

NORTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

VOL. 116

405 W. MAIN AVE. SUITE 4-A, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, JUNE 2026

NO. 4

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

North Dakota American Legion Welcomes Lori Burke as Programs Administrator

A Warm Welcome to the Newest Member of the Legion Family.

The North Dakota American Legion is delighted to announce the appointment of Lori Burke as our new Programs Administrator, effective April 20, 2026.

Introducing Lori Burke: A resident of Moorhead, Minnesota, Lori brings with her a strong sense of community and dedication rooted in her family's military background. She is joined by her husband, Nicholas, who serves as a Navy Recruiter, and their two children—a son and a daughter.

As a proud military family, the Burkes embody the values and spirit at the heart of the American Legion. We extend a heartfelt welcome to Lori and her family as they join our organization.

With over 15,000 Legion Family members and friends across North Dakota, we look forward to everyone having the opportunity to meet Lori and her family, and to working together in support of veterans and the Legion's enduring mission.



Lori Burke, Programs Administrator

Fargo To Host 2026 Convention

Excitement is being built for the 2026 Department Convention. Gilbert C. Grafton American Legion Post #2 of Fargo, Auxiliary Unit 2 and the ND American Legion, are preparing for the Department Convention on June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo at the Ramada.

Post #2 has planned a wonderful opportunity to make the 250th Birthday unforgettable. On Saturday, June 26, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm you will have the chance to have your picture taken with some very famous individuals. You will be able to mingle with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Betsy Ross and Theodore Roosevelt. There will be a small charge for having your picture taken. The money collected will be equally divided between the Children and Youth and VA&R programs. Our photo booth will be available from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning for all attending to take pictures.

Starting on Thursday afternoon, June 25, a Training Session will begin at 1:00 pm with the Foundation meeting at 7:00 pm. On Friday the 26, the DEC meeting begins at 9:00 am with registration starting at 1:00 pm and closing at 5:00 pm. On Friday afternoon there will be committee meetings with the evening Joint Opening Session starting at 6:00 pm. At 7:00 pm there will be a Retirement Party for Teri Bryant and will continue throughout the evening.

Saturday morning, June 27, registration begins at 8:00 am and closes at 3:00 pm. Committee meetings in the morning with the 250 Year Celebration starting at 9:00 am. The Legion General Session at 1:00 pm. A social at 5:30 pm with the Banquet at 6:30 pm and dance music by the ND State Band.

Our guest speaker for the banquet is Leading Candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen of Colorado. Jay was born in Wynne, AR, and moved to Memphis TN, and grew up there until he joined the U.S. Army.

Jay met his childhood sweetheart, Jackie Walker while attending high school. After completion of his U.S. Army

Advanced Individual Training in January 1972 and heading to the Federal Republic of Germany, Jay and Jackie married. When Jay retired from the U.S. Army, the family moved to Blytheville, AR, where Jay served as the Distribution Manager for Bush Brothers and Company, providing oversight to three major departments, including shipping and receiving.

After leaving Bush Brothers, Jay and family moved back to the Memphis area where he worked for his brother and sister-in-law as a telecommunications engineer. It was during this time Jay and Jackie joined and became active in The American Legion family. Jay's and Jackie's work in the community resulted in being awarded the "Key to the City of Bartlett" prior to relocating to Colorado Springs, CO.

Jay and Jackie have two sons; John Jr. and Robert and four grandchildren. All are members of The American Legion family.

On Sunday, June 28, a Catholic Mass will be at held 7:00 am with registration beginning at 8:00 am and will close at 9:00 am. The Joint Worship Service will begin at 9:00 am led by Pastor Mark Honstein followed by the Joint Session.

Hope to see you at the convention.



Leading Candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen

Spotlight on the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Providing Security and Revenue for NDAL Families Since 1979

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust: A Legacy of Support
The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was established with a clear mission: to offer Legionnaires the most advanced and affordable insurance options available. Its primary goal is to protect members and their families while simultaneously providing American Legion Departments with a dependable source of revenue. Through this innovative program, Legionnaires across the country have gained access to essential insurance products designed specifically to meet their needs.

NDAL'S Partnership with LIT

In 1979, the North Dakota American Legion (NDAL) became a participating member of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. This partnership has enabled the NDAL family to take advantage of a wide array of products and services tailored for Legionnaires. From medical and health insurance, and more, to supplemental coverage,

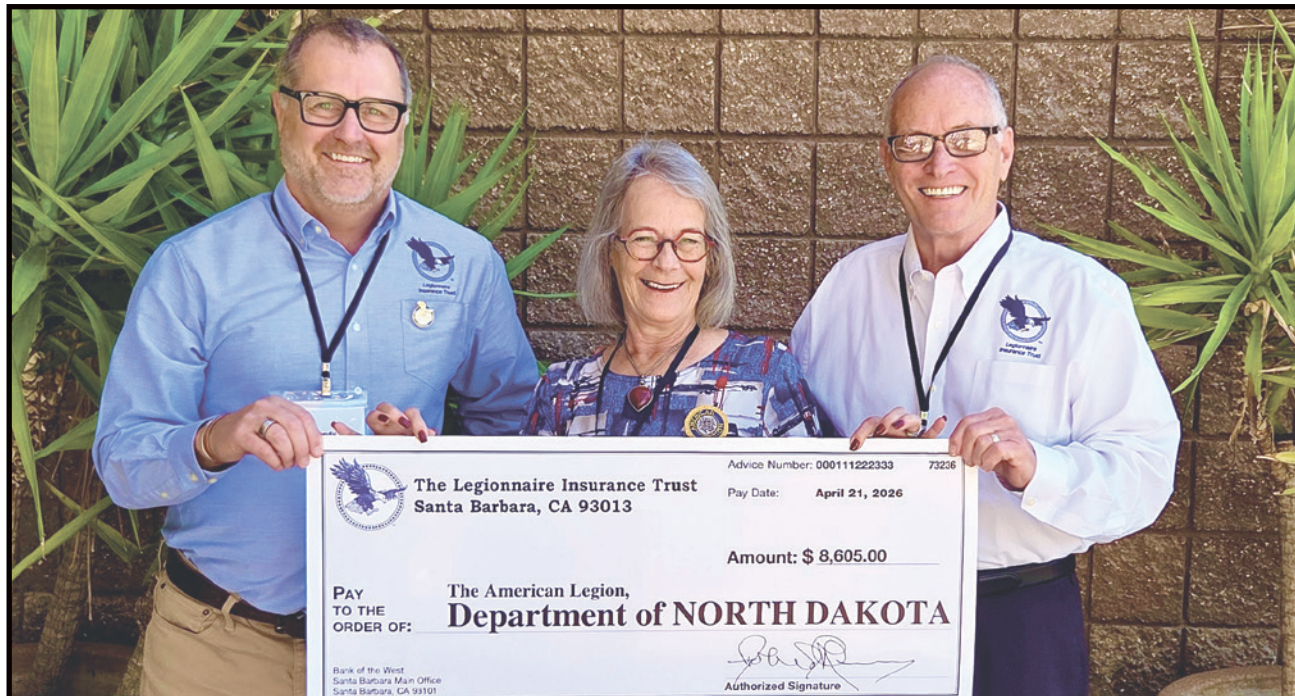
LIT ensures that NDAL members are well-protected and supported.

Financial Benefits for NDAL

Since joining LIT in 1979, NDAL has received an impressive \$878,272 in revenue, underscoring the tangible benefits of this collaboration. This year alone, NDAL was awarded \$8,605, further reinforcing the value and reliability of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust for the organization and its members.

Explore the Products and Join Today

NDAL families are encouraged to explore the wide range of insurance products and services available through LIT. Whether you are seeking coverage for yourself or your loved ones, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust offers solutions designed with Legionnaires in mind. For more information and to join, visit www.thelit.com.



A GRAND Celebration

FOR RETIREMENT

Teri Bryant is retiring after serving the veterans of North Dakota for 43 years. Her retirement party will be held immediately following the Joint Opening Session of the Department Convention on Friday, June 26, 2026, at the Fargo Ramada. The party will start at approximately 7:00 pm. The band Ted and Kari will perform at 8:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available starting at 7:00 pm. Thank you to Williston Post 37, Watford City Post 29, Bismarck Post 1, Wahpeton Post 20, Grafton Post 41 and the Legionnaires who donated to give Teri a grand retirement party.

Come wish Teri well!

The Lasting Legacy of ND Boys State

By Evan Kritzberger, Dean of Cities NDBS

Since the inception of the original program in 1934, Boys State has stood as one of the American Legion’s most vital investments in the United States’ future. And, since 1938, North Dakota Boys State has been a vital and influential part of that investment. North Dakota Boys State is far more than a summer program; we have a rich and storied legacy of excellence that has mentored some of North Dakota’s most influential figures, from politicians, leaders in business, law, medicine and many other industries. By inviting these young men to step out of the classrooms they have become accustomed to learning in, and into a hands-on demonstration of the power of our American style of democracy, we aren’t just teaching them how a bill becomes a law—we are showing them that they have the power and the responsibility to shape the world around them.

Boys State delegates are immersed in our model of “learning by doing.” Our program has proven over the decades its ability to transform quiet, reserved young men into confident public speakers and further empower those

who arrive already gregarious and engaged into even more passionate civic leaders. When these young men return to their home communities across North Dakota, they carry with them a renewed sense of duty, a deeper respect for our state’s traditions, and the leadership skills necessary to serve as the next generation of American leaders and pillars of our many communities.

As we look toward the future, the mission of ND Boys State remains clear: to ensure the perpetuation of our republic by educating the young men who will one day lead it. Through the continued support of our local American Legion Posts, we are providing more than just a “week that shapes a lifetime”—we are fostering a culture of active citizenship that keeps the spirit of North Dakota strong. We take pride in knowing that the young men who walk the halls of Boys State today will be the same leaders who uphold our American Legion values for decades to come. The North Dakota Boys State Family thanks the American Legion Family for its continued support and dedication to our state, and our country.



ND STATE AMERICAN LEGION BAND

By Cathy Keogh, Band Manager

With the upcoming Department Convention in Fargo, your ND State American Legion Band is excited and proud to again be providing music throughout the weekend. Celebrating our great Nation’s 250 years we remember that music continues to be a great way to honor our country, the military services, and inspire “esprit de corps” for our Legion Family. Music is a wonderful way to celebrate the Veterans’ time in service with familiar marches and the Armed Forces services songs. We also are excited

to continue to be part of the Department Convention’s Banquet/Dance with our talented Dance Band. Thank you for your continued support through donations to your State Band that allow us to continue the tradition of over 102 years of your ND State American Legion Band.

We add our well wishes in Teri Bryant’s upcoming retirement and give her a huge Thank You for her years of service to the Department and the assistance she has given to all the programs of the ND American Legion, including the band. Thank you Teri!



