



THE MESSAGE

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
 PO Box 13986, Grand Forks, ND 58208 • 701-253-5992
 www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 in Rolla holds Poppy Walk

We planned a Poppy Walk on May 9th for our 2nd year to bring attention to the Poppy and our veterans. It was a cool day so we didn't have the turn out that we did last year. Plus we were competing with the Fargo marathon. But the individuals that joined us had a good time. The walkers do ½ mile laps around 2 blocks of where our Legion cabin sits. The walkers came close to last year's laps even if it was a little chilly and the wind blowing. We hook old poppies together to form a chain and use 1 poppy for each lap. We keep the chain on display at the cabin. Door prizes were distributed to the walkers.

We also had a silent auction with some nice items that were donated for the cause. We have a wall in the cabin that we use to "Honor Your Veteran". We make red paper poppies and sell them for \$1. The purchaser writes the name of the honored veteran on a paper poppy along with the branch of service and the war conflict they were in. We then put them on display on the "honor" wall until after Veterans Day. Our regular poppy distribution is also on display for anyone to make a contribution for a poppy.

We have grades 3 thru 6 make poppy posters for us.



"Honor wall" with the lap poppies on display

They are all on display for the public to see at the cabin. We leave them up until after Memorial Day.

We grill burgers for a noon lunch and a couple of the Legion members help us with that project. We have burgers, chips and a bottle of water for \$5. Nice treat after a long winter.

Submitted by Gloria Covert

Welcome to Convention!



Debra Muus
Unit 6 President

Greetings from Grand Forks! Unit 6 is looking forward to hosting the Department American Legion Auxiliary Convention from 26 – 28 June. Come join us to learn more about your Auxiliary organization, discover new ways we can help our veterans and renew old friendships as well as striking up new ones. Come and see what makes our city grand!

Department Convention Tentative Agenda

Friday, June 26, 2015

- 10:00 am Finance Board meeting
- Noon- 7pm Auxiliary Registration (Credentials will be closed during DEC meeting)
- 12:30 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting
- 3:00 pm Incoming District Officers Meet and Greet
- 4:00 pm District Officers Flag Rehearsal for Joint Assembly
- 4:45 pm Auxiliary Rehearsal for District Presidents, Pages and Department Officers
- 5:30 pm Pages, Officers and District Presidents Supper
- 5:30 pm Past Department Presidents Social and Dinner
- 7:30 pm Joint Opening Session

Saturday, June 27, 2015

- 7 - 8:30 am Auxiliary Registration
- 8:00 am Auxiliary General Session
- 11:30 am Past Presidents Parley Luncheon
- 1:00 pm General Session Resumes
- 2:00 pm Registration Closes, General Session continues. Be prepared to vote in the afternoon.
- 6:00 pm Banquet Social
- 7:00 pm Department Commander's & President's Banquet
- 8:30 pm Dance by ND Legion State Band

Sunday, June 28, 2015

- 8:00 am Auxiliary General Session
- 10:00 am Joint Memorial Service followed by Joint Session
- Time tbd Auxiliary Installation

See page 11 for additional convention information.

Youth Hero Good Deed Awards Presented

It is often said, "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders." Every year, we see examples of youth in this country making a positive difference by doing some pretty amazing things. These acts remind us of the power of one person's example, and that's why the American Legion Auxiliary created the Youth Hero awards. We recognize young girls and boys who are demonstrating a kind of intentional selflessness, and then we tell their stories to encourage other acts of good will.

Several youth in the McVille ND set up a lemonade stand on a street corner and decided the funds that they collected would go to the Nelson County Health System Foundation. The foundation had a project where they were doing fund-raising for to purchase a new walk-in tub for the local Care Center. During the afternoon, the youth collected just over \$18, and presented the funds to the Foundation Director.

Ole Semling Unit 135 of McVille, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Children and Youth Program Chairman, Mary Wall submitted this story of the good-hearted children to the Department of ND ALA Headquarters and



Pictured are: Top row Rylan Parsley, Seth Monsebroten, Jessie Monsebroten, and Shayann Kutz.
Not pictured: Valerie and Katelyn Reiten

she in turn submitted the story to the National Children and Youth Chairman, Diane Duscheck. Each of the children was given their award for their good deed at the May meeting of Unit 135.

