

## Spring District Meeting

The Spring District 4 Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Jamestown Vets Club. Registration and social hour started at 5pm followed by a Swiss steak dinner at 6pm. Registration was \$4.00 and supper \$14. Thirty-seven members attended, including Department President Marlene Boyer, Carrington. Department officer present: Department Vice President and VA & R Chairman Mavis Goodroad, Fargo.

At 7 pm, District 4 Commander Mark Dockter opened the joint session. Prayer, colors presented, Pledge of Allegiance, tribute to POW/MIA and reciting of the AL/ALA Preamble. Jamestown Unit President Judy Hoyt gave the welcome. Introductions of Department and District officers & chairman. Remarks by Department Commander Harold "Bud" Goldsmith, Jr. and Department President Marlene Boyer.

District 4 President Elsie Goldsmith called our meeting to order at 7:50 pm. Colors in place. Hand salute by all. Invocation was given by Mary Plumb, Wimbledon Unit. 30 second silent tribute for our deceased members. AL Department Adjutant David Johnson spoke to our group on the importance of collection signatures and signing the petition to get a tax increase on tobacco products on the November ballot. The increase will benefit our ND veterans. Members were asked to take a clip board and petitions, get signatures by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

At our meeting, DeLight Fercho, Streeter unit gave the response to Judy's welcome at the joint opening. Elsie introduced our guests: Department President Marlene and Department Vice President and VA & R Chairman, Mavis Goodroad, Fargo.

Myrna Ronholm, ALA Emergency Fund Chairman was recognized. Also Department Community Service Chairman Joan Lasher, McClusky and DeVon Allmaras, New Rockford, Department Constitution & By-Laws Chairman. Five past District 4 Presidents were acknowledged.

Elsie started the donation jar with \$20 for President Marlene's projects from our district. Included was \$48 left from funds collected from all district presidents for the Winter Conference reception for President Marlene and Northwest Division Vice President Judy Twete. A total of \$158.00 was sent to Department for Marlene's projects.

The Jamestown Unit presented the memorial service for fifteen members who died since our last spring meeting, March 2015. We also remembered Sherri Armonde, District 10 President who died unexpectedly last month. Department President Marlene spoke on her visit to Congress in Wash. DC. We must keep informed on veterans programs, medical assistance and there needs to be more accountability in Congress for our veterans. Continue supporting our active duty veterans and their families. Signing up for selective service is dropping significantly. Lack of passion and a sense of duty are a few of the reasons.

Department Vice President Mavis spoke on “No Veteran Dies Alone” program at the VAMC. Also, “Wishes on Wings, helping to grant wishes for terminal veterans at the VAMC. Donations are welcome for this project. There is a new program there called “Honors Escort.” This provides a dignified escort from place of death to the morgue at the VAMC.

Department Emergency Fund Chairman Myrna Ronholm reported ND ALA sent \$2328.20 to the ALA National Emergency Fund. This money came from the units. DeVon Allmaras, Constitution and By-Laws, reminded units to study their unit constitution and to have Standing Rules. Also, to support signing the state wide petitions to place a tax increase on tobacco on the November ballot. An increase will help veterans. Department Community Service Joan Lasher, reminded members to send her activities that units do for their communities, money spent and hours spent.

Elections were held. For a two-year term, Joan Lasher, McClusky will be installed as the new District 4 President at the June convention in Fargo. As an incoming president to an even numbered district, Joan is our delegate to the National Convention in Cincinnati, OH, if she chooses to go. Her travel expenses to and from Cincinnati, OH and delegate fee would be paid by the department. Shirley Lindstrom, New Rockford, will be the Vice President/Secretary. President Elsie thank everyone for four years of friendship, support and co-operation from the members. Also DeLight Fercho for being her convention page representing our district for four years.

The Department Communications Committee is asking for members to check out the ND ALA website and let them know if you want other information included, suggestions, what you don't like, etc. They are trying to reach the unit level membership and not just those in district or department.

Girls State is in need of City Moms. If interested contact Diane Kraemer. She is on the committee.

The New Rockford Unit had many door prizes. Department convention will be June 24-26, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. National convention will be August 26<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, in Cincinnati, OH. The meeting closed with prayer by Mary. Hand salute. We joined the Legionaries for coffee and bars donated by the McHenry Unit.

Clip boards were picked up by some members. They include information, instructions and petitions.

Marva Miska  
Jamestown Unit Secretary