Legion Baseball

The 2026 North Dakota American Legion Baseball season is right around the corner, with games beginning the first week of June following the North Dakota High School Association State Baseball Tournaments. Based on team registrations, American Legion Baseball will be played in four divisions during the 2026 season—Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior—with approximately 75 teams competing statewide.

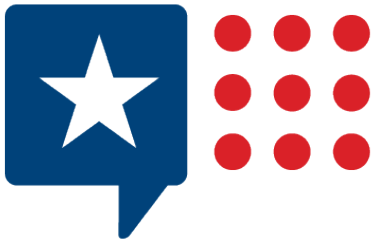
North Dakota American Legion Baseball awards up to three scholarships to Legion Baseball players each year. Eligible players must excel academically, be active in their communities, and actively compete in American Legion Baseball. July 1, 2026, is the deadline for applications.

The North Dakota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame is actively seeking nominees for induction. Eligible candidates are individuals who have made significant contributions to Legion Baseball and demonstrated a positive impact within their communities. July 1, 2026, is the deadline for applications.

Go to ndlegionbaseball.com is where you will find all information about North Dakota American Legion Baseball. See you around the ballpark.

Russ Kroshus
North Dakota American Legion Baseball Chair

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Harlan Johnson
Seeking Position of
East Region Vice
Commander



- Mayville Post 8 Commander since 2020 and a 26-year member
- District 1 Commander for the past 2 years and District 1 Vice Commander
- A 4-year veteran of USAF and a 6-year veteran of the NDANG
- Retired from Air Command and Staff College.
- Currently resides in Mayville with wife Marlene

I would appreciate your support at our Department Convention.

TROY REEMTSMA
from Hal Parker Post #79 in Cando
is announcing that he is running
for Alternate National Executive
Committeeman

I would appreciate your vote!



JON VEILE
FOR EAST REGION
DEC POSITION



I am declaring my intention to run for the East Region DEC position. I have been endorsed by Jefferson-Steinke Post 18 of Hope, ND.

I have been a member of the Legion for 50 years. I am a Paid Up for Life member. I have served as the 1st District Commander for two years. I will have completed my second term as the East Region Vice Commander in June at the Department Convention.

I am a retired Army officer with 24 years of service. Some of my more notable accomplishments were that I was an Inspector General for the 34th Division. I also commanded the largest Headquarters Company in the state of Minnesota during the time that I was in command. I was responsible for a total strength of 326 men and the associated property.

I have also been involved with local boards including 21 years on the Finley Sharon school board. Forty plus years on the Riverside Township board and an elder in my local church.

I have been married to my wife Sandy for 46 years. We have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

I would appreciate the support of the legion members of the East Region. Thank you.

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

COMMANDER COMMENTS

MIKE WEYRAUCH - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



As my year is coming to an end, I'm grateful for all the support I have been shown by all the department membership. While we fell very short of our goal on membership I know everyone has done the best they could. Our spring district meetings were not well attended with the exception of the 9th District, I'm very certain the district leadership did all they could to make their meeting a success. We still have time to get our membership up to allow the Midwest Region to get back to first place. We are

0.10% behind the Southeast Region as of 1 May. Please work on our membership.

I still have a few events to attend prior to our June Convention, Memorial Day in Sherwood, Boy's State in June. I hope I have met all of your expectations for this past year.

Please support Jason Anderson this coming year as your Department Commander.

Michael Weyrauch



Hello and semi quincennial greetings from the west. Being a department vice commander this past year has been an amazing experience. I have had the opportunity to travel parts of North Dakota that I have never had. Visited Memorials, Cemetery's, Veteran buildings and Legion Halls. I took time to

read and see the history of their Veterans and their community. Met Veterans of most wars, listened to their stories. Looking beyond all this sadly, they all have something in common!

A declining membership being held together by members with 30 to 80 years of legion service. Reminds me of a C&W song (Who's going to fill their shoes?) We need to fill their shoes somehow some way!! Build it and they will come! Elect strong officers, be visible in the community, remind yourself and others that Veterans are a pillar of the community through appearance and perception.

On the bright side, all district commander and vice commander positions were filled during our spring meetings for next year. Many awards were given out recognizing hard work and achievements. Thank you to all the host posts for great hospitality and delicious meals. Enjoy the summer, legion baseball and family time. Also, I am announcing my candidacy for another year as West Region Vice Commander, I would appreciate your vote.

See you all in Fargo. DUTY HONOR COUNTRY
Scott Post
West Region Vice Commander



This will be my final article to the legion members of the East Region. I will be coming to the end of my second term as your regional vice commander. I have enjoyed meeting all of you and developing new friendships. It has been interesting covering the eastern side of the state. It will be a memory that I will always treasure.

My first District Commander Harlan Johnson intends to run for the position that I am vacating. We have worked well together over the last few years, and I highly recommend him to you. He has the Legion at heart in the many activities that he is involved with. Whether it be Legion Baseball or his local post, he is a true advocate for the Legion.

The District meetings went well, and I thank the local posts that hosted the meetings. The hospitality and food were great and led to a constructive meeting for each district. Again, Thank You!

The Department Convention will be held in Fargo at the Ramada on June 26-28. The Region will be holding their Regional Caucus at 3:30 pm on Saturday afternoon. I hope to see you there.

As I am sure that you are well aware, the CPR needs to be submitted by each post. Let us all make the effort to get them completed.

Thank You all for the privilege of being your Regional Vice Commander for the past two years.

Jon Veile
East Region Vice Commander

Twete Youth Trooper Academy Fund

Eighth in a series about endowed NDAL Foundation Funds – by Harvey Peterson, Chair

Statement: ALL OTHER FUNDS HELD BY THE FOUNDATION ARE TREATED AS “QUASI ENDOWMENTS” MEANING THEY ARE TREATED AS ENDOWMENTS BUT DO NOT HAVE WRITTEN DONOR AGREEMENTS TO ESTABLISH SUCH AN ENDOWMENT. THESE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY ACTION OF EITHER THE LOVE TRUST BOARD OR THE FOUNDATION DIRECTORS.

The Twete Youth Trooper Academy Fund was established by Curt and Judy Twete of McVile, North Dakota, in 2024 to provide the money to fund such an academy in North Dakota.

According to the NDAL Convention Resolution No. 3 dated 6/4/2022, a prior resolution (52) had approved a “Department Junior Law Cadet Program” in cooperation with the State Police or Highway Patrol. The resolved clause of Convention Resolution 3 in 2024 states that the Department Convention “will officially and fully endorse

the North Dakota Youth Trooper Academy” – thus the current Fund name.

Curt and Judy Twete offered to match up to \$35,000 of donations from others to “jump start” funding for the Academy. Frayne Berg, also of McVile, added an additional \$30,000 of matching money and \$5,000 to match the Haug Riders donation. Because the Twete agreement provided for an endowed account and the Berg offer and subsequent donations did not, it resulted in forming two YTA accounts. The first is the Twete YTA Fund composed of endowed money from the family. The other simply labeled the YTA Fund, is comprised of all other money donated as matching funds or other. Donations to match that amount were received such that by the end of 2025 the principal in the Twete YTA Fund is \$81,797 and the YTA Fund is \$59,121.

No expenses have accrued to either fund with the exception of 10% of “earned income” in 2025 taken by the Foundation for Administrative use. With the collapse of the current YTA program in conjunction with the ND Highway Patrol, other avenues to implement a similar program are underway.



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ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



Greetings from Indianapolis, Indiana, the home of The National Headquarters of The American Legion.

As I walked through the halls of National Headquarters today, I took the time to look at the impact North Dakota has had. We have provided three National Commanders and one National Adjutant. The first to serve as National Commander was Lynn U. Stambaugh from Fargo 1941-1942. It should be noted that he was the National Commander when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941. Next was John E. Davis from McClusky who served in 1966-1967. John E. Davis also served as the Governor of North Dakota. Most recently was Herman F. "Sparky" Gierke from Watford City who served 1988-1989. Sparky was the first Vietnam Veteran to serve as National Commander. Sparky served on the ND Supreme Court and then was appointed to the US Military Court of Appeals, the equivalent of the Supreme Court for military personnel. He retired from this court as the Chief Justice. Although it is not well known, one North Dakotan, Earnest N. Schmit from Beach, served as The National Adjutant for a short period in 1967.

Big changes are coming to Department Headquarters. Teri Bryant, who has faithfully served our department for 43 years, will be retiring at the close of this year's Department Convention. We will be having a party to

celebrate this milestone on the first night of our Department Convention Friday, June 26, 2026. Williston Post #29 has generously arranged for a band to help make this evening special. We hope that you will be able to join us and make this a spectacular send off in appreciation for her dedicated service. Teri was hired by the late Department Adjutant Vern Useldinger. Teri had her interview in the morning and received a call asking her to start that afternoon, but she had to beg off since she had to take her grandma to a doctor's appointment but did start the next day and now 43 short years later, she is leaving us. While we are going to miss Teri very much, we are very excited to welcome Lori Burke to our staff as Teri's replacement. Lori is married to Nicholas who is an active-duty member of the US Navy and serves as a recruiter in the Fargo area. They have 2 children and live in Moorhead, MN.

At one time Department Staff consisted of 6 full-time employees. When Teri retires, we will be down to 2 full-time employees, one of which is our Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson who is based out of the Fargo VA, and 2 part-time employees me, the Department Adjutant, and Lori—Teri's successor. This will leave Sarah Kim as the only full-time employee at Department Headquarters. What this is going to mean is that there will be more instances where the office may not be staffed or

the phone may go unanswered because Sarah is there alone and is already talking to someone or she may have had to take a personal day. We purposely do not have voice mail because we don't have the time to sort through and return calls. If you can't get us on the phone, consider sending us an email. We ask for your understanding as we adjust to the new normal way of operating. Many of you have my cell phone and know that I don't mind taking calls when I am not in the office.

As usual I have more to say than we have room to print and I have already had to go back and delete things so that I can talk about District Meetings. Personally, I love attending district meetings, it is one of my favorite parts of this job. I get to see and visit with the greatest group of people in the world, my fellow veterans. Twice a year, we devote significant effort to compiling relevant information intended to be valuable to you. However, recent participation has not been as good as we would like. Personally, I don't understand why you would not want to attend and be among and visit with your fellow veterans. If you have constructive ideas on what we can do to improve attendance, we would appreciate your input. Until the next time, May God Bless a strong and free America and keep your powder dry.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAMIE HAVELKA - DEC CHAIR



Legion News Brief: NDAL DEC Meeting Highlights – April 9, 2026

Key Decisions and Updates from the NDAL Department Executive Committee

The North Dakota American Legion (NDAL) Department Executive Committee (DEC) convened via Zoom on April 9, 2026. Chair Mamie Havelka called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, beginning with a salute to the flag and a prayer led by Ken Wiederholt.

