NORTH DAKOTA
LEGION NEWS
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA
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The Message (American Legion Auxiliary) Inserted On Pages 7-10

Minot to Host Winter Conference

The 2027 Winter Conference will be hosted by Minot's American Legion William G. Carroll Post #26 on January 29-31, 2027, to be held at the Grand Hotel in Minot. You must call the front desk at 701-852-3161 by December 27, 2026 and ask for the American Legion block to receive the discount rate of $99 per night.

This year, National Vice Commander Hugh "Homer" Holmes from South Dakota with be our guest speaker for the banquet on Saturday. Hugh "Homer" Holmes was elected a National Vice Commander at the 107th National Convention in Louisville, KY. He was a Consultant to the Committee on Youth Education. He is a 36-year PUFL member of Post 18, Mitchell, SD. He has held leadership positions at the department, district, county, and post levels. He has attended National Conventions and the Denver Regional Training Event. Homer holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Mathematics from Southern State College/University of South Dakota at Springfield. Due to a low Selective Service number, he joined ROTC and entered military service shortly after graduation. Homer served 22 years in the US Army. He attended Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and Organizational Effectiveness Staff Officer Course. He was a Redeye Section Leader, Hawk Platoon Leader, Chaparral Battery Commander, staff officer, and an Organizational Effectiveness Consultant. After military service, Homer taught mathematics at Crow Creek High School (one year) and fifteen years at Mitchell School District. He was a certificated Drivers Education Instructor also. He also worked at JC Penney's for 15 years. And three years at the South Dakota Department of Labor as an Employment Specialist Assistant. Besides volunteer work with The American Legion and other VSO's, he volunteered with the Boys Scout of America and Girl Scouts. He assisted at day camps and leader training. He attended Cub Scout Leader Wood Badge training, a premier BSA training seminar. Through Hugh's volunteer, American Legion, and military backgrounds, he believes that the youth of America and the American education system are the best!

The State High School Oratorical Contest Finals are on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 pm with Department Oratorical Contest Chairman Mike Weyrauch overseeing the contest. If you want to pre-register for the Winter Conference, mail in your Advanced Registration and Banquet ticket form. The price of the pre-registration banquet ticket is $45 and increases to $50 after January 8th. A limited number of tickets will be available at the registration desk and is on a first-come first-served basis, so it is best to order your tickets in advance. Advanced Registration forms will not be accepted after January 14th, and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.



National Vice Commander Hugh "Homer" Holmes

The Legion Family receives a discounted room rate at the Grand Hotel in Minot. Please call the hotel directly at 701-852-3161 to make your reservation. You must call before 5:00 PM December 27th to get the discounted rate.

Legionnaire Training Session in Minot

Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires!

The strength of The American Legion lies in our members, our leadership, and our commitment to serving those who served. You are cordially invited to join us for our Legionnaire Training Session on 29 January 2027, before the Conference kicks off. This is an opportunity to grow as Legionnaires, share knowledge, strengthen our organization, and build a stronger future for The American Legion. Together, we can make a difference. Your presence and participation matter, and we look forward to seeing you there!

The training is in two sessions, join us in one or both, please RSVP, especially for the computer session. Information is on the training form.

See you there,
Training Team
Mamie Havelka, Training Chair

American Legion Department of ND 2026 Veteran's Day Sweepstakes

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

$2000 Grand Prize Winner
Richard Senger of Devils Lake Post 24

$1000 Prize Winner
Steven Knowles of Minot Post 26

$200 Prize Winners
Corey Moen of Ray Post 9
Gerald Davis of Belcourt Post 262

$100 Prize Winners
John Forbes of Cavalier Post 11
Michael Storhoff of Nome Post 83
Timothy Gagnon of Grand Forks Post 6
Gordon Peterson of Larimore Post 97
Warren Bogert of Grafton Post 41
Richard Gehrke of Lankin Post 157

ACOVA REPRESENTATIVES

Don Herrly, Department Adjutant

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

If you are a member of The American Legion Department of North Dakota and you are interested in serving as one of our representatives on the ACOVA, please submit a letter of application to Department Headquarters and include a short biography. Include your military service, civilian occupation, relevant education or schools attended, and why you think you would be a good candidate to be our representative. You have the option of including a resume if you desire.

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

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of the Department Commander, the DEC Chair and the Department Adjutant who will conduct interviews with qualified applicants during the Winter Conference. The committee will select two candidates for Department Executive Committee approval to be submitted to the Governor's Office. We are required to submit two names for consideration and the Governor's Office makes the final decision of who is appointed to serve a 3-year term.

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

If you are interested in a position on this committee, submit your information by regular mail or email, to arrive at Department Headquarters no later than Monday January 24th, 2027. Interviews will be held at the Winter Conference in Minot January 28th, 2027. The American Legion is currently represented by Jacob Volk (Term ends 2027), Nate Huntington (Term ends 2028) and Summer Kristianson (Term ends 2029)

Thank you!

DSO Donations

Dear Legionnaires,

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated. Your contributions make a difference, and we sincerely appreciate the time and support you have given.

Your donations toward Department Service Officer (DSO) expenses go entirely toward serving veterans. We are proud to have the North Dakota American Legion support veterans taking care of veterans. Supporting DSO expenses is a vital part of one of our pillars.

Department Service Officer Summer Khristianson made an important contribution at the American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. She was invited to join the team reaching out to and working with veterans during the convention. The program was a great success for the national organization.

Fargo Veterans Standdown – September 10, 2026

The event was held in downtown Fargo and focused on veterans experiencing homelessness, while remaining open to all veterans. The Department Service Officer's office attended to answer questions from county representatives and other participating organizations. The event recorded a total of 203 veteran contacts this year.

Sincerely,
Mamie Havelka
Legionnaire

Foundation Leadership

It is no secret that the current Chair of the ND American Legion Foundation, Harvey Peterson, has indicated that he is interested in stepping down as Chair. He is now 84 and currently residing in Dayton, Washington. Any trip to attend Foundation meetings is, at a minimum, over 1,000 miles each way. Adding the time required and the expense precludes frequent trips.

Therefore, he suggests that anyone interested in serving as Chair of the Foundation should make their interest known by December 31, 2026 so that interview sessions for his replacement can be scheduled for the Winter Conference meeting in Minot. Anyone seriously interested in the position should contact either him at 701-872-6049 or Adjutant Herrly at the Department Office ASAP.

North Dakota State Band

Cathy Keogh, Band Manager

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and looking ahead to 2027. Your ND State Legion Band is going into their 103rd year and excited to be part of the great history of the ND American Legion. Our members are scattered throughout North Dakota, Minnesota and even Texas. We continue to honor the legacy of this organization and continue to provide music at the State Conventions for the Legion family. We look forward to heading to Williston for the 2027 Department Convention.

As we look forward to the future, we also honor the past. Honoring Veterans with TAPS at funerals has a strong history in the State Band. Don Loder, WWII veteran from Cooperstown ND was honored with Legionnaire of the Year and provided TAPS for over 500 funerals. He passed away in 2012. Pat Schwan and John Witteman, long time members of the State Band in the trumpet section, continue to support the American Legion in the Minot area with playing of TAPS year round. Our current Assistant State Band Manager is Mike Koshney. A Desert Storm veteran who retired from the ND National Guard as 1st Sergeant of the 188th Army Band has been a member of the State Band playing tuba for over 35 years. A member of Post 2, Fargo ND, Mike currently is part of the Honor Guard which provides military honors at funerals in the Fargo area. His father Ed Koshney, WWII veteran from Cando ND was a member of the State Band playing his trumpet for over 50 years. Ed also played in numerous bands around the area and played TAPS at many Memorial Days and funerals. He passed away in 2016.

Thank you for your continued support through donations to your State Band. This allows us to continue the tradition of over 103 years of the ND State American Legion Band.



Legionnaire Training Sessions in Minot, ND

Grand Hotel, 1505 North Broadway, Minot, ND 58703

Session 1: Friday, January 29, 2027 at 10:00 am
Session 2: Friday, January 29, 2027 at 1:30 pm

All members (not just officers) are invited to attend either session from any Post.

Training Session 1 at 10:00 am ***(Bring a Laptop if possible for this session)***

Training Topics: MyLegion computer training on processing memberships and managing membership records of the Post.

Please ***bring a laptop*** (if you are able) for the MyLegion training during Session 1.

Training Session 2 at 1:30 pm

Training Topics: Conducting a meeting, parliamentary procedures, awards programs, color guard, CPRs, reports, Officers Guide book and adjutant duties

Please note lunch will not be provided between the training sessions.

Please RSVP to the American Legion Department of ND *by 1/15/2027* 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 _____

Please mark which training session you wish to attend:

____ **Session 1 at 10:00 am:** MyLegion Computer Training

Please complete the following if you are attending Session 1:

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 1/15/2027** in case there are any issues with registering your account and having access to MY GROUPS.

____ **Session 2 at 1:30 pm:** Conducting a meeting, awards, and etc.....



Greetings from the East Region!

It has been a busy couple of months for us here. The district meetings have recently wrapped up with average attendance across the board.

In October, we celebrated the new Commander's Welcome home, and a good time was had by all.

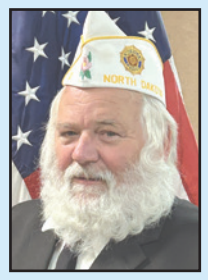
On September 22, Post #8 Mayville, Post #93 Portland, and Post #70 Hatton participated in a suicide awareness walk held between Mayville and Portland to honor the 22 veterans a day who lose their lives to suicide. On October 3, another walk was set up at Lake Elsie in Hankinson. This was a large, well-attended event organized by Randy Larson, Commander of Fairmount Post #106. Congratulations to Randy and his team on a job well done for establishing an event that will continue for years to come.

As Veterans Day approaches on November 11th, please consider attending programs in your area to remember our veterans. Additionally, our Winter Conference is scheduled for January 29–31 in Minot. Please mark your calendars and try to attend.

Finally, remember to conduct Buddy Checks on your fellow veterans, keep the 4 Pillars of the Legion in mind, and have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Best regards,

Harlan Johnson
East Region Vice Commander



Greetings from Central Region Vice Commander We had some great Districts Meetings, but we need to work on getting more people to them.

I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope to see you all at the winter conference.

Have a great Holidays Day.

Robert Wishart
Central Region Vice Commander



Greetings and fall blessings to all!

Your Regional Vice Commander has been traveling; Attending the National convention was the highlight of the summer. Louisville did not disappoint; accommodations were excellent. Local attractions, restaurants and distilleries were all top notch. Call in meetings were very informative as well as the entire convention.

Commander's homecoming was a great time with great food and camaraderie. Fall district meetings were held, thank you to the host posts and district commanders. Attendance was very disappointing with a lack of participation by numerous posts who couldn't send at least one representative. Not sure how to fix this, we are open to suggestions.

Membership goals and percentages are not only important to the department, Post Commanders, District Commanders and Regional Vice Commanders take pride in meeting these goals. It is very difficult to meet these goals when you have lame duck posts with poor leadership and are complacent. The membership year will soon reach the halfway mark and a 30% or less renewal is hard to accept. Holding your members' dues for deposit for weeks and months is not fair to your members. They pay and they deserve their new card. Not completing the duties of the position within the post that you agreed to is detrimental to your post. I remind you of one of General Pattons quotes; LEAD ME- FOLLOW ME- OR GET OUT OF THE WAY!

