

Dept. Cmdr-Elect Jacob Volk

The article was submitted by NDAL Commander Jason Anderson.

Stars and Stripes & Roughriders

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NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN WILEY POST VISITS ACROSS ND



Roosevelt Hotel in Watford City for the night



Post 29 Commander Brice Kettle receiving BE THE ONE personalized license plate from National Commander Dan Wiley



White Shield Post 253 with National Commander Dan Wiley at Indian Scout Post No1 Cemetery



National Commander Wiley installing Post 253 officers



Left to Right: YoungHawk/Bear Post 253 White Shield Post Commander Austin Gillette presents American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley with gift of a Pendleton blanket with a horse representing Bloody Knife's horse that is said to have returned to the Arikara people after the Battle of Little Big Horn.



National Commander Dan Wiley receiving a Theodore Roosevelt bronze bust from ND American Legion by Department Commander Jason Anderson



National Commander Wiley with ND Commander Anderson touring the Heritage Center, Capitol, Bismarck ND



National Commander Dan Wiley with Sons of American Legion Detachment Commander Dan Sauerwein

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COMMANDER COMMENTS

JASON ANDERSON - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Hello my fellow Legionnaires,
As I type this tonight, I have been in the position you elected me to, for 32 days and 40+ by the time most of you will see this. What an exciting and crazy start it has been! I feel so honored to be only the 112th person to hold this office and what an esteemed list of folks to follow. From the first in 1919, Mr. Claude Dawson from Beach to now myself from the equally small town of Scranton, this position has seen folks from all over this great state who has each played their part in shaping how our Legion continues to serve this Nation's Veterans and their families and communities from border to border. I shall strive to do my very best to continue the legacy of all those before me.
My motto for the year is Always Willing, Never Unable. We must all do our part as it best suits you. It could be something as simple as a Buddy Check or a bit more complicated like planning and leading your communities Veterans Day events. Don't be afraid to ask for help with things. We all have strengths and should strive to participate in things that help show those strengths, or we can rely on others to fill the gaps.
My Commanders Project for the year is intended to help support our youth to pursue careers in education or emergency services. I intend to make donations to the Education Association, EMS, FD, and PD Associations respectively. Each of them have scholarship opportunities and if this helps support an additional scholarship or two, I

would consider that a success.
I am attending 2026 National Membership Workshop 5-8 August in Indianapolis and I hope to have some good news to report upon my return. Membership should always be something we all help out with, but I understand we are all trying our hardest to encourage a new generation of Veterans to become Legion. Not an easy task for sure.
I wish all of you a great year and may 2026-2027 be our best year yet.



NDAL Commander Jason Anderson and First Lady Devin Anderson



American Legion Department of ND 250th Anniversary Sweepstakes

This drawing was held on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 11:00 am at the Department Headquarters. The winners are listed on the website ndlegion.org and are posted in the September 2026 issue of the ND Legion News.

\$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Aloys Schmaltz of Linton Post 54

\$1000 Prize Winner
Gene Brueckner of Petersburg Post 247

\$200 Prize Winners
Donald Kosiak of Wishek Post 87
Frederick Braun of Fargo Post 2

\$100 Prize Winners
Carroll Quam of Wahpeton Post 20
Kenneth Forest of Langdon Post 98
Duane Lutz of Mott Post 71
Joel Rindy of Carrington Post 25
Gradyn Albrecht of New Rockford Post 30
Burdean Berseth of Abercrombie Post 128



Greetings from the west and the dog days of summer. Didn't convention just get over now we're into scheduling fall district meetings. Summers are short, hope you are all making it memorable. Celebrations were held by many to honor this great country. 250 years of liberty because of the men and women of the greatest fighting force on earth. From the Washington National mall to towns like Stanley, Tioga, Crosby and many more. Parades of our Nations colors, Veterans, first responders, classic autos, and streets filled with parents and children showing their respect. (Americanism) Several Suicide awareness walks are scheduled. Hoodies, T-shirts and Bumper stickers are available through your Region Vice commanders. BE The ONE! (VA&R) Williston Post 37 has been sponsoring Veterans night at the new water park. Bicycles were given away and free admission for children to White Earth rodeo days by Post 139 Tioga. Watford City Held the state Babe Ruth tournament this year. Post 29 was busy feeding all the players. (Children and Youth) American Legion Riders had the Privilege and honor of escorting the remains of a WW1 POW/MIA to his hometown this summer. Slow Salute Sir! (National Security) ..." Let's have a great turn out at Districts!" Duty Honor Country!

Scott B Post
West Region Vice Commander



Fall District Meeting Schedule

District 1 Meeting is on Monday, September 14th at 7:00pm at Harwood, ND Post 297 (101 Benefit Lane). Social and registration will start at 5:00pm with a pulled pork- bean-cole slaw dinner served at 6:00pm for \$10 per person.

District 2 Meeting is on Friday, September 18th at 6:00pm at Park River Post 147 (108 5th St E). Social, registration and meal start at 5:00pm for \$15 per person.

District 3 Meeting is on Saturday, September 19th at 1:00pm at Cando Post 79 (414 5th Ave). Social and registration starts at 11:00am with a meal served at 12:00pm, with a free will offering.

District 4 Meeting is on Saturday, October 24th at 1:00pm at Carrington, Chieftan (60 4th Ave S). Social and registration starts at 11:00am with a sandwich bar at 12:00pm for \$15 per person.

District 5 Meeting is on Saturday, October 17th at 1:00pm at Fort Yates, Prairie Knights Casino (7932 ND 24). Social and registration starts at 11:00am with an Indian Taco Bar at 12:00pm for \$18 per person. Please RSVP for meal by calling 701-981-9076 or email Lawrence.montclair@gmail.com.

District 6 Meeting is on Saturday, October 3rd at 1:00pm at Velva Post 39 (201 Main St N). Social and registration starts at 11:00am with a meal at 12:00pm for \$10 per person.

District 7 Meeting is on Saturday, October 17th at 1:00pm central time at Fort Yates, Prairie Knights Casino (7932 ND 24). Social and registration starts at 11:00am with an Indian Taco Bar at 12:00pm for \$18 per person. Please RSVP for meal by calling 701-891-9176 or emailing Lawrence.montclair@gmail.com.

District 8 Meeting is on Saturday, October 17th at 6:00pm at Belfield Post 144 (107 2nd Ave NE). Social and registration starts at 5:00pm with hors d'oeuvres/snacks at 5:00pm with a free will offering.

District 9 Meeting is on Saturday, October 3rd in Ray, Ray Auditorium (215 Main Street). Social and registration starts at 5:00pm with a meal at 6:00pm for \$15 per person.

District 10 Meeting is on Saturday, October 24th at 7:00pm in Gwinner (104 N Main Street). Social and registration starts at 5:00pm with a pulled pork meal at 6:00pm for \$8 per person.





ADJUTANT'S CORNER

DON HERRLY- DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT


Greetings North Dakota American Legion Family! Summer is zipping by and here it is time to bring you the news for the Fall Edition of The ND Legion News. We had a great convention in June and gave Teri Bryant a big send off into retirement after 43 years of dedicated service to The American Legion Department of ND. The office has been different without her, but we are very happy to have found an excellent stand in for her in Lori Burke. She is eager to learn and willing to jump in and help out. I often wonder how many people read these words, well I found out that at least one person does. Last time I talked about how our office was changing and that we used to have 6 full-time people in the office. Glenn Burkle stopped by the office and reminded me that at one time there were 7 full-time people in the office when he was employed there as the Office Manager. I knew that I messed up. I may have been wrong, but at least it's nice to know that someone reads this! It was good to see you again Glenn, please stop in more often and that goes for you too Teri!

One of my favorite things about being Department Adjutant is the opportunity to travel to each District in the spring and fall and visit with all of the Legionnaires that don't attend the Department Convention or Winter Conference. All of the fall district meetings are now set and that information is available elsewhere in this edition. Please check when and where your district will meet and plan on attending. Call your buddy and ask them to go with you. Call the next town over and invite them to go with you. There is no better group of people to associate with than your fellow veterans. We do our best to present useful and informative information while trying not to overwhelm

you and make the meetings drag on. If there are any topics that you want to see covered now is the time to let your District Commander, the Department Commander or me know and we will try and have the information you need.

About the time you are reading this approximately 30 ND Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion and guests will be at the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion in Louisville, KY. The Auxiliary will also have their members and guests in attendance. If you have never been to a National Convention, I urge you to put it on your bucket list. It is truly inspiring. One of my most awe-inspiring moments was when I got to shake hands with Paul Tibbets, the pilot of The Enola Gay and other crew members of the Enola Gay and Bockscar.

