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/6/2026 = \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Member Name _____

Winter Conf Banquet on **Saturday** # _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Registration Fee \$25 = \$ **25**

Late fee of \$5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/6/2026 = \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____