I wrote this from the heart and remind you to be proud to be member or the largest Veterans organization as well as role model in your community. You are always on parade!!

Scott B Post
West Region Vice Commander

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

Department Commander, Jason Anderson, 449-9424, 1wlb4all@gmail.com
Department Cmdr-Elect, Jacob Volk, 350-0560, msgvolk@yahoo.com
Department Vice Commanders:
Eastern Region, Harlan Johnson, 218-779-9450, harjohnson125@gmail.com
Central Region, Robert Wishart, 550-9998, rjlm@utma.com
Western Region, Scott Post, 641-6780, spost@nccray.com
Department Adjutant, Don Herrly, 293-3120, adjutant@ndlegion.org
Department Finance Officer, Derrick Childs, 351-8476, dchilds62@gmail.com
Department Chaplain, Chad Wilhelm, 799-6740, chad.wilhelm@fargodiocese.org
Department Executive Committee
Eastern Region, Cory Metcalf, 490-0560, motorcross4x@hotmail.com
Central Region, Mamie Havelka, 340-1621, mamie.havelka@gmail.com
Western Region, Herb Quamme, 928-0268, herb.quamme@hotmail.com
DEC Chair, Mike Weyrauch, 641-1105, airepair@nccray.com
Dept. Sergeant-At-Arm, Bryce Crosby, 351-5133, crosby@gondtc.com
NEC, Steve Anderson, 370-0073, usmcanderson7797@gmail.com
Alt NEC, Troy Reemtsma, 968-4515, midnightmoon1969@hotmail.com
Department Judge Advocate, Reed Johnson, 590-0066, reed_johnson@outlook.com
Department Historian, Kris Fehr, 290-1027, krisfehr@hotmail.com
Department Service Officer, Summer Kristianson, 451-4646, summer.kristianson@va.gov
Dept. Membership Chair, Lucinda Bolyard, 256-605-9113, lucinda.bolyard@yahoo.com

District Commanders:
First District, Virginia Kraushaar, 412-1333, ginakraushaar@hotmail.com
Second District, Bryan Ohlhauser, 304-0148, bohlauser@gmail.coom
Third District, David Boucher, 550-9961, dasubou@outlook.com
Fourth District, Cory Haugen, 840-2206, haugc_2010@live.com
Fifth District, Russell Kroshus, 426-5102, rkroshus@bis.midco.net
Sixth District, Kathryn White Bear, 605-569-0481 kwbluvjesus@yahoo.com
Seventh District, Lawrence Montclair, 891-9676, lawrence.montclair@gmail.com
Eighth District, Michael Gant, 226-9696, bluecollar1980@my.com
Ninth District, Ginny Watterson, 770-1819, dgwatterson@gmail.com
Tenth District, Quentin Larson, 403-3893, larsonq@hotmail.com

District Vice Commanders:
First District, Neil Sandvik, 316-706-2297, sandvikviking@gmail.com
Second District, Brandin Weninger, 247-3175, brandin.t.weninger@gmail.com
Third District, John Laducer, 550-5038, melvin.john.laducer@gmail.com
Fourth District, Randy Entzminger, 710-0900, 63falconman@gmail.com
Fifth District, Bruce Zimney, 720-737-6791, bkzim@msn.com
Sixth District, John Holmen, 721-5709, holmenjohn@msn.com
Seventh District, Raymond D Molash, 400-3500, raymondmolash@gmail.com
Eighth District, Lacey Urlacher, 264-0360, llewton@live.com
Ninth District, Michael Hanson, 641-8203, mjhanson@nccray.com
Tenth District, Gordon Vosberg II, 301-9799, sodafisher81@gmail.com

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ND Department Executive Committee: Chairman Mike Weyruach, Dept. Cmdr. Jason Anderson, Finance Officer Derrick Childs, Dept. Adjutant Don Herrly, Cmdr-Elect Jacob Volk, DEC Cory Metcalf, DEC Mamie Havelka, and DEC Herb Quamme.

COMMANDER COMMENTS



JASON ANDERSON - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings ND Legion Family,

I hope this issue of Legion News finds you and your family well. It has been an amazing first five months of my year as the elected leader of the ND Legion and I couldn't be happier and more proud to be where I am and how the Department of North Dakota is doing on a national level.

We just finished up the Fall 2026 District meetings and while they were all largely not very well attended, Adjutant Herrly said it very well, we greatly appreciate the quality of those who where able to attend vs the quantity. So thank you to all the ND Legion Family members who were able to make it to the meetings. Your attendance does not go unnoticed.

I passed along some information about membership goals for the year. The end goal for our Department is 10,206 total members. While this number, I believe, is achievable we will all have to dig deep with-in ourselves and find those new members that I know are out there. It's just a matter of finding them or engaging them the right way and at the right time. My challenge to all of you is to find one new member or engage with someone you know that is a good recruiter and have them get a new member for you. No matter what our final membership number looks like at the end of the year, I know our department is still strong and will continue past me and several more years into the future at least.

American Legion National Commander Jay Bowen's theme for the year is (BPOTS) Be Part of the Solution. This certainly does not have to be limited to Legion activities. Our communities and personal lives can benefit from this as well. No matter how/where we choose to apply it, we should always Be The One to try to make a difference.

I wish all of you a great remainder of 2026 and that the upcoming holidays and start of the new year will bring togetherness and continue to tie the bonds of our comradeship and devotion to mutual helpfulness. May God bless all of us, the great United States of American and the American Legion FAMILY!!





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The Future of the ND Legion

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

Organization

Legal Name of Organization or Individual Applying For Funds	Contact Person for Applicant		Telephone Number
The American Legion Department of North Dakota	Don Herrly		701-293-3120
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
PO Box 5057	West Fargo	ND	58078

Detailed Description of Intended Use of Gaming Funds:

Please circle an option below otherwise it will be used where the greatest need is.

1. **American Legion Department Service Office (Code D-50)**
2. **American Legion Department of North Dakota (Code D-99)**

Applicant agrees to retain documentation of the use of the funds for three years from the date funds are received. Applicant agrees that if the funds are not used for the above stated purpose, or the funds are not used within six months, the funds will be returned to the gaming organization.

Signature of Applicant: Don Herrly

Date

Amount Requested	☐ Request Approved ☐ Request Denied	Approved By	Amount Approved	Check Number	Check Date	Eligible Use Code
						-



We recently concluded our fall District meetings, and, as has been the trend lately, attendance was not quite what we would have liked to have seen. We, your Department Officers, put considerable time and effort into preparing for these meetings and strive to provide information that is relevant and useful to our Posts and members. We are always open to suggestions on how we can improve, and we genuinely want to hear your ideas.

Recently, Robert Greene from Post 6 in Grand Forks offered an excellent suggestion, which I have taken to heart. When presenting awards, we should explain that these awards are based on the information submitted through the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). A Post may very well deserve an award but not receive one simply because the activity was not reported.

This brings me to an important point: The Consolidated Post Report is about much more than winning awards. The information submitted through these reports is used in preparing the testimony our National Commander presents to Congress each year. These numbers help demonstrate what The American Legion does for our communities, our veterans, and our nation. They also help establish the influence and credibility we bring when advocating for legislation that protects and improves veterans' benefits.

If we don't report what we do, how can we expect others to understand the scope of our contributions? These reports are important, and I encourage every Post to take the time to complete them accurately and thoroughly.

As I have often mentioned, one of the highlights of our District meetings for me is the opportunity to associate with what I believe is the greatest group of people in the world—the members of The American Legion Family.

There are so many wonderful people who attend our meetings that I hesitate to single anyone out. However, I am going to make an exception and recognize a few individuals who have been fixtures at District meetings for many years and rarely miss an opportunity to attend.

First is ElRay Fercho of Streeter, who, at 96 years of age, has been a member of The American Legion for 66 years. Next is Oscar Quarne of Grenora, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on December 10th. Oscar has an incredible 82 years of American Legion membership. And Oscar doesn't travel alone. He brings along his young friend, Marvin Skabo, who is a mere 97 years old and has 73 years of Legion membership!

These gentlemen are wonderful examples of the dedication, fellowship, and commitment that make The American Legion Family so special. Their years of service and continued participation are an inspiration to all of us. I have even managed to extract a promise from them that when I pass on, they will make a donation to the North Dakota American Legion Foundation in my memory.

District 4 Vice-Commander Randy Entzminger brought attention to a growing concern affecting many of our smaller Posts: the difficulty of recruiting and maintaining enough volunteers to field color guards and firing squads to provide military honors for our fellow veterans. This shortage presents a real challenge to Posts that want to ensure every veteran receives the dignified and respectful final tribute they deserve for their service to our nation.

Recognizing this need, Randy is working to coordinate volunteers within District 4 who are willing to travel to neighboring communities and assist Posts when called upon. This is an excellent example of Legionnaires working together to ensure that no veteran is denied the honors they have earned.

District 4 has also scheduled its 2027 Spring District meeting. I appreciate the efforts being made to keep our Districts active and moving forward.

One last item I want to emphasize is the importance of keeping your Post informed and making sure your Post records are current. Posts should either update their information directly through MyLegion or contact Department Headquarters with any changes to their and their members contact information.

We mail most of our correspondence using bulk mail rates because we simply cannot afford to send everything first class. Unfortunately, whenever something is returned as undeliverable, it costs us almost a dollar per item. Those dollars add up quickly and represent money that could be put to better use supporting our programs.

It is also extremely helpful to have accurate telephone numbers and email addresses for our members and Post officers. Communicating electronically costs us nothing and allows us to get important information into your hands much more quickly.

This is especially important as we head into a legislative year. We need to become more proactive in sharing information about proposed legislation that affects veterans' benefits. But getting that information to you is only part of the equation. We also need you to take action by contacting your legislators and making your voice heard.

Our influence comes from our numbers, our involvement, and our willingness to speak up on behalf of those who have served. Please make sure your Post is prepared to participate.

As usual, I have more things I'd like to share, but I'm running out of room, so I'll have to bring this to a close.

From all of us here at Department Headquarters—Summer, Sarah, Lori, and me—we wish you and your families an enjoyable holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Thank you for all you do for The American Legion, our veterans, their families, and the communities we serve. Your dedication is appreciated more than you may realize.

Until next time, keep your powder dry, and may God bless a strong and free America!



Greetings Legionnaires,

What a difference a few months can make.

As usual North Dakota is off to a fast start. For the 2027 Membership year we are off to a fast start. We have been sitting in 3rd place for most of this year and on October 29th membership report we moved up to 2nd place in the nation! When I wrote my last article during the 2026 membership year we were sitting at 41st in the nation, so I am very grateful to be the other end of the scale. However, this is not unusual, we have a history of starting the year strong and then going down as the year progresses. I am asking you to keep up the efforts and let's keep North Dakota on top where we belong!

That is an incredible accomplishment, and it belongs to all of you. Every renewal, every phone call, every conversation with a fellow veteran, and every effort at the Post, District, and Department level has helped move us forward. **Thank you**. But we are not finished yet. Let's continue with this momentum and keep pushing forward together.

I also want to sincerely apologize for missing the District meetings. I had been looking forward to seeing everyone, and I am sorry I was unable to be there. To everyone who reached out and buddy checked with me, **thank you from the bottom of my heart. It means more than you know**. Those calls, messages, and check-ins are a reminder of what makes the American Legion more than an organization. We truly do look out for one another.