Our Auxiliary members appreciate the good deed these young community members preformed and feel like the efforts of the ALA to support our military, our veterans and the youth and our community has paid off many times over. Thanks to the parents that supported their children in the undertaking.

Submitted by Judy Twete

Sherwood Post and Unit 213 Present "Respect for Flag" Programs

On May 13th and 14th, the Sherwood American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary visited the MLS-Sherwood School where they presented programs on the proper way to respect our American Flag.

On May 13th, the American Legion Auxiliary began by showing a video on why the American Flag needs to be respected by everyone and the proper way to show our respect. Following the video, the students and teachers got red, white, and blue star-shaped cookies as a snack. Then there was another animated video on the meaning of the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Following the videos and a short discussion, Legion members showed the proper way to fold the American Flag. Mr. Ryan Ziliak, who is both a Legion member and also a deputy with the Renville County Sheriff's Department, and deputy Jolene Pardo, along with Legion Member Terry Miller folded a flag and inserted it in a flag case. Each student and teacher received a small American Flag.

On Thursday afternoon, May 14th, the MLS-Sherwood students went to the Sherwood Memorial Hall where the American Legion members showed the proper way to dispose of American Flags that have served their purpose and were worn out. The students sang "You're A Grand Old Flag" both when they arrived and as they left. The flag-burning ceremony is practiced by many American Legion posts throughout the nation each year. American Legion Post 213 in Sherwood has a flag disposal ceremony each year.



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Department President

It's a wet, cloudy, cool day in my part of the world today as I imagine it is where you live, too. A good day to bake cookies, which I am not doing, I'm doing the laundry instead.

Things seem to be rushing at me all of a sudden and I'm beginning to wonder if I'll get everything done I need to do. Memorial Day is nearly here, along with poppy day. We must all pause to remember the men and women who gave so much for our freedom, we need to be thanking them daily rather than setting aside a special day. In my Unit we distribute poppies the Friday or Saturday before Memorial Day, they mean so much to so many of us. My friend Judy sent me a poem via email that says it best:

WHY DO I WEAR A POPPY

by Peter Pebbles Stone

Why do I wear a poppy? I'll tell you if I may,
Because I believe remembrance is not only for one day.
I wear it for the fallen, and for those falling still.
For those who come back broken in body or in a will.
For the parents, spouses, siblings where bereavement
takes its toll.
Whose pain will never leave them, it eats into their soul
For the wino on the corner, of his old life..nothing's left.

Now he wishes when in battle,
he had died a hero's death.
For the lad who loved a kick-
about in the park with all his
mates,
But now his legs are held
together with pins and metal
plates.
For the selfless men and
women whose final journey
home is in a country flag-draped coffin, on comrades'
shoulders borne.
Those marching proudly in Remembrance Day/Veterans'
Day parades
My poppy's worn in gratitude for the sacrifice they made.



Arla Roth

Soon after Memorial Day we'll be heading for Grand Forks for Summer Convention. I want to remind you to bring items for the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, the list of their needs was in the last Unit mailing. And be sure you enter the poppy hat contest, it will be fun!

Arla Roth
Department President



Past Presidents Parley

I have had quite an informative year as Past Presidents' Parley Chairman. I have learned some of the duties of ALL Past Presidents at ALL LEVELS. Past Presidents at all levels are to continue their support to the ALA organization by accepting responsibility that the knowledge and wisdom as a past leader can make a difference in the developing and mentoring the life of one member. I have had the opportunity to pass on some of my knowledge to those that have asked for information and have received additional knowledge by asking for clarity and help. Members, please contact any Past President at all levels if you are in a bind.

My responsibilities also included the selection of a "Unit Member of the Year". I requested a teacher and a unit member to help with this task. The essays of the Unit Member and the Active Duty Servicewoman were sent respectfully to the National Chairmen to be honored at the National Convention.

The ALA Department of North Dakota is happy to announce and congratulate Nikki Braaten, Fargo, North Dakota as the Active Duty "Servicewoman" for 2015. She was nominated by Mavis Goodroad, District 1 President, of Fargo, ND. Nikki serves with the N. D. National Guard as Supply Systems Specialist Officer. Since 2013, Nikki, is Child and Youth coordinator of the Military Personnel. Thank you, Nikki, for your Military Service.