Meeting Business

The consent agenda and meeting agenda were both approved. Finance Officer Childs presented financial reports, which were accepted pending audit. Committee reports were also approved without exception.

Old Business

Athletic Committee Chair Russ Kroshus presented changes to the NDAL Baseball Policy Manual, which received unanimous approval.

New Business

- Post 500 dues for the 2027 membership year were set at \$65.
- The Jack and Hannah Williams Stifel Fund (62.3%) and NDAL General Stifel Funds (37.7%) were approved to be separated, allowing the Williams Fund to operate independently..
- Updates to the Policy, Procedures, and Internal Control Manual were approved, clarifying Host Posts requirements for Conference and Convention venues to be managed by the Adjutant after bid acceptance.
- Approval was granted for the cancellation and merger of Noonan Post 243 into Crosby Post 75.

- DEC Chair Havelka updated members on ongoing interviews for the Programs Administrator position.

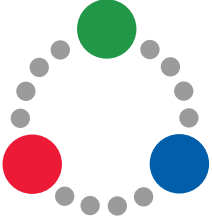
Executive Session & Personnel Actions

Following the Executive Session, the DEC authorized salary adjustments for non-exempt employees to ensure alignment with prevailing market standards.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mamie Havelka
NDAL DEC Chair

New Hire Follow Up: On 10 April 2026, Lori Burke was selected as NDAL Programs Administrator to start training on 20 April 2026. Let's all give "welcome aboard" wishes.



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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARK HONSTEIN - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



“New Ways of Doing the Same Things.”

Grace and peace to you all. It has been a privilege to be your chaplain these last few years and, as we approach convention, it makes me think of how we will have new leadership to accomplish the same things the ND American Legion has always sought to accomplish: care for our veterans and our national defense, care for our future through our children and youth, maintain financial solvency, and care for our country and its values.

We have had a good team at the helm with some new ideas during my time as chaplain. We have also had some additions and losses to our numbers. All of which brings change. Too much change can be hazardous, but change is a necessary part of life. Without change, living things wouldn't grow. But how do we stay on course as an organization in the midst of constant change?

It has always seemed odd to me that we shift leadership every year with the Legion, from the post

level on up. Right about the time you feel like you know what you are doing, someone new has your position and gets to figure it out for themselves. The disruption caused by this change can, and should, be minimized with good mentoring of the 1st and 2nd vice commanders, but it still seems odd to me. On one hand, it is good to share the burden of leadership. On the other hand, it can seem hard to make progress with new hands at the wheel. With all the modern technology we have, just about anyone can pilot a ship in open water nowadays, however, it takes a lot of expertise to navigate, maneuver in port, and handle emergencies. That kind of expertise comes from years of experience and training. The great thing about the Legion is that all those years of training are still present in its members. So, no matter who is at the helm, we can maintain a constant course and speed while at the same time getting fresh ideas from the new leadership.

Scripture says that Jesus Christ is the same

yesterday, today and to the ages. (Heb 13:8) Our God is someone we can always turn to in difficult times of change. At the same time, it tells us that God's mercies are new every morning. (Lam 3:23) While the Lord remains the same, He is also making all things new because He is a Creator, it is what he does and, as I said, living things must change to continue to grow.

Our ND Department of the American Legion is a living thing. It still has the same foundations that have served us well for 107 years. And our nation has the same foundations that have served her for 250 years as one nation under God. Whatever the future brings, we have constant support from our Creator and from our continuity of purpose, along with the experience of all our members.

I have high hopes for the future of our North Dakota American Legion and for the new ideas and directions that will be coming with the new leadership.

May God bless us this summer and continue to bless the work of our American Legion.

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Future of ND Legion - Update
Veterans Serving Veterans

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TO: ND American Legion Posts
DATE: 1 JUNE 2026
FROM: Mamie Havelka, Legionnaire
SUBJECT: Future of ND Legion - Update

First and foremost: Thank you, each and every one, that have donated to Department Service Office Expenses (DSOffice). Your donations and support have been instrumental! And appreciated. Most all posts know that our membership dues no longer cover the costs and expenses of the Dept ND American Legion.

100% of our DSOffice expenses are for veterans with medical needs and meets the eligibility code, D-50, therefore gaming DONATION/TRUST/FOUNDATION money can be used.

The application for gaming funds, below, is ready to use. All Posts MAY contribute, but this form is required by Attorney General - Gaming for gaming donations and for your record. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you again,
Mamie Havelka
ND Legionnaire
(701)340-1621



Department Service Officer Summer Kristianson conducting training at the County VSO training April 13-16, in Fargo, ND.



APPLICATION FOR GAMING FUNDS
ND OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
GAMING DIVISION
SMFN 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 documentation of the use of the funds for three years from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.			Signature of Applicant 		Date
Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date
					Eligible Use Code - 

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Don't Judge a Book by It's Cover

How many times have you been sitting around a table of veterans and the topic of another veteran's service or service connection has been brought up? The question always seems to be whether these veterans are perpetuating fraud or "gaming" the system. Let's discuss the context of VA fraud.

In FY 2025, nearly 6.9 million veterans and their survivors were receiving disability benefits (or pension benefits) from the Veteran Benefits Administration (VA). This data does not include life insurance benefits, education benefits, home loans, healthcare benefits, or caregiver

support benefits. With those numbers, the number of veterans and survivors receiving benefits would be higher.

On average, VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) opens roughly 63 fraud investigations annually. This represents only 0.001% of all active VA claims. Of those 63 fraud causes, over 75% are fraud is not committed by the veteran but committed by people such as caregivers, claim agents, or other family members using the veteran's status. When a veteran does commit fraud, it typically is well publicized due to the rarity of the cases.

The amount of fraud in VA today is a stark contrast to estimated 25% of fraud cases in 1872 following the

Civil War with pension payments. Today's VA has a robust system to verify a veteran's service and records prior to granting benefits. This doesn't mean VA always makes correct decisions with service connection; however, they are typically wrong in denying benefits versus granted benefits.

I challenge you, next time you are sitting around the table, and the topic of another veteran's service or service connection is brought up, change the topic. Have a conversation with that veteran instead of gossiping about them – the VA is judgmental enough!

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Convention Time and Finishing 2026 Strong

Greetings American Legion Family! Department Convention will soon be upon us. Let's not slow down our work and keep pushing towards the finish line for this membership year.

Spring District meetings have come and gone, and I appreciated hearing about SAL member attendance at some of them and regret that I was unable to be there.

As we gear up for Convention, I want to encourage a good showing from our membership in Fargo for the Convention and especially our business meeting, so your voice is heard and we can share information and camaraderie during the event. We will be electing our officers for the 2026-27 years, and we encourage you all to think about getting active at the Detachment level and

consider helping.

Squadrons, please submit your Consolidated Squadron Report and your Squadron Data Reports (if you haven't already) and be sure to report to your officers, so we can maintain good points of contact with you all. The Consolidated Squadron Report is important, as it provides important information on the hours and dollars we devote to our programs, which is used by the Legion in its testimony before Congress.

Regarding membership, as of the beginning of May, we were 68 short of our goal, which is so close, we should hit our goal easily if we all do our part. I would love for us to hit 1200 members this year, if possible and I know with your work we can do it.

I do hope you are able to participate in what your

community does for Memorial Day and assist your Post in their activities that day. Help place flags on graves, offer to assist with a ceremony, and especially remind your friends and neighbors what Memorial Day is truly about and why we must pause and remember.

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. Have a great rest of spring, remember your Buddy Checks, and keep our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

For God and Country,

Daniel Sauerwein
Detachment Commander

Legion Riders Scholarship Fund

The ninth (and last) in a series about endowed NDAL Foundation Funds –
by Harvey Peterson - Chair

Statement: ALL OTHER FUNDS HELD BY THE FOUNDATION ARE TREATED AS "QUASI ENDOWMENTS" MEANING THEY ARE TREATED AS ENDOWMENTS BUT DO NOT HAVE WRITTEN DONOR AGREEMENTS TO ESTABLISH SUCH AN ENDOWMENT. THESE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY ACTION OF EITHER THE LOVE TRUST BOARD OR THE FOUNDATION DIRECTORS.

The North Dakota American Legion Riders Scholarship Fund was established in 2018 with an agreement between the NDAL Riders and the NDAL Foundation to initiate and to maintain such a fund within the Foundation. Gerald Puetz was instrumental in its early formation with the Riders providing \$10,000 to endow the fund.

The agreement between the Riders and the Foundation has the Riders retaining control of the disposition of any funds available for dispersal. That means the Riders are responsible for annual advertising, evaluating and awarding the NDAL Riders scholarships of \$500 each. The Foundation has supplemented the

income to that fund in order to provide a larger number of scholarships per year – 8 in 2024 and another 5 in 2025.

Of note, Bill Haug has been a consistent and substantial donor to this fund and his donation of \$5,000 in 2024 was matched by \$5,000 of the Frayne Berg donation. The principal of the NDAL Riders Scholarship fund at the end of 2025 is \$41,492. Also of interest is that with Foundation support, the dollar amount of scholarships awarded by the Riders now equals the amount the Riders originally endowed with the Foundation!



2026 North Dakota American Legion Rider Scholarship Winners

Submitted by Gerald Puetz, Committee Chairman
Congratulations to the NDALR scholarship winners.
Each received a \$500 scholarship.

- Nicole Klosterman, Wahpeton High School, Mooreton, ND
- Claire Langenwalter, Wahpeton High School, Wahpeton, ND
- Adalee Foote, Thompson High School, Grand Fork, ND
- Ruby Nasset, Mott-Regent High School, Regent, ND
- Acelynn Lagerquist, Central Cass High School, Casselton, ND
- Faith Krebs, Thompson High School, Thompson, ND
- Zoe Labatore, MLS-Mohall High School, Mohall, ND
- Isabella Kalash, Horace High School, West Fargo, ND
- Stausley Erovick, Fargo North, Harwood, ND

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The Message

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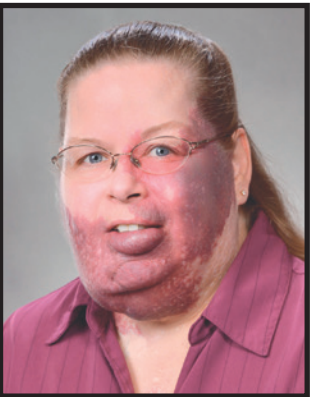
NW Division National Vice President to Visit Convention

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota welcomes Shareen Johnson, Northwestern Division National Vice President, as a guest to the 2026 Department Convention. Vice President Johnson is a 42-year member of Don Stough Unit 33 of Lander, Wyoming.

Vice President Johnson's eligibility comes through her father, Master Chief Petty Officer John Sturgeon, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a naval submariner, and her twin sister, Kathleen Ebert, who retired after serving 20 years in the U.S. Navy.