One of the most frequent complaints that we get in the office is the backlog of orders placed with emblem sales. Your NEC Representative Steve Anderson says that it is a frequent topic at National Executive Committee meetings. We are seeing some improvement, but it still needs to improve. Recently I was told that when they converted to the new system, some orders were lost and they were not aware of it until someone called in and asked about their order. So, if you have a long overdue order, it would probably be best to check the status of your order. I have been sent screen shots of people who have been on hold for over 1 hour, please forward this documentation to me and I will continue to try and pass your concerns on.

Declining membership continues to plague our organization. We need the support of all veterans both in spirit and financially to continue to serve and protect our benefits. I urge you to take a look at veterans that could

possibly join our ranks. Have you invited your sons and daughters, nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, high school classmates, the guy who still owes you \$10? Give it some thought and let's get our membership back up where it belongs. When I was Department Commander in 1993-1994 our membership stood at 27,281. For 2026 we currently are at 10,006 members. With the opening up of Legion eligibility dates we have more eligible veterans than ever. If everyone would sign up just 1 new member, we would double our size. If everyone reading this signed up 1 new member, we would have at least 25 new members. Well maybe only 10 or 15, but it's better than none.

I should mention that we are changing the company that handles our web page (www.ndlegion.org) and you will soon notice a big change. We will be using a company that is owned by a member of The ND American Legion, and we look forward to having someone local that we can work with, and we think that we will be able to provide more timely information to you. If you are on Facebook, I urge you to search for the ND Legion Family and join. There you can post information and see information about happenings in the ND Legion. No political comments are allowed; they will be deleted. Even if I agree with them, they will still be deleted.

It's time to bring this to a close. I am truly grateful to serve as your Department Adjutant. Never hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you and I hope to see you at your District meeting.

Until the next time, May God Bless a strong and free America and keep your powder dry.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

LUCINDA BOLYARD - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR


Greetings Legionnaires,

As we begin the first quarter of the membership year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to every member across the Department of North Dakota. Your dedication, your service, and your commitment to strengthening our posts and communities continue to define who we are as Legionnaires.

This year, we are starting from a challenging position. As of the end of July, North Dakota stands at 41st in the nation. Nebraska and South Dakota currently hold 13th and 14th place, which reminds us that we have significant work ahead. But if there is one thing I know about North Dakota Legionnaires, it is that we do not shy away from a challenge. We take pride in our service, pride in our communities, and pride in our Department — and with that pride, I am confident we will not only regain momentum but finish this year stronger than we began.

State Convention was a highlight of the summer. It was a privilege to share with Teri Bryant the closing of a chapter, to reflect on the memories made, and to celebrate the legacy left behind. We also had the honor of welcoming

the Leading Candidate for National Commander, adding excitement and inspiration to an already memorable event.

District meetings are now scheduled, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead. With any luck, I will manage to keep better track of my wallet this time — and for those who know the story, you know exactly why that deserves a mention.

A reminder to all members: effective 1 July, dues for the Department of North Dakota increased. The combined Department and National per capita is now \$47.00. Additionally, when renewing online, please ensure you include both your member ID number and your post number. If either is missing, the system will automatically transfer your membership to Post 500, which can create administrative challenges for both you and your home post. Please take a moment to doublecheck your information before submitting your renewal.

ALSO there is a new format with the Post 500 program. Assistant to Membership Chair Arn Havelka will not be sending the Post 500 members' information to the location Post, but will be sending it to the Regional

Vice and District Commander. They will then need to communicate with the local Posts and send the information to the Post Commander/Vice Commander/Membership Chair. Questions about this call Arn, (701)340-2965.

Finally, I want to share that this will be my last year serving as Membership Chairman. It has been an honor to support our Department in this role, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth and successful transition. If you are interested in stepping into this position next year, I welcome you to join me throughout this membership cycle to learn the responsibilities, processes, and best practices that keep our Department strong.

Thank you for all you do for the American Legion, for veterans, and for the great state of North Dakota. Let's make this year one of growth, pride, and unity — and let's finish stronger than we started.

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

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Lance A. Renville

1967 - 2026

The family of Lance Renville would like to thank you for your kind words, cards, prayers and support during this difficult time. The love you have shown our family has given us so much comfort.

*Love You More.
Semper Fidelis*



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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FATHER CHAD WILHELM - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

The Celebration Continues: Honoring 250 Years of America

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our great nation, it is my hope that our patriotism does not fade once the fireworks have ended, the flags have been folded away, and the picnics have concluded. The Semiquincentennial is far too important to be confined to a single day. Rather, it should inspire us throughout the entire year to reflect on the blessings of our nation and recommit ourselves to the ideals for which so many have sacrificed.

As veterans, members of the American Legion, and citizens, we have a unique opportunity to keep this anniversary alive in our communities. Here are a few practical ways every Post can continue the celebration:

- Begin each monthly meeting with a brief reflection on an important event or person from America's founding or military history.
- Invite local students, Scouts, or civic groups to participate in patriotic programs and essay contests.
- Organize visits to veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, reminding them that their service is

remembered and appreciated.

- Hold a community flag retirement ceremony or teach proper flag etiquette.
- Partner with local schools to share the stories of our nation's founding, the Constitution, and the sacrifices of those who defended our freedoms.
- Encourage members to display the American flag proudly at their homes throughout the year, not only on national holidays.
- Participate in community service projects that demonstrate the values of duty, citizenship, and service that have always defined the American Legion.

Our nation's anniversary is not simply a celebration of our past. It is an invitation to renew our commitment to the future by living lives of service, integrity, and love of country.

As your State Chaplain, I would also like to encourage every Post to begin its meetings with prayer. Prayer reminds us that our freedoms come with responsibilities and that wisdom is needed in every decision we make. It

unites us in humility before Almighty God and reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

Because our members come from many faith traditions, the prayer offered should be respectful, inclusive, and centered on the values we hold in common. Whether Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or from another faith tradition, those present should be able to sincerely say, "Amen," as we ask God's blessing upon our veterans, our nation, our elected leaders, our military, our first responders, and our fellow Legionnaires. A thoughtful and reverent prayer strengthens the unity of our Posts while respecting the religious diversity of those who have served our country.

Finally, I want you to know that I am here to serve you. Whether your Post needs assistance with prayers, memorial services, Four Chaplains observances, patriotic events, funeral honors, or other chaplain-related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I can be of assistance to your Post or District, I would be honored to help.

May God continue to bless our veterans, our American Legion family, and the United States of America as we celebrate this historic 250th Anniversary.

Thank You to Post 2 Fargo for Outstanding Dedication to the 2026 Department Convention and USA 250

The American Legion Department of North Dakota extends its sincere appreciation to Gilbert C. Grafton American Legion Post 2 of Fargo, Auxiliary Unit 2, and NDAL staff for their outstanding work in preparing for the 2026 Department Convention and USA 250. Their commitment, hospitality, and attention to detail helped create a welcoming and meaningful gathering for members of the American Legion Family from across North Dakota.

Held June 26-28, 2026, in Fargo, the Department Convention brought Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, and supporters together in fellowship, service, and shared purpose. Hosting an event of this scope requires planning, coordination, and quiet behind-the-scenes work. Post 2 Fargo rose to that responsibility with pride and professionalism, reflecting the very best traditions of service that define The American Legion.

From welcoming guests and supporting convention operations to helping ensure that social events, and special

activities were well organized, Post 2 Fargo demonstrated a spirit of teamwork and dedication worthy of recognition.

A special note of thanks is also due for Post 2 Fargo's preparation of the USA 250 celebration. As America marked its 250th birthday in 2026, the convention offered a timely opportunity to celebrate the nation's history, honor the sacrifices of those who defended its freedoms, and inspire renewed civic pride. The planned patriotic activities, including opportunities to recognize iconic figures from America's story and support Legion programs, helped connect the convention to this historic national milestone.

To every member, volunteer, and supporter who gave time, energy, and heart to this effort: thank you. Your work honored the legacy of The American Legion, showcased the strength of the Fargo community, and helped make the 2026 Department Convention a memorable occasion. Post 2 Fargo's dedication will be remembered with gratitude as we continue serving veterans, their families, and the nation we proudly call home.



Benny Gilland as Abraham Lincoln

Future of ND Legion - Update

Department Service Office Shows Dedication, Resilience, and Commitment

The Department Service Office (DSO) continues to stand as a trusted source of support, guidance, and advocacy for the veterans it serves. Through changing needs and difficult circumstances, the office has remained focused on its mission: helping individuals and families navigate important services with care, respect, and determination.