The ALA Department of North Dakota congratulates Mary Ann Michel, as the "Unit Member of the Year". Mary Ann was nominated by Clarence McCormick Unit # 195, Donnybrook, ND. Some of her hard work included phone calls to women and members to raise their membership to 107% for 2014-2015; helping with three blood drives this year by calling the donors and setting up; buying items for children (10 for 10) for education, visiting Veterans in the hospital as well as shut ins; baking and serving; just a few of her projects for her service to the UNIT, the Veterans and the Community. Thank you for all your work in Donnybrook.

Nikki and Mary Ann will be honored at the PPP luncheon at the State Convention in the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND on June 27, 2015.

Other ladies that were nominated the "Unit Member of the Year" were Margaret Johnson of Ole Semling Unit # 135 of McVile, ND; Dorothy Crandall, of Matthew Brew Unit # 3 of Dickinson, ND and Judy Hoyt, of Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 of Jamestown, ND. Thank you ladies, so deserving of the nominations in your Units, for all work devoted to your Unit, for the Veterans and your communities.

Congratulations, Jessica Serr of Linton, ND as the recipient of the Past Presidents' Parley Scholarship.

Betty Malkowski,
Past President

Department Secretary

At the start of May, Diane Kramer (incoming membership chairman), Judy Twete (leading candidate for Northwestern Division Vice President) and I attended the Department Leadership National Conference (DLNC) in Indianapolis. I specifically found value in presentation on recommended insurance policies for the department and Girls State program. Meeting with other Department Secretaries always provides an opportunity to bring back ideas on things I can do in the office to better serve members and units- this year was no exception.

Immediately following the conference, I attended a National Centennial Plan meeting. Last year I was asked to be a strategy captain for Goal 2 Strategy E: Implement Best Practices to Achieve Cultural Change. This meeting allowed all strategy captains and goal champions to work with each other and re-align the existing initiatives drafted. The air was energized; there were party balloons, smiles, laughter, and a celebration of our accomplishments thus far. I wish I could bottle up that excitement and share it with you! The national plan will help units obtain the resources needed and provide ideas so that we may accomplish the five goals of the Centennial Plan. At the 2014 Department Convention we approved our own department strategic plan. Plans are underway for upcoming department leadership (officers and chairmen) to determine how we will reach our own strategies/goals. I hope department leadership can "infect" units and members in North Dakota with the same energy level and determination experienced at the national planning meeting! More information on our strategic plan will be shared this fall.

You may have noticed that the poppy labels this year did not have a date on them. This was done in response to members across the country asking that the date be removed. Dated labels are available on the national website

for download/printing if desired. Please provide your feedback on this change so that National Executive Committeewoman share your thoughts at her upcoming NEC meeting. Also, it is worth noting that there were two different kinds of poppy labels distributed this year. Most units will have gotten poppies with the first kind of label which I understand falls off more easily. Thankfully this problem was remedied partway through the year with a new kind of labels. So far we think the new labels are staying on better.

Please seriously consider attending Department Convention at the end of June in Grand Forks. There are a lot of resolutions on the floor, and it is critical that the department leadership hears your voice. If you cannot attend convention, share your voice with other unit members attending or contact your District President.

We are blessed to live in a place where we can fuss about things like join dates on membership cards and getting more members to attend unit events. Our freedom to worry about such details is thanks to our veterans. When you are feeling frustrated with what is going on in the Auxiliary, think about our active duty military men and women, veterans and their families. Reflect on our mission. Hopefully by doing so it will put the problems we face into perspective and allow us to move forward.

In case someone hasn't told you lately, *thank you* for being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary!

Catherine Olson
Department Secretary



Catherine Olson

Department Chaplain

Dear Unit Chaplain,
I hope that your year as Chaplain has been enjoyable. The time is flying by and it will soon be time for Department Convention. It would be wonderful if you will take time to send prayers to me for President Arla's Prayer Book.
May He Bless you with His Love.
Remember Prayers for President Arla's Prayer book!

Send them to Beverly Wolff,
PO Box 1060, Beach, ND. 58621,
or e-mail them to boots@midstate.net

Blessings,
Beverly Wolff
Chaplain, Dept. of ND



Beverly Wolff

Four Generations of ALA Members in Lt Theo R Zech Unit 180 in Richardton



Pictured is Great Grandmother Leona Hoff- Past Department President and Past Northwestern Divisional Vice President, Grandmother Roberta Shegrud, Mother Sara Gietzen, and daughters Tatum Finly (5) and Everleigh Sloane Gietzen



From left to right: Great Grandmother Fran Hauck, Mother Sierra Reiss, baby Evalynn Reiss, Grandmother Kimm Reiss

ND "Remember our Fallen"

Patriotic Promotion's, of Omaha NE the sponsor of this Memorial has decided to allow the NDAL to continue as the Host of these ND Soldiers. It is currently on display at the Fargo VA medical Center. If you know of a community, business or organization that would like to sponsor it to their town please refer them to the headquarters office. We can be contacted at either 701-293-3120 or Dave Johnson at adjutant@ndlegion.org.