Vice President Johnson worked as a medical transcriptionist with an orthopedic surgery group for 21 years. She then worked for 12 years for the State of Wyoming with the Department of Health at the Wyoming Life Resource Center, a facility for intellectually disabled and dual diagnosis residents, until retiring in 2022. Not one to sit around and twiddle her thumbs, Vice President Johnson left retirement behind and found full-time work at a grocery store as the staff scheduler and pricing coordinator.

Welcome to North Dakota, Shareen Johnson!



Shareen Johnson

Welcome To 2026
Department Convention

Carol Wolf, President of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo and Carol Grieve, President of Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 Harwood, and their team of convention volunteers welcome members of the American Legion Family to the 2026 American Legion Department Convention. The event will be held June 26-28 at the Ramada by Wyndham, (formerly Doublewood), 3333 13th Ave South in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Convention Committee encourages everyone to experience not only the convention events but to get out and enjoy the dining and shopping experiences the community of Fargo-Moorhead has to offer. Welcome to Fargo and enjoy your stay!



"At the end of the day, it is not about what you have or even what you've accomplished...it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." - Denzel Washington

Happy spring to you all as I am writing my last 'Message' article as your American Legion Auxiliary Department President. As my year draws to a close, reflecting on what a wonderful experience this has been brings a smile to my face and fills my heart with gratitude.

For many years, my personal philosophy has been to give back wherever I feel led. God led me to the Department of North Dakota to serve in this role, and I hope I have represented the organization positively while helping move it forward. It is my sincere hope that this organization will continue to thrive in its mission, thinking creatively, and finding new ways to grow and expand our role within the American Legion Family.

What a fulfilling and blessed year this has been so far. I have shed many happy tears over the past few years as I stepped into Department leadership roles. Those tears often came unexpectedly, and through them, I came to know that this was a role God placed me in at exactly the right time.

I would like to take this time to reflect on the year so far. From being installed last June to being ratified at the 2025 National Convention, to Fall and Spring District meetings, to the Winter Conference, to meetings and events I was invited to take part in during my term, to the relationships that were built and are now deeply cherished, and to the articles and information shared on behalf of our organization - I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of every single moment.

Thank you for supporting my President Projects, participating in the York American Legion Family Day, and stepping into leadership roles that help move our organization forward. Thank you for the words of encouragement, the support, the camaraderie, the team spirit, the positive energy, and for so much that goes unsaid, yet has made this year more amazing than I could have imagined. I truly see us as a team, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of that team this year - supporting one another, encouraging one another, and continuing to promote our organization.

We recently concluded our Spring District meetings, and I enjoyed traveling across the state to participate in each one. During these meetings, I discussed the Department of North Dakota's plans to develop a one-to-five-year strategic plan. I reviewed the former 2014-2019 National Strategic Plan and asked for insight on additional ideas we could incorporate into our upcoming North Dakota strategic plan to ensure growth and longevity of our organization for years to come.

At each meeting, I also posed a simple yet powerful question: "What is your why?" The responses were varied, heartfelt, and deeply meaningful. Hearing those personal reflections was by far the favorite part of the meetings and a strong reminder of why our work matters so much.

As a proud, long-time member of the York ALA, I was thrilled to see the National organization encourage units to "open their doors" for an American Legion Family Day. I wanted to do just that, open the doors of our local Posts and Units, and Saturday, April 25, turned out to be one of the best days of my life. Approximately one hundred people were in attendance to support the American Legion Family. The day included a large raffle to raise funds for my President's Projects, a free meal, a great band, and shared fellowship between the York Post and Unit. We also honored our veterans with presentations, including "Welcome Home" coins for Vietnam-era veterans and "Thank You for Your Service" coins presented to all veterans in attendance.

I was honored and excited to present continuous years of membership certificates to members of the York unit. What a truly blessed day it was, spent with friends, family, and fellow American Legion Family members. Thank you to everyone who helped support the event in any way. In addition to celebrating American Legion Family Day, we were also proud to recognize America's 250th birthday, the 80th anniversary of the York Post

and the 75th Anniversary of the York Unit.

Over the course of this year, I have communicated with National and Department levels to determine a way to recognize and present continuous years-of-membership certificates to our members. With so many factors involved, particularly regarding membership rosters, it is not something that can be implemented Department-wide at this time. However, it is my hope that this can be achieved in the future. In the meantime, I encourage units to present continuous years-of-membership honors to your long-time members at your unit meetings. It truly makes a difference when members are recognized in this meaningful way. Providing a special certificate shows each member that they matter, and it becomes a cherished keepsake for both the member and their family.

The next big event on our calendar is the 2026 Department Convention, which will be held June 26-28 at the Ramada by Wyndham in Fargo. I encourage each of you to attend and support both your current and future leaders. During the convention, we will present the most up-to-date draft revisions to our Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules for a vote. We are also honored to welcome Shareen Johnson, Northwestern Division National Vice President from Wyoming, who will provide both inspiration and insight. I am confident that great memories will be created over this memorable weekend.

As I reflect on the big items I encouraged over the year, here are a few reminders:

Please become familiar with our Department website at www.ndala.org. The website is frequently updated and has information and links to a wide variety of items.

Please sign up and take 10 ALA Academy training sessions through the national ALA Academy website (www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy) to receive a certification of completion that will be presented to you at the convention.

Please share your unit's activities on our ND American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

Continue working toward 100% membership. Remember, individuals who sign up ten new members and Districts and units achieving 100% membership by June 15th will be entered into a drawing for a prize that will be drawn at the Department Convention in Fargo.

As I write this, our membership has surpassed 86%! We have thirty-three units that have reached 100% membership so far. Keep doing what you are doing to support membership!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to 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 are always welcomed and may be sent to the Department Office at 1801 23rd Ave. N., Fargo, ND 5801-1047.

If you have any photos from this past year that you would be willing to share, I am hoping to put together a slideshow and would love to include a variety of photos from throughout the year. Our Department Historian, Carrie Heinz, is also seeking additional photos to include in the President's scrapbook. Your shared memories help preserve this year's story and are genuinely appreciated.

I am so thankful for each of you and feel truly blessed to have served as your Department President. I will be forever grateful for this opportunity of a lifetime. Please remember that everything you do on behalf of this organization truly matters. Thank you for your continued loyalty, dedication, and commitment. It is an incredible honor to be part of the North Dakota American Legion Family. This has been one of the best years of my life, and I close with a grateful heart.

Thank you and may God bless each of you.

Candace Berg



Candace Berg

105th Department
Convention

Ramada By Wyndham in Fargo

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (may be revised without notice)
Changes will be available at
www.ndala.org/departement-convention/

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1:00 PM | Auxiliary Registration Opens (Registration closes at 5:00 PM) |
| 1:00 PM | Auxiliary Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting |
| 2:00 PM | Meet and Greet - Incoming District Officers and Incoming Department Commander and Department President |
| 3:00 PM | Legion VA&R Committee Meeting / Auxiliary Members Welcome |
| 3:00 PM | District Commanders and District Presidents Flag/Banner Rehearsal (for Joint Session) |
| 4:00 PM | Auxiliary Installation Rehearsal - Department Officers, District Presidents |
| 4:30 PM | Pictures for Department Officers, District Presidents and Department Chairmen |
| 4:30 PM | District Presidents and Department Chairmen (Incoming and Outgoing) Exchange Duty Books and Flags (Meet with Candace Berg and Sandy Smith) |
| 5:00 PM | Supper Break |
| 6:00 PM | Joint Opening Session |
| 7:00 PM | Teri Bryant's Retirement Party |

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Auxiliary Registration Resumes (Auxiliary Registration closes at Noon) |
| 8:30 AM | Auxiliary Opening Session: Memorial Service, Guest Speakers, Chairmen Reports, Awards |
| 9:00 AM | Legion Children & Youth Committee / Auxiliary Members Welcome |
| 10:15 AM | Teddy Roosevelt Presentation (Sponsored by TAL) |
| 12:00 PM | Past Presidents Parley Luncheon |
| 1:30 PM | Auxiliary Session resumes |
| 2:00 PM | Registration and Credentials Committees Reports Nominations and Elections of Department Officers (2026-2027) |
| 4:00 PM | 2026 National Convention Meeting (Auxiliary Delegates) |
| 5:30 PM | Banquet Social |
| 6:30 PM | Department Convention Banquet Dance by the ND State Band |

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7:00 AM | Catholic Mass |
| 9:00 AM | Joint Worship Service |
| | Joint Session |
| | Auxiliary Session Resumes |
| | Installation of Department Officers (2026-2027) |
| | Department President (2025-2026) Report, Candace Berg |
| | Close of 2026 Department Convention |
| 12:00 PM | Organizational DEC Meeting (2026-2027) Department Executive Committee, District Presidents, and Finance Board |

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Have you made plans to attend the 2026 Department Convention slated for June 26-28 at the Ramada by Wyndham (formerly known as Doublewood) in Fargo, ND? You will find registration and banquet ticket order information for the Department Convention elsewhere in this publication. Members of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 (Fargo) and Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 (Harwood) have teamed up again this year to co-host the convention. We welcome you all to the Fargo-Moorhead area and hope you will be able to explore our beautiful communities while you are here.

North Dakota currently has thirty-three units with over 100% membership. Thank you to Unit Membership Chairmen for your work gathering dues from current, new, and rejoined members. By now, all officers and chairmen should have paid their 2026 dues. Members who have not paid 2026 dues are not eligible to hold office in a unit, District, or the Department, and those names will be removed from officer lists. This action may result in your members not receiving information and relevant materials

from the Department Office.

The annual year-end impact reports are arriving, and the information compiled so far indicates that units and members continue to be active in their communities, supporting our mission to support veterans, active military, and their families. Congratulations, and thank you for the work you all do on behalf of veterans, children and youth, and in your communities across the state of North Dakota. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization.

I wish each of you good health, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Fargo in June. Please keep our veterans, our troops, and their families in your prayers. Take care of yourselves and one another.

God Bless our troops and God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department NEC

When completing a Year-End Impact Report, it is easy to question whether the numbers truly reflect the time and effort involved. At a recent executive meeting for Unit 135 of McVile, I realized how much my reported hours underestimated my actual involvement. In just one week, I spent four days in National-level ZOOM meetings focused on strengthening our organization, from revising the "Mission Statement" to improving the leadership development process.

These meetings were led by our National Executive Director, Ben Hendricks, whose marketing background and collaborative leadership style have been impressive. He listens openly, encourages ideas, and offers thoughtful guidance without judgment. Attendance from the 52 Departments could have been much stronger at the five information-packed ZOOM sessions held this week and last. The lack of participation highlighted a broader issue - members at the Department, District, and Unit levels are not taking advantage of the extensive resources available to them.

One such resource, delivered quarterly to all members, is 'The Auxiliary Magazine.' This publication consistently offers valuable information for Auxiliary members, sometimes even through its advertising. For those less comfortable online, printed resources remain essential, but the National website and ALA Academy provide a wealth of training opportunities that are easily accessible and self-paced. Programs can even be viewed together during Unit meetings.