Day after day, DSO demonstrate dedication by listening closely, responding promptly, and working through challenges with professionalism. Her resilience is reflected in the way she adapts to new requirements, manage complex cases, and continue serving even when demand is high.

Training remains a vital part of the DSO's ability to serve effectively. In July, the Bergman & Moore (B&M) monthly training focused on causation, including VA Internal Guidance and recent Court decisions. This type of continuing education helps ensure that the DSO stay current, strengthen her understanding of complex issues, and provide accurate, informed assistance to the veterans and families who rely on them.

More than an office, the DSO represents an unwavering commitment to service. Its work reminds the community that behind every request is a person seeking answers, support, or peace of mind—and the DSO remains committed to meeting that need with compassion and purpose.



Greetings from East Region: This is my first letter as your East Region Commander, and I appreciate your support.

The state convention was a success and thank you to Post #2 for hosting. District meetings for the fall are at the forefront, and at the time of this letter only District #1 has set a date. District #1 meeting will be held in Harwood Sept. 14 - 1700 registration, 1800 meal, 1900 meeting.

Membership for the 2026 - 2027 year began July 1st; now is the time to recruit new members and renew current members. While doing that, check up on your fellow veterans! Depression can rear its ugly head any time.

I have a tote of hoodies, polos, and tees, for any function you may want to hold to recognize suicide prevention. Please let me know if you are planning any walks or any other event. I will be willing to help any way I can.

Thank you and remember the 4 pillars of the American Legion!

Harlan Johnson.
East Region Vice Commander



Greetings from Central Region Vice Commander my name is Robert Wishart.

We had a great convention and are looking forward to the District meetings. Check the schedule in this paper as the meetings are scheduled.

Hope to see all of you there. We need support from the members of the Districts and to hear what the Posts are doing. Looking forward to hearing about your successes.

Have a great rest of the summer.

Robert Wishart
Central Region Vice Commander



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

Organization

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

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Open Enrollment for VA Healthcare: When is it?
Have you ever wondered when open enrollment is for VA Healthcare? Unlike other health insurance, enrollment into VA healthcare does not have any specific open enrollment periods. Veterans can apply any time of year, pending eligibility requirements. So, what are the eligibility requirements and how can veterans enroll into VA healthcare.

To begin, veterans must not have received a dishonorable discharge to be eligible for VA healthcare. Any discharge other than honorable may be subject to review as well (this includes other than honorable). Next, enlistments after September 7, 1980 require veterans to have served for 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty (typically in cases for National Guard or Reserve veterans). Exceptions to this include:

- You were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty

- service, **or**
- You were discharged for a hardship or “early out,” **or**
- You served prior to September 7, 1980

Current or former members of the National Guard or Reserve must have been called to active duty, and completed that full period of active duty to qualify for VA healthcare. Active duty for training purposes does not qualify for VA healthcare. However, if National Guard or Reserve veterans are service connected for conditions which occurred during a training status, they will be able to receive VA healthcare.

Veterans who served in certain locations, time periods, or who were exposed to various toxins may qualify for VA healthcare. These veterans include those who served in Vietnam (and other presumed locations), Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, other combat zones after 9/11 and service in Camp Lejeune (between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987). MOS related toxins may also qualify veterans

for healthcare – such as jet fuel, asbestos, and nuclear weapons.

Veterans may automatically qualify if any of the following are true:

- receive service-connected benefits
- receive VA non-service-connected pension
- receive or qualify for Medicaid benefits
- received a Purple Heart
- received a Medal of Honor

If a veteran does not qualify based on the above criteria, she/he may qualify by income. The income requirement varies based on location and number of dependents. It is important to update your income with VA as income requirements may change.

To learn whether you qualify for VA healthcare, reach out to a CVSO near you or your local VA eligibility office <https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/find-a-service-officer> or Fargo VAMC Eligibility Office 701-239-3700 extension 3428

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

MIKE WEYRAUCH - DEC CHAIR

Well, thank you for the past year as your Commander. Now I will attempt to do the job as your DEC Chairman. If any of you have any issues, please contact me so I can get them on our DEC agenda. We are preparing for the National Convention, make sure you have your info into the office in time for your rooms, hospitality room, guest etc. Please keep in mind Lori is new to her job, give her the time to settle in. The 4th of July was amazing, if you haven’t been to the Medora musical & Theodore Roosevelt library, it’s a must-see location. Many thanks to those involved with ensuring we had access to the library. The Oratorical information is available online, it’s not too early to get started looking for next year’s contestants. Don’t forget the home school students too. As I’m the Oratorical chair again this year feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I can tell you the 9th District contest will be in Ray this year with the date to be determined.

Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting - 26 June 2026. The DEC convened with DEC Chair Mamie Havelka starting the meeting by a salute, the pledge of allegiance, and a moment of prayer given by Kenneth Weiderholt. A moment of silence, for Lance Renville West Region DEC was given with honor and respect. He will be missed by all.

Key motions and Approvals: Commander Weyrauch appointed Allan Magnuson to complete the term for West Region DEC with approval votes. The 2026-2027 budget was approved which included the dues increase for NDAL. The Convention and Visitor Bureau bids for 2031 will be discussed during the Spring DEC meeting. It was approved to increase the registration late fee for conventions from \$10 to \$20.

Resolutions: A resolution to support the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, a resolution to support

the ND Military Gallery, a resolution or appreciation letter to Teri Bryant for years of dedicated service, and a memoriam resolution for Lance Renville to be given to family members.

The post DEC meeting 28 June 2026

With due respect to our nation’s colors, the meeting was called to order following the conclusion of the annual convention by the DEC Chairman, Michael Weyrauch.

Committee members expressed satisfaction with the convention’s success. Commander presented officers and committee chairs for appointments and DEC approved. A salute to colors and a closing prayer were given.

Next DEC meeting will be at the Commander’s Homecoming. 10 October 2026, 1300 hrs, Scranton ND. Please see invitation in this Legion News.



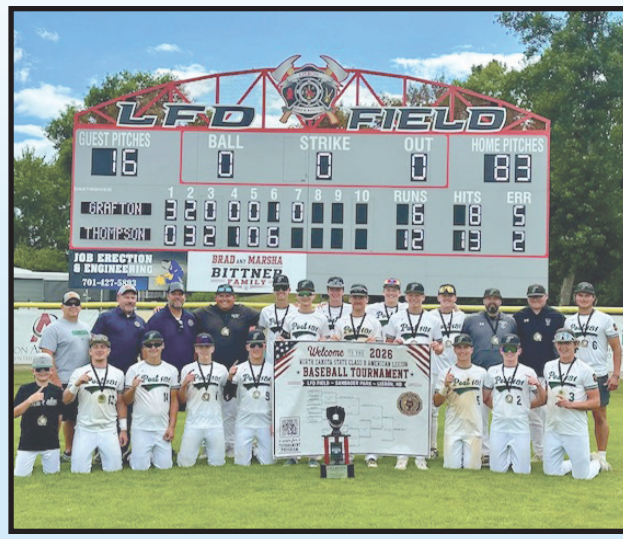
ND AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CHAMPIONS



Fargo Post 2 - Class AA ND American Legion Baseball champions - Congratulations!



Devils Lake Storm has won the Class A Legion baseball state title. Storm's grit was rewarded with the first state Legion championship in 42 years.



Congratulations to our ND American Legion 2026 Class B State winner, Thompson Post 181.



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American Legion Post 37



115 1st. Avenue E.
Williston, ND

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Message

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

White Shield Welcomes Historic Convoy

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA-HA) 2026 Lewis & Clark westward convoy made a memorable stop at the Arikara Old Scouts Memorial Veterans Center in White Shield on July 27, 2026. The convoy journeyed from Fort Mandan, North Dakota, to Fort Clatsop, Oregon.

The convoy, traveling through White Shield as part of its westward route, was welcomed by Post and Auxiliary members and the community with cheers, food, water, snacks for the road, gifts, and a brief sharing of Sahnish history. Leaders of the convoy were presented with historic Pendleton blankets, while others received traditional dried corn and bundles of sage.

The visit concluded with the convoy receiving an emergency services escort through the Fort Berthold Reservation, passing the Old Scouts Cemetery as participants offered veteran salutes in return. In appreciation

of the hospitality, the convoy made a monetary donation to the Auxiliary Unit. Organizers described the day as a meaningful and beautiful occasion honoring veterans, history, and community fellowship.