District 1

Ladies of District 1,

First, I want to thank those of you who sent me reports of your units. Great job. Then, again, thank you for responding to my phone calls about membership. You are doing great at contacting those members who have not renewed. We need to keep trying to get as many renewals as we can and if you can get new members, even better. I know it is a tough procedure but we must keep trying.

As I said in my phone conversations, it would be great for some of you in your units to come to the convention in Grand Forks. Come and renew your friendships with those you have not seen in a while and, also, talk about some of your concerns within your unit. Our Department Officers need to hear your concerns. In order to keep the American Legion Auxiliary moving ahead, we all need to communicate.

Last, I do not have a Vice President to take over as President of this District. I cannot keep being President. Someone in this District is well qualified to do this position. I know of different ones who can. So, I am asking for your help in this District.

Looking forward to seeing you in Grand Forks

Your District President

Mavis Goodroad

District 1 President

District 4

Just a few reminders as most of your meetings are over until September. Bring items for the Ruth Maier's Hospitality House to convention, June 26-28 in Grand Forks. Send monetary donations for President Arla's projects to the office. Have you paid your dues for 2015? If not, do it now. They were due by December 31, 2014.



If not paid, you are delinquent and don't qualify for ALA benefits. Membership cards for 2016 should be ready at convention. 2016 dues need to be paid by December 31st, 2015! Send dues to your membership chairman after July 1st. Thank you membership chairmen who faithfully sent me monthly up-dates to send to Judy Twete.

Go to our ALA website at ndala.org to keep informed on summer activities and check out "Thinking of You," under News. Keep track of all you do during the summer as there will be mid-winter reports due in December. Thank you to units who sent year-end reports.

Gackle Unit & Post members went to the ND Veterans Home in April. They had a tour of the home. A veteran gave them a demonstration on making poppies. They had lunch with the veterans, and served Angel Food cakes and toppings. Also took 15 heart pillows, 4 quilts, lap robes, and donated money for purchase of phone cards. Streeter Unit & Post members went to the home in May. Post member called Bingo. Sandwiches were made by the unit and served with variety of fresh bakery donuts and Angel Food cake. They also took \$100 worth of requested items suggested on our ALA website, under Programs - VA & R.

I will continue 'sharing time' in my monthly letters. Send me a note on activities to include. My next letter will be in August. I am looking forward to visiting the units I have not attended for either a meeting or a program. I will be attending the National Convention in Baltimore, August 28th - September 3rd.

"For God, Country and Veterans."

Elsie J. Goldsmith

District 4 President

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

We have many great items to report, one is a new cart that was purchased with funds from the Harwood American Legion Gaming Fund. Pictures of the old and new cart can be found on our website. The new cart is very helpful in providing services to our Veterans in the VA Hospital.

Items that are needed for the VA Hospital are nail clippers, mouth wash, eye glass cleaner, combs, denture cleaner, chapstick lip balm, and men's deodorant. The VA Home would like Big number alarm clocks, batteries, crafty items, yarn for loom work, and any kind of care items. There is always a need for money for both the VA Hospital and the VA Home, the funds can be sent to the state and they will make sure that the right entity gets the funds.

I want to thank everyone for all of the great reports that you sent in and for all of the great work that everyone does every day for the Veterans in our community. North Dakota is so lucky to have such caring members that look after the people that have served their country.

Shirley Montgomery

VA&R State Chairman

It Isn't Over... Until It's Over!

Have you heard that statement before? I bet you have, but now I want you to think about it in regards to the American Legion Auxiliary membership. It might be early June, but we still have until thirty days prior to National Convention to make the goals assigned to each unit last fall. Don't you think that it is time we really put our 'feet to the fire' and get those last member's dues into Department? Achieving that, will show just how much you think of that veteran who gave you eligibility to be a member of the world's largest women's patriotic organization. What a special way to show how proud you are of their service. Doing that will help you thank them for their service.