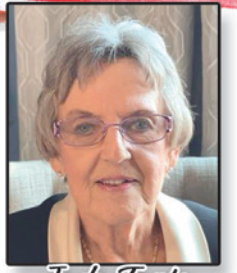
Additional National sessions addressed membership, inclusion, and leadership development. We discussed the importance of first impressions and ensuring that the public understands we are a service organization rooted in honoring those who serve our country. Inclusiveness across generations was emphasized along with the idea to "meet members where they are." Some members may not attend meetings but are eager to contribute their talents in meaningful ways.

At Unit 135, members serve effectively based on their interests and availability: coordinating, designing, and delivering greeting cards to veterans; overseeing the poppy poster contest; managing community service projects, participating in legislative efforts, and serving in Girls State leadership. These examples show how meeting members "where they are" strengthens our organization.

Leadership growth and advocacy were recurring themes, and the training options currently available support this development well. While I may have spent more hours than officially recorded, every moment was worthwhile. The knowledge and enthusiasm already exist - we simply need to encourage participation, engage one another, and get excited about our shared mission.

Encourage, Engage, Get Excited.

Judy Twete



Judy Twete

Department Treasurer

I encourage all Unit Officers to attend our 2026 Department Convention in Fargo this summer. Even better, bring interested members from your units! It is such a fun time as we gather to talk about how we support our veterans, listen to the Legion Band, enjoy great food, vote on Department leadership, and meet new people. It is so important for leadership in the units to understand how the Department works, as well as meet Department Officers that can help them throughout the year.

I am running for a third term as your Department Treasurer and hope that I can count on your support. The last two years have been so interesting as we have been able to convert our State Life Members to PUFL membership, as well as clean up the books to present GAAP (Generally

Accepted Accounting Principles) compliant cash-basis financial statements. I really appreciate my predecessor, Sonnie Otto, for her good work to get this process started.

Thank you for your dedication and support for the veterans! It's always so important to remember and revisit why we are here - what our purpose is - as we plan for activities and supporting programs for the year.

Hope to see you there!

Susan Degner, CPA



Susan Degner

Department Chaplain

Happy Birthday America!

July 4, 2026, will be a time to celebrate and be proud of our country. The Bible supports a healthy love of country. It is both our duty and our privilege to pay taxes and obey laws. We are to pray for our nation and to honor and love our country. Even when leaders are not the ones you personally chose, we are to respect them.

I am personally honored to be able to celebrate this upcoming birthday of our nation, as so many my age will not have this opportunity. Believe me, it is rare that I admit there is something good about growing old. But when you think about Methuselah's age, I am just a baby—right?

1 Timothy 2:1-2 urges us to pray for our leaders so that we may live in peace. We should also seek God's wisdom for our nation. Romans reminds us, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

I enjoyed a recent newspaper editorial about North Dakota's growth. As I researched it, I found it to be true that our state consistently lost population from 1930 to 2000. Much of the growth we see today appears to be tied to the discovery of massive oil reserves in western North

Dakota. Since that discovery, our state has continued to grow, according to each census that has been taken. From 2000 to 2020, North Dakota grew by 15.8% to 770,094, the highest population in state history.

Based on estimates from January 2026, some predictions suggest we may soon reach nearly 800,000 people. Since 2010, our state has grown by about 19%. Migration and births are exceeding the death rate, and we have more opportunity than ever to encourage our young people to stay and thrive. We have so much to be proud of—and it really is amazing when you stop and think about it. So, let's blow up the balloons, bake the cake, put the candles on it, and celebrate like we've never celebrated before. Our American Legion family can help lead the way in this parade.

Virginia Satrom



Virginia Satrom

Holiday Baskets in a Small Town

American Legion Auxiliary Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 of Hazelton was busy during the 2025 holiday season. Members worked on projects such as baking holiday cookies and making festive candies, thoughtfully shopping for simple gifts, and then assembling Christmas gift baskets. Local veterans who might have spent the holiday alone with no family members nearby to help add holiday cheer enjoyed a holiday basket.

The ladies outdid themselves this year! Everyone had an idea, and there was not a bad plan among them. The baskets and gift bags (our cup runneth over!) were filled with items such as fresh fruit, cocoa mix, puzzle books, neck warmers, decorated holiday cookies, homemade fudge, Christmas ornaments, banana bread, chocolates, a gift card for a free meal at the local Coffee Shop, and a Christmas card wishing them a "Merry Christmas and thank you for your service."

It is just a small gesture on our part to show our appreciation for their sacrifice to keep our country safe and free. Some of the veterans came to the Coffee Shop to pick up their baskets, and Auxiliary members were able to spend some quality time with these special men. They were appreciative of our efforts to ensure they each had

a bright holiday. Truth be told, they made our Christmas brighter too!

Photo and article submitted by: Arlene Davis



Pictured (l-r): Auxiliary members Jenny Moch, Arlene Davis, Carol Humann, Sheri Brunner, Joy Hopkins, and Gloria Pederson.



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District 4

Hello from District 4.
We had a great Winter Conference in January. We learned to make poppies—our goal was 250—and the workshops were very informative.

Once again, our Spring District Meeting was threatened by inclement weather, but it did not happen. Department President Candace Berg asked the question, “What is your why? Why did you join the American Legion Auxiliary?” It was interesting to hear the stories of each member’s “why,” and how long members have belonged to the Auxiliary. President Berg also encouraged everyone to sign up for the e-newsletter and join the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page. She suggested members take 10 Auxiliary Academy online training courses by June 15; participants will receive a certificate upon completion.

Department Membership Chairman Sandy Smith spoke on membership and encouraged all members to report their volunteer hours, mileage, and donations for the 2026 Year-End Impact Report. Shelley Schuster, Department Vice President, was able to attend our Spring meeting and was pleased to meet and visit with those in attendance.

Betty Geigle, Jamestown Unit 14, was elected as District 4 Vice President/Secretary. I would like to send a big, heartfelt thank you to Gail Marsolek for her time and talents serving as District 4 Vice President for the past several years.

We are looking forward to the 2026 Department Convention in Fargo. Congratulations to the Unit Membership Chairs who have achieved 100%+ membership and to those who have already achieved 90%. I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention and I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Jane Schoonover
District 4 President



Junior Activities

I know we struggle to get our Junior members involved in another function along with the many activities in school, FFA, 4-H, and church. I am happy to inform you that William C. Blair Unit 144 in Belfield has found a way.

Claire Coty, the Unit Junior Activities Chairman, started a local Junior Auxiliary Unit the end of 2024. The Officer Installation Ceremony was completed in April of 2025 and currently five Juniors are active members. Their Mission statement is: To support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who served/serving. Service, Not Self.

In May of 2025, these young ladies aided in the Poppy Program. On Memorial Day, they sang songs, recited poetry and stories, and handed out flyers and poppies to the audience. This earned them a Poppy Patch.

This group of Juniors held a bake sale to raise funds for the Children of Warriors Patch Program. They are currently working on an Adopt a Soldier project.

These Junior members work alongside the ALA Senior members, assisting them when needed.

Thank you, Claire, for setting such an outstanding example for other North Dakota units to get their Juniors involved in Junior Activities and the Patch Program. Please keep up the good work.

Jane Schoonover
Junior Activities Chairman



Follow us on our NEW Facebook page!

See what the Department of ND is doing to help veterans.

Search: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary



Education

May is here and that means scholarship judging. Thank you to Erin Wood, Lake Region State College Public Information Officer and Dawn Johnson, Instructional Coach for Northeast Education Services Cooperative for judging Department and National scholarships. The panel selected Zachary Berger of Velva, Rowan Jess of Carrington, and Brandi Schock of McVile for the three \$500 Department Education Scholarships.

National scholarships are applied for and judged online. Referred on to the Northwestern Division for judging were: Drew Burris, Children of Warriors selectee; Elydie Johnson, Spirit of Youth selectee; Brennan Martin, Member Loyalty selectee; and Julie Goeres, Non-Traditional Student Selectee. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in late May by the National organization.

Congratulations to these students and to all who applied for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academics and their communities. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarships.

Reminder to this year’s Girls State and Boys State attendees: the Samsung American Legion Scholarship is due the first day of the program using an online application. Direct descendants of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion should check out www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung to be ready with the information needed to apply.

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth, education personnel, schools and the units who reported activities to help me complete my year-end report for Northwestern Division. Look for the Education Program year-end report on the Department website at www.ndala.org/education/.

Start planning for “Ten for Education” so you’re off to a head start for next year’s Education Program. Each and every one of you truly make a difference!

Lynn Tomlinson
Department Education 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
- National Executive Committeeman – Sandra Petermann

This list is current as of publication. Further nominations may continue to be brought forward.

For full endorsement information, visit www.ndala.org/department-convention/

2026 Americanism Essay Contest Winners

Arliss Koski, Department Americanism Chairman, announces the following Department winners of the 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest.

- Class I Brinxlee Hay, sponsored by Lavern J. Thompson Unit 11, Cavalier
- Class II Tenly Wolsky, sponsored by John Raymond O’Hara Unit 25, Carrington
- Class III Ryan Richards, sponsored by Treuman-Webb-Phelps Unit 6, Grand Forks
- Class IV Averie Sondeland, sponsored by Lavern J. Thompson Unit 11, Cavalier
- Class V Hazel Albert, sponsored by Jefferson-Steinke Unit 18, Hope

Thank you to the units that promoted the 2026 Americanism Essay Contest and congratulations to the winners of this year’s contest.

Vietnam War Veterans Day Event

The American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units of Gackle, Streeter, and Fredonia, along with the American Legion Post of Kulm, jointly hosted the 107th American Legion Birthday Party / Vietnam War Veterans Day event. The celebration took place at the Gackle Legion Hall on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Attendees enjoyed a light meal before participating in a special program honoring the occasion.

Commander Jon Metz of the Gackle Legion Post #250 welcomed everyone to the event and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Candace Berg, Auxiliary Department President, served as guest speaker. She provided insights into the American Legion and Auxiliary, highlighting the strong partnership and close relationship between the two organizations.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of Milestone Service Awards. Accolades included a Legion 60-year award and an Auxiliary 65-year award.

American Legion – Gackle
60 Years: Clifford Klundt

American Legion Auxiliary – Gackle
40 Years: Connie Kuhn
55 Years: Virginia Kleingartner
60 Years: Kathy Kleingartner, Cynthia Vik
65 Years: Mona Klose

American Legion Auxiliary – Streeter
30 Years: Paige Roesler, Jenna Miller
50 Years: Bonnie Nelson, Melissa Brenneise

Marella Koenig paid tribute to the symbolic “Missing Man Table,” reading its elements to the audience. Randy Entzminger led prayers, and Sharon Schlittenhard, pianist, accompanied group songs including “Star Spangled Banner,” “God Bless America,” and “Happy Birthday.”