2026 Unit Member of the Year

Elaine Lange, a 38-year member of American Legion Auxiliary Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 of Rolla is the 2026 Unit Member of the Year. She was nominated for this honor by Lynn Tomlinson, Past Department Historian, and fellow members of Unit 235.

Elaine's nomination reflects recognition of her indomitable spirit and her willingness to assist wherever the need is most evident. At ninety-one years of age, Elaine remains an active, dependable, and inspiring member, continuing her dedicated service to the Auxiliary, our veterans, and the Rolla community.

Thank you, Elaine, and congratulations on this well-deserved honor. We are proud of you.



Elaine Lange (right) pictured with family members during the Past Presidents Luncheon at Department Convention.

National Legion Commander Visits North Dakota in July



White Shield American Legion Young Hawk/Bear Post 253 and Auxiliary Unit 253 'Meet and Greet': Pictured (l-r): Chloe Weyrauch, Sandy Smith, Department President; Candace Berg, Past Department President 2025-26; Andrea Neshem, District 3 President; Alicia Randall, Department Vice President; Dan Wiley, Legion National Commander; Sonya Wiley, Devin Anderson, Department AEF Chairman, Shelley Schuster, Department President-Elect; and Susan Degner, Department Treasurer.



American Legion Carl Rogan Post 29 Watford City hosted a 'meet and greet' to welcome National Legion Commander Dan Wiley on his whirlwind trip through North Dakota. Submitted by: Sandra Petermann

Hankinson Unit 'Steps Up'

To make the beautiful Veterans Memorial site located on the shores of Lake Elsie near Hankinson even more beautiful, members of Eberhard Unit 88 of Hankinson spent a spring day planting. They potted nearly twenty-five planters using flowers and plants donated by an Auxiliary member and also purchased with funding from a Thrivent grant shared with the Hankinson High School FFA program.

We love seeing this special site continue to evolve each year as Legion and Auxiliary members invest their time and sweat equity into maintaining this beautiful memorial dedicated to our veterans. In addition to the memorial grounds, there is a community garden planted and cared for by Legion member Arnie Althoff and his wife, Charlene. They often partner with Auxiliary member Anne Biewer, who spends countless hours tending the gardens, watering, and weeding. The fruits of their labor are available for everyone in the community to enjoy. Volunteers are always welcome to help maintain the gardens and memorial grounds.

The Veterans Memorial is also available to rent for events and gatherings by anyone in the community and surrounding areas. Throughout the year, the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion host a variety of events at the site, including special afternoons of fellowship and food for residents traveling from the Lisbon Veterans Home.

If you are interested in using the facility for an event or would like to volunteer with maintaining the grounds, please reach out to us for more information.

Photo and article by Auxiliary members Shala Krump, Bev Bozovsky, Charlene Althoff and Doreen Gutzmer.



2026 Fall District Meetings

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

District 1 – Monday, September 14
Harwood, ND - Legion Post 297, 101 Benefit Lane
5:00 PM - Registration/Social; 6:00 PM Meal – (\$10);
7:00 PM – Meeting

District 2 – Friday, September 18
Park River, ND – Legion Post 147, 108 5th St E.
5:00 PM - Registration/Social; 5:00 PM - Meal (\$15);
6:00 PM – Meeting

District 3 – Saturday, September 19
Cando, ND – Legion Hall, 414 5th Ave
11:00 AM - Registration/Social; 12:00 PM - Meal (Free will offer); 1:00 PM – Meeting

District 4 – Saturday, October 24
Carrington, ND – Chieftain, 60 4th Ave S,
11:00 AM - Registration/Social; 12:00 PM – Sandwich Bar (\$15); 1:00 PM – Meeting

District 5 – Saturday, October 17
Prairie Knights Casino – 7932 ND 24, Fort Yates
11:00 AM - Registration/Social; 12:00 PM – Meal (\$18) (Indian Taco Bar); 1:00 PM – Meeting

District 6 – Saturday, October 3
Velva, ND – Legion Hall, 201 Main St. N
11:00 AM - Registration/Social; 12:00 PM – Meal (\$10);
1:00 PM – Meeting

District 7 – Saturday, October 17
Prairie Knights Casino – 7932 ND 24, Fort Yates
11:00 AM - Registration/Social; 12:00 PM – Meal (\$18) (Indian Taco Bar); 1:00 PM – Meeting

District 8 – Saturday, October 17
Belfield, ND – Legion Post 144, 107 2nd Ave NE
(Located in Mountain Time Zone)
5:00 PM (MT) - Registration/ Social; 5:00 PM (MT) –
Hor'doeuvres & snacks (Free); 6:00 PM (MT) – Meeting

District 9 – Saturday, October 3
Ray, ND – Ray Auditorium, 215 Main St.
5:00 PM - Registration/Social; 6:00 PM - Meal (\$15);
7:00 PM – Meeting

District 10 – Saturday, October 24
Gwinner, ND – Community Center, 104 N Main St,
5:00 PM - Registration/Social; 6:00 PM - Meal (\$8); 7:00 PM – Meeting

Department President

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Thank you all for the kindness, support, and encouragement you have shown as we begin our journey together through the 2026-2027 administrative year. I am truly grateful for the warm welcome I have received. It has already been such a meaningful and inspiring experience, and I look forward to meeting many more of you as I travel throughout North Dakota for the upcoming Fall District meetings and other community events.

My eligibility is deeply personal to me. It comes through my late husband, Don, who served in the U.S. Army; my brother, Tom Banse, a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War; my son, Carl, a former U.S. Army medic with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq; and my grandson, Zachary Gustafson, who is currently stationed with the U.S. Air Force. Their service, along with the service of so many others, is a constant reminder of why our mission matters.

As our new administrative year begins, I know units are already planning activities that reflect the heart of who we are—supporting our veterans, strengthening our communities, and serving our children and youth. I would be honored to visit your unit if possible, so please feel free to reach out by calling or texting me. I look forward to hearing about the wonderful work you are doing and sharing those moments with you.

At this time, I am asking all the wonderful members of the Department of North Dakota to join me in supporting my President's Project. Received donations will be applied to a scholarship that will assist a veteran

to pursue training at a trade school and help them take the next step toward a meaningful future. In honor of our nation's birthday, I invite each adult member to give just a nickel a day for 250 days. It is a small daily gift, but when we give together, it becomes a powerful expression of gratitude and support for someone who has served our country.

Please take care of yourself and one another. May we continue to serve with grateful hearts, open hands, and a shared commitment to honoring those who have given so much.

God Bless America.
Sandy Smith



Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Time seems to fly when you are having fun. I hope your summer was entertaining and eventful. By the time you read this article, 2026 National Convention will be a memory and travel will begin for Fall District meetings. Look for a schedule and information on Fall District Meetings elsewhere in this publication or visit www.ndala.org/district-meetings/. I also encourage each of you to browse the National website at www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Academy to learn about the Auxiliary Academy and sign up to take an online class. The classes are self-paced and offer a trove of up-to-date information.

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

own. I encourage everyone to continue to track your 2026-2027 hours and funds you spend on volunteering and then report those to your District Presidents in the spring.

Be sure to look for that special unit member who exceeds expectations as a volunteer and nominate her/him for 2027 Unit Member of the Year. That program is under 'Leadership' and more information can be found on the National website. If you need information on Auxiliary programs visit the National website at www.alaforveterans.org or the Department website at www.ndala.org.

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

God Bless America.
Marcy Schmidt



Department Treasurer

The Fall season means that most units will resume their monthly meetings. Your unit should receive the mandatory contribution and poppy order forms in early September. We ask that those be returned to the Department office no later than November 1st. Contributions received on time are sent to their respective programs in December. Contributions that are received after that are not forwarded to the designated program until June of 2027. I encourage you to complete the forms at your October meetings and get them sent in so that those programs receive their funding before the beginning of 2027.

I have been working diligently with our units regarding tax-exempt status with the IRS, as well as registering as a non-profit operating in the State of North Dakota. These are completely independent requirements. It is quite simple and straightforward to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. I have done this many times, and am only a text, phone call, or email away if you need assistance.

The IRS is a trickier matter. If you have lost your tax-exempt status, you will need to reapply to regain it, and there is a \$600 fee. Otherwise, your unit is required

to file an annual tax return, even if you have no income. Please contact a local CPA to help you navigate this requirement. You also have the option of completing the paperwork yourselves. Two North Dakota units have successfully regained their tax-exempt status, and I am sure that they would be willing and able to guide you in the process. Then, make sure to keep your status current by filing your 990-N every year! If you are unsure if your unit is compliant, check with me and I can look it up for you.