Remember when you first signed up as a member and felt that surge of pride listing that special veteran's name on the 'Eligible through' line? Even though that special person may not be with you any more, there still must be some sense of love for them and their service contribution to our country's freedom. Think about that for a minute and tell me that you can't encourage someone else to pay their dues to honor another family member's service.

We need to continually remember that we are a service organization that helps veterans, military, and their families and communities. What a wonderful undertaking we have been challenged with, and what appreciation those people have when we are there to help. If not us as ALA members, then who will it be? It is who WE are, what WE do and why WE matter. Pledge to remain a part of such wonders that we do.

We still have time to Honor a Female Veteran for her service with her first year of membership totally free. Yes, no money needs to change hands; sign her up under her own eligibility and she can have that wonderful feeling of being a Dual Member if she is also a Legionnaire, but that step isn't even necessary. They have so much to contribute.

Do you still have that white flat-fold-box collecting coins in your unit that you were given last fall? The one labeled 'Saved for Service'? Are there enough coins (\$19) in the box to choose a new member who you would like to pay her dues and gain a member with some much needed service in your unit in the future? She might be just around the corner and your unit could choose to help with her membership and gain some needed assistance where you are lacking. Think about such a gift for someone and a new member for your unit. I know they are out there. Please just look around, please.

With the adoption of the new Five-Year Strategic Plan for the ALA Centennial in 2019, we need to realize goal number one is to increase our membership. We need to remember that your goal numbers were increased this year and that and it will undoubtedly happen again next year. We need to do all we can this year so next year won't add an even bigger challenge. The remaining four plan goals are things that will, in achieving them, ultimately help us achieve that membership increase. 2) Create an internal culture of good will in our units. We need to be kind and helpful and follow the Golden Rule. 3) We need to develop leaders in our units and our Department. 4) We need to strengthen our units and our Department for the future. 5) We need to associate ourselves with our 'Brand' with The American Legion Family. We need to show who we are at all times.

So again ladies, **I ask that you don't give up on membership in your units until we reach or exceed our membership goals this year.** It is important for our veterans, our military and their families and communities. It is important that we pledge to honor and take care of these things to show our pride for the service that they gave. I hope that you find in your heart that warm fuzzy feeling that you get just remembering their name.

Thank you for taking time to read this and to think about what you can do as a unit member to accomplish our number one goal. If each unit member can think of one member to ask to join, we can accomplish great things.

Judy Twete,

Department Membership Chairman

Children & Youth

As I read through the year-end children and youth reports, I realized what a valuable contribution the American Legion Auxiliary makes to our youth. We have some alarming statistics to overcome. A recent poll revealed that the vast majority of all American youth had little use for patriotism as they understood it. Today only one college student in three call patriotism a very important value. We no longer hear of YCL clubs that teach youth about government and civic responsibility.

Many of our North Dakota posts and units still make an effort to get into the classrooms and demonstrate flag folding, encourage writing for Americanism, sponsor oratorical contests, Girls State and Boys State. North Dakota is one of the few states that will soon require all students to pass a civics/constitution test to receive a high school diploma. I like to believe that the dedication and years of commitment from the American Legion and auxiliary played a part in making this requirement a reality. So hats off to North Dakota and a grateful thank you to all of the units that poured time and energy into our youth programs this year.

God Bless the USA

Marlene Boyer

Dept. Children and Youth Chairman

ND Girls State

Greetings from ALA ND Girls State! We've been busy prepping for the 2015 session, and as I write this on 5/21/15, we have 120 registered girls. The good news is that I have at least one new application in my mailbox daily, so I am hopeful this number will increase. As a reminder, please keep in close contact with your girls before they depart for Grand Forks. Each registered girl has been sent a welcome letter with a detailed list for packing and basic guidance. We are again partnering with Boys State for busses. In the welcome letter, the instructions are to contact the Legion office to sign up for a bus with Teri. Phone numbers for both the Legion office and myself are included. Questions regarding the busses can be directed to myself; however to get on the bus list, I am asking that either the local Girls State Chairman or the applicant herself contact the Legion office to lessen confusion. This will be an additional cost that is not covered by the application fee and varies on where the applicants are picked up.