Thank you to everyone who attended the event.
Article and photos submitted by: Elaine Ackerman



Front Row (l-r): Auxiliary members: Peggy Schroeder; Jane Schoonover, President District 4; Candace Berg, Department President; Elaine Ackerman, President Unit 250; Rosi Long. Back Row (l-r): Marella Koenig, Patty Moos, Judy Schultz.



Elaine Ackerman (left) with Mona Klose, 65-year Auxiliary member.



Pictured (l-r): Birthday party attendees. Elaine Ackerman, Auxiliary President Unit 250; Candace Berg, Auxiliary Department President; Jon Metz, Legion Commander Post 250.

A Legacy of Service to the Auxiliary

For fifty-five years, the members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 of Walcott have known one constant presence at the heart of their work: Linda Stone. What is remarkable about those 55 years is that Linda not only served as an active member, but she also led the Unit as its President and leader for thirty-six consecutive years. As Linda retires from her long tenure as president of Unit 166, the Auxiliary and the entire community pause to recognize a remarkable legacy of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to veterans and their families.

Linda’s commitment to service runs deep. As the wife of a United States Air Force veteran and the proud mother of three children—one of whom is a retired member of the North Dakota Air National Guard—she has always understood the sacrifices made by military families. Her family’s tradition of service also includes two brothers who served in the Armed Forces. But Linda’s contributions extend far beyond her own family. Over the years, she has served the American Legion Auxiliary in numerous leadership roles including: District 10 President, Department of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Field and Home Service Chairwoman, and Unit Treasurer. In each role, she brought the same energy, compassion, and tireless work ethic that members of Unit 166 have come to admire.

Perhaps no events better reflect Linda’s dedication than the annual Memorial Day program and dinner she faithfully organized year after year. Each spring, Linda coordinated every detail—securing guest speakers, arranging the program, and rallying volunteers to prepare and serve the meal that followed. What many saw as a meaningful community tradition was, behind the scenes, the result of Linda’s countless phone calls, planning sessions, and quiet determination to ensure veterans were properly honored.

Her leadership did not stop there. Every November, Linda again took the lead in organizing the Annual Veterans Dinner, arranging speakers and volunteers so that the event would be both memorable and meaningful for the veterans who attended.

Linda also took on many of the less visible but equally important responsibilities that kept our Auxiliary unit running. She managed communications, guided the unit’s activities, and organized the annual Christmas party for Auxiliary members. Beyond Unit events, she regularly gathered groups to visit the local Veterans Home, where they hosted bingo parties and helped veterans shop for special Christmas gifts at the ND Veterans Home in Lisbon.

When the Iraq War created a need for hand-knitted helmet liners for service members overseas, Linda immediately mobilized the unit. Members picked up knitting needles and crochet hooks, producing helmet caps for deployed troops for as long as the military requested them.

Her dedication to honoring veterans extends even into the quiet spaces of local cemeteries. Each year, Linda visits seven area cemeteries to ensure that deceased Auxiliary members are properly recognized with the American Legion Auxiliary bronze marker placed on their graves—a small but meaningful tribute that reflects her deep respect for those who served.

Outside of the Auxiliary, Linda has long been an active member of her local Lutheran church, where her spirit of service has also been felt.

Those who work alongside Linda know that her leadership style has always been one of humility. She leads not for recognition, but out of a sincere desire to serve. One newer member of the Auxiliary captured that spirit perfectly.

“I have only known Linda for a year as I became an ALA member last winter. However, in this brief time I have known her, she has a heart of gold which is obvious to all. She tirelessly puts the veterans in her community first while quietly leading the charge. Never expecting a thank you or any praise, just quietly putting their needs first. So thoughtful and kind, Linda is a true patriot who loves her community, the veterans, and the ALA. She is the first to arrive and the last to leave any event.” Those words reflect what so many in Unit 166 already know: Linda’s service has never been about

titles or recognition. It has been about people—veterans, families, fellow Auxiliary members, and the community she cares so deeply about.

After 36 years as president and fifty-five years of membership, Linda Stone leaves behind more than a record of service. She leaves behind traditions that will continue, a stronger Auxiliary, and an example of what true patriotism and community leadership look like.

While she may be stepping down from her official role, the impact of Linda’s dedication will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Submitted by: Laura Boyer, Unit 166 President



105th Annual Department Convention – June 26-28, 2026

Auxiliary Registration Form

Ramada By Wyndham, 3333 13th Ave S., Fargo, ND
(hotel formerly known as Doublewood)

Hotel Direct Phone: 701-235-3333

Deadline to make hotel reservations is May 18, 2026
Please note: Call the hotel directly – do not call the 800 # Reservation Line

Please use this order form for Auxiliary Registration and to order Convention Banquet tickets and Past Presidents Parley Luncheon tickets.

- The Auxiliary Registration fee is **\$15.00** per person. Advanced registration by **June 12, 2026**, would be appreciated. Units are required to send in one (1) registration even if no one from the unit is attending.
- Advanced Department Convention Banquet Tickets – **June 10, 2026**, is the deadline for the \$40.00 (advanced price). Orders received after June 10th are \$45.00 per ticket.
- Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - **\$25.00** per person. Order advanced PPP tickets by **June 12, 2026**. Limited number PPP tickets may be available on-site.

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration \$15.00	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - \$25.00	Convention Banquet \$40 by June 10 / \$45 after June 10	Total Amount Submitted

Make Checks Payable to: American Legion Auxiliary

Mail Payment to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept of ND, 1801 23rd Ave N., Room 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047

In Memoriam

District 2

Martha B Johnson, PUFL, Lakota
Marie Solberg, Lakota
Ruth Hatten, Lakota
Karen Kern, Pembina
Betty Beck, Northwood
Marlys M Langton, McVillie
Marian D Hendrickson, PUFL, McVillie
Ila L Loken, Lankin
Laurie A Jensen, Lankin
Trudy E Wippler, Lankin
Mae Shulson, St. Thomas

District 3

Monna R Morse, Langdon

District 4

Shirley Stoller, Jamestown
Susan L Sanderson, New Rockford
Clara J Bredeson, Wimbledon

District 5

Loretta Streifel, Washburn
Vonnie Mehlhaff, PUFL, Wishek

District 6

Mildred C Hagen, Mohall
Betty Blumhagen, PUFL, Butte

District 7

Katie Leer, PUFL, Stanton
Mary Lou Beringer, Center
Jean Barth, Wildrose

District 8

Darlene I Johnson, Bismarck
Arlene Walch, Hettinger

District 9

June C Feil, HLM, Crosby
Jane Benter, Crosby
Shari Hellen, Crosby
Donna Lagein, Noonan

District 10

Joan Buske, PUFL, Oakes
Gudrun M Oddo, Lidgerwood

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

District Reports



Harlan Johnson
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
Spring district meetings have been completed, with attendance on the light side. District 1 had the most posts represented for the east region; however, on a percentage basis we did not fare as well.

I would like to thank all who attended, and a special thank you to the Hope Legion Post 18 for hosting the meeting and providing the meal.

At the district meeting, Virginia Kraushaar was nominated for District Commander, and Neil Sandvik as District Vice Commander. They will be starting their new position July 1. I am running for EAST REGION Vice Commander this year. I would appreciate your support at the Department Convention.

Membership again is at the forefront; let's stay vigilant in finishing membership for your post. CPRs are due; let's make sure they are completed asap.

There is going to be a legionnaire training session in Fargo at Ramada, Thursday, June 25 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. I would encourage as many posts as possible to attend.

The Department convention again will be held in Fargo, June 26-28. This is a good time to get reacquainted with your fellow veterans and friends.

Remember the 4 Pillars of the American Legion and reach out to your fellow veterans.....Buddy Check. See you at the convention.



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,
Hello everyone! Hope you're all well and enjoying this busy Spring with its many outdoor activities and now graduation season.

Elections were held at the 2026 District 6 Spring meeting in White Shield, ND, and I am honored to serve again as District 6 Commander for 2026-2027. Also, please welcome District 6, newly elected Vice-Commander, John

Holman, Velva, Joseph I Weller- Post 39. Allen Magnuson has announced his candidacy for Commander Elect 2026-2027. Special thanks to Commander Austin Gillette and Young Hawk/Bear Post 253 for being the Host post for the district 6 Spring meeting. Also, to President Gerilyn Yellow Bird and Auxiliary Unit, Post 253, for providing the meal. I want to thank our all our Department Officers and Auxiliary Officers for their dedication and being there or sending reports to answer questions and keep us updated with essential information for our ND American Legionnaires.

Thank you to Velva Post 39 for the donation to the Children & Youth Teddy bear program. We were honored with the attendance of recipient of the Legionnaire of the Year Award, Jaimie Frankl, Velva, Joseph I Weller-Post 39 and 2026 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Arnold Havelka, Bismarck, Loyd Spetz, Post 1. (Nominated posthumously, Thomas Gehringer, Sr., Mohall, George Thomas Taylor- Post 52, also has been selected as a recipient of the 2026 Distinguished Service Award of the year.)

As of May 6, 2026, District 6 membership is 91.07%. This includes 15 of the 24 Posts with 90-100+ percent. With this kind of momentum and the rest not too far behind, we can reach our goals. As far as CPR reports are concerned, we did not finish whereas planned, but we can continue to get them in. Contact me if you need assistance, as I will also be reviewing and contacting Posts. Thank you, the day-to-day efforts from all of you are what keeps the Posts going. God Bless!



Herb Quamme
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,
Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner. I would like to thank everyone who made the district 8 meeting a success. We had a great turnout with 9 out of 14 posts present. It was great to see so many familiar faces.

Elections were held and congratulations to Lacey Urlacher who was voted in as District 8 vice commander. She will be stepping into Michael Gant's position as District 8 vice commander and Michael will be moving up to take the position of District 8 commander. I believe that these two will work hard and do a great job serving the district.

We are doing well as a District with membership although there are a few who could push a little harder. I hope that everyone has completed their consolidated post reports. These are very important. Even if you think you haven't done anything, you can always mark the buddy check box for I am sure you have talked to at least one fellow veteran this year. There was great demand for the comfort bear program this year. If you need more teddy bears, feel free to let Michael Gant or myself know. We will do our best to get you more.

It has been my honor these last 2 years to serve District 8. I have learned so many great things that our posts in our district are doing. It has always been a pleasure to visit the posts around the district and see old friends and make new ones. I am looking forward to seeing you at convention this year.

Local Posts in the News

Longtime members of Theodore A. Togstad American Legion of Maddock recognized

The Theodore A. Togstad American Legion Post 123 of Maddock has been providing certificates recognizing the longtime continuous memberships of several members. The certificates read, "In grateful appreciation for faithful and dedicated allegiance to the ideals of The American Legion. Be it known that (member's name), a longtime and dedicated member of American Legion Post 0123, Department of North Dakota, has been certified to have been a member in good standing continuously for (number of years). And be it further known that such record of consistent loyalty to The American Legion merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of The American Legion." The certificates are signed by National Commander Dan K. Wiley, National Adjutant Rodney K. Rolland, and Post Commander James Green. Post Adjutant Richard Lynne provided background information on each veteran.