In the spirit of service, not self, I want to thank each one of you for the great things you do for our veterans in North Dakota. Many of you work within your units and Districts across the state. Our veterans surely appreciate it.

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



Past Department President

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss

Thank you all for supporting me as your 105th North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department President during America's 250th birthday year in 2026.

My parents planted the seeds for this journey when they signed me up for membership with the York American Legion Auxiliary in 1977. During my younger years, I made so many amazing memories: playing trumpet on Memorial Day, attending events at the York Legion Hall, and so much more.

When I became involved in the Auxiliary at the Department level, first as Department Vice President, then President-Elect, and finally President, I can't help but look back on those years as some of the best years of my life. I am so grateful for the people I have met, the friendships I have developed, the lessons I have learned, and the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities I have been given.

I am especially grateful for your donations and support in helping me raise funds for my President's Projects: the NDSU Equestrian Horse Therapy Program for veterans and their families, and the Eastern and Western Honor Flights for veterans. I am proud to share that we raised \$18,753.00 in support of these projects, exceeding my original goals. I look forward to presenting checks to each of these organizations in support of our veterans.

Again, thank you for your support and friendship, for your welcoming smiles, open hearts, and kind words. This is an amazing organization, and I hope to see it thrive for years to come. I look forward to seeing your new Department President, Sandy Smith, do great things for this organization, and I look forward to watching future presidents continue to help it grow. As for me, this has been an amazing journey, and I know I will look back on this time with a smile—and maybe a few tears. For this organization and for all of you, I am so grateful. Thank you, and God bless!

"To Serve and Protect, You Answered the Call: Salute to our Veterans, We Honor You All."

Candace Berg
Past Department President (2025-2026)



District 5

District 5 Auxiliary Members.

It feels like just yesterday that I was in Fargo for the Department Convention, being installed as the President of District 5. Now August is upon us, and we are gearing up for our Fall District Meeting. I look forward to visiting with many of you and hopefully attending one of your Unit meetings as well.

Over the past nearly five years, I had the privilege of serving as Vice President of District 5, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Peggy Moran, who led us as President during this time. Peggy has been an incredible mentor and friend, and I am grateful for her support. Thank you, Peggy.

I am a proud member of Francis J. Harty Unit 65 in Wing and I have been part of the Auxiliary since 1995. My eligibility for membership comes from my father, Arlen, who served in the U.S. Army before I was born. I retired in 2025 after dedicating over 31 years as a Speech-Language Pathologist and Special Education Programs Coordinator at Mandan Public Schools. My husband and I ranch near Wing, and we have four adult children: MaKayla, Lauren (married to Jason), Jade, and Trey.

I am truly honored to serve as your District 5 President.

Warm regards,
Arliss Koski
District 5 President



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Although I am relatively new to the Auxiliary, I have enjoyed serving in this chairmanship. It is one of the easiest programs to raise funds for because our Auxiliary members understand that, at any moment, a calamity could bring hardship to families and communities.



Our members are exceptionally generous in supporting this program, and through donations from North Dakota units alone, we were able to raise \$3,978.76 for this cause. This is a point of pride for our units and members alike. Thank you, North Dakota units and individuals who donated to support this important program.

Devin Anderson
AEF Chairman 2025-26

Legislation

I had the honor of stepping into a role with the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary at the request of Department President Candace Berg. While I have been a lifelong member of the organization and have been involved to some extent due to my parents (Curt and Judy Twete) commitment to the Auxiliary and Legion, I had not yet served in an official capacity. My passion and experience for legislative activity within my work profession aligned well with this position. While North Dakota's legislature only meets every other year in odd numbered years, there is always work to be done in the legislative space. I was eager to step up to the plate and serve this organization as Legislative Chairman.



In my capacity as chairman, I traveled to Washington, D.C., and had the opportunity to visit with North Dakota's lone Congresswoman, Julie Fedorchak. We discussed issues important to veterans and military personnel from our state and around our great country.

I was honored to be able to share legislative topics with Department and District leaders in an online presentation as well as provide a training session at the 2026 Flickertail Girls State event this summer.

Thank you, President Berg, for the opportunity to serve the Department of North Dakota.

Carma Hanson
Legislative Chairman 2025-26

Membership

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

"Be a Beacon for those who served!" This year's membership theme is lighthouses, and the Northwestern Division will be known as the Two Harbors Lighthouse Keepers. The Two Harbors Lighthouse is located at Two Harbors, Minnesota. Let's keep our beacon glowing to encourage our members and help potential members find their way to the American Legion Auxiliary in support of our veterans.



Currently, our membership stands at 90.3%. Let's finish the year strong by reaching 100% and getting a head start on 2027. National has set goal for North Dakota to increase membership by 1% in 2027, which means adding sixty-six new members statewide. This is an achievable goal if each unit recruits new members and rejoins those who have fallen away.

How can you help? If you know someone who may be interested, encourage them to complete a Volunteer Interest Form which will be included in the next Unit Mail packet. Every new member matters. Some may wish to attend all meetings while others may prefer to help behind the scenes when needed. No matter how active they choose to be, please let them know they are an important part of our organization.

I am excited to be the Department's 2026-2027 Membership Chairman, and I hope everyone has a fantastic recruiting year. Watch for the next Unit Mail packet for more membership information.

Shelley Schuster
Membership Chair and President-Elect



Flickertail Girls State

2026 Flickertail Girls State was held at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks) on June 14-19. The program saw an increase in participants with sixty-four in attendance up from forty-four in 2025. Keynote speakers at the event included North Dakota First Lady Kjersti Armstrong and U.S. Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak.

In addition to attendees participating in city, county, and state government proceedings, the 2026 participants and staff had the honor and privilege of attending a celebration of life ceremony. This ceremony was for fallen WWII soldier Staff Sergeant Irvin C. Ellingson and was held at Grand Forks Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, June 18.

Delegates of Girls State elected Leah Dokken (Minot HS) as 2026 Flickertail Girls State Governor. Cadence Fetsch (Valley City HS) and Sophia Johnson (Legacy

HS-Bismarck) were elected and represented North Dakota at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., on July 18-25. At Girls Nation, Senator Fetsch was elected as Party Chair for the Nationalist Party.



A heartfelt thank you to all North Dakota units, posts, and individuals who support this wonderful learning experience for our young students. Your donations, time, and energy serving as staff and volunteers for the event are truly meaningful.

God Bless America and God Bless the future leaders of the USA.

Chilly Goodman
Flickertail Girls State Director



Women in Government Day at Flickertail Girls State

Poppies

Poppies were distributed by American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units across North Dakota. They were featured in artwork, bookmarks, door hangers, and wreaths. They were used in Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, and they were also distributed door-to-door in local communities. Nearly 25,000 small poppies and 1,200 large poppies were distributed.



Units reached out to local schools in an effort to teach our young people about the meaning of the poppy

and encouraged students to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Six first place prizes and certificates were awarded with the winning poster being sent to the Northwestern Division Poppy Chairman in May.

2026 Poppy Poster Contest winners include:

- Class I Warren Koenig - Lankin
- Class II Kinsleigh Anderson - Bowbells
- Class III Alexa Dominguez - Gackle
- Class IV Charlee Ninow - Streeter
- Class V Lyndi Homola - Jud
- Class VI Noah Kolden - Garrison

Carol Wolf
Poppy Chairman 2025-26



Gackle Unit 250 Junior Poppy Queen Charlee Seigman (wearing ribbon).



Judges for 2026 Poppy Poster contest. Back (l-r): Cheryl Gustafson, Poppy Co-chairman; Carol Wolf, Poppy Chairman; and Candace Berg, Department President. Front (l-r): Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary; Donna Kolden, ND local artist; and Deb Bendickson. Photo submitted by Candace Berg.

