



THE MESSAGE

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102
www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

The Rolla Unit

Department President

Greetings ALA Ladies:

I want to start by giving a big thank you to all the towns who hosted the 10 District meetings. I really appreciated all that you did, meetings were well attended and the meals were outstanding, of course. You were given



Diane Kraemer

information on some of our programs and you asked me questions, which I really enjoyed, and if I did not know the answer you were told I would find out and get back to you.

Veteran's Day, 11 Nov, is coming soon. Please make sure that you honor all of your veterans. They have given us so many freedoms because of their service to our country. We have veterans in the VA hospital, the Lisbon Veterans Home in Lisbon, and the hospitals and nursing homes in our towns, please think of them and send them a card.

The VA Hospital Gift Shop is 7 Dec and the Gift Shop at Lisbon is on 8 Dec. If you have never been there to help with the Gift Shops it is a very rewarding time. You get to visit with the veterans and help them pick out gifts. This will be my third year and I would not miss it for the world.

I ask that all units send their mid-year reports to Shirley at Department Headquarters by 10 Dec. Please take a sheet of paper, list the chairmanship and a couple sentences or a paragraph of what you have done so far on those you have worked on. If you have not worked on some just say we have not worked on this yet. Shirley will forward all of the information to each Department Chairman.

Membership dues: When submitting your dues, do not change the dues amount for seniors or juniors. You need to send in \$19 for each senior member and \$5.00 for each junior member. You also do not need to send in for PUFL members or State Life Members, Shirley automatically submits them to National.

Our Mid-winter Conference is going to be held in Bismarck at the Ramada Inn on 27-29 January. I encourage everyone to attend. We are going to have training on the following chairmanships: Children and Youth, Community Service, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Americanism. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you there. This year for the first time attendee at the Winter Conference you will receive one free banquet ticket. A first time attendee is an Auxiliary member who has never attended a Winter Conference or Department Convention.

Diane Kraemer
President



Alamis

Are you ready to make member address and name changes, run Unit reports and enter new member information any time you wish? If yes, then ALAMIS access is for you!

The cost is \$10 per account per year. If interested, send the Department office your name, email address and \$10.



The Rolla unit #235 donated 10 for education to the Rolla School for Education week. Pictured L to R: Linda Juntunen, Principal Randy Loing, Sandy Smith, Gloria Covert, Esther Krumwiede, Principal Kristen Mitchell and Girls State Governor Sami Nordmark. Photo courtesy of Turtle Mt Star.

Members of the Rolla and Belcourt units served a breakfast and lunch for the Wellness Conference in Belcourt at the college. There were about 60 Veterans in attendance.

The Dunseith School honored area Veterans at their

school on Nov 10.

The Rolla unit served a Veterans Day supper on Nov 11th for the public as well as the community Veterans. Most of the meal was donated by community members from their gardens.

The Cando unit helped with a Veterans Day program at the Armory. A potluck meal was served after the program.

I'm sure there are numerous other events going on that I wasn't aware of but I know the units are keeping busy.

Gloria Covert,
District III President

Anna Dolyniuk Turns 100 Years Old

Anna Dolyniuk has been a dedicated member of William C Blair Unit #144 in Belfield for 67 years. Anna has 4 brothers and a sister who served during World War II and she studied to be a WASP – Women Air Force Service Pilot- during WWII. While Anna was teaching in Montana she learned of a government program trained women to be service pilots in order to free up male pilots for combat duty overseas. After Anna moved back to North Dakota, she learned that the program was being offered in Dickinson. While teaching in a school just 18 miles away she decided to attend. After Anna completed the classroom study and how to taxi the plane on the runway she was ready to take to the air. About 14 ladies went to class that day and waited and waited some more. However the instructor never showed. They learned later that he had been called back to Texas for active duty and that the closest place to finish their training was in Watford City about 70 miles away. Anna knew that wasn't going to be possible while teaching and helping on the family farm.

Anna's teaching career spanned 47 years. Every day class was started with the Pledge of Allegiance, teaching respect for the flag and country.

Anna recalled when her brother came to visit her at school one day dressed in his military uniform how the students were excited to see a real soldier.

Anna served as president of her Unit 144 and as membership chairman, during which time she successfully encouraged members to become royal life members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of North Dakota. Anna is credited with paying life membership for two of her family members. With the help of her nephew, Anna continued to raise cattle on her farm until November, 2014 when she retired. Anna lives at Evergreen, a Senior Living facility in Dickinson and says "It's a nice place to live", adding; "Now I don't have to worry about anything".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNA!

