

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

VOL. 115 405 W. MAIN AVE. SUITE 4-A, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, MARCH 2026 NO. 3

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

Legionnaire of the Year

Nominated by Velva Post #39, Jamie Frankl has been selected for the 2025 recipient of the Legionnaire of the Year Award by the ND American Legion.

Jamie enlisted in the ND Air National Guard in 2003 and currently serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the 219th Security Forces Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, where he leads, mentors, and develops Airmen responsible for installation security and mission readiness. Over his career, he has held multiple leadership and instructor positions within the Security Forces career field and has deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom directly contributing to national defense both domestically and overseas.

At the Velva American Legion Post 39, Jamie, currently Post 39 Adjutant, has been instrumental in transforming a struggling post into a financially stable and revitalized veterans' organization. Through direct leadership, operational restructuring and hands-on labor, he helped generate over \$36,200 in increased revenue within 10 months, raised or secured \$141,905+ in grants and donations and personally donated his own funds. His efforts directly prevented the closure of Post 39 and ensured its long-term sustainability.

Jamie's service extends well beyond Legion programs. As Assistant Fire Chief with the Velva Fire and Rescue, he has served since 2016, responding to an average of 14 emergency calls annually, completing 23 certificates and volunteering 188 hours in 2025 alone.

Faith and family are foundational to his life. Jamie is married to Jodie, and they are raising three children. Post #39 selected Jamie to be Legionnaire of the Year based on service to the Legion and community. He will be recognized on Sunday, June 28, during the American Legion's Department Convention on June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo at the Ramada.



Jamie Frankl

Distinguished Service Award

Nominated by Bismarck Loyd Spetz Post #1, Arnold (Arn) Havelka has been selected for the 2026 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the ND American Legion.

Arn was born in Dickinson and attended Catholic school from grade level through high school graduation. Upon graduation, he went on to attend Dickinson State University. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and retired with 23 years of honorable service. His Air Force career consisted of Munitions Explosive Maintenance, United States Air Force recruiter starting with recruiting enlisted and then recruiting officers. He retired as a First Sergeant having served during the Vietnam Conflict/War, Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Arn's leadership has enriched Post #1 and the broader Legion community. Arn has been a member of Post #1 for 27 years and is a Paid-Up-For-Life member. He founded the annual Post #1 picnic now a major event that boosts camaraderie, recruitment and family engagement. He launched Post #1 Flag Program, earning the Post a No. 3 national ranking for three consecutive years. For Children and Youth, Arn has received comfort Teddy Bears to distribute to hospitals. Has made a significant contribution to Legion Baseball and is involved in a new program "The Wall of Honor". This program honors past and present veterans as well as firefighters and police officers.

As the Department Assistant Membership Chair, Arn has been instrumental in strengthening statewide membership. His hand-on approach, personally contacting members, facilitating transfers and coordinating with local posts has resulted in over 800 members being renewed, transferred or moved to Post Everlasting. His efforts have helped ND rank in the top 10 nationally for membership.

Congratulations to Arn Havelka for being recognized for the Distinguished Service Award. He will be recognized on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at the American Legion's Department Convention on June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo, ND, at the Ramada.



Arnold Havelka

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominated by American Legion Post #14 of Jamestown, ND, Sergeant Cory Beckman has been selected for the 2025 Ray Atol Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the North Dakota American Legion.

Cory was born in Minot, ND, and attended school at Burlington and graduated in 2011. Cory came to Jamestown to work at Jamestown's Youth for Christ as a director from 2013-2019. Cory always had in mind that his dream was to be a law enforcement officer and in 2019 there was an opening in the Jamestown Police Department and Cory applied for the position and was immediately hired. His training course was at Bismarck State University, and he is a graduate of the Jamestown Police Citizen's Academy. In 2022 he was asked to be part of the Jamestown Police Department's K9 Unit. Briggs, his dog, have been serving the community together since.

In 2025, Sergeant Beckman received the Medal of Honor, the highest honor given by the ND Chiefs of Police Association. His honor is for his heroism and professionalism during an active shooter in December of 2024 in downtown Jamestown.

Sergeant Beckman has many hobbies which include woodworking, fishing, riding dirt bikes and restoring vehicles and family camping. He is married to Josey and they have a family of three children. Congratulations to Sergeant Beckman for being recognized as a leader within the Law Enforcement family. He will be recognized during the Department of North Dakota American Legion's Annual Convention held this June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo at the Ramada.



Cory Beckman

Firefighter of the Year

Nominated by the Watford City American Legion Post #29, Oscar Knudtson, Jr. of the Watford City Volunteer Fire Department, was selected for the North Dakota American Legion 2025 Firefighter of the Year by the ND American Legion.

Oscar was born in Watford City, ND, and graduated in 1972. After High School, he attended UND and graduated with a BS in Business Administration in 1975. He worked at his family business O.K. Implement Company until 2001. Oscar was employed at Montana State University Fire Service Training School and went on to work with the US Forest Service.

Knudtson has been a firefighter for over 49 years. Oscar held the title of Fire Chief for 20 years during his tenure with the department. After 35 years of being involved in training and establishing policies and procedures he stepped back from local training, but is still active with the NDFA as a Certified Instructor/Trainer/Tester and is a Subject Matter Expert that works on the qualifying of test questions and skills performance for Fire Service testing.

Oscar Knudtson, Jr. will be recognized at the ND Firefighter's Association Convention hosted by the Mayville Fire and Rescue on the campus of Mayville State University on June 4-6, 2026.



Oscar Knudtson, Jr.

Distinguished Service Award

Nominated by American Legion Post #52 in Mohall, Thomas Gehringer, Sr., has been selected posthumously for the North Dakota American Legion 2026 Distinguished Service Award of the Year.

Thomas Gehringer, Sr., was a respected and dedicated member of the George T. Taylor American Legion Post #52 for 54 years and whose life reflects a deep commitment to service, leadership and community involvement.

A veteran of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, Thomas earned his GED and in 2002 and received an honorary diploma from the Mohall High School. Following military service, Thomas worked at Farmers Union for 11 years and then Behm's/Vig Oil for several years before founding Propane Services in 1990. He retired in 2018 and passed his legacy business onto his youngest daughter and her husband.

Thomas served as Post Vice Commander, Adjutant and Sergeant-at-Arms before being elected as Post Commander for several years. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing Legion programs such as Legion baseball, Children and Youth and Americanism. He organized a flag-burning ceremony for the post. He was also the point of contact upon the passing of a veteran, ensuring that appropriate military honors were rendered. He was the organizer of Veterans' Day and many other programs. On a national scale the post had continuous support with Wreaths Across America.

Thomas's community involvement was numerous civic, charitable and service oriented activities. The Post



Thomas Gehringer, Sr.

provided money to help with the children's splash pad in the park. Thomas worked countless hours on a memorial to honor over 700 local veterans and was dedicated on July 15, 2017. He made sure local cemeteries had intact flags to honor the veterans buried there.

The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to the family of Thomas Gehringer, Sr. on Sunday, June 28, during the annual Department Convention on June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo at the Ramada.

Retirement Announcement



Celebrating the Remarkable Career of Teri Bryant

Retirement of Teri Bryant, Programs Manager

30 June 2026

After an incredible journey spanning 43 years, the Department of North Dakota American Legion announces the retirement of our esteemed Programs Manager, Teri Bryant.

Honoring a Legacy of Dedication

Teri Bryant's outstanding service to the North Dakota American Legion has left an indelible mark on our organization. Over the course of more than four decades, Teri has been a steadfast leader, a supportive co-worker, and a cherished friend to all who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

A True Example of Excellence

Known for her commitment, professionalism, and unwavering dedication, Teri has been an all-around great asset to our team. Her influence and guidance have shaped the success of countless initiatives and touched the lives of Legion members and staff statewide.

Best Wishes for a Bright Future

As Teri embarks on this new chapter of her life, we extend our heartfelt well wishes. While we will deeply miss her presence in our daily operations, we are excited to see what the future holds for her.

Celebration Plans to Come

The NDAL is pleased to announce an event during Convention, June 2026, in Fargo. Donations are requested for this "convention event." Please send any donations to the NDAL Department Headquarters, PO Box 5057, West Fargo ND 58078. Watch for future information regarding more details on this special event and celebration to honor Teri Bryant's remarkable career and retirement. We look forward to gathering together to express our appreciation and share memories of her exceptional service.

Edward O. Nesheim Scholarship

Sixth in a series about endowed NDAL Foundation Funds – by Harvey Peterson, Chairman

This scholarship, to preserve the memory of Edward O. Nesheim, was initiated by his daughter, Sonja Adahl of Churchs Ferry, ND, in 2008. She wanted to honor his service in WWII and his subsequent lifetime of support to his fellow man. He was a proud member of Mayville American Legion Post #8 and a compassionate individual who gave of his time and talents to those in need.

Edward Nesheim was a farm boy born and raised near New Town, ND, where he learned the traits of honesty, humility and hard work that served him throughout his lifetime. He graduated from Van Hook High School, entered what is now NDSU and was drafted a year later in 1941. Trained in Air Force ordinance, he successfully completed OCS, was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in 1943, then served as an ordinance officer – largely responsible for loading bombs. He attained the rank of Captain, serving from 1941 until his discharge in 1946. He had with duty stations in Italy, Southern France, North Africa and the China-Burma-India theaters. Along the way he earned a bronze star.

After WWII, using the "new" GI Bill, he attended and graduated from the Creighton University of Dentistry and returned to ND to establish practices in Mayville and Sharon. He also operated a farm from 1958 until 1979 on which his children learned the value of hard work that he espoused. He is remembered for his kindness and generosity to all with whom he was associated.

This scholarship, established in 2008 with an initial endowment of \$12,000, is awarded to students pursuing careers in either medicine or agriculture. Initially it provided one \$500 scholarship. The Nesheim fund, primarily through added contributions, has increased to over \$50,000 at the end of 2025 and has provided a \$1,500 annual scholarship since 2016. To date, the Nesheim Fund has awarded scholarships totaling more than \$20,000 to North Dakota students.

While establishing this scholarship, Mrs. Adahl was concerned about the safety of the principal – that the invested funds be insured. For that reason, the Nesheim Fund is invested only in insured bonds. Of particular note, it has been managed by Stifel, Inc. at no cost since its inception!



Greetings to East Region, I would like to commend all of you who made the trip to Mandan for the Winter Conference. It was a cold and windy trip there and it stayed cold for the entire time. It was a bit of an improvement on Sunday morning for the trip home, but it still was frigid.

I have spoken with our District Commanders, and we have made plans for the District Meetings. District 2 will have their meeting on 10 April with a combined registration, social and buffet meal starting at 5:00 pm. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm. The location is the Till House Saloon in Lakota, ND. The Auxiliary will meet across the street at the Legion Post.

District 1 will meet on 11 April with registration and social starting at 11:00 am. The meal will be at 12:00 pm with the meeting at 1:00 pm. The meeting will take place at the Hope Legion Post in Hope, ND. The Auxiliary will meet separately after the meal.

District 10 will also meet on 11 April at the Veterans Center in Milnor, ND. They are planning a 4:00 pm-5:00 pm registration and social with the meal starting at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be at 6:00 pm.

I hope to see you at the District Meetings and hopefully the weather will be warmer.

Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander



Greetings. It has been an eventful winter for me and the West Region. We continued our normal membership renewals practices by sitting in last place for most of the year. We finally started our late race charge and expect to lead the department shortly. Not a lot of early bird awards were achieved.

On a positive note, West Region took home the honors in the Department Oratorical competition. We wish Jayla Roberts from Williston well at the National Oratorical Contest. All the competitors were excellent, proving great competition and selection at all levels.

District meetings are set and always exciting to see new officers nominated and start their journey through the ranks.

Exciting news from Post 139 in Tioga. Since its original charter, the post has never had a post name. History was made with the selection of WWII KIA Thomas A. Langved. His brother who is still living, gave us permission and he also joined the American Legion at 94 YEARS OLD.

Sadly, I couldn't attend the winter conference this year as I needed a little medical tune-up. All is good and ready to make more visits and attend the National security conference in Washington, D.C. next month.