2026-2027 Department Officers

President: Sandra Smith	C: 701-550-1025	President District 1: Carol Wolf.....	C: 701-566-1244
President-Elect: Shelley Schuster	C: 701-520-1525	President District 2: Larissa Schmitz.....	C: 701-866-1709
Vice President: Alicia Randall	C: 701-578-4978	President District 3: Andrea Neshem	C: 701-340-4965
Treasurer: Susan Degner.....	C: 701-331-9328	President District 4: Jane Schoonover	C: 218-298-1434
Secretary: Marcy Schmidt.....	C: 701-253-5992	President District 5: Arliss Koski	C: 701-400-3670
Chaplain: Virginia Satrom.....	C: 701-238-1542	President District 6: Leah Black Hawk.....	C: 701-651-0683
Historian: Carrie Heinz	C: 701-550-0962	President District 7: Annette Zeller.....	C: 701-204-5187
Parliamentarian: Holly Eslinger.....	C: 701-891-1909	President District 8: Carol Weyer.....	C: 701-872-2605
NEC: Sandra Petermann	C: 701-290-8801	President District 9: Abby Salinas	C: 623-236-4626
NEC Alternate: Candace Berg.....	C: 714-740-7144	President District 10: Leila Ptacek.....	C: 701-640-1896

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

Gackle Unit Serves the Community and Youth

Mayer-Morlock Post and Auxiliary Unit 250 of Gackle hosted a Memorial Day program at the Gackle Legion Hall on May 25, 2026. Three local soloists sang patriotic songs and the “Star Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” were sung by the audience. The elements of the “Missing Man Table” and the poem “In Flanders Fields” were read. Junior Auxiliary member Charlee Seigman lit the Memory Candle. Deceased Legion member Luxton Brooks and deceased Auxiliary member Lillian Ward were remembered. Auxiliary member Marella Koenig gave an inspirational message about God and Country.

Names of deceased Gackle and Alfred veterans were read at the Gackle and Alfred cemeteries. A poppy was dropped at the reading of each name while “Taps” was played. Upon completion of the ceremony, a potluck lunch was served at the Gackle Legion Hall with over one hundred in attendance.

Unit 250 recently made contributions to meaningful causes that support youth and veterans.

The donations included:

Full scholarships to International Music Camp for two Gackle-Streeter School students.

A \$1,500 donation to the Western North Dakota Honor Flight, helping provide veterans from western North Dakota the opportunity to participate in a Flight of Honor.

The Gackle Legion Auxiliary is proud to support these worthwhile programs which enrich the lives of local youth and honor the service and sacrifice of our nation’s veterans.

Article and photos submitted by: Elaine Ackerman, Unit President



International Music Camp Scholarship recipients. Pictured (l-r): Elaine Ackerman, Unit President; Alexa Dominguez and Maci Griffith, Gackle-Streeter High School students; and Corinne Muller, Gackle-Streeter High School Music Instructor.

White Shield American Legion Members Travel to Normandy for 82nd D-Day Anniversary

Members of the American Legion Young Hawk/Bear Post 253 and Auxiliary Unit 253 of White Shield traveled overseas this summer to take part in commemorations marking the 82nd anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France.

The group arrived in Normandy for a series of major remembrance events held around June 6, 2026, honoring the Allied invasion that helped turn the tide of World War II. Ceremonies across the region paid tribute to the courage, sacrifice and service of the Allied forces who stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Nearly 160,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy on D-Day, including about 73,000 Americans. The invasion, known as Operation Overlord, involved troops from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and other Allied nations and opened the way for the liberation of Western Europe.

For members of Post 253 and Unit 253, the trip carried special meaning. As representatives of White Shield and the American Legion family, they joined visitors, military officials, veterans’ organizations and families from around the world in honoring those who served and those who never returned home.

The 82nd anniversary was especially poignant because it is expected to be among the last major D-Day commemorations attended by living World War II veterans. With the youngest surviving veterans now in their late 90s or older, each anniversary has become an increasingly rare opportunity to hear their stories firsthand and to thank them in person.



For the White Shield delegation, the journey was both a tribute and a commitment to remembrance. By traveling to Normandy, members of the Young Hawk/Bear Post 253 and Auxiliary Unit 253 helped ensure that the legacy of D-Day, the service of World War II veterans and the sacrifices made for freedom continue to be remembered by future generations.

Department Convention



Department President Candace Berg (in pink) presenting an Auxiliary donation to North Dakota State Legion Band Manager Cathy Keogh.



Department Convention can't run without the help of great host unit volunteers, such as Unit 2 Treasurer Amelia Tintes.



Newly elected Department President Sandy Smith conducting her first leadership actions.



Convention delegates receiving membership awards on behalf of their respective units.

National Security

North Dakota units and members participated in a variety of National Security activities during the past administrative year. Rolla and McVile units reported they each have a member currently serving in the National Guard.

Units made generous donations to Honor Flights, the National Guard Foundation, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Wounded Warriors, Tunnel to Towers, Troop-a-thon, Service Dogs of America, and other organizations that support veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

Flag events were held across the state of North Dakota. Unit members participated in flag retirement ceremonies and displayed flags in their communities to commemorate patriotic holidays, parades, and community picnics.

Care packages were sent to deployed service members in Germany. The McVile unit sent sporting equipment including: soccer balls, footballs, baseballs, and more to a North Dakota National Guard detachment at the southern border in Texas.

Unit members were on hand when a bridge in Dickinson was memorialized for North Dakota Guardsman, Jon Fettig, who was killed in Iraq in 2003.

As Department President (2024-2025), my President’s Project was Troop-a-thon. Through my pin sales, I was able to raise over \$5,000 to send ‘care packages’ to deployed service members. I was thrilled to be able to sponsor so many packages to let our deployed troops know they are loved, appreciated, and cared for.



LoAnn Dick
National Security Chairman 2025-26

2026 Scholarship Winners

- Spirit of Youth Scholarship (\$1000) -National Winner**
Elydie Johnson
- Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship (\$5000) – National Winner**
Drew Burris
- Department of North Dakota Education Scholarship (\$500)**
Zachary Berger - Velve
Rowan Jess - Carrington
Brandi Schock - McVile
- Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship (\$1000)**
Carrie Hoffman - Grand Forks
- Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship (\$500)**
Jada Bonogofsky – St. Anthony
Mylehe Kastet - Ypsilanti
Maya Davis - Casselton
Callie Grage - Taylor

In Memoriam

- District 1**
Kathy Cuthbertson, Hillsboro
Peggy Gilbertson, Hillsboro
Margie Mergner, Erie
 - District 2**
Colleen Belyea, Larimore
Marilyn Bowman, McVile
 - District 4**
Laurel Venhuizen, Wimbledon
Ruth Steele, Gackle
Etta Schauer, PUFL, Streeter
 - District 6**
Arlene McLean, Mohall
 - District 8**
Beverly Wolff, PUFL, Beach
Lois Schwartz, HLM, Reeder
Nora Huschka, Belfield
 - District 9**
Charlotte Flexhaug, PUFL, Williston
Kathleen Hagan, Williston
Mitsua Hollen, Williston
Robin Rodgers, Parshall
 - District 10**
Karen Bahr, PUFL, Wahpeton
Bertha Baumer, Wahpeton
Amy Ostrom-Ahlfs, Wahpeton
Carol Mathias, Oakes
Sandra Uerling, Oakes
Elaine Marquette, Milnor
- We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information
Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member;
PUFL - Life Member.

District Reports



Virginia Kraushaar
1st District Cmdr

Greetings from District 1,
Fargo Post 2 celebrates 250 at the Department Convention.

Attendees at the 2026 Department Convention had a chance to rub elbows with two of Americas most famous presidents, George Washington, port-rayed by Post 2 member Jim Deremo and Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Benny Gilland. For a minimal cost of \$5.00 they also had the opportunity to have their picture taken with them which many took advantage of, including Post 2 Adjutant Virginia Kraushaar. All money collected was distributed between the VA&R and Children and Youth committees.

For the second year in a row, the Gilbert C. Grafton American Legion Post 2 also manned the registration table at the convention, registering all of the attendees. Post 2 Commander Bob Ruud as well as members Michelle Von Rueden, Dave Johnston, Mike Koshney, Cathy Keogh, John Chatelain, Michele Grindahl, Larry Reed, and Roy Martinson manned the table throughout the convention. The convention was deemed a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.



George Washington (Jim Deremo) and Dist 1 Commander Virginia Kraushaar



Bryan Ohlhauser
2nd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 2,
Convention is over and the District meetings are coming up – see you there.



David Boucher
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,
Where has the time gone? Summer is here, and harvest looks like it might be right around the corner.

District 3 has a new Vice Commander, Melvin “John” Laducer. I would like to thank him for stepping up and taking this position. Also, I would like to thank DeMarqua for his service in this position for the past year.

I’m proud of District 3 for doing a great job on memberships. Thank you for all your hard work in making our legion membership stronger.

Let’s remember to work together on getting the next generation involved; calls, invites to dinners, etc.

Our National Convention will be held from August 28th through September 3, 2026. It will be held in Louisville, KY. All legionnaires are welcome to attend, not just officers. Come meet new legionnaires from all over the US and learn some of what our legion stands for and what it does.