Tentative Winter Conference Schedule

Friday, January 26, 2017

- 10:00 am- Auxiliary Finance Board Meeting
- 1:00 pm – Registration until 7:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – ALA Department Executive Committee meeting
- 5:00 pm – No Host Dinner, location at Hotel – Contact Diane Kraemer for reservation.
- 7:00 pm – Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 27, 2017

- 7:30 am – Registration until 1:00 pm
- 8:00 am – Auxiliary Workshop
- 12:00 pm – Press Association Luncheon
- 1:00 pm – High School Oratorical Contest
- 6:00 pm – Social
- 7:00 pm – Banquet
- 8:30 pm – Dance

Sunday, January 28, 2017

- 8:00 am – General Meeting
- 10:00 am – Memorial Service Retirement of Colors

Winter Conference Registration

The 2017 Winter Conference will be held January 27 – 29, 2017 at the Bismarck Ramada.

Pre-registration forms are due by January 12, 2017 to the Legion Department Office. See page 16 for the Registration form.

Call 701-258-7700 prior to January 12, 2017 to guarantee the Legion room block rate of \$90.

Department Secretary

I want to share some of the things that I have been learning since I took this job. We are not going to grow because we have too many members that do not want to give up their *power* so that other can serve the Auxiliary. I find that when someone has been in a position for too long they become complacent and they do not want anything to change. They want to do everything their selves and not share with anyone. So they go ahead and do something that is counterproductive to what this organization is trying to do.

In the department office I hear many common statements that would support the argument that we are not growing. *We can't get new members. No one comes to meetings. Why doesn't anyone report- I know they are doing things. No one else will run for office. The same people keep taking office. No one wants to do anything. I'm too busy to do this. We can't get any girls to attend Girls State. She can't do that job; she's not good enough. I can't do that job; I'm not good enough. So-and-so is talking about "it" behind my back instead of just talking to me about it. I'm X years old- too old/young to do anything. I don't have time to do anything. Our membership is too small to function. No one values my opinion. Our dues are too high; people won't join. We only do one thing a year but we don't want to disband.*

Do you think that the Veterans and our communities that we are volunteering for say the same thing? Most of our members have forgotten the true meaning of giving, especially around this time of Christmas, and we need to once in a while find the great feeling that we get from volunteering in our communities. The child that for the first time has been told how and why we salute the flag, and how we take care of the flag, after all how are they going to know these facts unless we take the time to educate them. That light bulb that goes off in their heads is precious and we need more of those times to believe that we do make a difference. The senior dinner that we do once a year in which we are to come up with some program and find

ourselves saying, "We did that last year, there is nothing new to do." Sometimes we have to look outside of the box to find the joy that we miss from our everyday life.

Life is too short to worry about the little things, but we need to go out and tackle all of the everyday ups and downs that volunteering provides. Especially with all of the recent tragedies that are happening around the world, may we pray for the people that are in harm's way whether in the military or civilians. Remember President Kennedy's quote, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

I'd like to add one more item. **Say Yes.** Be willing to try. This is something that Cat had in her year's newsletter. Many people tell me they don't think they can take an office or chairmanship for whatever reason, so they turn it down. I think these people would be pleasantly surprised at how well they can do despite whatever the excuses they offer. Some are scared they don't have the time to commit to it. With most positions in the Auxiliary, I think we may spend more time worrying about how much work we have to do than we spend completing the task. If the job seems overwhelming or your time truly is stretched too thin, then consider it an opportunity to engage another member and ask for their help.

Whenever questions come up I always remember something that President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." I was really young when he stated this, but it is so true even in today's culture.

May your holiday season be filled with peace and goodwill!

Shirley Montgomery
Department Secretary



Shirley Montgomery

District 2

Greetings District 2 Unit Members

Auxiliary members are certainly a dedicated and committed group. Countless members are volunteering in our communities, reaching out to veterans and their families and to service members, mentoring youth, educating, fund raising, donating food, clothing, and personal care items, and being great role models for everyone.

So, as 2016 nears its end, we can look back with pride at our accomplishments, and we can look forward with enthusiasm for the tasks still on our agendas.

Some of those tasks include membership renewal and growth, Gift Shops, remembering veterans and service members at Christmas, mid-year reports, Winter Conference, and all the special things you do in your local units. Thank you all for what you have accomplished thus far, and for your dedication and commitment for further tasks to accomplish.