Tonight, I will be visiting Post 243 in Noonan, ND. Reality has set in and it is time to close the doors. They have elected to transfer to Post 75 in Crosby. The Department Headquarters is assisting them with the necessary transition. Painfully we will continue to see Post closures state and nationwide. Membership drives the train, when it's not feasible, the tracks are pulled.

Let's see everyone at your district meetings. LET'S HAVE A GREAT TURN OUT!!

Scott Post
West Region Vice Commander

Boys State

My name is Josh Jeffers. I serve on the North Dakota Boys State staff as the Dean of Counselors. I bring greetings to all the Legionnaires on behalf of Executive Director Kenny Wiederholt, Director Neil Litton and the staff at North Dakota Boys State.

With the winter conference in the rear-view mirror, we race ever closer to June 14th-19th and the 83rd session of Boys State. It will be held at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton. Legion night will be Tuesday, June 16, mark your calendars to join us for the inauguration of our newly elected Governor and his cabinet!

Recruitment efforts are fully underway, led by our Recruitment Director, Garrett Anderson. Packets have been sent to schools, letters have been sent to potential delegates, and follow-ups have been sent to last year's delegates. As always, please continue to engage with the members of your communities to identify and encourage young men to sign up to be delegates. They can sign up directly on our website: ndboysstate.org or you can get their information and send it to Legion HQ. There is no better resource, and no substitute, for members of Legion when it comes to recruiting delegates to the program.

One way you can actively help get the word out is to engage on various social media platforms. You can find us on Facebook, search North Dakota Boys State,

or on Instagram@NDBoysState. Like our pages and share our posts – it truly does make a difference, you never know who might see it! Also, invite your friends and family members to do the same. Not only will it help get the word out, but it's a great way for them to see this amazing program that the Legion sponsors.

The American Legion's commitment to the Boys State program ensures that young men across the state learn the ideals and pillars of democracy. Giving them an opportunity to learn-by-doing, rather than listening to a classroom lecture, has impact that is unmatched by any other program or camp.

I'll leave you with a thought from a legend of NDBS, David Wolf, who was involved for many years and served as Director of the program from 1970-1973. "A nation is as strong only as its citizenship is strong. Citizenship with its various privileges carries with it corresponding duties and obligations. A man becomes a good citizen only when he understands his government, when he recognizes his duties and his responsibilities to his government, when he participates in its problems, shares in its burdens, protects its good name and contributes to the richness of its life." North Dakota Boys State seeks to help create good citizens by helping them understand our government. Help us create good citizens by helping us get as many delegates as we can!

North Dakota Boys State

AMERICAN LEGION

Scan here to apply!

June 14th - 19th, 2026

"A week to change a lifetime"

For more information go to NDBoysState.org
Questions? Email: garrett.anderson@ndboysstate.org Call or text: (701)799-0306
Sponsored by the North Dakota American Legion and the North Dakota American Legion Foundation

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS
Official Publication of The American
Legion Department of North Dakota

Published at Forum Communications Printing Fargo



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Publisher and Editor, Don 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, bgkmeier@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

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

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

Periodical Publication # 12629

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Don Herrly, 701-293-3120
E-Mail: adjutant@ndlegion.org
WEBSITE: www.ndlegion.org

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



Well, Winter Conference is done and well attended by the Department considering the weather. Now we need to concentrate on membership to get the last members renewed and those last new members signed up. Remember all deadlines for membership and all other items.

The North Dakota American Legion's Children and Youth program is in good hands. Don Weible has had this program for many years and has done a wonderful job. We have received 1,000 stuffed puppies and 1,000 stuffed bears that have been distributed throughout the state to hospitals, ambulance services, fire departments, and any

other location that may encounter a child at a time of need. As of 30 January, our good friend Allan Magnuson, 6th District Vice Commander has been discharged from the hospital and is at home in Mohall. All the best in his recuperation.

As of 6 February, we are at 88.26 % of our goal for the year, but we are behind Nebraska which means we could get our trophy back at National Convention this year. We need to get the last memberships sent in now. There are several posts under 80%, you know who you are, so please get your memberships turned in ASAP.

ND American Legion Oratorical Contest



Pictured from left to right: Jason Anderson, Department Oratorical Chairman, National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer, 1st Place Jayla Roberts, Williston, 2nd Place Erin Daley, Dickinson, 3rd Place Grace Martin, Fairmount, 4th Place Bridget Pankratz, Rock Lake and Mike Weyrauch, Department Commander

Jayla Roberts a senior of Williston High School sponsored by Williston Post #37, was named the North Dakota American Legion Oratorical Champion following the 2026 State Contest on January 24th at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Mandan.

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

State Champion Roberts received a \$250 cash scholarship provided by the ND American Legion Foundation, a \$175 Cash Scholarship Award from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund, administered by the ND Community Foundation, and the C.W. Leifur Traveling Trophy, which will remain with her until next year's contest. She had previously won a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set as the 1st Place Western Division Champion along with a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 9th District Contest.

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

Second Place went to Erin Daley of Dickinson, daughter of Dale and Carma Daley, who won the 8th District Contest, sponsored by Dickinson Post #3. Erin is a Sophomore at Hope Christian Academy in Dickinson. She will receive \$200 from the ND American Legion Foundation and \$125 from the Sam Tolchinsky Endowment Fund for Second Place at State to go along with the \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund for winning the 8th District Contest.

Grace Martin, a Senior and goes to school at Fairmount Public School will receive a \$150 cash scholarship from the North Dakota American Legion Foundation and \$50 from the Kennelly Scholarship Award for finishing Third at State. As the 10th District winner, she received a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial

Oratorical Fund. Grace finished Second in the Eastern Division Contest and earned a \$200 Cash Award from the ND American Legion and a pen set. Grace is the daughter of Roy and Kristen Martin.

Bridget Pankratz, a Junior from Munich Public School in Munich, finished in Fourth Place at the State Contest and she will take home a \$100 Cash Award from the ND American Legion Foundation. Bridget was sponsored by the Sarles American Legion Post #276. Bridget won the 3rd District Contest and a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. She finished First in the Eastern Division Contest and earned a \$300 Cash Award from the ND American Legion Foundation and a pen set. Bridget is the daughter of Chad and Sarah Pankratz.

Joanie McCormack is from Wilton and attends school at Legacy High School in Bismarck and was sponsored by the Wing American Legion Post #65. Joanie won 1st place at the 5th District Oratorical Contest and she will receive a \$300 Cash Award from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Fund. She finished Second in the Western Division Contest and earned a \$200 Cash Award from the ND American Legion Foundation and a pen set. Joanie is the daughter of Jesse and Cheryl McCormack.

The North Dakota American Legion provides for the Cash Awards earned at the Divisional Contests. Cash won at the District level contests come from the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Contest Fund now administered by the ND American Legion. District winners receive Cash Awards of \$300 for First, \$200 for Second and \$100 for Third. This year \$4,450 in Cash Awards was earned by the winners of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest in North Dakota.

3rd District 1st Place Bridget Pankratz, Rock Lake, Senior sponsored by Sarles Post #276.

5th District 1st Place Joanie McCormack, Wilton, Sophomore, sponsored by Wing Post #65, 2nd Place Claire Leidy, Wilton, Junior sponsored by Washuburn Post #12. 3rd Place Matthew Quinn, Sophomore, Wilton.

8th District 1st Place Erin Daley, Dickinson, Sophomore. 2nd Place Grace Dazell, Dickinson, Junior, sponsored by Richardton Post #180. 3rd Place Jessica Pratt, Reeder, Senior sponsored by Scranton Post #151.

9th District 1st Place Jayla Roberts, Willison, Senior. 2nd Place Violet Pineda, Junior, Watford City. 3rd Place Emma Melberg, Tioga, Senior.

10th District 1st Place Grace Martin, Fairmount, Senior.

 ADJUTANT'S CORNER**DON HERRLY - DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

Greetings Legion Family,
Scheduling of our Spring District Meetings was not completed as early as I would have hoped, but I believe that we have all the information now and what we print will be accurate. I always look forward to District meetings because it gives us (Officers) the chance to visit members who may not be attending the Department Convention or Winter Conference and hear your concerns. It is also a good time for you to meet your officers and visit with the greatest people in the world, your fellow Veterans! I hope that you will be able to attend your District meeting. If you can't attend your District Meeting, consider attending the meeting of another District. I know that for a few years when I was living in South Dakota I used to come up and attend the 10th District meetings, even though my Post is in the 7th District, because the 10th District was close to where I was living. I still got to visit Legion friends, meet current Officers and get the latest news. At the Spring District meeting each District will elect the District and Vice-District Commander for the ensuing year. The people elected at these meetings are then presented to the Department Executive Committee to be approved at the convention meeting of the DEC. These officers then assume office at the close of convention.

At this point I want to do a little mentoring. Each year there seems to be some confusion over the issue of District Commander hats. Once the convention closes, you are out of office. You are no longer authorized to wear the District Commander hat. People are confused since the National Commander serves until the close of the National Convention in August and if they go to the National Convention, they think they can still wear their District

Commander hat since it is their Commander presiding. However, the terms of office are different. Also, we will send you a patch indicating that you are a past District Commander. This patch is meant to be sewn on your blue hat. Sewing it on your District Commander hat does not authorize you to continue wearing that hat. Speaking of sewing patches on your hat, I want to remind you that nothing should be sewn or displayed on the left side (the side with the embroidered emblem) of your legion hat. Pins and patches may only be displayed on the right side. Also, your hat should be removed while eating and if you lay it on the table the Legion Emblem should be faced up.

I have been your Adjutant for almost 3 years now. I am both surprised and saddened by the number of members that we have lost to accidental death. We just lost another member recently and that is what is prompting this reminder. Make sure that you have activated your no cost accidental death benefit from the Legionnaires Insurance Trust. As long as your dues remain current, you only have to do this once. In every case of accidental death since I have been Adjutant, not one of those members had activated their policy, so no benefit was paid to the families. However, your department has also partnered with American Income Life Insurance to provide you with an additional AD&D policy at no charge, and with this one you are covered by virtue of your dues being paid up, so the families were paid a benefit from this. Both companies have additional products, but you are under no obligation to buy anything additional. If the product works for you, buy it. If it's not right for you don't buy it. To activate or check if you have activated your LIT policy call 800-235-6943 or go to <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/>

As always, I have more information than I have room to put here, but I also need to remind you that if you have ceremonial rifles you are obligated to submit an inventory to the US Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM). They now prefer that this be submitted online. They ask you to call 520-706-8680 and they will ask who you are and what Post you are with. They will then send you an inventory of what you should have. You then verify that you still have these rifles and submit the inventory back. You are required to submit an inventory at least once every three years. Failure to comply could result in your losing the use of these weapons. I am often asked if I can get new M-1 Garand rifles because ours are old? From the TACOM website the answer is: It depends. The M-1 Garand rifle is obsolete to support mission requirements of the Soldier. The rifle is no longer produced for Army use. As a result, there are a limited number of rifles available to conditionally issue to qualified organizations. Replacement is based on usage of the rifles along with the information provided in the inspection report, as requested by the Army Donations Program Office. No, you cannot request M-14s or M-16s because these are considered automatic weapons. Fifteen is the maximum number of rifles that can be issued to one organization. Please see <https://tacom.army.mil/ilsc/donations/faq> for the answer to many of your questions.

When we visit please let me know if you find the information I am presenting here worthwhile. With that I will bring this to an end. I hope to see you at the District meetings. Remember to keep your powder dry and may God Bless a strong and free America.

 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**LUCINDA BOLYARD - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us at our Winter Conference; it was such a joy to reconnect with so many familiar faces and build on our camaraderie. It was particularly encouraging when National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer announced that North Dakota has achieved our January 85% goal, making us sixth in the nation. However, as of February 1, we are still just shy of our 90% goal. I'm confident that with our combined efforts, we can reach this target.

As we gear up for our District meetings, I want to keep everyone informed about an upcoming change: there will be a dues increase for the Department of North Dakota, effective July 1, 2026, for the 2027 membership year. Being aware of these changes allows us to adjust smoothly

to meet our goals.

Currently, the National Per Capita stands at \$23.50, while our North Dakota per capita is \$18.00, bringing us to a total of \$41.50. After July 1, 2026, the North Dakota per capita will rise to \$23.50, which will result in a total of \$47.00 for both Department and National per capita.