Now, I am looking forward to January and the opportunity to see everyone at our Winter Conference and Oratorical activities. It will be wonderful to reconnect, catch up, and continue building on the progress we have already made this membership year.

As we head into the holiday season, I also want to take a moment to wish each of you and your families all the best this special time of year brings. May your holidays be filled with peace, good health, laughter, and time spent with the people who mean the most to you. Please also remember those who may be spending the holidays away from family, and take a moment to check on a fellow Legionnaire or veteran who might appreciate hearing a friendly voice.

As I continue through my final year as your Membership Chairman, I remain incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside all of you. We started this year with a challenge before us, and you have already demonstrated what can happen when North Dakota Legionnaires come together with a common purpose.

From 41st in the Nation last year to 2nd this year. What a great Christmas present!

Let's keep going.

Thank you for everything you do for the American Legion, our veterans, our communities, and the great state of North Dakota. I look forward to seeing you in January.

Until then, continue to renew, continue to recruit, continue to buddy check, and most importantly, continue taking care of one another.

Happy Holidays, and may the New Year bring health, happiness, and continued success to you and your families.

For God and Country,

Lucinda Bolyard

Department Membership Chairman

The American Legion, Department of North Dakota

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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As a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Army, I strongly support the American Legion, all Veterans, and our United States Military.
Senator David A. Clemens
District 16
West Fargo/Fargo

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



FATHER CHAD WILHELM - DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

A Season of Remembrance, Gratitude, and Hope
A Message from the Department Chaplain
By Father Chad Wilhelm

As the seasons change across North Dakota and we enter the months of November and December, we find ourselves in a time especially suited for reflection, gratitude, remembrance, and hope. These months remind us not only of our blessings, but also of the sacrifices made by the men and women who served our nation and preserved the freedoms we enjoy today.

For members of The American Legion, this is a particularly important time of year. It is a season when our mission of service to veterans, their families, our communities, and our nation can be lived in very visible and meaningful ways.

The month of November begins with a special opportunity to honor our veterans. Veterans Day is much more than a holiday on the calendar. It is a solemn reminder that liberty is never free. It was purchased and preserved by generations of Americans who were willing to place service before self. Some returned home bearing the scars of war, some returned changed by their experiences, and some never returned home at all.

I encourage every American Legion Post throughout North Dakota to participate actively in Veterans Day observances. Attend local ceremonies. Visit schools and teach young people about service and patriotism. Support community programs remembering our veterans. Display the colors proudly. Most importantly, thank a veteran.

Also a reminder to those who serve as Post Chaplains, you have a unique role in helping our members remember not only the sacrifices of our veterans but also the spiritual strength that sustained many of them through their service time to the good old USA. Consider offering prayers at the Post meetings for veterans, active-duty military personnel, National Guard members, reservists, and military families during your Veterans Day events.

November is also traditionally a month in which we remember those who have gone before us. I would encourage every Legionnaire to visit the grave of a veteran. Visit the grave of a comrade-in-arms, a family member who served, or a friend who answered the call of duty. Stand quietly for a few moments. Offer a prayer. Share a memory. Place a small flag, a flower, or simply your hand upon the marker and say, "Thank you."

Our departed veterans may no longer march in our parades or sit beside us at meetings, but they remain an important part of our American Legion family. Their sacrifices helped shape the organizations, communities, and nation we inherit today. We honor them not only by remembering their names but by continuing the work they began.

Posts may even consider organizing a cemetery visit or memorial service. These events need not be elaborate. Sometimes the simplest gestures carry the greatest meaning. A short prayer service, the placement of flags, or reading the names of departed members can be a powerful witness to the respect we hold for those who served.

As we move into December and the Christmas season, we are reminded that this time of year can be joyful for many but difficult for others. While families gather and communities celebrate, some veterans experience loneliness, grief, illness, financial hardship, or memories of difficult times during military service.

This is where The American Legion shines brightest.

Reach out to the veterans in your community. Visit nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted-living facilities. Check on the widow or widower of a Legionnaire. Call a member who has not attended meetings recently. Send Christmas cards to veterans who may not receive many visitors. Invite those who live alone to holiday meals and community events.

Small acts of kindness can have an extraordinary impact. A brief visit or a simple phone call may remind someone that they are valued, remembered, and never forgotten by their Legion family.

I would also like to encourage all Legionnaires and Post Chaplains to participate in worship services according to their faith traditions during this season. Whether gathering in churches, chapels, synagogues, or other places of worship, we find strength when we come together in prayer and thanksgiving. Many communities hold ecumenical services around Veterans Day and Christmas. These events can be wonderful opportunities to pray for our nation, our veterans, and our military families.

Let us also remember those currently serving our country around the world. While many of us gather with family during the holidays, countless servicemen and women will be standing watch far from home. They deserve our prayers, our gratitude, and our unwavering support.

Another worthy project for Posts during these months is the collection of items for veterans' homes, food pantries, and charitable organizations that assist military families. Service has always been one of the cornerstones of The American Legion. When we serve others, we continue the legacy of those who served before us.

As Chaplains, officers, and members of the Legion, we are called to be bearers of hope. We can encourage those who are struggling, comfort those who mourn, and inspire a new generation to appreciate the blessings of freedom and the cost at which that freedom was secured.

As we close 2026 year and prepare for 2027, may we never forget our departed comrades, may we honor those who continue to serve, and may we remain faithful to the ideals of The American Legion: service, patriotism, and devotion to God and Country.

May God bless our veterans, our active-duty military personnel, their families, and every American Legion Post across North Dakota. May He grant eternal rest to our departed comrades and continue to guide our nation toward peace, justice, and unity.

For God and Country,
Father Chad Wilhelm
Department Chaplain

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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SUMMER KRISTIANSON - DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Veterans outreach goes beyond the borders of our state lines.

While my position is the North Dakota Department Service Officer, I have been fortunate enough to work with veterans from all over the US and various countries to include Canada, Norway, and Moldova. At this year's National Convention in Louisville, KY I assisted the 2nd annual claims clinic. This event is hosted by our National Claims Staff. Although it didn't go as originally planned, it was a great program to be a part of.

We assisted veterans from 21 states and 2 countries (outside the US). I was able to sit and talk with hundreds of veterans on the different concerns they had related to VA claims, but more importantly, the issues they may have accessing veteran service officers in their areas.

What many veterans don't realize is that in North Dakota is a legislative requirement to have County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) in every county (North Dakota Century Code 37-14-18). This person can be full-time or part-time, depending on the individual needs of each county. One person is permitted to serve multiple counties which benefits smaller counties to have a knowledgeable person in the position and counties can share the cost of the position.

Being a Veteran Service Officer is more than filling out paperwork. Veteran Service Officers need to have compassion and empathy to those who they are serving but also know when they need to set boundaries as this job is often taxing. They need to understand multiple facets of VA law both on the benefits side and healthcare side to adequately assist veterans and their families and understand local benefits to assist veterans where the VA simply can't.

While the goal of most Veteran Service Officers is to help everyone, we often can't do it all. This is where having additional resources comes in handy. As the Department Service Officer for North Dakota, I rely on my County Veteran Service Officers to be front lines of working with our veterans while I work behind the scenes to ensure VA correctly adjudicating claims. If you have a veteran that needs assistance, feel free to reach out to your local County Veteran Service Officer. You can find their contact information at https://www.veterans.nd.gov/about/find-a-service-officer - if you are unable to locate one, reach out and I will be happy to connect you with someone local!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



MIKE WEYRAUCH - DEC CHAIR

Fall DEC Meeting by Mike Weyrauch – DEC Chairman

10 Oct 2026

The fall DEC meeting was held in conjunction with Commander Anderson's home coming. Convened at 1305

Items addressed were:

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Resignation of Allen Magnuson from West Region DEC

Appointment of Herb Quamme to West Region DEC

Financials were acknowledged subject to audit

Committee reports were given as follows:

Americanism/ C&Y by Jason

Boys State by Jason & Mike

Junior Law Cadet, on hold

Legislative by Mamie

Membership by Jason we are #3 in the nation at present

Oratorical by Mike

VA&R by Scott Post

No report on Foundation or SAL

Legion Riders & NEC by Steve Anderson

DSO by Jason & Mike

New Business:

ACOVA interviews only 1 person has submitted at this time, Interviews will be at winter conference.

VA&R needs to order tee shirts, sweatshirts & hoodies once an inventory is completed by Scott

Discussion on a change to the constitution & bylaws to have the new officers to be sworn in at Department Convention but not take office until the end of the National Convention. Jason to write a resolution for Department Convention

Be the One Trainer Class was discussed, with inquiries to be made to see just how many are interested in taking this, with other organizations being asked also (EMS, Fire, Hospital ECT) With thoughts of having a trainer be in ND versus sending all to Indianapolis.

National Convention Hospitality room fee was voted to increase from $30 to $40 due to the cost of supplies.

Also, we will have a donation container in that room for anyone that wishes to make a donation.

Department Convention hospitality room was discussed, those that are running for office will be asked to contribute.

Department Hospitality room at National Convention will be kept open until Wednesday

Merger of Post 307 Sibley with Post 18 Hope was approved

Discussion on Department officers that are not listed as convention Delegates be allowed a $500.00, changed to request to ask the Department Delegation Selection Chairman to move any that wish to attend be moved up as available.

Adjourned 1515

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER



DANIEL SAUERWEIN - DETACHMENT COMMANDER

From the Detachment Commander: Working Hard in 2027

Greetings American Legion Family! I hope your summer and early fall have been good and that you are working hard on membership and engaged in your local Legion Family activities.

Convention went well and your Detachment leadership team is excited to work with you this year. Daniel Sauerwein was elected Detachment Commander, Keith Kinneberg as Vice Commander, Jay Nesdahl was elected Detachment Adjutant, Gerald Peutz as Chaplain, Ryan Kaste as Sergeant at Arms, Dan Brown is serving as our National Executive Committeeman, and Todd Rikke is our Alternate NEC.

On July 7, I attended the program and dinner at Post 1, which included the visit of Legion National Commander Dan Wiley. It was a great time for our Legion Family to gather and celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary and visit with our National Commander.

On September 11, Department Commander Jason Anderson and I attended the 9/11 memorial program at the Global War on Terror Memorial at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck.

Department Commander Anderson, who is also a Dual Member in the SAL has challenged the Detachment to earn the Triple Nickel Award this year, which we still have time to do, as it requires 105% of membership, 85% renewals, and chartering five new Squadrons. We have done it before and can do it again.

Speaking of membership, as of this writing, the Detachment sits at 443 members of our 1159 goal, or 38%. Let's keep hitting our target dates and get those renewals in and recruit. I would like to see us hit 1200 members, but for the 105%, we'll need to hit 1217. Again, we all can reach this with hard work and determination. We're sitting at 15th in the nation and 2nd in our Region, so let's be the top in Region and keep in the top 10 nationally and show National how great we are in North Dakota.

I hope you all were able to attend your community Veterans Day programs and support the Legion Family. Also, as the holidays are upon us, keep our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers and find ways to help them this time of year. Also keep up on those Buddy Checks.

Winter Conference will be in Minot January 29-31 and I urge as many SAL members to attend and participate so we can have a good showing, especially at our mid-year business meeting, but also to socialize and have fun. I look forward to seeing you there.