Also, our Fall District Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19th, at the Cando Legion Post. Social: 11am, Meal: 12pm (free will donation), Meeting: 1pm. Please attend, if possible, let District 3 have the biggest turnout.

Once again, let’s keep working on memberships and hope to see you all at the fall district meeting.

Stay Safe, Stay Connected and Let’s Work Together.



Cory Haugen
4th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4,
Hello All,
My name is Cory Haugen, the District 4 Commander. The summer is winding down and we are going to have our Fall District meetings. Please check the schedule and put the date and time on your calendar. See you there.



Russell Kroshus
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,
Please check the District meetings schedule. District 5 & 7 will be together. See you there.



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,
May this find you all well!
While touring North Dakota, the 2025-26 National American Legion Commander, Dan K. Wiley, USAF, visited the community of White Shield for a special Meet and Greet to engage directly with veterans, families, and community leaders on Monday, July 6, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. It was a great honor for Joseph YoungHawk/Elmer Bear Post 253 and Unit 253, to be the host Post for the National American Legion Commander’s visit.

One of the points the Commander spoke of was the Be the One Program, which is a program to help prevent Veteran suicide. Mental Health issues were not talked about before, but now there are programs to help, so do not be afraid to talk about and get help for mental health issues.

When asked the question ‘how to get younger people to join the Legion’, Commander Wiley reminded us, it starts at the Post level to encourage new people to join the Legion, bringing diverse insights and possibilities to help with the Post and American Legion commitment.

The district 6 Fall meeting will be in Velva at the Joseph I Weller Post 39, 201 Main St. Velva, ND. On October 3, 2026, the social will begin at 11:00 am, Lunch at 12:00, (cost \$10) with the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm.

I am looking forward to more Post visits in the district this year with the help of our new Vice-Commander, John Holmen. So, we’ll see you soon!
God Bless!



Lawrence Montclair
7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,
Hello, Lawrence Montclair as District 7 Commander. Our Fall District meetings are coming up. Check the schedule in this Legion News for dates and times. District 5 and District 7 will be having a joint meeting. See you there.



Michael Gant
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 8,
Greetings folks,
The Convention is over and was informative. District meetings are arriving, check the schedule in this Legion News and we will see you there.



Ginny Watterson
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,
As I sit here writing my very first article for the ND Legion News it is 100° with no breeze at all. Feels like the perfect time to do some buddy checks to make sure our fellow Legionnaires are staying cool in this heat. Guess I should stop complaining about winter.

The district 9 fall meeting will be hosted by Ray at the auditorium, 215 Main St, on October 3, 2026. Registration/social will begin at 5:00pm, meal at 6:00 followed by the meeting at 7:00. District 9 Vice Commander Mike Hanson and I look forward to seeing you there. Lets have a great turnout!

I am hoping to make it to as many post meetings as possible in the coming year and get to know everyone. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me with any questions or concerns you may have. I certainly don’t claim to have all the answers but will find out and get back to you!

Take care and God Bless



Quentin Larson
10th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 10,
Hello fellow veteran’s

I and Gordon Vossberg II had a great year visiting several Legion Posts this past year and got alot positive feedback. We attended numerous events this year which include the Walcott Post 137 Veterans Memorial dedication on Memorial Day, Boys State in Wahpeton, Hankinson July 4th parade and the new Hankinson Fire Dept. and Ambulance Service grand opening.

We also presented teddy bears and puppies from the Children and Youth program to the Richland County Sherrif department, Hankinson Fire dept. and Ambulance Service.

I also had a great time seeing my fellow veterans at the Department State convention in Fargo In June. I and Gordon look forward this year visiting the Legion Post’s in District 10 and working with the new Department Commander and all state officers this coming year.

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Sarah Kim Receives Commander's Award

Commander Mike Weyrauch 2025-2026 presented Sarah Kim the Department Commanders Award at the Department Convention on 28 June 2026 for her dedicated service and unwavering loyalty to the Legion, consistently upholding its principles and mission. Congratulations!



Commander Mike Weyrauch, Sarah Kim with Sarah's family: Jenna, Sam and spouse Pete



Commander's Award

North Dakota American Legion State Band

As your ND American Legion State Band winds down the 102nd year of providing music for the Legion family we want to thank you for the continued financial support. Bob Briggs, member of Minot Post 26, continues to direct the State Band and Tim Johnson is directing the Dance Band. The Band continues to provide music before the General sessions of both the Legionnaires and Auxiliary meetings at the State Convention. The Convention in Fargo was a great opportunity to showcase the depth of talent within

this organization with the addition of music during the Social Hour before the Banquet on Saturday. The Dance Band was featured following the Department Convention Banquet to cap off the evening. We were also proud to be a part of the well deserved celebration of Teri Bryant on her retirement and wish her well in her next chapter. We look forward to the 2027 Department Convention next year in Williston.



ND American Legion Band dazzles the Convention attendees

District Championship Legion Baseball at Ray



R to L Loren Reinholdt, Michael Weyrauch US Flag, Gerald Young Post 9 flag, Virginia Watterson 9th District Commander on Thursday July 23.

ND State Fair Parade



L to R: Unit 26 President Alicia Roman, Department President Sandy Smith, Department Commander-Elect Jack Volk and Post 26 Commander Millo Wallace.

Legionnaire Training Session in Tioga, ND

Saturday, September 26, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Neset, 6844 Hwy 40, Tioga, ND 58852

All members (not just officers) are invited to attend from any Post. Spots are a premium and limited. First come (RSVP), first in attendance.

Training Topics – Please mark which items you would like training on.

- 1. Membership Training – Bring a Laptop if at all possible
- 2. Post Adjutant Duties and Guidebook Items
- 3. How to conduct a meeting
- 4. Parliamentary Procedures
- 5. First Stop and More

Please bring a laptop (if you are able) for the MyLegion training. Please sign up for MyLegion by 9/18/2026 in case there are any issues with registering your MyLegion account.

One-on-one additional training may be available following the training session if able.

Please RSVP to the American Legion Department of ND by 9/18/2026 to the training session by email to info@ndlegion.org or by mail to ND American Legion, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078.

Name _____ Post Location _____ Post # _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Do you currently have a MyLegion account? Yes / No

If yes, Do you have access to the Post info under MY GROUPS on MyLegion? Yes / No

If no, contact the Department ASAP at 701-293-3120

If no, please register your account by 9/18/2026 in case there are any issues with registering your account and having access to MY GROUPS.



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

Szymanski, James..... 08/13/2024
Nather, Gary 02/08/2025
Vedquam, Wayne 05/26/2026
Westberg, Gregory 05/30/2026
Copeland, Carl..... 03/31/2026
Hornbacher, Gene 02/21/2026
Jenkauski, Ronnie 06/16/2026
Landeis, Edwin 09/07/2024
Moe, Conrad 07/18/2026
Schmidt, Donald 07/02/2026
Wagner, John 06/18/2026
Wutzke, Jerry..... 06/11/2026

Fargo – Post #2

Reed, Harley..... 03/23/2026
Leverson, Richard 02/05/2026
Weigel, Eugene 10/27/2026
Obermiller, Paul (Earl) .. 07/12/2026

Dickinson – Post #3

Kohler, William (Bill)..... 02/17/2026
Kadrmass, Gordon J 01/24/2026
Filipi, Stephen R. 12/25/2025
Brudvig, Lyle D. 02/18/2026

Hillsboro – Post #4

Hausmann, Robert 07/01/2026

Beach – Post #5

Ross, Richard A..... 10/02/2024

LaMoure – Post #19

Welander, William..... 02/03/2019

Rugby – Post #23

Voeller, Jerome..... 12/30/2025
Jaeger, Theodore Unknown DOD
Degenstein, Philip 05/22/2025
Erickson, Duane 12/01/2024

Harvey – Post #28

Volk, Anton A..... 03/20/2026

New Rockford – Post #30

Thueson, Richard 06/11/2026

Oakes – Post #36

Hess, Harold 05/16/2026
Zimbelman, Milton 07/21/2023
Oheir, Mark..... 03/28/2026
Hess, Harold 05/16/2026
Peters, Robert 02/22/2026

Mandan – Post #40

Schmidt, Larry A 12/11/2024
Clouston, Kenneth..... 06/17/2026
Graner, Wayne 06/15/2026
Schmeling, Wallace 07/07/2026
Swank, Harry..... 07/28/2026