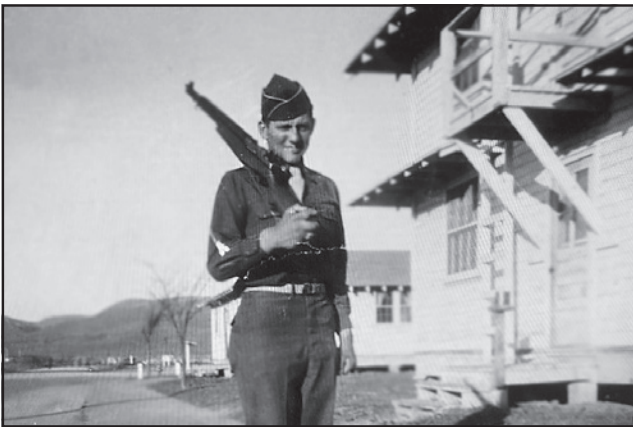
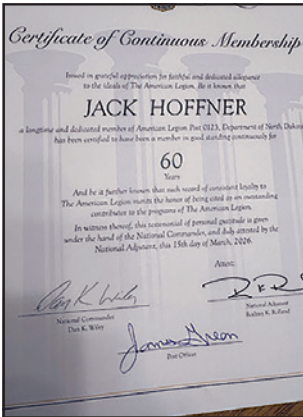
Gary Hunter was in the US Army from 1961 to 1963. He served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; with the Military Police in Japan in the 3rd RPU; and in Vietnam at Saigon, Da Nang, Hue and Phu Bai.



Harold Trimmer was in the US Army from 1962 to 1965 and served in Okinawa during 1964-65.



Milt Wisness was a Spec 4 in the US Army. He was at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and Fort Ord, Calif. where he was an ammunition storage specialist.



Jack Hoffner served in the Army from January 1952 through January 1954 and was trained as a paratrooper. In 2018 he received the designation of "Atomic Veteran." An Atomic Veteran is an individual who served in the US armed forces and participated as a radiation research subject in the nuclear testing program. Jack was stationed at Camp Desert Rock, which served as a staging area from 1940 to 1965 for battle training and testing. He has proudly been a member of American Legion Post 123 for 60 years.

Annual Fishing Derby a Resounding Success!

American Legion Post #97 in Larimore hosted its Annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, February 7th, at the scenic Larimore Dam Recreational Area. The tournament proved to be a tremendous success, drawing over 400 participants.

Following the fishing action, an enthusiastic crowd of over 250 gathered at Willy's Bar and Grill in Larimore for an awards ceremony and complimentary chili feed. Members of the Larimore High School Future Farmers of America generously volunteered their time to assist with serving and cleanup, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable event for all.

The ceremony was a highlight for many, with every child under 17 years of age receiving a prize. The excitement continued with an additional \$1,000 in door prizes randomly awarded throughout the afternoon. Anglers also vied for fifteen cash prizes, distributed among the top three longest fish in five categories: Crappie, Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Crappie.

The festivities concluded with a drawing for three Scheels Gift Cards (valued at \$400, \$200, and \$100) exclusively for tournament registrants. A buffalo meat raffle added to the excitement, and the eagerly anticipated

winner of a 6.5 Creedmoor rifle was announced.

Post #97 Commander, Mr. Joel Ressler, extended his heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the seamless execution of the Fishing Derby. He offered a special thank you to the dedicated Larimore High Future Farmers of America event volunteers, the Larimore Dam Recreational Area, the Larimore Volunteer Fire Department (for providing hot cocoa on the ice during the tournament) and the owner and staff of Willy's Bar and Grill for their excellent service and invaluable support.



Pledge of Allegiance to start the tournament



Foundation Memorials

Donations and Memorials Received from - May 2025-May 2026

Vernon Laning, Stanton, Veterans Programs
Dickinson American Legion – Veterans Programs
Dakota Community Bank and Trust, Hebron – Veterans Programs
Williston American Legion – Veterans Programs
Killdeer American Legion – Veterans Programs
Edgeley American Legion – Veterans Programs
SW North Dakota Veterans Tedrow Fund – Veterans Programs
Hazelton American Legion – Children and Youth
Killdeer American Legion – Children and Youth
Edgeley American Legion – Children and Youth
Belfield American Legion – Children and Youth
Casselton American Legion – Children and Youth
McVile American Legion – NDAL Youth Troop Academy
Larimore American Legion – NDAL Youth Troop Academy
Bill Haug, Grand Forks – ND American Legion Riders
District 10 ND American Legion Riders – American Legion Riders
Wyndmere American Legion – American Legion Riders
Bismarck American Legion – ND American Legion Baseball
Northwood American Legion – Undesignated
Harvey Peterson, Dayton, WA - Nesheim Scholarship Fund
Sonja Adahl, Devils Lake, ND – Nesheim Scholarship Fund

Memorial Donations to Legion Programs in Honor or Memory of:

In Memory of Theodore Becker and Orletta Kilen, Almont
Phyllis Becker-Best Palm Harbor, FL - Undesignated

Donna Brown, Williston
The Morse girls – State Band

Weldon Bryant, Jr, Fargo
Steph Damman, Fargo – State Band
Monna Rae Morse, Fargo – State Band
Harvey Peterson, Dayton, WA – Neishem Scholarship Fund
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo– Undesignated

Clareen Carroll, Independence, MO
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State
In Memory of Helmuth Hilz, Beulah
Steve Hilz, Canyon Lake, CA – Veterans Programs
Larry Lovas, Blanchard
M/M Wayne Satrom, West Fargo – Boys State
Monna Rae Morse, Fargo
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – State Band
M/M Dwayne Richter, Valley City – State Band
Jon Strang, Valley City – State Band
M/M David Stern, Fargo – State Band
M/M David Iverson, Fargo – State Band
GA Harbeke, Fargo – State Band
GiGi Moore, Oakes – State Band
M/M Todd Bickett, Carrington – State Band
Janice Judisch, Fargo – State Band
Gary Schultz, Canton, SD – State Band
M/M Dale Rollie, Barnesville, MN - State Band
M/M Christopher Manos, East Helena, MT - State Band
Bill Allen, Thomasville, NC - State Band
Elizabeth Johanson, West Fargo - State Band
Brenda Eckness - State Band
Joan Fiechtner, Fargo - State Band
M/M Steve Blazek, Fargo – State Band
Annette Flom, Hugo, MN – State Band
Patricia Hellerud, Fargo - State Band
William Peschel, Wahpeton
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated
Everett Rollie, Fargo
Cathy Keogh, Fargo – State Band
Teri Bryant, Fargo - State Band
Linda Haak, Valley City - State Band
Steph Damman, Fargo - State Band
Monna Rae Morse, Fargo - State Band
M/M David Stern, Fargo - State Band
Eugene Severson, Bismarck
Charles Miska, Bismarck – Baseball
Anna Spivey, Langdon
M/M Don Herrly, Fargo – Undesignated
Richard Stompro, Casselton
Josh and Kathleen Stompro and
Damian and Jennifer Koshnick – Veterans Programs

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Cathy Keogh, VA&R Chair
Homelessness continues to affect many veterans throughout our state. Resources and assistance can be found not only at the VAMC but also at the County Veterans Service Offices throughout the state of North Dakota and our Department Veteran Service Officer, Summer Kristianson. At the recent CVSO Spring meeting held in Fargo, Department Veteran Service Officer for the American Legion, Summer Kristianson, distributed Homeless Bags to the CVSOs, filled with socks, towel and washcloth and basic hygiene products for both male and female Homeless Veterans, filled by the Legion’s VA&R committee. Thank you to Summer Kristianson for her assistance getting these bags dispersed and into the hands of those who continue to make a difference in the lives of Veterans across the State – our County Veteran Service Officers.





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- Dishwasher: \$25
- Heat-pump water heater: \$200
- LED recessed downlights: \$4
- Room air conditioner: \$75
- Smart thermostat: \$25

ADDITIONAL REBATES

- Air-source heat pump: \$150 – \$1,150
- Central air conditioner: \$250 – \$350
- Central A/C or heat pump tune-up: \$40
- ECM hot water recirculating pumps: \$75 – \$900
- Home electric vehicle charger: \$150 – \$500
- Geothermal heat pump: \$200/ton
- Mini-split air conditioner: \$150 – \$200
- Mini-split heat pump: \$250 – \$400

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SCAN ME

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

Spitzer, Vernon 04/18/2026
Anderson, David 05/26/2025
Hagen, Bruce E. 06/19/2025
Heupel, Dennis 02/19/2026
Hoovestol, Howard 10/17/2024
Horbacher, Gene 02/21/2026
Kocher, Roger 04/21/2025
Kraft, Al 02/21/2025
Lacher, Gerry 02/13/2026
Metzger, Arnold 03/12/2024
Morrisey, Phillip 06/20/2025
Puklich, Michael 08/23/2025
Rudrud, Merlin 09/03/2025
Schmierer, Al 04/22/2026
Sharff, Bill 10/26/2025
Stein, Marcus 03/05/2025
Thurn, Herbert 10/07/2025
Welk, Peter 08/30/2025

Fargo – Post #2

Reynolds, James 06/30/2025
Larsen, Richard Unknown DOD
Martin, Richard “Ricky” 12/25/2025
Tolman, Thomas W. 01/30/2026
Walton, Robert 03/16/2026

Hillsboro – Post #4

Skogen, Gerald 02/07/2026

Grand Forks – Post #6

Joyce, Francis 01/05/2026

Mayville – Post #8

Rising, Ronald 04/25/2026

Ray – Post #9

Larson, Ernest D. 04/09/2026

Cavalier – Post #11

O’Shaughnessy, Michael 02/14/2026

Washburn – Post #12

Fischer, Charles Unknown DOD
Thompson, Terence 02/20/2026
Fischer, William Unknown DOD

Finley – Post #13

Carlson, Larry 04/01/2026

Jamestown – Post #14

Englund, Elden 02/02/2026
Clemens, Michael R 02/11/2026
Cleary, Michael E. 02/17/2026

Aneta – Post #16

Ulvog, Larry 08/12/2025

Sykeston – Post #17

Seil, Norman 01/18/2026
Garhofer, Bernard 04/25/2025

Wahpeton – Post #20

Ward, David 01/06/2026
Weitzel, William L. 03/09/2026

Rugby – Post #23

Walter, Michael J 03/01/2026

Minot – Post #26

Grindy, Larry 01/11/2026
Milton, Guy 02/03/2026
Lemar, Timothy 09/01/2025
Dahle, Philip 10/26/2025
Kraft, James 12/17/2025
Selfors, Rodney 02/17/2025