New this year is an invitation to participate in President Roth's service project for supplies to the Ruth Meier Hospitality House. In the welcome letter is a list of items that they are welcome to bring and stressed that this is VOLUNTARY. Our city mothers will be heading up service projects throughout the week, including (back by popular demand) the pocket flag project.

ALA ND Girls State would like to extend an invitation to you to attend American Legion Night to be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 7pm. This will be held at the Chester Fritz Auditorium in Grand Forks.

As always, please contact myself or any board member with questions on the program. We are here to make this a memorable and fun experience for all!

Respectfully,

Dana Thoreson

ALA ND Girls State Chairman

National Security

The American Legion Auxiliary year is just about over and with the new year beginning in July, we welcome our new leaders to the forefront. Along with new officers, we also welcome new Program Chairmen.

This past year, I have been National Security Chairman. First, I want to thank all who participated in the Round Table Discussions at the Mid-Winter Conference. I hope it was informative to all who attended—it surely was helpful to me as Chairman. I am still learning, and my year is just about over.

I know many units in North Dakota are located in small communities and live far from a military base, but I have been informed and I have informed many units that you can support the service personnel and their families from your small North Dakota unit. Every unit can participate in the coupon program—Google Overseas Coupon Program and you will find that you have many choices to work with. You may know a military person you can send coupons to, and they will distribute them to other military families. You can send cards and packages to military families or help a family in your community. If there is a military family in your community, you can assist a spouse in finding a job in the area. We can collaborate with The American Red Cross to assist military families in need. We can collaborate with Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor Program by organizing hiring events or serving as a mentor. You can support Hiring Events for Veterans and Military and Veteran Spouses. You can participate in planning a Welcome Home event for separating servicemembers. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a program to prepare citizens for emergency response. FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates community members on disaster preparedness in their local communities. Training is offered on four topics: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. As you can see, the options are endless—we just need to be aware of what we can do in our community as the need arises.

Having given a few ideas and suggestions, you can expand from here. Please be aware that you can go to www.alaforveterans.org and find the Plan of Action for National Security. There are endless ideas, suggestions and much information regarding our military and their families. Sue Britton has been our National Security Chairman on the National Level this year. After the National Convention, you can find the new chairman's Plan of Action. We can always look for new ideas.

Last, I want to say "Thank You" to all units who sent in reports—it was a special treat to read what different units are doing around North Dakota. There were units who do services that qualify under the National Security Program. After getting no reports for Mid-Year Reports, it was great hearing from you. I want to see more reports next year for all the Programs. Thank you for being a member the American Legion Auxiliary, and thank you for your support of the American Legion Auxiliary—YOU ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY.

Marlys Aubol

National Security Chairman

Stepping Into the Role of ALA President



Many thanks to all of you who have been so encouraging to me as I shakily take on the role as your 2015-2016 Department President. It was only with your encouragement that I overcame the obstacle of fear. I remember going to my first Legion Convention to that far away city of Williston when I asked myself the question why? Why would anyone drive 250 miles on their own dime to attend a convention where they knew few people and even less about why they were going?

After all this veterans' organization was not going to benefit me personally. My husband was not a veteran. Besides, Tuesday nights are game nights in most small communities and one of the best nights for television. Still, my days of being dragged to meetings and patriotic events as a kid harkened back. Many in my family proudly wore the uniform and it continually humbled me with the hard truth of what they sacrificed. And so I kept attending meetings and conventions and volunteering like the rest

of you. As I learned more about the American Legion and listened to legislators from the state and national, it became apparent that the most important contribution we make to our veterans is in the way of Congressional clout. Our presence on Capitol Hill keeps appropriations coming for our veterans' hospitals, nursing homes and national security. It's what we do, it's who we are.

In 1918, war veterans returned to a nation that was unprepared to cope with the needs of the sick and wounded. Because of the work of past veterans we now have the Department of Veterans Affairs, and they work tirelessly to assure that our veterans and war-time heroes get the best care possible.

My challenge to all of you who have never attended a convention is to join us this June 26, 27, 28, at the Alerus Convention Center in Grand Forks and learn as much as you can about the American Legion and its Auxiliary. Please stop and introduce yourself as a member of the American Legion Family. It's who we are.