We had an excellent fall district meeting in Fordville on September 16. Thank you to all who attended, and to the Fordville Unit for hosting. I look forward to visiting many more of your units as the year progresses, so please get in touch.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember our veterans and service members during this holiday season and always as we continue to "Take Flight for our Veterans."

Marlene Simundson
District 2 President



District 4 News

We had a successful Fall District Meeting. I thank all of you who attended and the Jamestown unit for hosting the meeting.

I would like to visit the units in our district at least once or twice in the next 2 years. Would you please send me a schedule of your meetings or if you want me to visit a certain date let me know the date and I will put it on my calendar.

We have a couple of deadlines coming due in December. December 7th is projected date to have at least 60% of the dues collected and our midyear reports for our activities are due December 10th. **Note:** This year the reports should be sent directly to the Shirley Montgomery, NDALA Secretary, and she will in turn forward them to the correct chairperson.

Winter Conference will be January 27 – 29 at the Bismarck Ramada.

The holidays will be here very soon. Please keep our veterans and their families in your prayers this holiday season.

Wishing you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Joan Lasher
District 4 President



Department President Elect

Hi Ladies,

Thank you for the great welcome that you gave me at the fall district meetings. It was fun meeting members of the Units and I heard some great new ideas.

Keep up the good work on membership... We are only 100 plus members behind last year. But I want to see us pull ahead of last year with lots of touchdowns and be WAY in front of last year. I know you can do it. Get those renewals in, please, and do not keep them on your desk... Send in the ones you have each week. How are each of the units doing on a NEW MEMBER? We need new faces and new ideas within our organization. I would like you to send me a note with your answer as to having a new member.

If any of you need help with your Unit, please call me. I will do what I can to assist.

Have some great holidays and remember our Veterans and their families in your prayers. See you in Bismarck this winter.

God Bless each of you, God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America.

Mavis Goodroad
President Elect



Mavis Goodroad

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Nationwide, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, Veterans treated at VA facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition includes 53 categories in the visual arts division this year that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 120 categories in the performing arts pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama and creative writing. A national selection committee chooses first, second and third place winners among all of the entries. Select winners are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival each year.

Purpose of the Competition and Festival

The key purpose of the National Veterans Creative Arts competition and festival is to recognize veterans for their creative accomplishments and to educate and demonstrate to communities throughout the country the therapeutic benefits of the arts.

Auxiliary Involvement

Since 2000, the Auxiliary has played a key role in NVCAF as a cosponsor of the event, along with Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to raising

funds, Auxiliary departments also provide volunteers who assist with everything from punching meal tickets to stuffing programs to ironing costumes for the stage show. Best of all, Auxiliary members have the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with the veterans who participate.

North Dakota's Involvement and Plans for VA Center in Fargo

Plans are being made to have our Creative Arts festival for the week of February 13- 17. We are going to have a large get together to show the items that the Veterans have created on Wednesday, February 15. Plans are still being made as to exactly when we would do this. Some of the classes that the Auxiliary is providing for the Veterans is painting and leather working. So if someone knows someone that can teach or work with the Veterans for the Leather Working please contact me at 701-253-5992. The painting class I have someone that I can get to provide this. We will have karaoke that day so come and sing to help provide entertainment for that day. Everyone is welcome to participate that is a patient of the VA Hospital or we need volunteers to help with the rest of the functions of the Creative Arts Festival.

Shirley Montgomery
VA&R Chairman

District 5

Greetings to all District 5 members,

This is the holiday season and with that I would like to ask you all that you keep in mind all of our military troops that won't be home for Christmas or the New Year. They are missing their families as they continue to do their job of keeping our great nation safe from harm. Please keep them in your prayers.

On the home front I would like to say thank you to all our units that have been working hard on building our membership up. That is the only way to continue to the projects put before us by the National ALA. We all work hard on this difficult task to build up the ALA.

This season let us try to be nice to each other. This was a very hard election and no matter how you voted, let us show our respect and support for our President Elect. With the help of God and our support we hope we can put our divided nation back together.

Have a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

Katie
5th District President



District 8

Hello District 8 Ladies!

I wanted to share with all of you how happy I was to see so many of you at our Fall District Meeting. I apologize again for not being able to give you gals more notice. I'm hoping our Spring meeting we will have a good month's notice.

I am hoping that you are all finding activities to do this fall for our Veteran's; and remember to keep track of your volunteer hours. I hope for December some of our units will take the time to share time and talents with our Veteran's.

Reminder: Winter Conference is January 27-29, 2017 at the Ramada in Bismarck. Registration Deadline is January 12th.