New Rockford – Post #30

Weisenburger, Eugene 01/29/2026

Williston – Post #37

Trouba, Joseph 02/06/2026

Velva – Post #39

Merck, John 04/27/2026

Mandan – Post #40

Graf, Larry 02/05/2024
Metzger, Leslie 08/19/2023
Erickson, Dennis D 02/06/2026
Kostelecky, Albert Unknown DOD
Schuck, Albert Unknown DOD
Welk, Kenneth 04/15/2026

Grafton – Post #41

Sabourin, Marcel 03/06/2026
LaBerge, Richard 03/31/2026

Garrison – Post #49

Ponchant, Harry Jr. 03/15/2026
Larson, Leslie A. 04/15/2026

Goodrich – Post #56

Dockter, Loren 11/11/2024
Erdmann, Richard W 02/07/2026
Walch, Gene 11/24/2025

Valley City – Post #60

Metcalf, Ralph 03/21/2026

New England – Post #66

Rustan, Galen 03/22/2026

Hatton – Post #70

Holter, David J 11/05/2025

Mott – Post #71

Rambousek, Merle G. 08/29/2025

Nome – Post #83

Pfaff, Robert 04/09/2026

Lidgerwood – Squadron #84

Anderson, Brian 08/30/2025

Center – Post #90

Bornemann, Dale 04/17/2026

Langdon – Post #98

Nelson, Grant 03/15/2026

Fairmount – Post #106

Rosendahl, Kermit Jr. 02/24/2025

Hettinger – Post #115

Defoe, Chuck 11/14/2025

Maddock – Post #123

Iverson, Harry S. 05/05/2024

Ellendale – Post #137

Steinwand, Marlon 09/17/2025

Ellendale – Squadron #137

Merkel, Scott 08/02/2025

Tioga – Post #139

Sagaser, Robert 10/25/2026

Wyndmere – Post #153

Summers, Ruth Unknown DOD
Mellem, Donald 03/06/2026
Bailey, John 03/28/2026

Page – Post #154

Grindberg, George 07/16/2025
Johnk, Jerome 10/12/2025

Walcott – Post #166

Wolden, Jervis 03/29/2026

Richardton – Post #180

Bobb, Bruce 03/2026
Schwartz, Cyril L. 03/28/2026

Hazen – Post #189

Larson, Kenton 01/29/2026

Donnybrook – Post #195

Bott, Russell L 02/06/2026

Sanborn – Post #202

Weber, Raymond 02/23/2026

Woodworth – Post #205

Geske, Jack 03/09/2026

Pisek – Post #208

Kadlec, Loren 04/03/2026

New Leipzig – Post #211

Raasch, Randall S. Unknown DOD

Sheldon – Post #221

Salzwedel, Clifford 02/27/2026

Rolla – Post #235

Good, Howard Unknown DOD

Wimbledon – Post #236

Sorem, Gary Unknown DOD

Gackle – Post #250

Brooks, Luxton J. 02/24/2026

Halliday – Post #258

Schmidt, Leland D 02/21/2026

Streeter – Post #265

Deutscher, William 08/17/2025

Forbes – Post #277

Moore, Clarence Unknown DOD

Harwood – Post #297

Larson, Roger W 02/14/2026
Rabanus, Herman 02/28/2026



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VICTOR B. WALLIN POST 12, WASHBURN, ND, TO HONOR CLINT HILL WITH A MONUMENT AND DEDICATION

The Victor B Wallin Post No. 12 and the Washburn Community are honoring Washburn, North Dakota’s “Native Son” Clint Hill with the installation of a granite monument at the Veteran’s Memorial Park in downtown Washburn, North Dakota, August 1, 2026. The dedication is scheduled for 3 pm (CST) and the program will feature the 188th Army Band, local soloists performing patriotic songs, comments from ND’s Congressional Delegation and state and local elected officials, as well as Lisa McCubbin Hill, widow of Clint Hill. Following the program, Post 12 will host dinner at the Washburn Memorial Hall.

Hill, raised in Washburn, joined the Secret Service in 1958 and protected Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon and

Gerald R. Ford. He is best known for leaping onto the back of the presidential limousine in Dallas on November 23, 1963, to shield First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Hill later authored five memoirs, including Mrs. Kennedy and Me, and received North Dakota’s highest civilian honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award in 2018. Upon receiving the award, Hill said, “I’ve never emotionally left North Dakota. North Dakota has a very special place in my heart, that will never go away....”

Designed in consultation with Hill’s widow, Lisa McCubbin Hill, the memorial monument will be carved from a single solid piece of granite and feature multiple brass plaques, photographs, and inscriptions detailing Hill’s career and legacy. In addition to the monument,

carved stone benches will ring the perimeter, offering visitors a place to sit, reflect or learn about Hill’s service. “Major donors will be memorialized on one of the benches as part of the fundraising effort,” said John Schulz, Post Vice Commander and project chair. Fundraising for the project is ongoing and those wishing to support the Clint Hill Memorial project can make checks payable to Wallin Post 12 / Clint Hill Memorial and mail them to P.O. Box 441, Washburn, ND 58577.

“Please join us in Washburn, August 1st to honor North Dakota’s native son, and arguably one of North Dakota’s most famous individuals,” said Schulz. Contact Schulz at 701-391-9208 or johnschulz@bis.midco.net for dedication day details.



Dickinson Post #3

A new military-themed playground will be dedicated in June in Dickinson in a partnership between the Dickinson American Legion Matthew Brew Post 3, the Stark County Veterans Memorial Association and the local Park District.

It was constructed in Veterans Memorial Park and funded entirely by the two veteran’s organizations. The Park District provided the installation labor and will be in charge of maintenance and upkeep. The playground joins the Veterans Memorial, the Veterans Pavilion, displays of an Army Tank and an Air Force airplane, and as an outdoor Bandshell where weekly concerts are held during the summer.



Minot Post #26

On February 21, 2026, Raymond Curtis was presented with his 80-year certificate from the Minot American Legion Post #26. ND Department Officers and Minot Post Officers were in attendance for this special presentation.



Back row left to right: Scott Post, Department West Region Vice-Commander Post 139, Tioga, Steve Anderson, National Executive Committeeman, Post 79, Cando, Lance Renville, Department Executive Committee, Post 29, Watford City and Randy Haman, 1st Vice-Commander, American Legion Post 26, Minot.

Front row left to right: Millo Wallace, Post Commander, Post 26, Minot, Mike Weyrauch, American Legion Department Commander, Post 9, Ray, Honoree: Raymont Curtis, 80-year continuous membership, Post 26, Minot, Kathryn White Bear, District 6 Commander, Post 253, White Shield, Allan Magnuson, District 6 Vice-Commander, Post 213, Sherwood and Mike Harnist, 2nd Vice-Commander, Post 26, Minot.

Jamestown Post #14

District 4 Commander Mike Allmer (far left) gave the Oath of Office to Post 14 newly elected officers for 2027. To the left of District 4 Commander are Finance Officer Jim Fercho, Commander Dennis Mansavage, 1st Vice Commander Paul Monson, 2nd Vice Commander Mark

Vrchota, and Sergeant at Arms Greg Kutz. Commander Mansavage appointed Post 14 members Father Wilhelm as Chaplain, George Barnes as Adjutant (not pictured).



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Mandan Post #40

Gilbert S. Furness Post 40, Mandan, Serves as Honor Guard for Flag Sojourn 250 Flag Raising Ceremony

Flag Sojourn 250 is a historic initiative carrying a single American flag to every U.S. state, every U.S. territory and every U.S. military cemetery overseas. The effort is designed to honor the generations of Americans who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation while celebrating 250 years of freedom and opportunity.

The journey began on Flag Day, June 15, 2025, and will culminate as it travels through the original 13 colonies and concludes in Washington, D.C., in July 2026.

The flag visited North Dakota on March 19, 2026. A special flag raising ceremony was held at the Burleigh County Courthouse in Bismarck with members of The American Legion Gilbert S. Furness Post 40, Mandan serving as Honor Guard.



L to R: Nick Ressler, Steve Rogalla, Ron Huff, Charles Miska, Jerry Suko, Tom Crouse

Mayville Post #8, Galesburg Post #210, Portland Post #93

Three American Legion Posts joined forces to present the colors at the North Dakota Class A State Basketball tournament at the Fargodome in March.



L to R: Kevin Gapp, Galesburg Post 210, Allen Kville, Portland Post 93, Harlan Johnson, Mayville Post 8, Kevin Lyng, Galesburg Post 210, Ethan Hanson, Mayville Post 8 and Richard Peterson, Mayville Post 8.

Harvey Post #28



North Dakota American Legion Commander Michael Weyrauch presented Harvey Post Commander Bob Flach with Awards at the Spring District Meeting at Jamestown. Awards were for Americanism, Membership and Youth Activities.

Hope Post #18

On March 8 the Hope American Legion and SAL hosted a special fundraising meal with all money going to the Honor Flight of Eastern North Dakota. The post stood all expenses and \$6,602 was given to the Honor Flight



L to R: Rick, Joel, Allen, Shane, Randy H, Dennis G, Rich, Randy J, Representative Honor Flight Steve, Cary, Dennis K, Edsel and Clark



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Belcourt Post #262

Senator Richard Marcellais delivers bears & puppies from the American Legion for the children in the community to Rolla Ambulance Service, AMP Health St. Kateri Hospital, Belcourt Fire Department, Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Hospital, and Dunseith Fire & Ambulance Service.





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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
7:00 pm	Foundation Meeting

Friday, June 26, 2026

9:00 am	DEC 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	Teri Bryant's Retirement Party!

Saturday, June 27, 2026

8:00 am	Registration (closes at 3:00 pm)
8:00 am	Athletic Committee – Walnut
8:00 am	40 et 8 Grand Promenade – Cedar
9:00 am	Pictures with Historical Figures (until 1:00 pm)
9:00 am	Constitution and By-Laws Committee
9:00 am	C&Y Committee Meeting
9:00 am	SAL Meeting
9:00 am	Boys State
10:15 am	Theodore Roosevelt Production
10:30 am	Oratorical Committee
10:30 am	District Officers/CPR's
11:00 am	Legion Riders
11:30 am	Credentials Committee
1:00 pm	Legion General Session
3:00 pm	Regional Caucuses
4:00 pm	National Convention Meeting
5:30 pm	Banquet Social
6:30 pm	Department Convention Banquet
	Dance by the ND State Band

Sunday, June 28, 2026

7:00 am	Catholic Mass
8:00 am	Incoming Officer Pictures
8:00 am	Registration (closes at 9:00 am)
9:00 am	Credentials Committee
9:00 am	Joint Worship Service
	Joint Session
	Legion Session
	Post Convention DEC Meeting
	Organizational Meeting





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 11th 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

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