It is my honor to serve as the Detachment Commander for North Dakota and please reach out to us with any questions. Have a great holiday season and I'll see you in Minot.

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American Legion Post 37

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Message

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www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

2027 Winter Conference

The Department of North Dakota welcomes and is honored to host National Auxiliary President Dr. Coral May Grout at its 2027 Winter Conference. President Grout will serve as keynote speaker at the Saturday morning Auxiliary workshops. Winter Conference is scheduled for January 29-31.

President Grout is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Eugene M. Connor Unit 193 in the Department of Massachusetts. Her eligibility comes from her father, Charles E. Grout, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines and Australia during World War II and her grandfather who served in the US Army during WWI.

She served in several unit, District, and Department-level chairs and offices, including the District Education chair for 25 years and Department President three times. Dr. Grout also served on the national level as: chair of Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Education (twice), Americanism, Constitution & Bylaws, Public Relations, Legislative, Leadership, Community Service, Junior Activities committees, on the National Executive Committee, as well as having served as national secretary, national historian, and national vice president.

Dr. Grout retired from her position as Superintendent of Schools in Acushnet, Mass., in 2006. To stay busy, she accepted an offer to work for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as an evaluator of under performing school districts and an evaluator for RETELL — a required program to ensure that students who do not speak English receive proper instruction and assistance. Coral left DESE at the end of the 2025 school year. Her education includes an A.B. in Psychology & Education from Mount Holyoke College; M.Ed. in Secondary Administration from Boston College; and Ed.D. in Educational Planning, Research, and Administration from the University of Massachusetts. Coral's religious involvement is with St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church in Baldwinville, Mass., where she is a leader, Eucharistic minister, and assists with fund raising.

Dr. Grout has served on multiple town committees and recently retired after nine years as town moderator. She volunteers with the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery, the Winchendon Historical Society where she served as secretary of the board, financial supporter of the Clark Memorial YMCA and the Charles E. Grout Memorial Golf Tournament, Catholic Financial Life Insurance Corporation Board Member for eight years, USJB Education Foundation Board Member, and has held positions with the Mount Holyoke College Class of 1975 for the past 50 years. For the past 30 years, she's been a national presenter on the topics of educational leadership and grant writing to audiences of 10 to 1000.

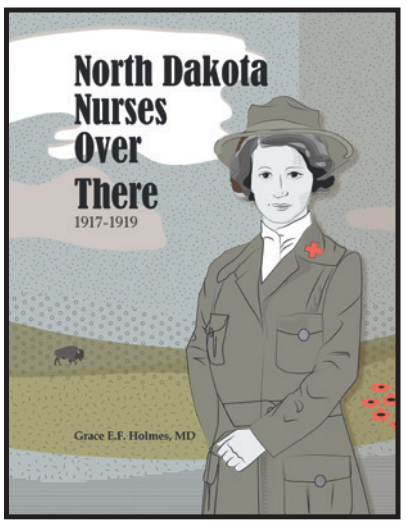


Dr. Coral May Grout National President

Dr. Grout enjoys traveling and has visited more than 50 countries. In addition, she walks four to five miles per day and completed The American Legion Family's USA 250 Challenge by walking 250 miles. She enjoys gardening, as well as golfing. She's the only living member of her family and lives with her 8-year old tiger cat in their 100-year-old home in Massachusetts and spends winters in Florida.

Biography portion courtesy National Auxiliary Office

McVille Unit Remembers Special Author



Several years ago, our unit acquired a list of members in Department Unit 500 from the Department Office. In just days, letters were written and mailed to approximately 150 Unit 500 members. The letter described our unit and the activities we sponsored and supported, and we asked if they might consider being part of our unit.

We were pleased with the result when a dozen took us up on our offer and transferred their membership to an active, working unit. We were excited to gain new members and did whatever we could to make them feel welcome.

Upon receiving an updated roster, we realized we were blessed to have Grace E.F. Holmes, MD, join our unit. Dr. Holmes is the esteemed author of the book 'North Dakota Nurses Over There – 1917-1919.' If you are not familiar with Dr. Holmes, she and her husband Fred Holmes researched articles written by North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary members detailing the service of ND nurses in World War I. Dr. Holmes gifted the book rights and a large supply of books to the Department after its completion. Book sales support the Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD, Nursing Scholarship and are still available for purchase through the Department Office.

To make this even more special, a young member of Unit 135, Mallory Kvilvang, applied for and was awarded a Past Presidents Parley scholarship in 2025 while working toward her registered nursing degree at the University of North Dakota. It was special to be a part of Dr. Holmes' generosity not only for Mallory but the McVille unit as well.

Now for the basis of this article. Dr. Holmes passed away recently in Lenexa, Kansas, where she and her husband Fred made their home. A donation of $100 was made by the unit to the Past Presidents Parley Scholarship in honor of Dr. Holmes. Thank you for reading about our special member, Dr. Grace Holmes.

Rest in peace Dr. Holmes.

Submitted by: Judy Twete, Unit President

York Unit Receives 2026 Northwestern Division Community Service Award

Members of the York Post and Unit 268 sponsored a community event on Saturday, April 25, 2026. It was designed to bring together members, veterans, and the public for a day of fun, service, and connection. The event featured food, raffles, a live band, and camaraderie.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Submitted by: Shelley Schuster



Pictured left: Shelley Schuster, 2025-2026 Department Community Service Chairman, presents the 2026 Outstanding Community Service Award citation plaque to Candace Berg, Past Department President (2025-2026) and member of the Sidney Britsch Unit 268 York, ND.

Bismarck Unit Celebrates USA 250

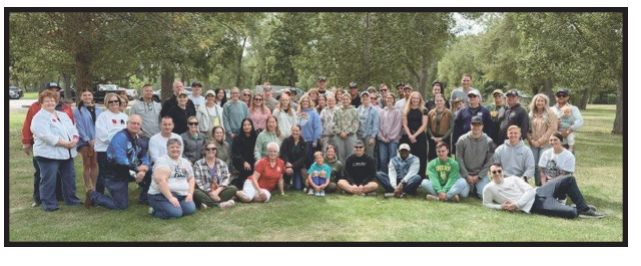
ALA Loyd Spetz Unit 1 Bismarck was busy this past summer. The unit sponsored meaningful activities honoring and supporting veterans in their community. In celebration of 'USA 250', members collected donations and 'wish list' items for residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home-Lisbon, successfully reaching the goal of 250 items. The donated items and funds were delivered during an afternoon visit to Lisbon. Unit members were given a tour of the facility to learn more about its important work and meet many of the residents. The tour, lead by Susie Schlecht, Marketing/Admission Coordinator, ended with a presentation of donations and funds by Unit 1 officers: Latoya Carpenter, President; Margie Pulkrabek, Secretary; and Cheryl Fenster, Vice President.

Members of Unit 1 attended the Post 1 American Legion Family picnic and the Post 1 American Legion Family Dinner Cruise on the Missouri River. Both events included tasty food and wonderful fellowship enjoyed by all in attendance.

The Loyd Spetz unit is now working together on another 'USA 250' event: writing 'thank you' notes and cards for veterans in the local area and making personal outreach efforts. The goal is to complete the writing project in October, so the cards are ready for delivery in time for Veterans Day.

Members of Unit 1 enjoy spending time together and supporting the activities we sponsor along with American Legion Post members. We meet in the lower level of the AMVETS building at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of the month. Come join us!

Submitted by Mamie Havelka



American Legion Auxiliary 2027 Winter Conference

January 29-31, 2027
(Tentative schedule/subject to change)

Grand Hotel
1505 N Broadway, Minot, ND
Hotel Direct Phone: 701-852-3161

Cutoff for Room Block is December 27th, 2026
Room Rate is $99

Friday, January 29

2:00 – 7:00 PM	Auxiliary Registration - Hotel Lobby (closes at 7:00 PM)
3:00 PM	Department Executive Committee Meeting
4:00 PM	TAL - Americanism/Children & Youth Committees (Auxiliary welcome)
7:00 PM	Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 30

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Auxiliary Registration (closes at 12:00 PM)
9:00 AM	Joint Session
10:00 AM	Auxiliary Workshops – ***Keynote Speaker: Coral May Grout, ALA National President***
1:00 PM	American Legion Family Programs Joint Session Session
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Oratorical Contest Finals *sponsored by American Legion*
5:00 PM	Winter Conference Banquet Social
6:00 PM	Winter Conference – Banquet

Sunday, January 31

7:00 AM	Catholic Mass
9:00 AM	Joint Worship Service

Department President



Season's Greetings, Auxiliary Members!

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2026 Fall District Meetings. I would like to share a few updates with everyone. All members are welcome at District and conference meetings, and we would love to see more units represented. Far fewer than half of North Dakota's units were represented at this fall's District meetings. We know attending is not always possible. If you are unable to join us, please consider asking another member to represent your unit.

National Auxiliary President Dr. Coral May Grout will be our guest at the 2027 Winter Conference. Please make plans to join us at the Grand Hotel in Minot, North Dakota, on January 29–31.

My 2027 President's Project is to raise funds for a scholarship to help a veteran or a veteran's child attend trade school. The scholarship application will be available in the fall of 2027. In honor of America's 250th birthday, I encourage Auxiliary members to save a nickel a day for 250 days—a total of $12.50. A heartfelt thank you to all members who have already donated $12.50 or more. Your generosity supports a worthy cause and is deeply appreciated.

Please update your unit's constitution and bylaws to reflect the new membership eligibility language adopted at the 2026 National Convention.

The Department is developing a new strategic plan to help our Auxiliary grow. Each unit should also develop its own strategic plan. Watch for more information in upcoming monthly mailing packets.

Although I would love to visit with all of you, I have decided not to hold a homecoming because of my northern location, fuel costs, and limited hotel availability. If you had planned to attend, please consider donating a portion of what you would have spent on travel to my President's Project scholarship instead. Your support would mean so much.

Wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday Season. See you in Minot!

Sandy Smith

Department President-Elect



Greetings!

I would like to introduce myself. I was installed as President-Elect at Department Convention in June. I joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 2003 through the military service of my father, Ronald E. Chapman. He served with Company B, 62nd Signal Battalion in Japan from 1946 to 1947. During his service, he was a Tech 4 and first mechanic supervising eighteen mechanics. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal for Japan.

My Auxiliary experience includes serving as Unit Secretary, Unit President, District 2 Vice President, District 2 President and Department Vice President. This year will be a learning experience as I prepare for the next step up in 2027.

I would like to thank all the units that hosted Fall District meetings. You all did an amazing job! It was so much fun seeing and meeting everyone and so many ideas were shared at the gatherings.

As you have your unit meetings, encourage your Junior and new members to attend. It is important to get those members more active, as they are our future. So often, experienced members find it easier to just do it themselves. However, if we do not include new members and mentor them, they will eventually walk away. Who will do the job then? We all need to work together to keep the Auxiliary going.

If you have any suggestions on how your unit engages new members, please let me know. I would love to share with other units.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Winter Conference.

Shelley Schuster

Department Secretary



Season's Greetings.

Wow! Where did the time go? It seems like just yesterday we were mowing the lawn or enjoying an outdoor football game. Now we are preparing for family gatherings and the holidays in the coming weeks, as well as the 2027 Winter Conference scheduled for January 29–31, 2027, in Minot, ND.