To help make this transition seamless, I'm excited to share a couple of options with you! You can lock in the current rates for up to three years, ensuring your membership remains uninterrupted during this timeframe. Alternatively, you may want to consider the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) program. As we all know, costs tend to increase over time, making the PUFL program a wise long-term solution. Join the ranks of over 200,000 members who have already made the commitment to be paid up for life.

I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Arnie Havelka for his unwavering support and hard work on the Post 500 list. His dedication is greatly appreciated and has made a significant impact on all of us.

Additionally, I want to remind everyone that when renewing your dues online, it is essential to include your member ID number. Failing to provide this number will result in an automatic transfer to Post 500. I could discuss the various issues that this might cause, but I'll save that for another time.

Thank you all, and let's keep the momentum going!

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

 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**MAMIE HAVELKA - DEC CHAIR**

Summary of the January 23, 2026, DEC Meeting –
Baymont Inn, Mandan, ND, called to order at 0900 hours.

The Department Executive Committee (DEC) of the ND Legion met on January 23, 2026, at the Baymont Inn in Mandan. The consent agenda, including awards and previous meeting minutes, was approved. New business included the addition of a post closure/merger item.

Finance Officer Childs presented the financial report, which was approved pending audit. All committee and other reports were also accepted.

Old Business

ACOVA applications were reviewed, and Jerry Samuelson and Summer Kristianson will be recommended to Governor Armstrong for final selection.

The ND Game and Fish raffle was held, but NDAL was not drawn. NDAL will apply again in the fall.

New Business

Binford Post 111's request to merge with McHenry Post 160 was approved.

A proposal for an oral-to-written history of ND Legionnaires was tabled for further review.

Bids for the 2030 Convention and Conference were considered, with Mandan Baymont selected as the host site.

The Administrative Manager will receive a \$10,000 credit card, replacing the Programs Manager's. The Department Service Officer credit card limit increased to \$5,000, with a combined department limit now at \$35,000.

The Programs Coordinator position will be publicly advertised, with a hiring committee formed (members: Kenny Wiederholt, Mike Weyrauch, Jason Anderson, Mamie Havelka and Don Herrly).

A retirement celebration is planned for Teri Bryant, Programs Manager, during the 2026 Department Convention in Fargo, honoring over 43 years of service. Donations will be solicited.

Personnel Policy Manual updates now include prorated vacation and sick leave.

Good of the Order

A second Distinguished Service Award, posthumous, was approved for Thomas Gehringer from George T. Taylor American Legion Post #52, Mohall, ND.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mamie Havelka
NDAL DEC Chair

**Glinz Grain LLC**
Commercial Grain Storage
Drying - Trucking
Glinz Farm LLC - Glinz Transfer LLC

Cell: (701) 269-6070
Fax: (701) 252-6612
david@glinzfarm.com

Glinz Farm
2147 77th Ave SE, Highway 281
Pingree, ND 58476

**Mobil**

**West Dakota
Oil C Store**

**450 Villard Street East
Dickinson, North Dakota
(701) 225-4700**

**MOWBRAY
& SON, INC**
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
ML#0617 SINCE 1916
P.O. Box 878, 328 20th Ave SE, Minot, ND 58702-0878

(701) 852-1491

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



“Americanism: What is Love of Country?”

During Super Bowl 60 last month, the halftime show featured Puerto Rican singer Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio who goes by Bad Bunny. At the end of his all Spanish performance, there was a banner that read, “THE ONLY THING MORE POWERFUL THAN HATE IS LOVE.” That seemed ironic since the superstar had been giving ICE lots of hate up until then for what the numbers show are fewer deportations and more arrests of drug and sex traffickers than previous administrations. However, contrary to some reports, Bad Bunny did stand during the national anthem and paid proper respect to our flag. This got me thinking about our pillar of Americanism, love for our country, what it means and what that looks like. Freedom is a hallmark of our country, the freedom to protest, the freedom to perform on the biggest stage in North American sports in a language less than half the viewers understand and would likely be offended if they did (And I do NOT recommend looking up the lyrics in English.) We have the freedom to worship and the freedom to not have any kind of faith at all. These are some of the freedoms we fought to keep as veterans, and they are part of the reason we love our country. We have freedom to represent our nation at the Olympics and publicly share our dissatisfaction with our country. No one will be arrested for that; they are free to do it. Just as others are free to disapprove of their message and

not agree with them. Freedom means not getting arrested, it does not mean all actions are accepted.

As we celebrate 250 years this year, it is good to consider what Americanism is all about. We have a couple definitions of love in the Bible. In the 13th chapter verse 4 of the Apostle Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthian church he writes, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” In the 15th chapter of John’s Gospel Jesus tells us, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Just as Jesus laid down his life because of his love for all people, our veterans signed the dotted line and laid down their lives out of love for our country. That is Americanism. According to our officer’s guide, the Americanism Committee “seeks to inspire love of country and good citizenship through patriotic observances, flag etiquette, civic instruction in schools, the Americanization of immigrants, community service and youth activities such as Boys/Girls State, Boy/Girl Scouts, Oratorical Contest, school awards and scholarships and American Legion baseball. In this semiquincentennial or quarter millennial year, I believe it

is important to reemphasize Americanism, but what does that love for country look like?

Some cannot stand President Trump, specifically they cannot stand the way he can demean people, “It’s not presidential, and it gives others a bad impression of the US.” I would say their concern is born out of love for our country in the same way that I believe the actions of our ICE agents are born out of love for our country. We can have differing views that both show love for America. The challenge is how we respond to those who love our country with whom we disagree. Part of Americanism is pride in our country, but isn’t part of that pride making sure our country is something we can be proud about? As the media and political parties seek to divide us, it is more important than ever to come together under the common banner of Americanism, love and concern for the USA. We can disagree and debate how to show it, but as long as we recognize that we are working toward the same goal, rather than simply opposing the other side, we can work together to make this 250th year a memorable one. We have a great country, and I know each and every one of us wants to keep it around for our grandkids the way it was for us. Working together toward that goal is also Americanism and is part of what has made us one of the greatest nations despite our young age. God Bless America.

YOUR NEC REPORT

STEVE ANDERSON- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



As I sit here working on this article, it is currently -7 degrees with a wind chill of -29. In my head I’m thinking it’s time for a vacation somewhere warm, Hmmm??? By the time you read this the Winter Conference will be over. Hopefully everyone had a good time at your meetings and seeing old friends again.

As I have said in District Meeting regarding National Appointments and Call Ins, I will NEVER bump someone

from a chance to go to Washington, D.C., or Indianapolis for meetings. If someone is willing to step up and accept an appointment, then it is only right they are offered the opportunity to attend. The really cool thing about going to any National Meeting is it gives you the opportunity to get a glimpse of how National runs things. The Washington Conference is right around the corner on February 28 – March 4. The ND Department had 5 “Call Ins”. Attending

this year are, Clarence Carroll for Legislative Commission, Summer Kristianson for Military Benefits Quality of Life Committee, Allan Magnuson for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Scott Post for National Security Commission and Kenny Wiederholt for Veterans Education, Other Benefit & Homelessness Committee. While in DC, they will have meetings within their “Call In” and also meet with the North Dakota State Representatives.

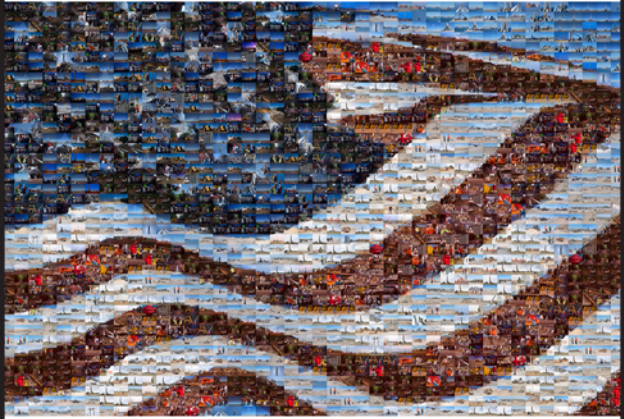
Edgar M. Boyd

American Legion Post 37



115 1st. Avenue E.
Williston, ND

Thank you to our **Veterans**
for **serving** our country and
protecting our freedoms.



MONTANA-DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO.
A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.
In the Community to Serve®
www.montana-dakota.com

The Future of the ND Legion – Update

Department Service Office Achieves Remarkable Results in 2025
Year-End Recap Highlights Dedication to Veterans and Community Support

The Department Service Office (DSO) experienced a highly productive and impactful year in 2025, delivering significant benefits and services to veterans. Over the course of the year, the office processed a Retro Compensation Total of \$5,833,904, with a Monthly Compensation Total averaging \$1,010.91. These impressive figures reflect the hard work and commitment of Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson.

Summer Kristianson’s dedication did not go unnoticed. At the Winter Conference held in January 2026, Summer presented an informative session on VA benefits, which was attended by 25 engaged participants. The presentation provided valuable insights and resources, further demonstrating the DSO’s ongoing commitment to serving the veteran community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who donated to support the Department Service Office. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and ensures the continuation of vital services for our veterans.

Thank you, Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson, for your outstanding service to veterans, and thank you to our supporters and all Legionnaires.

Mamie Havelka
Legionnaire



APPLICATION FOR GAMING FUNDS
ND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
GAMING DIVISION
SFN 9801 (2-2024)

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds The American Legion Department of North Dakota		Contact Person for Applicant Mamie Havelka		Telephone Number 701-340-1621	
Mailing Address PO Box 5057		City West Fargo	State ND	Zip Code 58078	
Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds: Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.					
1. American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)					
2. American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)					
Applicant agrees to retain <u>documentation of the use of the funds for three years</u> 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 <i>Mamie Havelka</i>		Date
Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date
			Eligible Use Code -		

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Evidence: What is needed to file a claim?

While no claim filed within the VA system is the same, there are aspects of each claim which are similar and can be the turning point within the claim. The most important piece of any claim is the existence of evidence to support the claim. Evidence which can be used in support of a claim may include medical and personnel records from service, medical records post service, support statements, medical opinions, and/or research articles, to name a few.

Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) play a crucial role in assisting veterans in knowing what types of evidence they may need to support their claims. However, in many instances, VSOs cannot gather this evidence without the assistance of the veteran. Medical records are a prime example of evidence which is often needed to support a claim. While many hospitals/clinics will provide this information with a release of information (ROI), it may be easier

and faster for a veteran to obtain this information by requesting this in person, then providing the records to the VSO.

Other key pieces of information which may be beneficial in many cases include personal statements from either the veteran, fellow service members, or family members. These statements assist the VA with information which may not be able to be captured in a compensation exam or supports statements provided by the veteran regarding incidents which occurred during service. Without the help of the veteran identifying these people, VSOs cannot provide the VA with these statements.

Medical and personnel records from service should be obtained by the VA directly. However, in some circumstances, veterans were provided the only copies of these records at discharge. In these cases, the veteran needs to provide these records to

the VSO to make copies to provide the VA. Without these records, the VA cannot verify if a condition is the result of service. In 1973, the National Personnel Records Center had a fire. This fire caused a significant loss to many records; however, the lost records have been misunderstood for years by veterans. Records for the following periods were lost Army Personnel discharged between 11.1.1912 – 1.1.1960 (estimated loss 80%) and Air Force Personnel discharged between 9.25.1947 – 1.1.1964 with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James (estimated loss 75%). VA has a process in place to assist those veterans affected by the fire to reconstruct possible records for VA claims purposes.

If you have any questions or want to begin the claims process, please reach out to a Veteran Service Officer near you <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/find-a-service-officer>

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Think Spring and Finish 2026 Strong

Greetings American Legion Family! Winter Conference is now behind us, and we are looking towards the coming Spring District meetings. Let's not slow down our work and keep pushing towards the finish line.

Speaking of Winter Conference, it was great to see friends at this year's event in Mandan, despite the frigid weather. I was honored to bring greetings on behalf of the Detachment to the Joint Session. It was awesome to see the generosity of Posts displayed towards our programs and to the military gallery being built at the Heritage Center with \$75,000 donated to that specific cause. The banquet was a good time as always, with the Legion's National Vice Commander, who is a dual member in the SAL, bringing remarks.

