

AMERICAN LEGION AND LEGION AUXILIARY
5TH DISTRICT MEETING *minutes*
OCTOBER 10, 2014
WASHBURN, ND

After a wonderful meal, Katie Pulley called the meeting to order. Mary Ann Gefroh and Fran Serr advanced colors from Linton, N.D. Wilton Chaplain, Marion Anderson and Department Chaplain, Beverly Wolf gave prayers.

Arlene Davis, Hazelton, led pledge of Allegiance

Debbie Schauer, Wilton, led National Anthem

Muriel Siedel, Bismarck, led preamble; Welcome given by Peggy Moran, Washburn

Marjean Boe, Turtle Lake, gave response

Katie introduced our guests, Department President, Arla Roth, Department Membership Chairman, Judy Twete, and Department Chaplain Beverly Wolf.

Past District Presidents and Past department Presidents were introduced.

Judy Twete thanked Washburn for hosting the meeting and the meal provided. Two years ago she brought up that 2019 would be the American Legion Auxiliary centennial. She is on the strategic Membership Committee. Department and National plans were worked together last May and sent to all Department Presidents. A 5-year strategic plan was approved and passed. A show of hands was taken and so far no one has read the plan. If you have a copy of this plan, please read and discuss it at your next meeting.

Judy's goals are to have units grow and maintain membership, create an internal culture of acceptance of one another, develop leadership at all levels, and strengthen our departments.

Department Commander Don Weible will have the president elect come to the District Meeting in the spring. He suggested having fun at our meetings and that the Legion, Auxiliary and the men's and women's committees' work together to accomplish our goals.

Don Discussed:

His projects: Music Camp, the Legion and Auxiliary have been involved the music festival for 58 years. Boys State and the Oratorical Competition and his involvement in youth projects.

Going to Park River for the 4th of July parade.

Legion Day at the Peace Gardens.

Legion and the Auxiliary will have a fix up/clean up in May of 2015.

Plans to increase membership by our 100 years anniversary.

Attending 10 District Meetings and is expecting to attend 10 more by spring, 2015.

The Poster Child for 2015 lives in Bismarck. Don would like to present her with one of our bears at the 2015 convention.

Membership Chairman, Judy Twete spoke on:

The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest women's patriotic organization and was formed in 1919. It was formed to take care of Veterans and men/women in the Military.

North Dakota membership goal for this year is 13,140 members. 1996 was the last time we made our membership goals. In August, a letter was sent out to each chairman giving us our membership goal for each unit for the year.

Discussed ways to increase our membership. Gave each unit a plastic box to put change in at each meeting. When we collected \$19.00 are to use this money to pay dues of someone who can't afford them, either an old member or a new member. Dues are to be waived for any female member who has served her country.

There is much information on line including a suggestion to put together a Unit Membership Booklet containing what is a volunteer, our preamble, , the poppy story and any other items you might like to add.

Michel Daley, the 5th District Oratorical Chairman, discussed the Son's of the American Legion organization. The oratorical contest is a great learning experience about the constitution. They can compete and win up to \$18,000 for their college education. Ideas on how to increase membership are welcome.

Arla Roth showed us a picture of the paper chain we made last year. Discussed homeless veterans. Some of the Veterans live at the Ruth Meier House in Bismarck. We are helping with monetarily needs, food, supplies, and clothing. The Lisbon Home is building a shop for veterans to use for hobbies. They are in need of a new saw for around \$4000.00. Some her fundraisers are:

She has designed and quilted a wall hanging to be raffled off.

Crocheted 100 poppies to sell at a minimum of \$2.00 each. She entitled this project “buy a poppy, save a finger”.

Dr. Grace Holmes found a letter in a museum in Kansas to Hazel Bell Nutson written to the 1928 American Legion Auxiliary President. In this letter Hazel wanted to find nurses who served in WW1. She received 231 stories back from North Dakota nurses who served from 1917-1919. These stories will be put into a book and all book royalties will go to the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary.

Report of Registration was given we had a total of 34 with 6 visitors and 26 members attending.

Katie announced for personal reasons, this will be Nancy Lange’s last meeting. We are in need a new vice president and a district president. Please go back to your clubs and find a volunteer for this position before the Winter Conference.

Katie thanked everyone for coming.

Beverly Wolf gave the closing prayer.

Mary Ann Gefroh and Fran Serr from Linton retired the colors.

Gifts and door prizes were handed out.

Meeting was adjourned and everyone was invited to have a social with the legion.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Lange**