National Auxiliary President Dr. Coral May Grout will be our guest at the Winter Conference. I encourage everyone to come meet President Grout and visit with her personally. You'll find more conference information elsewhere in this publication, including the tentative conference schedule and the registration/banquet order form. Don't wait—make your reservations soon and plan to join us for the 2027 Winter Conference! Although the hotel no longer has an operating restaurant, the American Legion Department staff have arranged for buffet meals at the conference.

Department staff will be available during the Auxiliary workshops to answer questions about the recent American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) upgrade. If you are having trouble finding your ALAMIS link, please bring a laptop with you.

Membership and mandatory contributions have been coming in steadily. If your unit has not yet submitted its contributions or poppy orders, please do so before January 1. Unfortunately, large poppies are not available to order. We apologize for the inconvenience.

I'm looking forward to Winter Conference and seeing many of you there. Enjoy time with your family, and remember to take time to care for yourself, too.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

See you in Minot!

Marcy Schmidt

Department Treasurer



A heartfelt thank you to Auxiliary units across North Dakota! Contributions have been pouring in, and your generosity has been tremendous. Thanks to your support, we will have substantial funds to disburse at the end of this calendar year.

As many of you know, we disburse funds at the end of December and again at the end of June for contributions received after the first of the year. Please submit your mandatory contributions (green sheets) by November 1, as many of the organizations we support have fiscal years ending on December 31. Your generous donations may help them reach their fund raising goals for the year.

Wreaths Across America accepts checks only around November 1, when wreaths are ordered for our veterans' cemeteries. Contributions received after that time are held for the following year. Each of these organizations appreciates your support.

Thank you for your generosity. You truly embody the spirit of "Service, not Self."

Susan Degner, CPA

Department Chaplain



Auxiliary Members,

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood!" Where have you heard that jingle before? A couple of weeks ago I was in Door County, WI, and I thought of this phrase. Today, I stepped outside my front door here in North Dakota and witnessed every color you can imagine. I have been to the east coast to see the fall foliage but never experienced what I saw today. The Bible does not mention autumn, but it does frequently speak of the seasonal changes of seeding time and harvest time and the changing of the year. In Ecclesiastes 3, it says, "He hath made everything beautiful."

We are reminded that transitions are natural and part of God's plan. In Galatians, we are encouraged as he says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." It is a difficult concept for many farmers harvesting in parts of the state this year. We found that without timely rain there is little to harvest. But He does encourage us and says, "not to grow weary in doing good, promising that they will reap a harvest in due season" and commands us to remain faithful in and out of season.

So, in seasons such as this, we see that we are not in control, but we can control how we respond. Difficult situations are not here to destroy us but are here to teach us and make us stronger. It is a time to surround ourselves with positive people who encourage, support, and believe in us.

Keep trusting even when you do not see the results you wish for. Sometimes good things take time. If this gives you comfort, know that if there is food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, and a roof over your head, you are more fortunate than 75% of all people in the world. If your body is healthy today, you are luckier than a million people who will not survive the week. And finally, if you can read my message in this newsletter and understand it, you are more fortunate than three billion people who cannot. So, take a deep breath and be thankful for everything you have. You are already living someone else's prayer.

Blessings to all.

Virginia Satrom

Department NEC



Greetings, Auxiliary Members!

I am pleased to share the following updates including: member benefits, national scholarships, governing documents, and membership. A new partnership with Consumer Cellular will expand member benefits while providing an additional source of non-dues revenue for the national organization.

Work is underway to move our national scholarship applications to a new platform. This transition aims to simplify the application process, improve efficiency, and provide a more consistent experience for applicants and those administering scholarships throughout the organization.

The updated national constitution and bylaws document is now available online at www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Constitution-Bylaws and includes amendments from the 2025 National Convention, the 2026 mid-year NEC meeting, and the 2026 National Convention.

The national membership team continues to address issues following the recent American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) upgrade, with a focus on improving the program's functionality.

I look forward to sharing more information about member benefits, governing documents, and membership as it becomes available.

Thank you, Auxiliary members. Your membership is sincerely appreciated!

Sandra Petermann

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Search: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary

District 5



Season's Greetings to All!

November and December bring holidays and opportunities to celebrate our veterans and families. We are especially thankful to all the units that honored veterans on Veterans Day. The holiday season also offers an opportunity to remember veterans in our communities, at the VA Medical Center in Fargo, and at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. We can support Wreaths Across America by making contributions and volunteering to place wreaths at cemeteries.

We had a wonderful joint Fall District meeting with District 7 at the Prairie Knights Casino in Fort Yates. Sandy Smith, Department President, and Shelley Schuster, Department Membership Chairmen, joined us, and we were treated to a delicious taco bar.

In other big news, I am excited to announce that Latoya Carpenter has agreed to serve as Vice President of District 5. Thank you, Latoya!

I look forward to seeing you at the 2027 Winter Conference in Minot, ND, on January 29–31.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Arliss Koski
District 5 President

District 10



Season's Greetings!

We held our Fall District meeting on October 24th in Gwinner. I want to thank members of the Gwinner Unit for preparing and serving the delicious meal! We were honored to have Department President Sandy Smith in attendance, along with Shelley Schuster, Department President-Elect & Membership Chairperson.

President Sandy discussed her project to provide a scholarship for a veteran or a veteran's child to attend a trade school.

Department Membership Chairman Shelley discussed the latest membership eligibility language. Hopefully, every unit will be able to recruit some new members! With this new eligibility rule, you will need to update your unit's constitution and bylaws.

I am available to attend your unit meetings. Feel free to call me if you would like me to visit. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving and many blessings for the holiday season.

Leila Ptacek
District 10 President

Constitution & Bylaws



Greetings,

Fall has caught up with us and before we know it, the 2027 Winter Conference will be here. Diane Kraemer and Department staff are assisting me to fine tune our Department Constitution and Bylaws documents to implement the amendments and corrections presented and adopted at the 2026 Department Convention.

As some of you may already know, all units will need to update their Unit Constitution and Bylaws to reflect the new official membership language that was adopted at the 2026 National Convention in August. Please refer to Shelley Schuster's article in the November unit mail packet for the new wording for membership eligibility.

If after updating your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws documents, you would like it archived for future reference, please send a copy to the Department Office and ask to have it archived.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our organization.

Larissa Schmitz
Department Chairman

Community Service



Hello Auxiliary Members!

I am Charlotte Lassonde, your new Department Community Service Chairman for 2026–2027.

Recently, I met with the National Community Service Chairman, the National President, the Divisional Vice President, and other Department Chairmen. We discussed what activities qualify as Community Service and what does not. The discussion was informative and eye-opening. If you have questions about whether an activity qualifies as Community Service, please contact the Department Office or me for clarification.

I am reviewing materials for additional information so I can share accurate guidance with you. In the meantime, please continue your local Community Service efforts and consider taking on one additional task if you are able.

Thank you for your dedication to serving your communities.

Charlotte Lassonde
Department Chairman

Children & Youth



Hello Legion Family.

I want to remind everyone that this is the season to help our North Dakota youth.

At your next unit meeting, find ways to help youth in your area. Take a day to get out and volunteer at a community event. Consider sponsoring a community hat and mitten tree or a blanket drive and deliver your collections to your local school or social service office. Remember to wear your American Legion Auxiliary branded gear. Let it be known that the American Legion Auxiliary supports youth in communities across the state.

This might be an opportunity to find a deserving candidate for the Good Deed or the Youth Hero Awards. To learn more about award criteria and to submit an online nomination, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards for details and instructions.

April is the Month of the Military Child. Plan to celebrate 'Purple Up Day' on April 15, 2027, to support military kids in your community. Order 'Purple Up' supplies early. Request booth spaces from your local school so you can distribute information to those in attendance. Invite veterans to join in and watch the positive interactions between students and Legionnaires!

Jill Renville
Department Chairman

Junior Activities



Hello Junior Auxiliary Members,

I invite all Junior members to get involved with your unit and attend their monthly meetings. Ask the Unit President if you can assist with future meetings, perhaps by volunteering to take minutes, leading the singing of the National Anthem, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, or leading the Preamble.

Junior members are our future! Unit Presidents and officers, encourage your Junior members and young Sons of the American Legion (SAL) members to work on the "Patch Program" which can be completed at home. More information can be found by searching "Patch Program" at www.alaforveterans.org. If you can get just one Junior to enjoy attending meetings, perhaps more will follow. "One member at a time!"

Join the ALA Northwestern Division Junior Activities Group on Facebook or the ALA Juniors in Instagram. Wouldn't it be nice to sponsor a Junior section or activity at an upcoming Winter Conference and Department Convention?

I will be sending a letter to Unit Presidents to ask, "What are your Juniors doing?" I anticipate that together we can produce strategies to get our Juniors involved. Units let us get our North Dakota Juniors involved and active. Start with your December meeting and invite Junior members to join you.

God Bless.

Jane Schoonover
Department Chairman

Membership



Hello Auxiliary Members!

Great news! North Dakota reached 50% of membership goal by the National deadline. Thank you for all your hard work!

At the 2026 National Convention, The American Legion passed an amendment for new membership eligibility to the Auxiliary. The new eligibility now reads: grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two (2) degrees of consanguinity of members of the American Legion. This action may help grow our membership by opening eligibility to male family members.

Fall District meetings were fun and informative with units sharing ideas to grow membership. Everyone is working hard! Several units plan membership drives at Veterans Day events. One unit will pay first year dues for new Junior and Senior members who join that day, while some units will offer a Veterans Day meal discount to those who sign up that evening. All units want to welcome new members and help them understand how the American Legion Auxiliary's programs support veterans and their families, our communities, and our youth.

I recently attended the first quarterly Zoom meeting on membership and heard so many great ideas! Suggestions included Christmas gifts and holding cash drawings for early-bird applications, with prizes such as $50 or payment of first year dues. Other ideas included a cash award for the unit that reaches the deadline first, and some units held drawings for PUFL (paid up for life) memberships. Don't forget to include Juniors in your membership drives! If you have an idea to increase membership, please share it with me so I can share it with other members.

There may still be questions about the Auxiliary's new eligibility requirements.

Question: Can stepchildren who joined years ago retain their membership as long as they remain current with their dues?

Answer: Yes. If they joined when stepchildren were eligible, they may retain their membership. However, if their membership lapses, they will need a new veteran to reestablish eligibility.

Question: If a couple has been together for many years and has children but has never married, can she qualify for membership through her veteran partner? Our state does not recognize common-law marriage. What if a state does recognize common-law marriage—can a person qualify through their veteran partner?

Answer: No. The couple must be legally married.

Good luck with your membership and continue the excellent work!

"Be a Beacon for those who serve." Let's keep our Beacon shining bright to welcome new faces!

See you at 2027 Winter Conference in January!

Shelley Schuster
Department Chairman

VA&R



Fargo VA Medical Center updates include facility projects and care improvements, volunteer and donor-supported programs, and upcoming opportunities to help Veterans.

The Mental Health Outpatient Building and the Primary Care Addition are expected to open in spring 2027.

Veteran-Assisted Parking: A contract has been awarded, and services began on October 19, 2026. Veterans with mobility issues will be able to use this valet-style service. Veterans will drop off their vehicles at the main entrance, where trained contractors will park them in a designated area. When a veteran is ready to leave, the contractor will retrieve the vehicle for the veteran.

To train and retain more future medical providers in the ND/MN area, the Fargo VAMC is partnering with the University of North Dakota to create more opportunities for medical students to train at the VA.