Grafton – Post #41

Johnson, Duane V 05/01/2026

Bottineau – Post #42

College, Gail..... 08/19/2025

Bowman – Post #48

Taylor, Robert 02/16/2026

Reeder – Post #51

Sack, Kent 06/15/2026
Schwartz, Richard 06/24/2026

Linton – Post #54

Bichler Sr; Joseph 07/07/2026
Black, Robert..... Unknown DOD
Dykema, John 06/07/2026

Goodrich – Post #56

Tessmann, Roger 07/23/2025

Valley City – Post #60

Melville, Chad 03/23/2026

Wing – Post #65

Jahnke, Nick..... 10/30/2025

Flasher – Post #69

Kraft, Matt..... 07/16/2025

Mott – Post #71

Klein, Jeffery 02/25/2026
Schmidt, William 06/28/2026

Crosby – Post #75

Fettig, Roman N 05/07/2026

Lidgerwood – Post #84

Hejtmanek, Harold..... 07/07/2026
Mattson, Thomas 03/17/2026

Center – Post #90

Daniels, Robert L..... 07/31/2026

Northwood – Post #92

Beck, Gilman 05/01/2020
Johnson, Robert 08/05/2020
Meland, Noren..... 12/12/2020
Tufte, Jerome 05/24/2022
Sherva, Dennis 03/28/2023
Case, Henry 05/17/2023
Johnson, William 04/28/2024
Jorgenson, Ronald 06/07/2024
Adams, Joseph 06/18/2024
Adams, Francis..... 09/13/2025
Peterson, Rodney 09/22/2025
Martinson, Gerald..... 02/10/2026

Portland – Post #93

Stordahl, Gary 07/14/2026

Larimore – Post #97

Heidecker, John 12/25/2025

Langdon – Post #98

Hansel, Dennis 05/18/2026

Willow City – Post #112

Hanson, David..... 08/28/2025
Prellwitz, Ronald..... 04/17/2026

Hannaford – Post #113

Albert, Eslinger 07/15/2026

Grenora – Post #116

Sneva, Adolph 06/28/2026
Slaaen, Richard 07/16/2026

Bowbells – Post #127

Modin, Neil 10/22/2026
Paulson, Norman..... 11/10/2025

Turtle Lake – Post #133

Simenson, Clarence 07/05/2026

Stanley – Post #134

Wing, Gene..... 07/03/2026

Tioga – Post #139

Moe, Leon 06/23/2026
Maize, Lawrence 06/30/2026

Park River – Post #147

Hobbs, James..... 07/18/2025

Granville – Post #155

Brodehl, Myron 05/07/2026
Morrison, Harland 05/08/2026

Walcott – Post #166

Rude, Rayder 05/16/2025

Hazen – Post #189

Thomas, Benjamin..... 07/21/2026

Gwinner – Post #191

Arnst, Arthur..... 07/22/2026
Sandstrom, Arlin 04/01/2026

Donnybrook – Post #195

Kling, Eddy 05/11/2026

Minto – Post #201

Beauchamp, Remi..... 07/09/2026
Wysocki, George 11/06/2025
Costello, James 01/16/2026
Jiskra, Edmond 07/14/2026

Woodworth – Post #205

Harr, Dale 4/27/2026

Sherwood – Post #213

Knox, Mark 07/19/2026
Lund, Chris 12/07/2025

Gackle – Post #250

Roerich, Joe C..... 06/06/2026

Forest River – Post #251

Rasmussen, David 05/31/2026

Cannon Ball – Post #259

McLaughlin, Richard..... 02/26/2026
Two-Bears, Albert 06/27/2026

Forbes – Post #277

Heinrich, Clayton 05/31/2026

New Town – Post #290

Gregory, Joseph 05/02/2025

Cayuga – Post #294

Saunders, John 11/16/2025

Harwood – Post #297

Thompson, Richard W... 08/29/2025
Fuller, Richard 05/04/2026
Ronning, Dale T..... 07/26/2026

Manvel – Post #299

Belker, Larry 07/20/2026

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Local Posts in the News

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

Paying Respect to Old Glory By Jordanna Garland – Golden Valley News

The Harley Salzman American Legion Post #5 in Beach held an American flag retiring ceremony on Flag Day, June 14th at 7 p.m., in which Jim Steckler, Dewey Stedman, Clarence Carroll and Josh Barthel helped retire tattered American flags.

The ceremony started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Josh Barthel then shared some insight into the importance of the pledge and the American flag.

He stated that when we recite the pledge, it is an acknowledgment of those who have fought for our freedom and the sacrifices they had to pay serving our country.

As we look ahead to the nation’s 250th year of independence, these words from Barthel’s speech rings true, “Our flag is so much more than mere fabric. It is a living, breathing timeline of our shared story.”

“It is the banner our troops raised on foreign shores to secure liberty. It is the symbol planted on the moon. It is the Star-Spangled Banner that has brought comfort, hope and unity to communities in their darkest hours.”

The American flag has 13 red and white stripes, symbolizing the original 13 colonies. The 50 white stars against the blue background represent all 50 states.

Each color of the flag has meaning. The red stripes represent valor and bravery. The white stripes represent purity and innocence and the blue square in the upper left-hand corner represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

As part of the ceremony, Barthel and Carroll presented a flag, as Steckler and Stedman stood at attention. After it was unfurled, the damaged flag was gently laid into the fire pit. Carroll and Barthel saluted as it charred.

Barthel invited attendees to stay and put their damaged American flags into the fire, in honor of veterans they have lost. In all, about 250 flags were retired.



Harry Salzman American Legion Post 5, Beach with Josh Barthel and Clarence Carroll III unfurls the USA Flag for the Flag Ceremony

District 10



Quentin Larson, District 10 Commander, presented to Gary Rule, Richland County Sheriff comfort puppies and bears to include in their vehicles to give to children that need comforting.

Upham Post #269 Nermoe Bridge Dedication

Earl Nermoe was a gunner on the USS West Virginia who was killed in action on Dec 7th, 1941, during the enemy attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1947, men who had returned home from WWII established an American Legion Post in Upham, ND and were granted a charter as the Earl Nermoe American Legion Post 269. As part of its ongoing mission the post sought approval from the North Dakota Department of Transportation’s Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program to have a bridge adjacent to Earl’s boyhood home dedicated to him. Pictured are post members and members of the Nermoe Family who gathered on Memorial Day 2026 to participate in the dedication of the Earl Nermoe Fallen Heroes Bridge.



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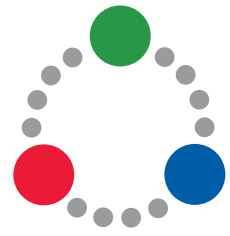
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Park River Post #147



Post 147, Parkriver ND, Cmdr. Myron (Happy) Seeba presents 60-year membership certificate to Gary Hove.

Park River Post #147

On June 14th Post 147 conducted the ceremony to disposal of unserviceable flags. Attending guests were Walsh County VSO Tami Lawrence and District 2 Cmdr Bryan Ohlhauser.



Standing left to right: Bryan Ohlhauser Dist 2 cmdr, Jim Mosolf, Josh Stromberg, George Moen Chaplin, Dennis Helt, Myron (Happy) Seeba Cmdr, Quinny Thompson, Duane Kram Finance off, Roger Johnson, Roger Setness, Kenny Gillespie, Lowell Oak, Paul Daley. Sitting left to right: Jim Midgarden, Vern Houser, Oivind Helland, David Gillespie.

Hankinson Post #88



Hankinson Fire Department Grand opening, 4 July, Post 88 Commander Quentin Larson presenting comfort puppies and teddy bears to Josh Lenzen, Fire Chief and Todd Buck, Ambulance Chief.

McHenry Post #160



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

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Commander's Homecoming Banquet

Department Commander Jason Anderson

Hosted by Harry W. Lindberg Post 151 in Scranton, ND

October 10, 2026

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

Scranton Community Center, 103 Main Street South, Scranton, ND

RSVP this form to NDAL so it is *received by October 2, 2026.*

Menu: Assorted Pizzas, Wings and Salad Bar Cash Bar
Gluten Free is available upon request by emailing 1wlb4all@gmail.com before October 9th.

Cost: \$25.00 (includes gratuity)

Please reserve your hotel room by October 2, 2026 to get the group discount. The rooms are under Jason Anderson.

Bowman Lodge	\$139 plus tax	701-523-7750
Bowman Inn	\$135 plus tax	701-458-2000

Additional hotels are available in Bowman and Dickinson



Commander Anderson Homecoming

Name _____

Post Location _____ Post Number _____

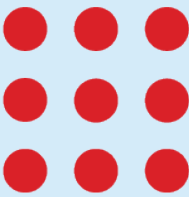
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