As usual with the Winter Conference, we had our business meeting, which was fairly well attended, despite a number of our usual officers and members being unable to attend. We heard from NEC Dan Brown about the happenings at National, including

the SAL are apparently no longer eligible for the National Emergency Fund (NEF), but an option for SAL members is being explored. Paid up for Life (PUFL) is still being discussed on the Legion side for us, so no new updates.

One important item is that the Legion National Judge Advocate wrote an opinion regarding the status of the SAL and its members as a program of the American Legion. This has caused a lot of discussion in higher circles and has caused me a deal of pause and reflection in my 20th year of membership. It largely relates to those Posts that have closed clubs, which do not affect North Dakota, and taxes and IRS rules.

As SAL members, being a member of a program of the Legion, we are treated the same as a member of the public in terms of being assessed sales tax in such a closed club. Again, I must stress that this is not an issue in North Dakota, but I know some members do travel to other Detachments, where this may be an issue, so please be mindful.

The most important point I wish to raise with this opinion is that SAL members are not accorded voting privileges in Legion Post meetings. We may be granted a voice to speak at the meeting but may not vote. This is why we usually have our own Squadron meetings, though our newer Squadrons often meet in conjunction with their Posts. Again, much of this deals with IRS rules governing programs of veteran organizations, but please be mindful of it.

Regarding membership, as of this writing, we are keeping pace with our target dates set by National to our goal of 1160 members and are sitting at roughly 70% of goal. I want to urge those Squadrons who have yet to turn in their membership, or who like to hold onto it until the end of the year, and you know who you are, to please turn in your membership to not penalize the rest of the Detachment and help us stay on track. I would love for us to hit 1200 members this year, if possible and I know with your work we can do it.

We can still add new Squadrons to our Detachment and one is in the works at Petersburg, so we are hopefully looking forward to welcoming them into the Detachment by the end of the year.

As your spring district meetings start happening, I encourage SAL members to get out and make your presence known. The officers and I will make efforts to attend the meetings we are able to across the state. The meetings would be a great time to check with Posts that don't have a Squadron to encourage them to consider starting one. To those Legion members who may have a negative attitude towards the Sons, I ask you to please think of your Post and its long-term future. We are not trying to "play veteran" or take anything away from your service. We are your sons and grandsons and merely want to help carry on your legacy through helping the Post and our communities. Make the Legion a truly family experience by getting your spouse and daughters in the Auxiliary, and your sons in the SAL, as then the whole family can work to advocate for veterans and their families, as we are one Family and stronger together.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your Detachment Commander, and I look forward to finishing the year strong with you and seeing many of you at Convention in Fargo in June. Please start letting the Detachment leadership know if you are planning to bring members to Convention, as if we know in advance how many are coming from the Squadrons, especially younger members, we can plan activities and fun for you all, as we do want to make our Winter Conference and Convention more engaging for our SAL members, but we need you to be there. Have a great spring, remember your Buddy Checks, and keep our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

For God and Country.

Job Opportunity: Programs Coordinator

The American Legion Department of North Dakota – West Fargo, ND

The American Legion Department of North Dakota, located in West Fargo, is seeking a dedicated and organized Programs Coordinator to oversee and implement initiatives that support the mission and programs of the American Legion. This position offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact by coordinating programs, fostering relationships, and ensuring the success of the Legion programs.

Key Responsibilities:

- Update, assist, and evaluate programs tailored to the needs of the American Legion.
- Manage daily program operations, including scheduling, resource allocation, and ensuring compliance with organizational standards.
- Provide guidance and support to ensure program quality and effectiveness.
- Build and maintain positive relationships with Legionnaires and the entire American Legion family.
- Keep accurate records and ensure documentation is up to date.
- Collaborate as part of the Headquarter's team.
- Process and maintain accurate membership records.
- Prepare correspondence, documentation, and other necessary materials for program administration.
- Daily work requirements.

Qualifications:

- Prior experience on program execution, or a related field is desirable.
- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining strong attention to detail.
- General computer skills include documents and spreadsheets.
- Self-directed and able to work independently without supervision.
- Solid time management skills, with the ability to prioritize effectively.

We offer:

Part Time position at 28 hours per week. Position with salary of \$22,000 - \$24,200 per year and accrued vacation. Negotiable.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and experience relevant to this role. Please send your application to The American Legion Department of North Dakota, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Mail or email: shared@ndlegion.org. Phone: (701) 293-3120. Join us in making a difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and the greater American Legion community!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Message

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
701-253-5992 • www.ndala.org
www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

Family Fundraising in Grand Forks

American Legion and Auxiliary Treumann-Webb-Phelps Post and Unit 6 of Grand Forks recently held their annual fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch for the 'Canine Heroes' project. The 'cut-out' of the service dog and boy pictured is a representation of the statue slated to be placed at Veterans Memorial Park in Grand Forks.

Photo and article submitted by: Erica Claus-Numsali, District 2 Vice President



Volunteers pictured (l-r): Erica Claus-Numsali, Auxiliary District 2 Vice President pictured with Grand Forks Post 6 members J P Hricak, 2nd Vice Commander; Tim Gagnon, Son's Department Sergeant at Arms; Ryan Kaste, First Vice Commander; Shawn Gunderson, member; and Gary Spicer, Third Vice Commander. Not pictured: Past Post 6 Commander Robert "Bob" Greene.



Erica Claus-Numsali (left) and Gary Spicer as Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Americanism in the Schools

Ruth Quam, President of Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 of Wahpeton, presented "I Pledge Allegiance" booklets to students at St John's School on January 15, 2026. Ruth is pictured in the back row (left) with School Principal Kaja Kaste, back row (right) and some of the students who received the colorful booklets.



Veterans Day Observed

American Legion Posts and Units, including Aneta, McVile, Pekin, and Tolna, observed Veterans Day in Pekin on November 11, 2025. The American Legion Family made up of veterans, Auxiliary members, and other guests made for a nice evening to celebrate our veterans. A delightful prime rib meal, sponsored by the Tolna and McVile Posts, was prepared and served by the famous Danny Bakken from Cooperstown. Those in attendance enjoyed the dinner, the music, the speaker, and the camaraderie of an evening spent with fellow veterans and family.

Ole Semling Post 135 was the host post this year. Post 135 Commander Judy Sateren opened the evening with table grace and continued after the meal with introductions, the POW/MIA Table service, and introduction of our local violinist, Jordan Ridgeway, for some patriotic music. A lot of hard-working members supply the energy to be productive, while assisting veterans, serving military, families, and their communities. This is where the National American Legion slogan of "Be the One" comes in. Picking up the ball and being committed to the great programs of this service-oriented organization is so important.

Recognition of 50-year Legion members were presented at the event. Pekin's Post Commander, Doug Messner, announced David Foering as a 50-year Legion member. McVile's Auxiliary Unit 135 presented

certificates to two 50-year Auxiliary members, sisters Carma Hanson and Dawn Johnson, daughters of Curt and Judy Twete. Carma currently serves as the Department Legislative Chairman and is involved with "Safe Kids Car Seat Checkups" in Grand Forks, while Dawn is employed as an elementary teacher in Devils Lake.

Unit 135 President, Judy Twete, introduced guest speaker Annie Gehardt from Devils Lake. Annie is a Lieutenant Colonel in the North Dakota National Guard and was deployed most recently to serve with Guard troops on the US Southern border as a Provider (66P). Annie shared stories of her work while on the border and her deployment with Joint Forces regular Army and Army Reserve units in Ghana, West Africa. Annie shared ideas about building up morale of the troops while deployed to the border. She is employed as a Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner at the Altru Express Clinic in Devils Lake. We thank Annie for her military service and for her dedication to her patients.

We thank all who made this a successful Veterans Day event. We especially thank all veterans who have given so much.

Article and photos submitted by: Judy Twete, Unit 135 President



Pictured (l-r): Curt Twete, Past Department Commander; Dawn Johnson, 50-year Unit 135 Auxiliary member; Judy Twete, Past NW Division Vice President; and Scott Johnson (Dawn's husband).



Veterans Day guest speaker Annie Gehardt.



Carma Hanson, 50-year Unit 135 Auxiliary member and Department Legislative Chair.

2026 Spring District Meetings

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

Auxiliary Registration is \$4. Auxiliary Registration Funds are to be presented to the appropriate District President.

DISTRICT 1

Saturday, April 11 – Hope, ND – Legion Building
11:30 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM Meal – (\$10)
1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 2

Friday, April 10 – Lakota, ND – Till House Saloon
5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 5:00 PM - Meal (Free)
6:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 3

Friday, March 20 – Langdon, ND – Legion Building
6:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM - Meal (\$10)
7:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 4

Friday, April 17 – Jamestown, ND – All Vets Club
5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM – Meal (Order from Menu)
7:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 5

Saturday, March 14 – Hazelton, ND – City Restaurant
11:30 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM – Meal (\$10)
1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 6

Saturday, March 28 – Roseglen, ND – Old Scouts Veterans Memorial Building
11:00 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM – Meal (Free)
1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 7

Saturday, April 18 – Bismarck, ND – AMVETS
5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM – Meal (Order from Menu)
7:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 8

Saturday, April 18 – Mott, ND – KC Hall
(Located in Mountain Time Zone)
11:00 AM (MT) - Registration/ Social, 12:00 PM (MT) – Sloppy Joes/\$5, 1:00 PM (MT) – Meeting

DISTRICT 9

Saturday, March 28 – Wildrose, ND – Country Club
5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM - Meal (\$10)
7:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 10

Saturday, April 11 – Milnor, ND – Veterans Hall
4:00 PM - Registration/Social, 5:00 PM - Meal (Free Will Offering), 6:00 PM - Meeting

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.

Department President

"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to the community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning." (Mitch Albom)

Happy February! We recently finished our Winter Conference, and I am now eagerly looking forward to our upcoming Spring District Meetings across the state. I am anticipating continued involvement with our Auxiliary programs and all the related activities going on this time of year.

Thank you to all who braved the extremely cold temperatures to attend the 2026 Winter Conference in Mandan. It was a valuable opportunity for attendees to connect, learn, and be inspired. As your Department President, I was in awe many times over the weekend because of the enthusiasm, smiles, camaraderie, energy, and the helpfulness towards each other. It was a special weekend for me, as I led my first full conference. I hope those in attendance came away with valuable information, created great memories, and were inspired by meeting others face-to-face. I hope each of you left with a smile and a warm heart. Thank you to everyone who helped with the conference events in any way.

What is coming up next? We have big events and dates to consider as we are getting closer to the deadlines for our scholarships, Year-End Reporting, Poppy Poster Contest, and more. Don't forget to check out the Department website at www.ndala.org for information on Auxiliary programs and updates, and please share the scholarships and contests with junior members, your local schools, and others who may be interested. One of my goals this year is to put our program information in the spotlight and encourage more involvement and more applicants for scholarships and contests. These are opportunities to encourage our youth to join the American Legion Auxiliary and get involved.

I am looking forward to 2026 Spring District Meetings and traveling across the state to see you all. We had close to 140 in attendance at the Fall District Meetings and I hope to see that number double this spring. I am also looking forward to providing some fun and interactive activities at the spring meetings. In the meantime, be thinking about "What is your why?" in joining and remaining an Auxiliary member.

During our Winter Conference, revisions to our governing documents (Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules) were presented and discussed. Those documents are currently posted on the Department website at www.ndala.org/constitution-bylaws/ for your review. The committee took comments until March 1st. When the committee finalizes the comments and other edits, the documents will be mailed to unit presidents for review with unit members. The revisions will be voted on at the

2026 Department Convention in June. Questions may be sent to Chairman Diane Kraemer at constitutionbylaws@ndala.org or by calling her at 701.741.5369.

My family is going to be putting on an American Legion Family Day in York on Saturday, April 25th, from 11AM-4 PM. We will be serving lunch and having activities for all ages. If you plan to attend and/or are interested in helping in any way with the event, please let me know.

Don't forget to sign up for leadership training courses available on the National website at: www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy. Online ALA Academy training courses are free, self-paced, and take about an hour of your time per session.

Thank you to all who have donated toward my president's 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. Additional donations for my projects are always welcomed and can be sent to the Auxiliary Department Office at 1801 23rd Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102-1047.