Property at 601 4th St. N. in Fargo has been procured for the proposed Fisher House. VA officials are currently working with the city of Fargo on utility access and connections. Once these details are finalized, the Fisher House Foundation will begin construction.

The Fargo VA plans to triple the size of the Bismarck CBOC (community-based outpatient clinic). The expanded services will directly benefit veterans in Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, and Minot.

The Fargo VA invites youth ages 14–17 to volunteer in various hospital roles through its Summer Youth Program. From June through September, six youth volunteers contributed 276 hours of volunteer time. The application window for summer 2027 will be announced in April.

VA personnel have announced programs that CDCE (Volunteer Services) has been able to fund through donors' kindness and generosity. These include Vet Fest supplies and food provided by the American Legion Post 21 of Moorhead; birthday mugs for inpatient veterans; baby shower supplies, meals, and gifts; meals and gifts of clothing to meet emergent needs and protect safety and dignity; and the Women Veterans Whole Health Retreat in Minot.

Last year, more than 7,000 entries were submitted nationwide to the Creative Arts Festival. Three entries from the Fargo site placed at the national festival. Thanks to generous donors, one of the local winners traveled to South Carolina to participate in the national event. This year, participants will submit their artwork between February and March rather than being required to compete in a local showcase. Winners will then be selected and ultimately invited to Orlando, Florida, in November 2027.

The Gift Shop at the Fargo VAMC will be held on Wednesday, December 2 beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers are invited to help. Residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home will again be treated to a catered Christmas dinner; the date and time will be announced.

Carol Wolf
Department Chairman

Wahpeton Unit Celebrates Education Month

In recognition of Education Month in October, Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 in Wahpeton collected snacks for the after-school program at Wahpeton Public School. They donated games, puzzles, and crayons for indoor activities during inclement weather at St. John's School.

American Legion Family organizations of Wahpeton also donated a U.S. flag to St. John's School. In addition to the flag, 'Pledge of Allegiance' booklets were donated to Wahpeton Public School, St. John's School, and Fairmount Public School.

Submitted by: Dianne Millar, Unit 20 Secretary/ Historian





Gackle-Streeter Elementary students with Scholastic books purchased with donations from the Gackle Auxiliary unit. Submitted by Elaine Ackerman, Gackle Unit President.



Congratulations to three Department Poppy Poster winners from Gackle-Streeter School. Pictured (l-r): Lyndi Homola, Alexa Dominguez, and Charlee Nenow. Way to go! Submitted by Elaine Ackerman, Gackle Unit President.



Hankinson unit parade float during the 4th of July 'USA 250' celebration. Submitted by Donna Berg, unit member.

2027 Winter Conference Pre-Registration

Pre-order your conference banquet tickets for $45, no later than Friday, January 8, 2027
Banquet tickets will increase to $50 after January 8, 2027
(Menu: Roast Turkey, Yukon Potatoes and Carrots)
Auxiliary Registration is $15

Meetings – January 29-31, 2027
Grand Hotel, 1505 North Broadway, Minot, ND

Phone: 701-852-3161

Member Name	Registration $15	Banquet $45		Total

Please send this form along with payment to the
American Legion Auxiliary Department Office, 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
Auxiliary registrations and banquet tickets orders
received after January 8, 2027, will be held for on-site registration.

In Memoriam

District 1
Patsy A. Herrmann, Casselton
Alice Verke, Hatton
Joyce Larson, Galesburg
Marjorie V. Pitcher, Walhalla
Elizabeth Stewart, Fargo

District 2
Erma J. Matejcek, Lakota
Clarice Dusek, Grafton
Jean A. Ill, St. Thomas
Anna M. Gerszewski, Minto

District 3
Emily A. Halley, HLM, Cando
Eva Kessler, HLM, Cando
Linda Schmidt, Cando
Geraldine A. Schneider, PUFL, Langdon
Mercedes Motschenbacker, PUFL, Maddock
Tammy Tufte, York

District 4
Lillian Gunsch, Jamestown
Janice J. McCarty, Wimbledon
Mariana E. Rumer, PUFL, Wimbledon
Ranee M. Vyvyan, Gackle

District 5
Mildred L. Leidholm, Washburn
Mary A. Kemmit, Turtle Lake

District 6
Joyce Buen, Velva
Barbara Glessing, Mohall
Susan K. Mathiason, Mohall
Deanna R. Reed Olson, Mohall

District 7
Valerie K. Albrecht, Hazen
Gloria Doll, PUFL, New Salem

District 8
Janice A. Schulz, Mott

District 9
Vivian Anne Kalmik, Williston
Louise Rystedt, Powers Lake

District 10
Carolyn E. Berry, PUFL, Lamoure
Cynthia Fast, Lamoure
Mercedes R. Nishek, Ellendale
Ruth A. Rall, Milnor
Rita Preble, Rutland

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,

The year is slipping away, but Neil Sandvik, District VC and I are still hoping to come to one of your Post meetings before our term is up. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the District 1 meeting. It was held at the Harwood American Legion on September 14 at 7 p.m. We have a total of 29 Posts in our District; 12 Posts were represented and 41 members attended; this averages out to 41.3% of our District Posts were in attendance.

Neil Sandvik, District VC: Cooperstown is working hard to get new members and keep interest alive in the community. Several articles have been written by both Neil and Dennis Kubitski regarding "military heroes" within their communities.

Wayne Wermager, Post 2, Fargo reported that this year's Boy's State attendance was up from last year but would still like to increase the numbers. If you have questions about recruiting in your town/city, please contact Wayne Wermager, Fargo, Post 2, or Woody Folstad, Harwood, Post 297. Wayne said that one place he has been successful in recruiting is through the Home School Association. Between Woody and Wayne, they were responsible for almost 25% of all of those in attendance this year! Kudos to both for an excellent job.

The Teddy Bear program is still going strong. If your representative needs more teddy bears, please contact me and I will make sure to pass the message along to the right person.

District 1 is looking for someone interested in chairing the Oratorical Program. If you are interested, please contact me or Don Herrly, Adjutant. A big thank you to Dave Rice for all of his years of service and dedication to the Oratorical Program. Dave, you will be missed!

VA&R Chair, Cathy Keogh, reported on the different walks in support of mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Each of the Regional Vice Cmdrs. has totes with t-shirts and hoodies to sell at these events. Please notify me or Harlan Johnson, East Region VC if you want shirts to sell at your events.

Continue to work on your membership and on recruiting new members. It is also time to think about those members who are going above and beyond and to nominate them for Legionnaire of the year! Don't forget our Winter Conference is scheduled January 28 -31st in Minot. I hope to see lots of you there!



David Boucher
3rd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 3,

I can't believe the end of the year is right around the corner. I hope all is going well with you.

I thank all of you for working on membership; keep up the good work. Let's get to 100% as quickly as possible, and let's look for new members.

Keep in mind that the winter conference is at the end of January, please make it a point to attend.

We had our district 3 meeting; it was disappointing to see the low turnout. We need all our Post Commanders to encourage members to attend. Meetings are a way to keep up with other members of other posts. It is really a great time. The meetings are kept focused and to the point.

Remember to reach out to all veterans for a Buddy Check; have a meal, coffee or just a conversation with them.

Stay safe. I will be making it a point to attend post meeting after this fall. It will be great to see you at your meetings before our spring district meeting.



Russell Kroshus
5th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 5,

Remembering why we became members.

Help advocate for veterans' benefits, health care, education, and earned services.

Make an Impact in Your Community

Volunteer for local programs, and community projects..

Support Youth Programs

Mentor the next generation through American Legion Baseball, Boys State, scholarships, and leadership development programs.

Build Lifelong Friendships

Connect with veterans who understand the unique experiences of military service.

Be a Voice for Veterans

A stronger membership means a stronger voice in local, state, and national issues affecting veterans and their families.

Continue Your Legacy of Service

Use your skills, leadership, and experience to make a lasting difference.

Thanks for all you do for North Dakota American Legion Baseball



Kathryn White Bear
6th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 6,

May this find you all well!

On October 3, 2026, the District 6 Fall meeting was held in Velva at the Joseph I Weller Post 39, 201 Main St. Velva, ND. I would like to thank Commander John Holmen and host Post 39 for putting on such a well-organized, fun, and welcoming event! Great job everyone!

Out of the 24 Posts in District 6, six posts were actively represented by 17 dedicated Legionnaires. We also were honored to have key representations from both the Department Officers and the Auxiliary. Their support and knowledgeable insights are appreciated.

While our official meeting turnout was smaller, our district-wide membership strength remains steady and reflects the underlying commitment of our active membership base. As I write this article, at the end of October, the District 6 membership standing is 68%, and we have already hit the 2027 November target. To help hit a 100% goal by December 2027, we must stay focused on both bringing in new faces and keeping our current members engaged. Every member matters.

Veterans Day salute and thank you Veterans across the Country for protecting our freedom. Your courage, sacrifices, and dedication are not forgotten. Hope you had an awesome Veterans Day!

Thank you all for your time, hard work, and continued dedication to our American Legions purpose.

God Bless!



Ginny Watterson
9th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 9,

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying life. The District 9 Joint Fall Meeting was held in Ray on October 3, 2026, with 6 out of 13 posts attending and total of 22 Legionnaires present. I was hoping for a better turnout but do appreciate those who did show up, especially 99-year-old Oscar Quarne, from Post 116 Grenora, who has never missed a District meeting that I'm aware of! We sang an early Happy 100th Birthday to him. We had a good meeting with lots of information given out along with awards. A big thank you to the Tioga and Wildrose Auxiliary for providing salads and desserts.

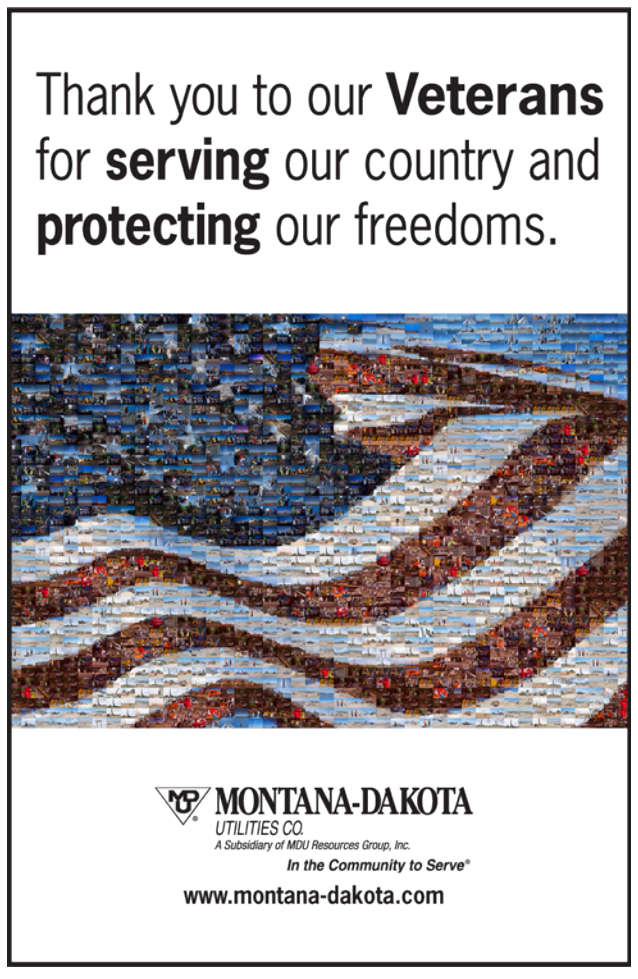
The dates are set for District Oratorical Contest to be held January 30, 2027, during the Winter Conference.