Units, could you please send me a current unit officers list. Please send me one from your unit; be sure your meeting date and time is on there. I'm hoping I can make it to a few meetings this winter.

If you have any questions please contact me 701-872-4938, please leave a message.

Sonja Groll
District 8



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

When at the Veterans Home we met with Albert Stiegler to find out the needs for him and those building our poppies. He told us that he is working hard to get our poppies done so that Joan Buske can send them out to everyone that has ordered the poppies. Thank you very much for your hard work at the poppies workshop

Shirley Montgomery
VA&R Chairman



Historian

I would like to again thank all who contributed to Department's 2015-2016 History. North Dakota's entry received The Toomey Trophy, National's highest history award, at National Convention. Well done, Ladies! Because you sent me reports, news articles and pictures, my writing of the history was easier and more comprehensive.



According to National's History Program Action Plan, our job, whether as Unit Historians or as members, is to preserve, display and share the records of activities and items that officers, members and volunteers have completed and donated over the years.

These records "...provide unique testimony to the achievements of the organization, stimulate pride and enthusiasm among our members, and are invaluable to society by serving as informative and educational resources to a variety of potential users."

Our history is important so that everyone will know who we are, what we do and why we matter. Our history allows us to honor members who have made a difference in the lives of veterans, military, their families and communities and allows us to review past experiences to build a stronger organization.

Now, what have I been leading up to? History's Program Action Plan has two specific projects in which members are also encouraged to participate: Members Remember and Women's History Month

Members Remember records ALA's history through the eyes of its membership. ALA history is more than names and dates of activities and programs; it what members remember and their perceptions.

Women's History month is March. Auxilliary units and members have accomplished a great deal and Women's History Month is a great time to celebrate what makes ALA so special.

Handouts about Members Remember and Women's History Month will be sent in the next monthly mailing. Be on the lookout for them, select a project and remember to report.

Lynn Tomlinson
Historian

Girls State

The time has come to start recruiting for the next session of North Dakota ALA Girls State! Girls State will be held June 11-16.

Updated registration forms and medical/physical forms will be sent to units before the start of the spring semester. The forms can also be found on the Girls State website. Please note that the early bird registration of \$225 is due by April 1st, 2017. We will gladly take registrations after April 1st at the \$250 rate. The registration fee includes the Girls State party shirt and a bag that most of our citizens use throughout the week. **Be sure you use 2017 forms** as the deadline and address for sending the forms/payment differs from previous years.

We are now accepting applications for all staff positions. Junior and Senior Counselor applications are due 12/30/2016. Applications for City Mom, Sales Manager, Director of Ceremonies, Music Director and the accompanist, Newspaper Coordinator, and School Educator/Counselor are due on 1/15/2017. You can apply online on the Girls State website. Please don't hesitate to let me (Cat) know if you wish to have an application mailed to you.

If you have any questions please reference the Girls State website at www.NDGirlsState.org, by emailing ndgirlsstate@gmail.com, or by calling 701-314-2460.

Sincerely,
Cat Olson, Director



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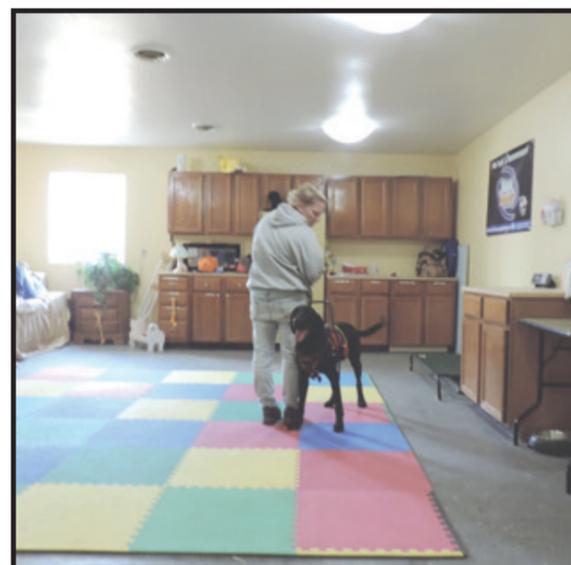
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ND American Legion Headquarters

Resident Workshop



Training a Dog



President's Project at the Veterans Home and the Service Dogs for America



Marlene Boyer-Department President
Jen Brodkrob-Executive Director
Darrel Pfaff-Board Member Service Dogs for America

Checks were given and tours were made at both the Veterans Home and Service Dogs for America. Much was learned at both facilities and find that we are in good hands with the projects that both great facilities are doing. Thanks to both facilities for their wonderful hospitality that they showed to both Shirley Montgomery and me.