Please share your "happenings" on our ND American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page. I love seeing the page becoming more active! The page is there for everyone to be uplifted and inspired by what others are doing across the state. Please share a few short sentences or an article, along with pictures to this site: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

Our membership is growing! We are now at 76.97%. We have around twenty units that have reached 100% membership so far. Keep doing what you are doing to help with membership! There are three easy options for paying membership. You can send your payment to (1) your membership unit, (2) the Department Office, or (3) National Headquarters by paying online or by calling (317) 569-4570 where your continued membership becomes effective within minutes. Not sure where to start? Contact the Department Office at (701) 253-5992 or send an email to secretary@ndala.org.

I am so thankful for all of you and feel so blessed to be your Department President. I will try to do all I can to keep this organization going strong into the future. Remember... what you are doing for our veterans and their families DOES matter! Thank you for your continued loyalty and commitment! It is a great feeling being a part of our North Dakota American Legion Family. God bless you all!

Candace Berg



Candace Berg

Department Chaplain

As I sat in the sessions of the Winter Conference in Mandan, I looked over the crowd of men and women who served so gallantly in all parts of the world. I still have regrets that I did not offer more in some way when I was younger.

I am sure many of you know the story of Albert Funk Jr. He joined the US Army in 1941 at the age of twenty-five. Albert volunteered as a paratrooper and was stationed in England during much of WWII until D-Day in 1944. That day, the small unit he commanded landed in Normandy, which was forty miles inland. They fought for several days before breaking through enemy lines to rejoin their regiment closer to the coast. He later took part in another operation known as the "Battle of the Bulge." He led a 3-man patrol against a German battery that were targeting all incoming allied gliders. Later, in Belgium, this same company ran into eighty German soldiers and a German officer put a gun to him. Initially, he pretended to comply, but instead grabbed the German's weapon and began firing at the enemy which gave his company time to successfully capture all enemy weapons. Many German soldiers were killed or wounded that day due to his bravery. Albert received numerous awards for his bravery and today is one of the most decorated paratroopers. Following his tour in the military, Albert worked for the VA in Pittsburgh, PA. He passed away in 1992 at the age of seventy-six and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

I know Albert is just one of many who answered the call and so deservedly was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, indicating extreme sacrifice was involved. He was lucky to survive. I think of those who served in all wars and did not survive. It makes me sad. In the past year, Albert Elliot Jr. and Leon Sand, two men from my high school graduating class from the small town of Clifford, passed away. Both men served in the Vietnam War, so it brings it close to home.

With Memorial Day quickly approaching, allow me to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all who served and continue to serve in one capacity or another. You are truly heroes and we are eternally indebted to you. May God richly bless you.

Virginia Satrom



Virginia Satrom

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Winter Conference is already history. It was wonderful to see and visit with so many in Mandan even though the cold weather was tough on everyone. After dealing with the extreme cold over the past few weeks, I can tell you I am so ready for Spring.

The American Legion Family is already preparing for 2026 Spring District Meetings. You will find detailed information on District Meetings in a 'call out' box in this publication. The American Legion Family will not be holding Joint Legion and Auxiliary District Meetings starting this spring. District Presidents, you will hold your Auxiliary meetings separately, so please contact your District Commander for details on the venue.

I want to remind all unit presidents to prepare your 2026 Year-End Impact Reports now. You will find upcoming

2026 deadlines in a 'call-out' box in this publication for American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships, the Poppy Poster Contest, the Americanism Essay Contest, and Year-End Impact Reports.

Thank you, Unit Membership Chairs, you have done an amazing job. North Dakota 2026 membership goals are at 77% as I write this. Armed with the dedication and hard work of every Auxiliary member, we can make 100% well before Department Convention in June. Let's do this!

For God and country,

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer

As of this writing, I do not know if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow or not, but I really do not mind winter. In addition to my duties as your Department Treasurer, I am the Finance Manager for Grafton Drug, and I have my own small bookkeeping and tax practice. So, I really do not have much of a need to be outside and can just admire the pretty snowy landscape from my home office window.

We had a wonderful Winter Conference in Mandan! It is always so fun to see old friends again, plus make new ones. We had a workshop on how to make poppies, and I could not believe how many members were eager to learn and how fast they were at assembling them. If you have never attended a Winter Conference or Department Convention, plan to come and get a first-hand look at what your Department and Units are accomplishing across our great state.

Many of our Units have completed their registration with the North Dakota Secretary of State. If you were new to registration in 2025, your Registered Agent should have

received a letter reminding you to file your annual report. The deadline was February 2nd of this year, since the first was on a Sunday. If you missed the deadline, it is not too late to file. You will just pay a fee of \$15 instead of \$10.

I have also had several Units working on regaining their tax-exempt status with the IRS. It looks daunting at first, but as you go through the form, whole sections are skipped that do not pertain to a 501(c)(19) organization. Local CPA's are available to help you file, or you can go to pay.gov and submit the form yourself. Remember, if you are not tax-exempt, you need to be filing an income tax return for your Unit every year, whether or not you have taxable income.

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

Susan Degner, CPA



Susan Degner

Department NEC

Strategic planning shouldn't be a scary task for units.

The phrase "strategic planning" may seem complicated and something you may not need at the unit level. But strategic planning is important for organizations and businesses — no matter the size — to prioritize objectives and reach long-term goals. It helps every level of our organization focus on the priorities and the steps needed to have success. This will ensure the American Legion Auxiliary continues its long-standing mission of serving veterans, military, and their families long into the future.

Think of strategic planning in the same way you would your personal goals. Have you made a plan for retirement? What steps do you need to take to reach your post-employment objectives? Are you planning a job change? What do you need to do to make that happen? In both scenarios, you need to have a plan and know what action you need to take.

Goals of an ALA unit strategic plan:

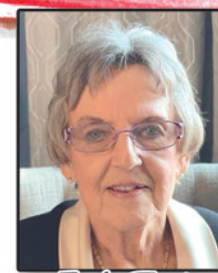
- Cultivate a variety of program engagement opportunities.
- Enhance organizational effectiveness for your unit.
- Recruit and retain members.
- Ensure financial stewardship of resources to maximize unit delivery.
- Enhance the use of technology for easier communication.
- Make better use of the training that National has available to better your knowledge on all levels.
- Enhance and foster the family relationship with The American Legion.

When you create a strategic plan, it should allow YOUR unit to have multiple accomplishments in each area. At the end of each year, units should evaluate the plan to make sure progress is being made toward accomplishing the strategies. This allows for adjustments to be made if necessary.

Please try to get a Strategic Plan created in your unit. It does not have to be complicated. Set up future goals that will allow you to flourish better. There is a lot of help available out there, and if you as a unit have some great ideas, be sure and share them with others.

Until next time,

Judy Twete



Judy Twete

Department Historian

Hello everyone.

We had a great Winter Conference. Many memories were made. I took many pictures, but I would love more pictures for the Department President's scrapbook. If you had a chance to take photos and capture different memories from different perspectives, I would love to share those pictures as well. Please send them my way. I would also appreciate any pictures and articles you may already have shared publicly in your local newspaper and a copy of your unit's 2025-2026 history. I can be contacted at historian@ndala.org.

Carrie Heinz



District 3

Hello everyone and welcome to what is hopefully the start of spring! We are still working on our dues for the year. We have several units that have reached 100% membership, and I am hoping to see more soon!

March is community service month! Has your unit been reaching out to the community and working hand-in-hand with each other? What about a pancake breakfast that needs volunteers or putting one together for the community?

American Legion Family Day is coming up on April 25. Is your unit planning a celebration? American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 268 of York are planning to celebrate the American Legion Family Day on April 25. If you are free and in the area, please join everyone that will be at York!

Here is to warm weather and melting snow for everyone! If I do not see you before, I hope to see all of you at the 2026 Department Convention in Fargo on June 26-28!

For God and country,

Andrea Neshem
District 3 President



Poppies

The Poppy Committee has mailed fifty-four orders that include 13,042 small and 478 large poppies. Several units have asked for kits to assemble their own poppies as well. Thirty-one orders have not yet been filled, and we are waiting for more assembled poppies to arrive after our poppy assembler returns from vacation.

Carol Wolf and Cheryl Gustafson
Poppy Co-Chairmen



Legislation

Legislative advocacy is often looked at as a daunting task, one that frightens many as they do not know how to get started in making their voice heard. To some, making their voice heard and "making the ask" is easy; for others, it can be something they do not even know how to begin.

I challenge each of you to recognize that your voice matters. Let me give an example. Imagine someone stepping up to the front of the room or onto a stage, all alone and without a microphone. In a large space, or even a smaller space, but with competing noises, the voice may be hard to detect or go unnoticed altogether. Now imagine that others come and "join the chorus." The stage is filled, the voices become louder and the sound carries, making what is being sung, shared, preached, or told audible and noticed.

When voices come together around legislative advocacy, it is as if our message – our ask – is amplified. Our policy makers, whether on the city, state or federal level, begin to hear the same things repeatedly, and it resonates that the ask is real and important to those they serve.

Legislative advocacy can take many shapes or forms, and while this year is not a legislative year in North Dakota, there are still many things that our officers, members and units can be doing in the legislative arena. I hosted a virtual Legislative Advocacy Training on February 17. The session was recorded so you can watch either individually or as a group. Email me at legislation@ndala.org for the video link. Some of the things covered included:

- How to write a letter to the editor
- How to reach out to an elected official
- The process of how a bill becomes a law
- How you can make a difference for veteran's issues with your voice and actions

I hope you will join me and learn how you can become part of our American Legion Auxiliary "legislative chorus." While it may seem easier to take a backstage, we all need to do our part, make the chorus louder, the ask clearer and the work lighter for everyone. Our elected officials and those running for office in upcoming elections this fall are counting on the voice of those who know and understand veteran's and military issues. Come, join the stage!

Carma Hanson
Legislative Chairman



Membership

Hello Auxiliary Members.

As your Department Membership Co-Chairman, I would like to thank you for paying your 2026 dues. As I write this article, the Unit Goals indicate we are currently at nearly 77%, with over 17 units already achieving 100% or greater membership goals. Even with this much success, we still have a way to go to be a 100% Department. I would love to see the last 23% of members continue to honor our veterans by paying your dues.

The current dues year began on January 1 and if you have not yet paid your 2026 dues you are not a member until your dues are paid. National Headquarters sent out second reminders during the first week of February. So, open that reminder and send your dues to your unit membership chairman.

Remember, many Auxiliary members joined your units several years ago. I encourage units to remember to honor those long-time members for their continuous years of membership whether 25, 30, 40, or 50 or more years. Certificates and pins can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.

As your President-Elect, I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Spring District Meetings. It would be great to see about 75% of our units represented at District Meetings. The Legion is at about that goal so perhaps asking your post members to share rides would be a wonderful way to come and meet everyone and to share your views. We cannot make it to all the units, so this is a wonderful way to hear from all of you.

Sandy Smith,
President-Elect and Membership Co-Chairman



VA & R

There is always something going on at the VA Medical Center in Fargo. In August, there were two winners at the North Dakota Creative Arts Festival who will advance to the 2026 National Creative Arts Festival competition in South Carolina on September 17.

The "Giving Tree" was prominently located in the hospital's lobby this Christmas season and the project was immensely successful, surpassing other years with a total of over \$20,000 in commonly requested emergent needs items for veterans.

Thank you to the 2026 Gift Shop Committee for their assistance in making this the most successful holiday giving season to date. On December 3, 2025, we served fifty-seven veteran/patients at this year's Gift Shop. Holiday meals were served at the VAMC-Fargo, North Dakota Veterans Home-Lisbon, and Fargo's VA Veterans Community Resource & Referral Center (CRRC). Activities for the year at the Fargo VAMC include: National Salute to Veterans Week from February 9-15, Patient Casino Night on March 24, Recognition Banquet on May 7 at the West Fargo VFW, and Vet Fest set for June 17 from 3-7PM.

The VA has a new program/project some might be interested in, or you might know someone who is. Please pass this info along to them. "Project Healing Waters" is a non-profit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military and veterans through fly fishing, rod building, and fly tying. Founded in 2005, the organization provides free, long-term therapeutic programs in 183 nationwide locations to foster recovery, camaraderie, and mental wellness. Classes are open to all VA-enrolled veterans twice a month. Recently, "Sisters on the Rise," a female-only course is also being offered. To learn more about "Project Healing Waters," contact the VA CDCE office at (701) 239-3700, extension 3396.