District 9 is bringing up a rear in turned in memberships at 59.38%. This is a reminder to Post Commanders to connect your members and get those dues turned in before the next deadline of December 6, 2026. This can also count as a buddy check. I know it's not easy but please, if you know of a veteran in your community who isn't a Legionnaire, invite him/her to join your local post. I encourage everyone to work on your CPR's through-out the year so it's not such a big job at the end of may.

Hope to see you at The Winter Conference in Minot the end of January.









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Children & Youth Committee

Don Weible – Wilton – Chairman Children & Youth Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to reach out and share who we are and what we do to some 10,000 members of the ND Legion Family especially those that may not generally attend local and district meetings or the Conventions.

I am glad to say that we are alive and well here in ND and for those who are not familiar with our programs, the best advice I could possibly give is to sign up and come to the Winter Conference in Minot. At the Saturday afternoon portion of the Conference, you can see the youth of our State competing in the finals of the Oratorical Contest, then while you're there take in the committee meetings of the BaseBall, Boys and Girls State and the C&Y meetings. Two of the four pillars of The American Legion are Americanism and Children and Youth and this is your chance to see these in action. You will get an opportunity to meet some of the finest youth in our State.

I could not continue without a very large shoutout and Thank You to the many posts across the state that are financially supporting our very successful Teddy Bear Program. It is a proven scientific fact the giving a stuffed animal to a traumatized, stressed child will calm them down. In our program we have basically adopted some 45 hospitals across the state and with volunteers and contacts we are supplying them with Teddy Bears and Puppies. In the past 5 years we have donated over 5 thousand and have recently purchased three thousand more for distribution. The many members of our Legion Family have expanded this program where they have now offered some of our Bears to their local Sheriffs Departments, Fire Departments and Ambulance crews to give out when they encounter a child in need in their line of work. This program has been very well received but it costs a lot of money, and your continued donations are needed if this program is to continue.

For more information feel free to contact myself as Chairman, I have Bears available for the Central Region, Jill Renville from Watford City and her team is covering the Western Region and Troy Reemtsma from Cando is covering the Eastern Region.

Everyone likes to be a winner so if you're coming to the Winter Conference as it is a past tradition, be sure to bring what we call a "White Elephant Gift" or two, or make a donation to the Children and Youth Gift Table then sign up and enjoy the fun as we do the drawings after the Sat eve banquet and if you're name is drawn, you pick the gift





Veterans Outreach Event

When: Thursday, January 28, 2027
Time: 11 AM to 6 PM
Where: Grand Hotel, Minot ND

Come talk to your American Legion Service Officer, Ward County, and McHenry County Service Officer regarding Compensation Benefits, Healthcare Benefits, and/or Burial Benefits! Everyone is welcome no matter where you live!

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
Mayer, Tom 08/03/2026
Peterson, Hal..... 08/13/2026
Woessner, Bob 09/28/2026
Anderson, Johnathan 08/26/2026
Small, Clarence 10/22/2026

Fargo – Post #2
Nantt, Gary 09/05/2026
Lorz, Gerald T..... 10/15/2026

Dickinson – Post #3
Logosz, David D 08/04/2026

Grand Forks – Post #6
Stroh, Walter..... 08/26/2026

Lisbon – Post #7
Reinke, Dennis 12/22/2025
Delvin, Owen ..... Unknown DOD
Bott, Duwayne 09/11/2026
Dykema, Dennis 09/09/2026

Buffalo – Post #10
Von Bank, Alfred..... 07/27/2025

Cavalier – Post #11
Enerson, Harry 08/15/2026
Spanglo, Jeff..... 08/26/2026

Washburn – Post #12
Headrick, Wilson..... 05/2026
Fischer, William 10/15/2026
Olstad, John 05/23/2026

Wahpeton – Post #20
Zoucha, Steve 10/03/2026

Lakota – Post #21
Burness, James..... 10/07/2025

Rugby – Post #23
Miller, Arden..... Unknown DOD

Minot – Post #26
Baker, David 04/13/2026
Pankratz, Craig..... 04/27/2026
Curtis, Raymond..... 06/21/2026
Knippelberg, Darold... 07/12/2026
Vaughn, Gibson 08/10/2026
Dunseth, Annette..... 02/18/2025
Smith, Richard 08/07/2026

Harvey – Post #28
Arnold, Leon 09/16/2026

New Rockford – Post #30
Lange, Quentin..... 08/03/2026

Towner – Post #34
Staubin, James..... 08/20/2026

Lignite – Post #35
Thomas, Samuel 05-13-2026

Williston – Post #37
Schmidt, Walter 08/06/2026
Paradies, Claus 06/26/2026

Cogswell – Post #38
Bosse, Gerald..... 09/17/2026

Velva – Post #39
Larson, Gerald..... 09/26/2026

Mandan – Post #40
Davy, Scott J..... 09/28/2026

Grafton – Post #41
Lessard, Roman 10/14/2026

Bowman – Post #48
Taylor H, Robert..... 02/16/2026

Linton – Post #54
Serr, Harry 06/3/2026

Walhalla – Post #62
Bakken, Lyle F 06/29/2022

Stanton – Post #78
Marlenee, William 11/22/2025

Center – Post #90
Daniels, Robert..... 07/31/2026
Schwalbe, Richard..... 09/28/2026
Dilger, Joseph..... 10/12/2026

Northwood – Post #92
Gylten Wallace 09/03/2026
Guenthner, Lonnie L.. 09/24/2026

Portland – Post #93
Bakke, Norman..... 09/23/2026
Garret, Wayne 09/16/2026

Larimore – Post #97
Engen, Larry 07/31/2026
Tveit, Harold 09/17/2026

Langdon – Post #98
Schneider, Louis 07-02-2026
Olson, Orfield.....09-26-2026

Ryder – Post #99
Delzer, Timothy..... 06/13/2026

Leeds – Post #101
Mears, Barbara..... 08/14/2026

Havana – Post #108
Dahl, Larry 09/14/2026

Hettinger – Post #115
Larson, Dean 08/18/2026

Maddock – Post #123
Warner, Duane (Dewi)09/25/2026

McClusky – Post #124
Lauer, Leroy..... 01/07/2026

Gardner – Post #132
Buringrud, Nils 08/08/2026

Stanley – Post #134
Harstad, Orville..... 02/21/2026
Brook, Danial H 05/27/2026
Evans, Roger..... 01/21/2026
Dobrovolny, Theodore 06/04/2006
Harstad, Orville..... 02/21/2026
Walhaug, Gary..... 06/26/2026
Kjosen, Donald 09/12/2026
Bures, Mitchell 07/28/2025

Tioga – Post #139
Boyer, Peter C ..... Unknown DOD

Cooperstown – Post #143
Olson, Richard..... 09/05/2026

Edgeley – Post #146
Thurlow, Meredith LUnknown DOD

Park River – Post #147
Hobbs, James..... 07/18/2025
Anderson, Frederick .. 07/19/2026

Edinburg – Post #156
Brandvold, Elroy 12/22/2025

Lankin – Post #157
Vasichek, John 08/27/2026

Berthold – Post #171
Smith, Richard 12/25/2025

Verona – Post #178
Nelson, Craig.....08/11/2026

Richardton – Post #180
Hoff, Joseph 08/19/2026
Pechtl, Harvey 08/23/2026
Tormaschy, Paul 10/20/2026

Pekin – Post #182
Foreng, David 02/04/2026

Rhame – Post #188
Eagon, Neyl 08/21/2026

Hazen – Post #189
Ballensky, Marvin..... 09/15/2026
Schneider, Randal 01/15/2026

Gwinner – Post #191
Albertson, Roger..... 08/28/2026

Donnybrook – Post #195
Knudtson, Gary..... 10/20/2026

Minto – Post #201
Brazil, Brendan 08/14/2026

Pisek – Post #208
Kadlec, Loren 04-03-2026

Erie – Post #223
Johnson, Elizabeth 10/09/2026

Mountain – Post #227
Dalstad, Dale A..... 05/30/2025
Modin, Neil 10/22/2025
Johnson, Robert 06/17/2026
Johanneson, Clanky .. 07/04/2026

Rolla – Post #235
Tuomala, Arthur 09/5/2026

Hoople – Post #240
Lewis, Clayton 03/03/2026

Medina – Post #245
Hofmann, Lawrence . 06/18/2026

Petersburg – Post #247
Riley, Patrick 05/06/2026

Gackle – Post #250
Hanson, Donald D. 10/09/2026

Forest River – Post #251
Sampeh, Gene 08/13/2026

Belcourt – Post #262
Lafromboise, Richard J03/02/2025

Horace – Post #293
Goerger, Ronald 05/22/2026

Harwood – Post #297
Freedland, Wayne 08/11/2026
Barstad, Ellsworth D ...08/11/2026
Hay, Kenneth M 10/02/2026





Local Posts in the News

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

Cando Post #79

Street signs usually tell us where we're going. In Cando, some tell the stories of those who came before us.

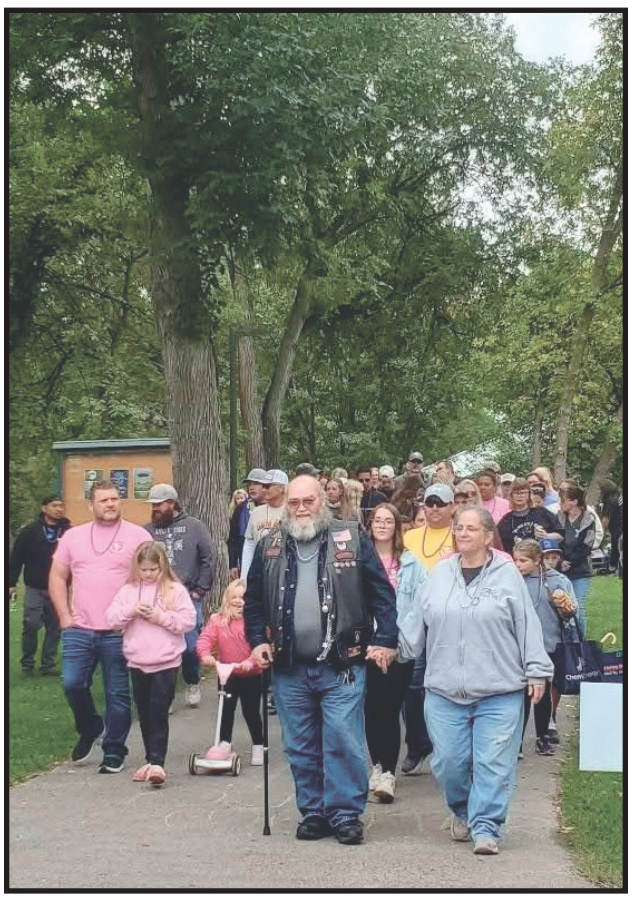
For the members of Hal Parker Post #79, honoring veterans is part of the American Legion's longstanding commitment to patriotism, service and community. In Cando, that commitment has taken a permanent place on the city's street corners.

Post members Ted Asp on the ground and Alex Balazas in the bucket are putting up flags.