God Bless America!
Marlene Boyer

Cat Olson Seeks Re-election for Dept Secretary

Thank you to the Laverne J. Thompson Unit 11 in Cavalier who has endorsed my candidacy for Department Secretary. I am eligible for membership thanks to my father Neil who is a Vietnam Vet. I am eager to run for the office of Department Secretary for a third term. I feel there are more ways that I can serve the department and help us grow. My decision to run for another term is strongly tied to a resolution being brought before Department Convention this year, regarding the hiring of an office employee and continued election of the Department Secretary.

In the last two years, I've had the opportunity to interact with unit leaders and hear what challenges they are facing and successes they are celebrating. I've also been able to exchange ideas with other departments and learn about what does and does not work for them, and reflect on how some of those things may also benefit our own department. When I first took office I thought the office of Department Secretary was primarily a clerical position, but have come to see how much more this office can and should do.

The American Legion Auxiliary is ultimately a corporation, and based on conversations with long-standing Auxiliary members I don't think being a corporation is something we've had to focus on. With the way business is changing (especially IRS regulations) I feel it is increasingly important that our department leaders understand our role as a corporation and how it impacts units and members.

Last year the national office released the "Department Operations Guide" which is an excellent resource on a wide variety of topics. The guide may be downloaded from the national website. I really like how it explains the various roles of officers and committees in the Auxiliary. The role of department secretary is certainly addressed. Ultimately she is the secretary of the corporation. She is also an office manager. In our department, we have given her the third duty of taking care of daily clerical duties. By being the main (and often only) office employee, we lose the oversight role. And because the secretary is so busy with clerical duties, it makes finding time to tend to the all corporation tasks difficult, let alone find time to help the department grow in areas we need to develop in order to continue existence.

While in office I took on the additional duties of compiling and editing the Message, designing and continuously updating our website, branding our department by consistent use of our logo on documents, and have worked to create as many checklists and handouts as possible to educate officers and members at all levels. The use of Facebook and establishment of four different email

subscription lists have been developed for those who prefer those means of communication. In response to members saying they are missing out on valuable information sent in unit mailings, we've added unit mailings to our website and started sending some information directly to the officer that needs it most. I am proud of what has been accomplished!

Finding one person to complete all these duties is a daunting task; it's a large skill set to expect from one person. Pair that with the salary we have available and it makes finding the right secretary for our department even more of a challenge.

The proposed resolution splits the Department Secretary position as we know it now into two positions: a hired office employee who would take care of the daily clerical work, and an elected department secretary who provides oversight to the department office and guidance to DEC and officers. The hired office employee may not be the expert on the ins/outs and history of the Auxiliary, but she should have strong computer and customer service skills. This position would be paid a salary. The Department Secretary would remain an elected position who is the secretary of the corporation and makes sure that needs and directives of the Department Executive Committee are carried out. She would also provide resources and guidance to the Department President so that she may in turn effectively help her chairmen, units and members. We know the Department President will change each year, and ideally the Department Secretary would remain in office several years, providing continuity to department operations.

If the position was split in this way, I feel it will expand the pool of qualified Department Secretary candidates. A member who has a strong knowledge of the Auxiliary and how to run a corporation may not be interested in "the daily grind" of office work. By putting the responsibility of daily office work into the hands of a hired office employee, a qualified person may be more likely to run for Secretary. Assuming that the department secretary only receives expenses for travel and meetings (similar to the Chaplain and Historian), the department essentially gets a "buy one get one" deal on the department office workforce.

I ask that you seriously consider the proposed resolution, and if you have any questions to contact me or any of the resolution authors. Depending on the outcome of the resolution, I ask for your vote as Department Secretary and the Convention on June 28th.

Thank you,
Catherine (Cat) Olson

Diane Kraemer for President-Elect

I am Diane Kraemer from Grand Forks. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 56 years.

I am looking forward to your support as I run for President-elect for the coming year.

Membership is a very vital program of the American Legion Auxiliary. We need many more members to help us with service to our veterans and their families. I encourage each current member to sign up at least one new member to help us maintain our goals for the year.

Shirley Montgomery Seeks 2015-2016 Department Secretary Position

- ◆ Endorsed by Harwood Post 297 for Department Secretary Position
- ◆ Retired from the local phone company after 35 years as a Network Technician
- ◆ Post 297 President for 2 years
- ◆ Post 297 Girl's State Representative for 3 years
- ◆ Post 297 Membership Chairman for 9 years
- ◆ State VA&R Chairman for 2 years
- ◆ Member for 10 years of Post 297
- ◆ Treasurer for Make-A-Wish and Communication Workers of America Local 7303
- ◆ **Please support me at the 2015 Annual Convention in Grand Forks**



Beverly Wolff for Department Chaplain

The Harley Salzman Unit #5 of Beach is pleased to present Beverly Wolff as a candidate for Department Chaplain for the 2015-2016 year.