Carol Wolf
VA&R Chairman



2026-2027
Endorsed Officers

Department President – Sandra Smith
Department President-Elect – Shelley Schuster
Department Treasurer – Susan Degner
Department Secretary – Marcy Schmidt
Department Chaplain – Virginia Satrom
Department Historian – Carrie Heinz

Americanism

It is hard to believe it is already February! It was great to visit with so many of you at the 2026 Winter Conference. Along with this article, I have included a call-out box that highlights ways units can promote Americanism during 2026, America's 250th birthday.

One item highlights ways to promote Americanism in honor of America's 250th birthday and the other item is a list of books that units and individual members might consider donating to their local schools or libraries. I hope this information is helpful as you promote Americanism in your communities and schools.

I encourage all units to let me know what you are doing to promote Americanism so I can share that information when I attend the April Northwestern Division Zoom call.

This year's theme for the Americanism Essay Contest is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." You can find more information regarding the essay requirements and the 2026 cover sheet on the Department's website at: www.ndala.org/americanism/ under Programs/Americanism. Essays are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2026, for judging. Unit winners should be mailed or emailed to me no later than March 15, 2026.

Arliss Koski
Americanism Chairman



★★★★★ AMERICANISM ★★★★★
250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IDEAS

For Valentine's Day or Memorial Day: Work with your local school district, home school group(s), Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc and sponsor a "Valentine's for Veterans" or "Heart Campaign" where students write thank you notes to Veteran's on red/white/blue hearts. These can be hung on doors, refrigerators, etc.

Contribute 250 items to a community program serving Veterans- 250 pairs of socks, underwear, t-shirts, flag pins, snacks, puzzle books, etc.

Make Poppy Greeting cards using Thumbprints. Ideas can be found by searching Pinterest. Have students or local clubs (Homemakers, church groups, etc.) use those to write thank you notes to Veterans.

Along with the Americanism Essay contest sponsor a local poetry or poster contest highlighting the 250th birthday of the United States. Hang up posters in local businesses to celebrate America's birthday. (Make sure identifying information is not visible on posters.)

Consider purchasing items from Emblem to distribute to students to promote Americanism-coloring books, flags, etc. or use ideas from the Star Spangled Kit highlighted on the North Dakota ALA website. Attached is a list of books that your Unit may want to consider purchasing for your local schools, daycares or community libraries.

★★★★★ AMERICANISM ★★★★★
BOOK LIST

- "H Is for Honor" by Devin Scillian
- "You're the Real Hero" by Melvina A. Smith
- "As Much as the Stars" by Tricia Stone Schumacher
- "America's White Table" by Margot Theis Raven
- "The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans" by Barbara E. Walsh
- "Hero Mom" by Melinda Hardin
- "Hero Dad" by Melinda Hardin
- "Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" by Jeff Gottsfeld
- "Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops" by Dr. Jill Biden
- "D-Day: A Day That Changed America: They Fought to Free Europe from Hitler's Tyranny" by Shelley Tanaka
- "The Wall: A Moving Picture Book About the Vietnam War and Honoring Grandparents on Memorial Day for Kids" by Eve Bunting
- "We Pulled Together-- and Won!"
- "Liberation of Kuwait Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm" by the State of Kuwait

Community Involvement in Thompson



American Legion Jorgenson Post and Unit 181 of Thompson sponsored the 'Breakfast with Santa' event on December 14, 2025. Approximately 150 children and adults attended this annual event.



2026 is America's 250th Birthday! Let's celebrate America and the Auxiliary's Poppy Program at the 2026 Department Convention. Sandra Petermann, Northwestern Division Poppy Chair, Carol Wolf, Department Poppy Co-Chairman and Cheryl Gustafson, Department Poppy Co-Chairman, invite members of the American Legion Family to enter the "Art Exhibit" at this year's Department Convention. The only caveat is: the art piece must be original, the theme is "America's 250th Birthday" and you must incorporate poppies in your work. Enter a colorful poster, painting, quilt, a garment or hat, or other art piece. The more patriotic, the better. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

2026 Deadline Reminders

Americanism Essay Contest
Due March 15
www.ndala.org/americanism/

Scholarships
Due April 1
www.ndala.org/education/
or www.ndala.org/ppp/

Member Impact Report
Due April 1
www.ndala.org/reporting/

Unit Presidents Impact Report
Due April 15

**District President and
Chairmen Impact Reports**
Due May 1

Unit Member of the Year
Due May 1
www.ndala.org/leadership/

Poppy Poster Contest
Due May 15
www.ndala.org/poppies-2/

Salute to Service Members
Due June 1
www.ndala.org/nationalsecurity/

In Memoriam

District 1

Inez R McIlwain, Fargo
Yvonne L Moore, PUFL, Fargo
Sheila K Lura, Valley City

District 2

June Bjornson, Cavalier
Bonnie L Lewis, Cavalier
Angie R Carriere, Grafton
Bernadette Greenagel, Grafton
Dorothy Koester, Grafton
Maxine E Larson, Grafton
Maxine E Wilkes, Grafton
Arlene J Olsen, PUFL, Park River
Debbie Hanson, Lankin
Carol Jallo, HLM, Lankin

District 3

Mary J Eidsness, Brocket
Gladys K Freund, PUFL, Cando

District 4

Jeanette B Redlin, Jamestown
Debbie Kelly, HLM, Carrington
Marla Wesen, McClusky
Delores Sam, Medina

District 5

Mary Beth Bertsch, Bismarck
Lorraine Erickson, Bismarck
Bonita M Maier, Bismarck
Irene Roth, PUFL, Bismarck
Marcella Ulrich, Ashley
Eleanor Magrum, Hazelton
Joan E Wagner, Hazelton

District 6

Sherry Lalum, Portal
Jacqueline R Klebe, Willow City
Carol Birkeland, Donnybrook
Shirley Ziemann, HLM, Makoti
Erna R Garnant, PUFL, Upham
Jane Krueger, PUFL, Butte

District 7

Jean Barth, Hebron

District 8

Dorothy Lien, PUFL, New England
Eugenia I Dietz, PUFL, Belfield

District 9

Betty Johner, Powers Lake
Mary L Quarne, Grenora
Elizabeth Sorenson, Grenora
Bernice M Feiring, Tioga
Ara Hartsoch, Tioga
Anna C Rubia, Little Shell

District 10

Norma L Honl, PUFL, Lidgerwood

REMEMBER
OUR
VETERANS



Follow us on our NEW Facebook page!
See what the Department of ND is
doing to help veterans.
Search:
www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

District Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,

Our Winter conference went well in Mandan despite the bitterly cold weather. A thank you to the Mandan American Legion Gilbert S. Furness Post #40 for hosting the conference. National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer from Nebraska was the keynote speaker at the banquet. Spring District meetings are being planned; our District 1 meeting is scheduled for April 11 in Hope. Registration/Social from 11:30am-12:00pm. The meal will be served from 12:00pm-1:00pm, cost \$10. Meeting begins at 1:00pm. This is being hosted by Post #18 of Hope at 508 Small Avenue in Hope.

I am coming to the end of my tenure as District Commander and Virginia Kraushaar will be taking over the 1st of July. We are searching for someone to take the Vice Commander's position at that time. If you or anyone you know of would be interested in taking this position, let me or Virginia know as soon as possible.

Posts, keep working on your CPRs, (Consolidated Post Report). Remember, anything you do helping a veteran, legion meeting, color guard, etc. is time to be counted on your CPR.

Membership is going well; however, we are not 100% yet. Posts keep working on your membership and get the last ones renewed.

We have been going through a tough cold winter spell recently, which can be very difficult on veterans suffering from depression and other issues. Please check on them, (BUDDY CHECK)!

Stay WARM, stay SAFE, and we look forward to seeing you April 11 in Hope.



David Boucher
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

I hope all is going well for you all. I can't believe it's already February and the Winter Conference is over. We had a great time at the conference. I learn more every time I attend and get to meet more fellow legionnaires.

Please remember to reach out and call your post members to let them know that being out of sight doesn't mean out

of mind. "Buddy Checks" can be getting together for meals and swapping stories, a phone call, playing cards or just getting together. "Be the One" to let your post members know that they are being thought of. Also, remember to keep track of your time spent with your buddy. This helps the American Legion know how much time we've spent getting to know or learn from each other.

Let's work on getting your Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) done. If you have any questions, please call me. If I don't know the answer, I will find out for you and let you know.

Every District 3 member is invited and encouraged to attend the Spring District Meeting which will be held in Langdon on March 20th, 2026. Social: 5 pm, Meal: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm. Mark your calendars and try your best to attend. Hope to see you and getting to know you. Membership and helping one another are some of the most important aspects of the American Legion. Every Veteran Is Important and is worth fighting for.

I am working on attending Post Meetings for District 3. Getting to know you and helping out your post as best as I can, will be my main goal. If your post is too small to meet, reach out to other posts near you and ask if you can attend their meetings.

Once again, be safe and remember to reach out to your members. I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you.



Russ Kroshus
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

This is a reminder that District 5 meeting will be hosted by Post 126 in Hazelton, 356 Main Street on March 14, 2026. Registration will begin at 11:30 AM, followed by a meal at 12:00 PM (cost is \$10.00). The business meeting will start at approximately 12:30 PM and will cover topics such as membership, Boys State, Girls State, the State Oratorical Contest, and CPR

reports. Commander Mike Weyrauch and Commander-Elect Jason Anderson will provide updates from the national and state perspectives.



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,

My efforts to communicate with more Posts in the district were waylaid by a medical issue with a lengthy recovery.

So, I am pleased to have the opportunity to see you all at the District 6 Spring Meeting, which will be held on March 28, 2026, at the Old Scouts Memorial Veterans Building in White Shield, ND. (Roseglen is the mailing address). Registration and Social will start at 11 AM, Meal will be at 12 Noon, with the Meeting beginning at 1:00 PM.

District 6 Cont'd

The 2026 Winter Conference was held January 23-25, 2026, in Mandan, ND, and hosted by the Gilbert S. Furness Post 40. In attendance was National Vice-Commander, Jerry Landkamer, USN, Vietnam. Landkamer is a member of American Legion Post 16, in Norfolk, NE.

I attended the Americanism/Children and Youth Committee meeting. Our participation with the Children & Youth Project was successful with approximately 194 stuffed Comfort bears/puppies distributed to some of the district 6 area hospitals and clinics. Thanks to all our district 6 distribution volunteers, (and some volunteers to the East as well).

Department reminds us that as of July 1st, 2026, the dues for 2027 begin and increase to a combined (Department and National), total of \$47. Posts need to make sure dues are not less than \$47, otherwise they will be collecting less than required to send in.

Other highlights at the Conference for me were the Membership Workshop, High School Oratorical Contest, Banquet and Training.

Good to be back! God Bless!



Herb Quamme
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,

Winter is almost over!

I've enjoyed visiting all the posts over the past year. It's always a pleasure to meet with fellow veterans.

Winter Conference went well. It was good to meet with old friends and make some new ones. All the oratorical contestants were outstanding!

Membership is doing well. We are getting to the home stretch and need to keep working hard at it.

It is also time to start working on the consolidated post reports. They only take a few minutes to fill out. They are important. Even if you think you haven't done anything, you can still mark the buddy checkbox. I bet you have checked in on a veteran at least once, even just to let them know about your next Legion meeting or to talk to them as a friend.

If your post needs more of the comfort Teddy bears, let me or District Vice Commander Michael Gant know. We will do our best to get you more.

The District 8 meeting will be April 18 in Mott at the KC Club on Main Street -- registration and social are at 11 a.m. and the meal -- sloppy joe's -- at noon. The price is \$5. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. District Vice Commander Gant and I will be looking forward to seeing you there.

Take care, stay safe, and remember you can BE THE ONE.



Gordon Vosberg
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,

The mild winter days have been nice with the snow disappearing and winter so far has been pretty darn good.

The 2026 Winter Conference was held in Mandan, ND. The meetings went very well, and it was great connecting with fellow legion members from around the state. We were fortunate to have two great guest

speakers, our National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer and congresswoman Julie Fedorchak.

The 10th District Meeting will be held at the brand-new Milnor Veterans Center in Milnor, ND, on Saturday, April 11th with a 4pm registration, 5pm meal, and 6pm meeting.