On behalf of The American Legion Department of North Dakota, the American Legion Auxiliary with Commander Bud Goldsmith and Department President



Marlene Boyer-Department President
Susie Schlecht-Marketing Coordinator
Jann Neameyer-Director of Social Services Lisbon Veterans Home

Marlene Boyer we are pleased to present this check to Service Dogs for America in the amount of \$10,454.27.

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of North Dakota, we are pleased to present to the North Dakota Veterans Home a check for \$4,243.00 from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for the grant project entitled "Creation of Art Therapy Program."

Marlene Boyer,
Department President

McClusky American Legion Auxiliary Packs Cheer Baskets

Members of the Auxiliary gathered at the American Legion Quarters on December 16, 2015 for their annual Christmas cheer basket project. Baskets were packed for local veterans and Auxiliary members who have been ill or have lost a family member over the past year.

This year's cheer baskets were generously filled with baked goods made by local Auxiliary members, fruit, sandwich meat, cheese and other snack foods. Several of the Auxiliary members gave dollar donations, as did a number of community members, to help fill the baskets. Following lunch the festive baskets were delivered to the designated recipients.

Auxiliary adoptee, Bob Neuharth, now living in Minot, was sent a Christmas plant for the holidays in place of a cheer basket. The second adoptee, Sam Reiswig, also received a plant as well as a food basket.



Lynn Helm, Shelia Majors, Roberta Froehlich, Sybil Peterson, Deb Sparrow, Luanne Knudson (not pictured)



Friends Are Angels

Anonymous

Our friends are like angels
Who brighten our days
In all kinds of wonderful
Magical ways

Their thoughtfulness comes
As a gift from above
And we feel we're surrounded
By warm, caring love

Like upside-down rainbows
Their smiles bring the sun
And they fill ho-hum moments
With laughter and fun

Friends are like angels
Without any wings
Blessing our lives
With the most precious things

Submitted by Sharon Conatser
National President
American Legion Auxiliary 2015-2016



Beginning Construction



In Memoriam

District 1

Alice Anderson, Hope
Sharon Hook, Hannaford
Ruth Pueppke, Erie
Gail Washburn, Hope
Gladys Jondahl-Morton, Page
Mavis Voracek, Fargo
Madelyn Midstokke, Finley
Corinne Hefta, Portland
Florence Ludwig, Portland
Beulah Hoffart, Sanborn
Sharon Klein, Sanborn
Mary Wagner, Sanborn

District 2

Florence Lykken, Adams
Myrna McHugh, Lakota
Joane Young, Grand Forks
Ruth Heder, Saint Thomas
Ellen Ness, Fordville
Betty Ruzicka, Lankin
Mavis Anderson, McVille

District 3

Vivian Crawford, Langdon
Elsie Black, Knox
Virginia Boucher, Rolla
Joan Lindberg, Bisbee
Pat Strait, Rolla

District 4

Bernice Leier, Rugby
Lorrie Wenaas, Carrington
Lorraine Kaseman, Gackle
Margaret Dreher, McHenry
Phyllis Hochhalter, Medina
Sylvia Calkins, Wimbledon
Wanda Hovland, Wimbledon
Shirley Sackman, Streeter
Beverly Clemens, Jamestown
Connie Schreiner, McHenry
Caroline Eli, Jamestown

District 5

Marjorie Sondrol, Turtle Lake
Lillian Sandwick, Linton
Viola Vranna, Washburn
Marge Chapman, Turtle Lake

District 6

Barbara Keller, Minot
Arlene Eklund, Bowbells
Judy Nehring, Bowbells

District 7

Patricia Hinton, Almont
Louise Heupel, Elgin
Iris Ziniel, Mandan
Deloris Roth, Elgin
Alice Hermes, Glen Ullin

District 8

Kay Schettler, Halliday
Aletha Sperle, Richardton
Lynn Duncan, Beach

District 9

Agnes Benter, Crosby
Eva Onstad, Parshall
Alice Evans, Williston
Joann Stevens, Williston
Eunice McCabe, Watford City
Iva M. Jones, Watford City

District 10

Margaret Lyons, Lidgerwood
Maizie Dybdahl, Wyndmere
Helen Johnson, Lamoure
Rebecca Olson, Lamoure
Bonnie Christensen, Verona
Lorraine Qual, Lisbon
Hali Schneider, Verona

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