Minot Post #26



Carol and Milo Wallace of Minot Post and Unit 26 take part in the 2026 Out of the Darkness suicide prevention awareness walk.

Big News For Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 Fargo

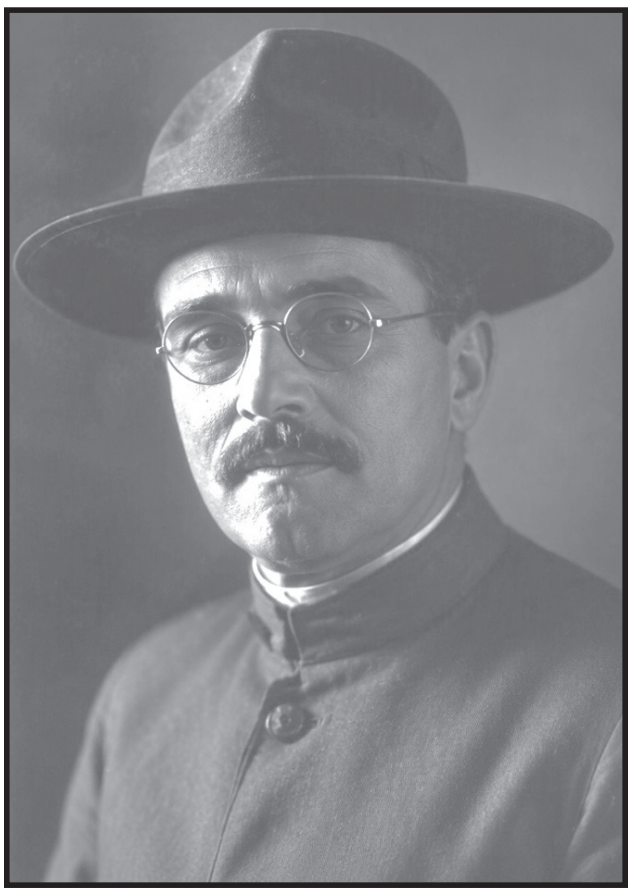
October brings a time to reflect on a prominent figure in early North Dakota military history. Gilbert Collins Grafton was born on October 6, 1860, in England. By 1885, he had emigrated to the Dakota Territory, became a naturalized citizen, worked as a letter carrier and postmaster, and enlisted in the National Guard.

Grafton, with Company B of the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry was deployed to the Philippines in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. In 1915, Grafton was mobilized as an instructor for the 28th U.S. Infantry in San Antonio, Texas, and along the Mexican border. In 1917, he was called to active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to Field and Staff of the 164th Infantry, 34th Division, deploying to La Courtine, France. Colonel Grafton died from disease in France at age 58 on February 5, 1919.

Between periods of military service, he was an active and respected citizen and public servant. Camp Grafton, near Devils Lake, is named in his honor; he is also the namesake of the Fargo Post 2 American Legion.

This October also provides an opportunity to reflect on the legacy and proud history of the Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 American Legion while looking ahead with confidence to its future. As of October 1, 2026, the Post has a new home at 1002 Main Avenue South in Fargo. Although the downtown American Legion club closed in 2016, Post 2 has remained active in the community.

Our new location will serve as the office and meeting space for Post 2, Auxiliary Unit 2, and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 2. It establishes a visible and welcoming presence in the community while providing a dedicated home for our organization. Post 2 remains committed to serving veterans, supporting youth programs,



and strengthening our community for years to come. Post meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Gackle, Mayer Morlock Post 250 News

Once again, the Gackle Post led our local Independence Day Parade. The photo shows our color guard members, Jay Posselt, Jon Metz, Ryan Ruff and John Long, followed by our 2025-2026 District 4 Commander Mike Almer and Fredonia Adjutant Rick Schlecht carrying the 250 flags with 2026-2027 District 4 Vice Commander Randy Entzminger carrying the 4th District flag.

The annual celebration has events throughout the day for young and old, with a free supper hosted by another local organization, followed by a fireworks show that typically lasts 30-45 minutes. We invite you to join us next year.





Best Wishes American Legion!
Senator Terry M. Wanzek
Paid for by Terry Wanzek

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6th District Meeting



McVille Post #135

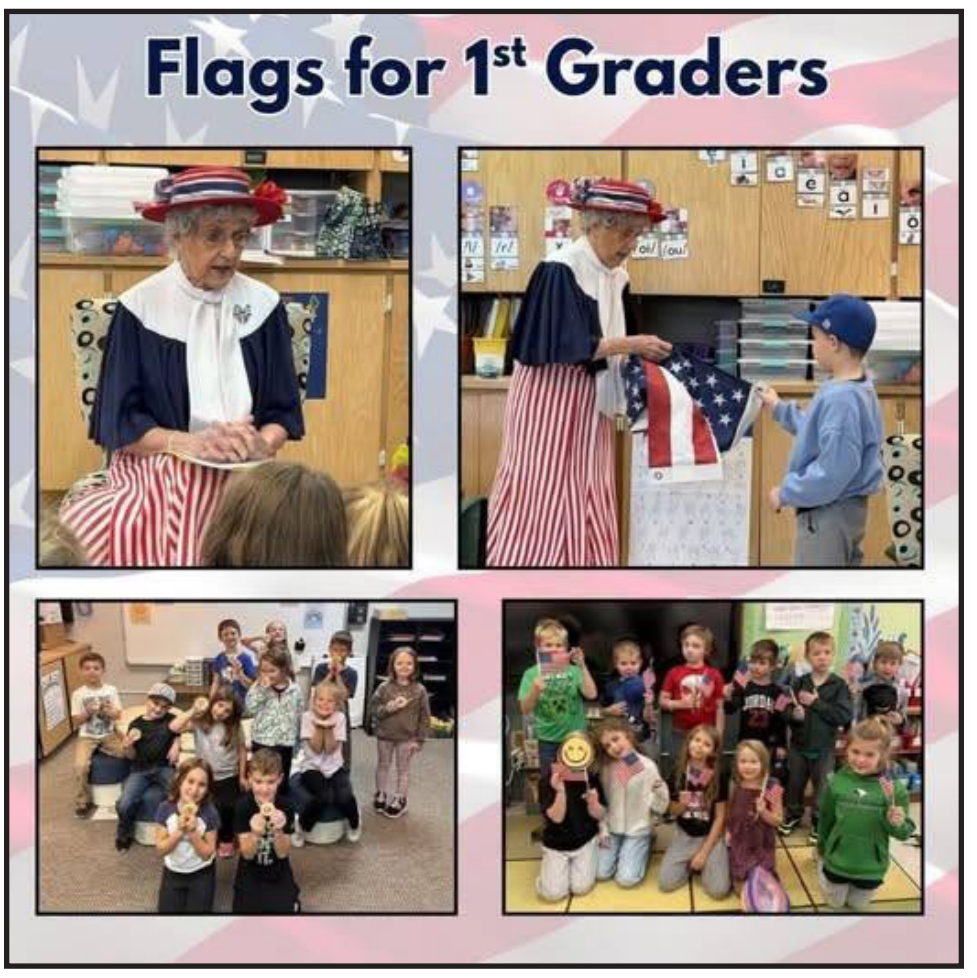
Betsy Ross (AKA our own Judy Twete) got to go to school on Tuesday!

Well, Betsy went to do a "Flags for First Graders" Program.

Sharing flag history and etiquette on a first-grade level makes all the sense in the world. The classes of Haley Klefstad and Courtney Stein were enthusiastic, great listeners and full of questions of interest to them.

The American Legion Post 135 provided flags for each student. Cookies were by an Auxiliary member, and Betsy gave each child a sticker commemorating American's 250 birthday. They also got bracelets stating how special each child was.

This was a very special day for the first graders, the teachers and especially for Betsy!



Mayville Post #8

Students from Mayville-Portland-Cleveland-Galesburg High School attended the September meeting of Leon N Moshier Post 8 in Mayville. They interviewed Veterans about what it was like to be a Veteran.



Front Row (L-R) – Chloe Rogers, Taylor Knudson, Abby Sand, Baily Bergstrom, Audrina Schreiner, Bricker Johnson.
Back Row (L-R) Keith Williams, Richard Peterson, Gordon Aubrey, Tom Weaver, Luther Elness, Keith Anderson, Harlan Johnson.

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1



Have You Paid Your 2027 Membership Dues?

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2740 North Broadway • Northport Shopping Center
Fargo, North Dakota 58102
(701) 232-8304

American Legion Department of ND 2027 Winter Conference TENTATIVE Schedule

January 28-31, 2027

Minot Grand Hotel

701-852-3161

Cutoff for Room Block is December 27th, 2026

Room Rate is $99

Thursday, January 28, 2027

11:00 am	Veterans Outreach (until 6:00 pm)
1:00 pm	ACOVA Interviews
4:00 pm	DEC Meeting
7:00 pm	Foundation Board Chair Interviews
8:00 pm	Foundation Meeting

Friday, January 29, 2027

10:00 am	Training Session
1:30 pm	Training Session
2:00 pm	40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting
2:00 pm	***Registration (until 7:00 pm)***
3:00 pm	District Vice Commanders Meeting with Cmdr-Elect
3:30 pm	M&PA and Dist Officers and RVC Meet with Cmdr
3:30 pm	Legion Riders Meeting
4:00 pm	Americanism/Children and Youth Committees
5:00 pm	First Time Attendees
7:00 pm	**Joint Opening Session**

Saturday, January 30, 2027

8:00 am	***Registration (until Noon)***
8:00 am	Athletic Committee Meeting
8:00 am	VA&R Committee Meeting
9:00 am	**Joint Session**
10:00 am	SAL Meeting
10:00 am	DSO Office Hours (until 1:00 pm)
11:00 am	Boys State Committee Meeting
1:00 pm	**Legion Family Programs Joint Session**
1:30 pm	**High School Oratorical Contest Finals**
4:00 pm	Delegate Selection Committee
4:00 pm	Legislative Committee
5:00 pm	**Winter Conference Banquet Social**
6:00 pm	**Winter Conference Banquet**

Sunday, January 31, 2027

7:00 am	Catholic Mass
9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Post Winter Conference DEC Meeting



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2027 Winter Conference

American Legion Advanced Registration and Banquet Ticket Order Form

January 29-31, 2027 at the Grand Hotel, Minot, ND

Please call the Grand Hotel at 701-852-3161 ask for the American Legion room block discount by December 27th.

Please note the price of the banquet tickets increases by $5 after **January 8th**. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk on a first-come first-serve basis. Preregistration forms and banquet tickets will not be accepted after January 20th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

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

Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee: $25

Preregistration *Advanced* Banquet Ticket Price: $45
(Cutoff for Preregistered Advanced Tickets Discount is 1/8/2027)

Banquet Ticket Price after January 8th: $50

Banquet Menu: Roast Turkey, Yukon Potatoes and Carrots

Please mail the registration form and payment to

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

Member Name _____
Winter Conf Banquet on ***Saturday*** #____ x $45 = $_____
Registration Fee $25 = $**25**
Late fee of $5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/8/2027 = $_____

Total Due $_____

Member Name _____
Winter Conf Banquet on ***Saturday*** #____ x $45 = $_____
Registration Fee $25 = $**25**
Late fee of $5 per plate ONLY AFTER 1/8/2027 = $_____

Total Due $_____

Total Amount Enclosed $_____