A few of our posts have been busy with a variety of activities. The Fairmount post, commanded by Cory Metcalf, is still putting on amazing breakfasts for their community and surrounding areas. Additionally, the Wyndmere Post has also been hosting breakfast fundraisers throughout the months. Keep up the great work!

Thank you all for your hard work with your community, your posts, and country.

God Bless and Be Safe.



ELECT Jason Anderson

For 2026-2027
Department
Commander

Endorsed by:
Harry W. Lindberg
Post #151 in Scranton



Jason is a 21-year USAF retiree and has been a member of Post 151 in Scranton for the last 25 years and became commander of the post in 2016.

Jason is a Paid-Up-for-Life member with 23 continuous years and has served as Department Commander Elect, West Region Vice Commander, District 8 Commander twice, and District 8 Vice Commander three times. Jason has represented District 8 on the Department Boys State Committee for the last four years and is serving as the Department and West Region Chair for the Department Oratorical Committee. Jason is also a graduate of American Legion College Class of 2025.

Jason's current volunteer jobs are as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician for the Bowman Ambulance Service, Scranton Quick Response Unit and Scranton Volunteer Fire Department.

Jason is the current Mayor of Scranton and was a member of the Scranton city council for 8 years prior to taking office in July of 2024. He currently holds positions on the Bowman County Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Bowman County Zoning Board and the Sunrise Foundation Board of Directors. Jason is a Life Member of the Professional Loadmasters Association, a Life Member of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association, a Life Member of ANAVICUS, Sons of the Legion, and is also a Co-owner and Managing Partner of Next Door Pizza in Scranton.

Jason is married to Devin and has two stepchildren, Chloe and Jaxon, all members of the Legion Family.

I am ready to take on the challenge of being your Department Commander for the upcoming year.

I would greatly appreciate your support and vote in June.

CHOOSE A BANK
THAT PROUDLY
SERVES YOU.

Western State Bank
offers exclusive
benefits for
customers who serve
(or have served) in the
United States military.

Western
Bank • Invest • Insure

Your Hometown Bank

Stop in today and ask
about Freedom Banking.

WESTERNBANKS.COM
DEVILS LAKE • FARGO • WEST FARGO

Member FDIC 

Spring District Meetings

Registration Fee for all District Meetings is set at \$5.00 by Department Executive Committee.				
Meal Is Extra, Host Post retains registration fee to offset their expenses.				
District 1 - 4/11/26				
Saturday	11:30	Registration/Social	Legion Building	Harlan Johnson
04/11/26	12:00	Meal \$10.00	508 Small Ave	hjohnson125@gmail.com
	13:00	Meeting	Hope	218-779-9450
District 2 - 4/10/26				
Friday	17:00	Registration/Social	Till House Saloon	Bryan Ohlhauser
04/10/23	17:00	Meal Free	116 Main Street	bohlauser@gmail.com
	18:00	Meeting	Lakota	701-304-0148
District 3 - 3/20/26				
Friday	18:00	Registration/Social	Legion Building	Dave Boucher
03/20/26	18:00	Meal \$10.00	815 2nd St	dasubou@outlook.com
	19:00	Meeting	Langdon	701-550-9961
District 4 - 4/17/26				
Day	17:00	Registration/Social	All Vets Club	Michael Allmer
Date	18:00	Meal - Order off the menu	116 1st St East	michael.allmer@gmail.com
	19:00	Meeting	Jamestown	701-269-1662
District 5 - 3/14/26				
Saturday	11:30	Registration/Social	City Restaurant	Russ Kroshus
03/14/26	12:00	Meal - \$10.00	356 Main Street	rkroshus@bis.midco.net
	13:00	Meeting	Hazelton	701-426-5102
District 6 - 3/28/26				
Saturday	11:00	Registration/Social	Old Scouts Veterans Memorial Building	Kathryn White Bear
03/28/26	12:00	Meal - Free	545 Sahnish Ave	kwbluvjesus@yahoo.com
	13:00	Meeting	Roseglen, ND	605-569-0481
District 7 - 4/18/26				
Day	17:00	Registration/Social	Amvets Club	Lawrence Montclair
Date	18:00	Order off Menu	2402 Railroad Ave	lmontclair@catholicindianmission.com
	19:00	Meeting	Bismarck	701-891-9076
District 8 - 4/18/26				
Saturday	11:00	Registration/Social	KC Hall	Herb Quamme
04/18/26	12:00	Sloppy Joes \$5.00	315 Brown Ave	herb.quamme@hotmail.com
	13:00	Meeting (Note: Mountain Time Zone)	Mott	701-928-0268
District 9 - 3/28/26				
Saturday	17:00	Registration/Social	Country Club	Douglas Eckert
03/28/26	18:00	Meal - \$10.00	8555 County Road 19	rubber.cowboy@hotmail.com
	19:00	Meeting	Wildrose	701-339-5312
District 10 - 4/11/26				
Saturday	16:00	Registration/Social	Veterans Hall	Gordon Vosberg
04/11/26	17:00	Meal Free Will Offering	408 Main Street	sodafisher81@gmail.com
	18:00	Meeting	Milnor	701-301-9799

American Legion Department of ND 2026 Presidents Day Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Thursday, February 12th at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are also listed on the website ndlegion.org.

\$2,000 Grand Prize Winner
Robert Haveman of Linton Post 54

\$1,000 Prize Winner
William Mertes of Wahpeton Post 20

\$200 Prize Winners
Gerard Fisher of Bismarck Post 1
Gary Thompson of Park River Post 147

\$100 Prize Winners
Gerard Inglis of Hebron Post 100
Ronald Hilde of Lisbon Post 7
Gerry Gannon of Sarles Post 276
James Drong of Sanborn Post 202
Jonathan Schmidt of Butte Post 270
James Spangler of Bismarck Post 1

JON VEILE
FOR EAST REGION
DEC POSITION

ENDORSED BY
JEFFERSON STEINKE
POST 18 HOPE



CURRENT EAST REGION VICE COMMANDER
AND ON MY SECOND TERM

PAST 1ST DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER

RETIRED US ARMY OFFICER

SERVED AS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR
THE 34TH DIVISION AS WELL AS VARIOUS
COMMANDS AND STAFF POSITIONS

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FROM
DISTRICTS 1-2-10 AT OUR DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION IN FARGO ON JUNE 26-28, 2026.

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

Have You Paid Your 2026
Membership Dues?

PROUD TO *Support*
OUR VETERANS

Grow
WEST

Dakota
West
CREDIT UNION

1.800.411.7590
dakotawestcu.com

Get the Benefits
You Earned

We help Veterans and their spouses

- ✓ Financial Aid for assisted living, home care or memory care
- ✓ Quality Care in a comfortable setting
- ✓ Simple Claim process

Learn more at SeniorCareND.com

Benedictine
Dickinson | Garrison | Bismarck
Ellendale | LaMoure | Wahpeton

Beck-Sherven-Foreman
American Legion Post 290

Main Street, New Town, ND
(701) 627-4409
Open to the Public
Legion meetings, 2nd Thursday monthly
Always welcoming new members
Beer • Cocktails • Food • Bingo • Music
 Fun Times • Good People

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	
Sticka, Ignatius	Unknown DOD
Lawin, James.....	12/18/2025
Fargo – Post #2	
Anderson, Ronald.....	11/24/2025
Hebert, Willard.....	10/29/2025
Thompson, Lynn D.....	11/23/2025
Hillsboro – Post #4	
Rotvold, Leslie.....	11/12/2025
Grand Forks – Post #6	
Rakoczy, John.....	01/23/2026
Lisbon – Post #7	
Rehling, Donald W.....	12/06/2025
Cavalier – Post #11	
Dietrich, Gary.....	10/29/2025
Washburn – Post #12	
Kost, Donald.....	12/28/2025
Jamestown – Post #14	
Matteson, Danny M.....	12/03/2025
Michel, Bernard.....	01/14/2026
Hope – Post #18	
Jacobson, Mark T.....	12/17/2025
LaMoure – Post #19	
Bitz, James R.....	12/14/2025
New Rockford – Post #30	
Schmaltz, Joseph.....	11/29/2025
Fessenden – Post #33	
Callery, William V Rev.....	11/06/2025
Towner – Post #34	
Muhs, Robert.....	07/24/2023
Williston – Post #37	
Conlin, John R.....	08/27/2025
Velva – Post #39	
Pedersen, Marvin.....	11/20/2025
Mandan – Post #40	
Harvey, Larry A.....	11/06/2025
Metzger, Leslie R.....	08/19/2026
Schlinger, Ronald P.....	12/26/2025
Grafton – Post #41	
Burns, Donald.....	11/21/2025
Killdeer – Post #46	
Barnes, Monte A.....	10/15/2025
Bowman – Post #48	
Rea, James.....	01/22/2026
Reeder – Post #51	
Kaitfors, Francis A.....	12/19/2025
Conrad, Mason D.....	01/03/2026
Linton – Post #54	
Backhaus, Richard.....	12/15/2025
Nagel, Mike.....	03/18/2025

Kenmare – Post #64	
Schulz, Charles.....	05/20/2025
Hatton – Post #70	
Holter, David J.....	11/05/2025
Mott – Post #71	
Frieze, Marvin.....	01/03/2025
Hirsch, Roger.....	10/28/2025
Vetter, Clarence.....	11/21/2025
Napoleon – Post #72	
Foster, Donald L.....	12/04/2025
Crosby – Post #75	
Urvand, Leslie.....	08/10/2024
Stanton – Post #78	
Marlenee, William.....	11/22/2025
Wishek – Post #87	
Rieger, Vernon.....	08/06/2025
Hankinson – Post #88	
Bladow, Lyle J.....	11/17/2025
Center – Post #90	
Hagerott, Delmar R.....	01/12/2026
Portland – Post #93	
Thykeson, Truman.....	01/07/2026
Strand, Jerald.....	01/16/2026
Larimore – Post #97	
Georgeson, Edward.....	01/24/2026
Langdon – Post #98	
Spivey, Anna M.....	11/22/2025
Howatt, Terry.....	12/08/2025
Witzel, Dewey.....	10/22/2025
Ryder – Post #99	
Hagen, Marvin.....	01/18/2026
Hebron – Post #100	
Lutz, Philip E Jr.....	01/03/2026
Leeds – Post #101	
Stave, Daniel.....	01/12/2026
Fairmount – Post #106	
Schutt, Arlen.....	12/09/2024
Crystal – Post #107	
O’Toole, Thomas.....	08/25/2025
Hettinger – Post #115	
Defoe, Chuck.....	11/04/2025
Grenora – Post #116	
Bendixson, Herbert.....	12/17/2025
Parshall – Post #121	
Humphrey, Ron E.....	08/10/2023
Johnson, Thomas.....	10/16/2024
Jones, Ronald.....	08/24/2025
Maddock – Post #123	
Schlenker, Gerald.....	10/10/2025
Bowbells – Post #127	
Holter, Douglas.....	12/18/2025

Turtle Lake – Post #133	
Gondringer, Paul.....	11/27/2025
Bott, Valentine.....	12/18/2025
Belfield – Post #144	
Lindbo, Elliot.....	03/29/2025
Edgeley – Post #146	
Ross, Wilbert A.....	12/31/2025
Madcke, Alvin.....	01/03/2026
Park River – Post #147	
Noble, Amy.....	Unknown DOD
Aslakson, Paul.....	10/27/2025
Verona – Post #178	
Heiser, Raymond.....	12/26/2025
Richardton – Post #180	
Brand, Leland C.....	11/25/2025
Pekin – Post #182	
Messner, Norris.....	04/13/2025
Hazen – Post #189	
Krause, Dalles.....	12/24/2025
Donnybrook – Post #195	
Skinningrud, Oliver.....	12/11/2025
Bott, Russell.....	02/06/2026
Sanborn – Post #202	
Miller, Robert.....	10/26/2025
Knutson, Donald.....	11/03/2025
Makoti – Post #230	
Mulligan, Charles E.....	01/29/2022
Stafslien, Derris.....	01/21/2026
Rolla – Post #235	
Mackinnon, Ronnie.....	11/17/2025
Wimbledon – Post #236	
Cole, Gary.....	10/29/2025
Noonan – Post #243	
Burner, Randy.....	08/30/2025
Forest River – Post #251	
Barclay, Arnold.....	01/25/2026
Upham – Post #269	
Garnant, Even R.....	01/07/2026
Butte – Post #270	
Wald, Leonard.....	06/30/2025
Mandaree – Post #271	
Crows Heart, Thomas.....	04/17/2025
Fordville – Post #274	
Vein, Gerald.....	10/17/2024
Harwood – Post #297	
Sattler, Lawrence.....	11/25/2025
Walls, Robert P.....	11/28/2025
Porter, Donald G.....	12/25/2025
Rogers, Rosa.....	03/03/2025

Mandan Regional Airport
Lawler Field



(701) 663-0669
(701) 955-3328
www.mandanairport.com
manager@mandanairport.com

DYNO TESTING • KELDERMAN AIR RIDE • EDGE PRODUCTS
NAPA AUTO CARE CENTER • COMPLETE DRIVE LINE WORK

MIKE'S CUSTOM TRUCK, INC.