Beverly has held offices on the Unit, District, Department and National Levels.

She is presently the Department Chaplain, Past National Chaplain, Past NEC, Past Department President, and has held Department and NW Division Chairmanships.

Beverly is a Life member of the Auxiliary through her late husband Darrell who was a retired Veteran of the Korean and Viet Nam Era.

Your vote and support at the June 2015 Convention will be much appreciated.



In Memoriam

District 1

Darlene Cox, Fargo
Geraldine Foss, Valley City
Diane Smith, Finley
Alice Amundson, Finley
Joyce Moritz, Sandborn
Gladys M Bjelverud, Galesburg
Glennice Baumgartner, Fargo
Geraldine Allen, Fargo
Geraldine Foerster, Fargo
Adelle Franek, Fargo
Verona Semrad, Hope
Evelyn Holt, Casselton

District 2

Penny Kram, Park River
Jean Nelson, Saint Thomas
Ellen Novak, Saint Thomas
Lola Houdek, Grafton
Frances Hall, Grand Forks
Bernice Hartje, Cavalier
Anne Kosanda, Grand Forks
Betty Hein, Grand Forks
Ferne Berg, Grand Forks
Ina Wigen, Grand Forks
Clarice Stein, McVillage
Mary Ann Sommer, Pisek
June Skjerven, Grafton
Joyce Dierker, Thompson
Casey Schultz, Michigan
Gen Barta, Minto
Betty Lippert, Aneta
Alice Hankey, Park River
Catherine Hjelmstad, Park River

Arlene Stenerson, St. Thomas

District 3

Marilyn Peters-Stotts, Hampden
Marie Timm, Hampden
Betty Wolf, Hampden
Rita Bercier, Rugby
Clara Ebach, Rugby
Anna Bercier, Rolla

District 5

Norma Wentz, Napoleon
Judy Borlaug, Washburn
Barbara Johnson, Bismarck
Lenora Becker, Napoleon
Berndean Coppin, Fredonia
Viola Irion, Fredonia
Cecelia Schroeder, Bismarck
Alice Silbernagel, Hazelton
Irene Herman, Wishek
Elaine Blinsky, Wishek

District 6

Leiila Long, Upham
Helen Graff, Donnybrook
Ella Mae Michalenko, Butte

District 7

Audrey Heinzer, Mandan
Frieda Mittelsteadt, Hazen

District 8

Kathryn Gillen, Dickinson
Annie Tysver, Scranton

Lucille Knudtson, Belfield

Fern Olson, Reeder
Ila Hawk, Bowman
Mary Lynn Burgad, Reeder
Loretta Wolf, Scranton
Mary Schaal, Beach
Verna Tosner, Beach
Irene Benz, New England

District 9

Pauline Cain, Wildrose
Bernice Bakken, Wildrose
Lenora Rovellstad, Noonan

District 10

Georgia Sandvig, Sheldon
Jeannette Olson, Milnor
Beth Odegard Milnor
Vera Krafka, Forman
Emily Swanson, Forman
Marjorie Pankow, Wahpeton
Betty Reinke, Forbes
Mary Lou Mangnall, Oakes

Unit 500

Lucille Albrecht, Steele
Ilean Backer

We regret any errors or omissions. Please notify the Department office of any errors so they may be corrected.

Tiny Tots

The Auxiliary welcomes its newest members under the age of 7:

District 1

Haley Von Bank, Buffalo
Lydia D Von Bank, Buffalo
Ainsley H McCoss, Buffalo
Kenna M McCoss, Buffalo
Bailey McCoss, Buffalo
Anna Gerdes, Buffalo

District 2

Alysa Jumonville, Park River

District 3

Brookelynn Bohl, Rugby

District 4

Kaiya Gott, Jamestown
Taylin Guyer, Jamestown
Paisley Wilen, Jamestown
Amelia Finck, Jamestown
Teigan Neumiller, New Rockford

District 7

Sara M Woods, Carson

District 8

Larkin VanderBusch, Belfield
Everleigh Gietzen, Richardton

District 9

Annalise Vanhooser, Powers Lake

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