Brandon Adams 701-371-7717



Josh Boyer 320-533-0382



Phone: 701-587-6335 Fax: 701-587-5529
Email: Mike@mikescustomtrucks.com www.mikescustomtrucks.com
3505 5th Ave. NE • P.O.. Box 368 Northwood, ND 58267

BALANCING • COMBINE ROTORS & STRAW CHOPPERS

Best Wishes American Legion!
State Representative Jon Nelson



Thank you for your service

PARKER
CENTER



COFFEE SHOP

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



RED WING
SHOES

Independently Owned & Operated

1315 South Broadway, Minot, ND
(701) 838.1055 • redwing1@srt.com



T. Eckert
& Sons Since 1940

PAINTING CONTRACTOR
PO BOX 948 FARGO

(701) 282-9225

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.

\$50,000 donation check to North Dakota Military - Museum Gallery



Past Post Commander Robert Wefald, Past Post Commander Ed Stern, Dale Lennon Executive Director North Dakota State Historical Society, Jackie Huber Deputy Adjutant General North Dakota National Guard, Russ Kroshus Post #1 Commander

Devils Lake American Legion Finds Holiday Spirit

On December 15, 2025, Tim Running American Legion Post #24 in Devils Lake, ND, helped the kid’s winter meal program with a donation of \$2,000. The Altru Foundation in Devils Lake has been providing bags of food to the families of school kids struggling with rising living costs and economic challenges. The American Legion has had the opportunity to help with funds to the program for the last two years.

One of the four pillars of the American Legion is Children and Youth, and the holiday meal program helps the Legion post keep generosity at the heart of the season while fulfilling that pillar. At a time with the cost of basic goods going up, having a little extra assistance with food and clothing can mean a lot to struggling families. The school lunch program provides needed nutrition for school kids, when they are on winter break they lose that little bit of food security. The Altru Foundation recognized that need and has stepped up to help. Tim Running Post #24 continues to help veterans and the community of Devils Lake and encourages others to be generous with gifts of food, clothing, and funds to programs that help those that need it most.



Pictured is Dr Stephanie Foughty (center) who first reached out to the American Legion volunteers from the Altru Foundation, and Bryce Crosby (right), Adjutant for Post #24 behind some of the many bags of groceries.

Fargo Post #2



One of the Four Pillars - Children and Youth - Ongoing needs by Fargo Public Schools for basic supplies happens year-round. Thank you to Adjutant Virginia Kraushaar for heading up the donation from Post #2 of back packs and school supplies to Carl Ben school in Fargo. Post #2 Finance Officer Bill Owens presented a separate check from his employer Border Bank for the backpack project.

Glen Ullin Post #239

Wall of Honor - Our Veterans/Heroes
By Nancy Bittner, Publisher/Editor, Glen Ullin Times

It started out as a vision and with the help of four dedicated citizens of Glen Ullin, and the vision has come a reality.

It is Jon T. Bechtold vision after he saw something similar while in Texas this past year, a “Wall of Honor”. He took a picture and kept thinking about that display with the many of our departed military people in the community. Being a service man himself, his mind kept thinking about what he could do for those men and women who served our country.

Darcy Fitterer is the caretaker of the Glen Ullin Memorial Park and Log Cabin. As she and Bechtold visited many times about this military “Wall of Honor”, their enthusiasm and excitement started the project. Fitterer was working on giving the log cabin a new face lift anyway with a new coat of paint with historic pictures to be hung.

Jon and Darcy put many hours on the positioning of the information holders for each of the Glen Ullin service men and women who have passed and found out that they needed two walls for the display.

At present there are 406 men and women on the wall covering the Civil War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam Era, Gulf Wars, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Persian Gulf.

Bechtold and Fitterer also had the help of Jon’s wife, Cindy, who spent many hours getting the information and pictures together to put into each plaque and getting them hung. Nancy Bittner helped with the paper end of it, the list in the display case at the entrance of the park displaying all the names and more miscellaneous items.

The “Wall of Honor” could not have happened without the permission from the Glen Ullin Park Board who oversees the park and log cabin. It was with their approval and excitement for the project that it happened. Jon and Cindy Bechtold, Darcy Fitterer, and Nancy Bittner want to give a big “thank you” to the Glen Ullin Park Board.

Many have asked who funded the Wall of Honor project and Bechtold says, “I personally funded it because it is something I felt I needed to do.”

People have asked about making a donation and Bechtold says make the donation to the park board with a thank you note for allowing the Wall of Honor to be displayed in the log cabin. Or he said to make a donation to the Glen Ullin American Legion since many of the veterans on the Wall were members of the post.

This “Wall of Honor” is for those who are deceased and are from Glen Ullin or the surrounding area who have served in the military.

Presently there are information holders that have the name of the service person with no military history and/or picture. It would be helpful to find a picture of the service person when they were in the service and a more recent picture of themselves. If you need help to see who qualifies or something is missing on your family member or want more information/have questions, please contact Jon T. Bechtold at 701-471-2564.

This proved to be a very worth while and satisfying project to honor those who served our country proudly. It is one of those projects that will be ongoing and will never be completed.

Remember “Never Forget Those Who Served.”



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.

Thompson Post #181

Thompson American Legion Post #181 had their Breakfast with Santa event on December 14, 2025. Approximately 150 children and adults attended.



Mohall Post #52

The George T. Taylor American Legion Post 52 in Mohall hosted an Aging Adult Community Outreach event on February 4, 2026, bringing together 20 state, county, and local organizations, including the Fargo VA. The event served veterans and residents from surrounding rural communities and highlighted the importance of community collaboration in ensuring older adults have access to vital resources.

For Information Regarding Advertising Contact:

NPI

NORMANDIN PUBLICATIONS, INC.

DIRECTORIES • YEARBOOKS • PROGRAMS • GUIDES

1703 Selby Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 649-0020

Copyright © 2025
by **NORMANDIN PUBLICATIONS, INC.**
All rights reserved including the right to reproduce this publication or portions thereof in any form.



PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers support veterans by showcasing their businesses in our publications.

Let's let them know that we appreciate them.
Please contact us at (651) 649-0020 or email npi@comcast.net to get advertising pricing and placement information.

COMMUNITY

v U e

CREDIT UNION

NCUA

the focus is on you

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

818 E. Main Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58502
701.223.6533

info@vueccu.com
www.vueccu.com
NMLS# 191824

New Flag Poles at ND State Fairgrounds

In September 2024, a project was started to install new flagpoles by a local veteran at the ND State Fairgrounds in Minot, ND. The old flagpoles were installed in 1997 and were behind the new stage. They were worn out and not conducive for the display of the American Flag and the Canadian Flag. The new poles were installed by US Flagpole Guy from Mandan, ND. The ND State fairgrounds crew helped with the installation. The entire project was funded by donations from Veteran Organizations across the State.

- Belfield American Legion Post #144 • Bismarck American Legion Post #1 • Bismarck AMVETS Post #9 • Bismarck VFW Post #1326 • Devils Lake VFW Post #756 • Tioga American Legion Post #139 • Turtle Lake American Legion Post #133 • Upham American Legion Post #269 • Watford City American Legion Post #29
- A dedication ceremony will be held on Veteran's Appreciation Day, May 25, 2026. A Bronze Plaque will be installed on each pole.





Proud to serve our community with you.

Your service defended democracy.
Local news works to uphold the same values.

For just \$6, you get 6 months of:

- ★ Unlimited access to 20+ Midwest news websites
- ★ Account sharing with another person
- ★ Access to all of e-papers
- ★ And much more!

inforum.news/hero



The Dickinson
Press



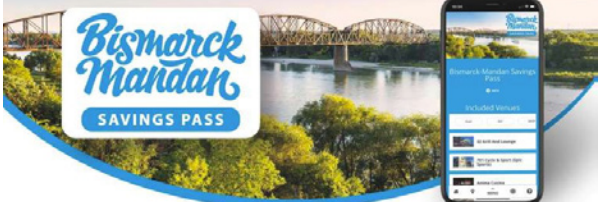
Grand Forks
Herald
GrandForksHerald.com



INFORUM
Powered by The Forum and WDAY



THE
Jamestown Sun



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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

FROM
SCHEELS

1551 45TH ST S
FARGO, ND

KIRKWOOD MALL
BISMARCK, ND

DAKOTA SQUARE
MINOT, ND

COLUMBIA MALL
GRAND FORKS,

Connect with us  

@fargoscheels | @bismarckscheels | @minotscheels | @grandforksscheels

SCHEELS.com

107th American Legion Department Convention

June 26-28, 2026
Fargo Ramada
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Room Reservation Block Rate
Cutoff: May 24 2026
701-235-3333

Thursday, June 25, 2026

1:00 pm	Training Session
6:00 pm	DEC Meeting

Friday, June 26, 2026

9:00 am	Foundation Meeting
1:00 pm	Registration (closes at 5:00 pm)
1:00 pm	Legislative Committee Meeting
1:00 pm	40 et 8 Cheminot
1:00 pm	Resolutions
1:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
2:00 pm	Incoming Officers Meet and Greet with Incoming Commander and President
3:00 pm	District Officers Flag Rehearsal
3:00 pm	VA&R Meeting
4:00 pm	Past Dept Commanders Social and Dinner
4:00 pm	First Time Attendees
4:00 pm	Credentials Committee
6:00 pm	Joint Opening Session
7:00 pm	Retirement Celebration for Programs Manager Teri Bryant!

Saturday, June 27, 2026

8:00 am	40 et 8 Grand Promenade
8:00 am	Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)
8:00 am	Athletic Committee
9:00 am	Constitution and By-Laws Committee
9:00 am	C&Y Committee Meeting (includes Auxiliary)
9:00 am	District Officers/CPR's
9:00 am	SAL Meeting
10:00 am	Oratorical Committee
11:00 am	Credentials Committee
11:00 am	Boys State
11:00 am	Legion Riders
1:00 pm	Legion General Session
3:00 pm	Regional Caucuses
4:00 pm	National Convention Meeting
5:30 pm	Social
6:30 pm	Department Convention Banquet Dance – Woodland South

Sunday, June 28, 2026

8:00 am	Incoming Officer Pictures
8:00 am	Registration (closes at 9:00 am)
9:00 am	Credentials Committee
9:00 am	Joint Worship Service
9:00 am	Joint Session
9:00 am	Legion Session
9:00 am	Post Convention DEC Meeting
9:00 am	Organizational Meeting



2026 Advanced Department Convention Banquet Ticket Order Form

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

Under Post # _____ in District # _____ Located in _____

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price if RECEIVED By June 10th: \$40.00

Advanced Banquet Ticket Price AFTER June 10th: \$45.00

ALL advanced ticket orders must be received by the Department Headquarters by June 18th.

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

TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

Note: Advanced ticket orders must be received at the Department office by June 10th to receive the reduced price of \$40 and after June 10th the price increases to \$45. After June 18th, tickets must be purchased at the registration desk. A limited number of tickets are available and sold on a first come first served basis.

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of ND

Send Payment to American Legion Dept of ND, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078



\$2.00 off any purchase of \$15.00 or more.
Excludes sale items • \$15.00 is pre-tax
Just east of Cashwise, under the big yellow liquor sign

1404 33rd St. S. Fargo, ND 58103
(701) 232-7988 • Fax: (701) 237-9138

Fine Wines, Liquors and Beers