



THE MESSAGE

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

Department President

I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department President. I know we will have a great year working on our many projects for our veterans, our military and their families and programs for our children and youth.

Our veterans and their families are very important to me. I want all of us to do that one little thing for them, like send your veterans in the nursing home a card on special occasions, helping at a senior center, send extra cards (no matter what kind) to Lisbon for our veterans to use. I strongly urge all of you to write down any time, dollars, and supplies for anything you do. Every hour we count will help us get more help for our veterans.

The work outlines are on line on the national website www.alaforveterans.org. I gave some chairman their packet at the Organizational Meeting. The rest will be mailed to them this week. All of our District Presidents were there and they have updated their books with the latest information.

The membership program is very important to all of us. If we do not build our membership up we could possibly lose our Boys State and Girls State, these programs are so important to all of our children.

We also need to continue our brand loyalty. It will show everyone who we are and what we want to accomplish.

I am here to help any member, unit or district in any way that I can with any problems you are having. Please call me (701-772-1839) or email me president@ndal.org.

I will write more after I return from the National Convention.

I want to personally thank you for all you do. God Bless the USA.

**Diane Kraemer
 President**



Diane Kraemer

Dunseith's Gladue earns honor from State's Legion Auxiliary

By John Rosinski
 Of the Star

Janice Glaude never joined the Dunseith American Legion Auxiliary for recognition, but her steady dedication was brought to light recently at a state convention.

Glaude joined Dunseith's Archie Jardine Unit 185 in the late 1980s, following in her mother's footsteps. June Quaife was a member of the auxiliary while Janice's father, Garnet Mountain, was a serviceman in World War II.

Glaude eventually joined the organization and is its current president.

"It's a service organization and we serve a lot of people, more than they probably realize," Gladue said. "I think we're the best kept secret around."

Glaude described the auxiliary as a service organization that aims to serve as many people as possible. To that end the group makes several various donations, volunteers at the Dunseith food pantry and assists with the Rodeo Club, among other charitable endeavors.

"It's a good feeling of satisfaction when something you've followed through comes to fruition," Gladue noted. "People are generous and the money they donate is used to pay our requirements and helps us do what we do for our veterans."

Glaude and the entire auxiliary received statewide recognition recently when she was selected the Department of North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary 2015-16 Unit Member of the Year. Jan was presented with a plaque at the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon during the convention held in Fargo.

Long-time auxiliary member Minnie Flynn submitted Gladue's nomination. Flynn highlighted how Gladue organized a tea for the Dunseith School staff during American Education Week and the ALA Poster Contest for Dunseith students.

Glaude has also volunteered at the Dunseith Senior Center and her work at the local food bank includes unloading trucks, organizing and collecting donations from food drives and food distribution. For Memorial Day, Glaude distributes Unit 185's poppies and prepares barbecues for the meal following the Memorial Ceremony.

Glaude and Flynn attended the state convention together, and Glaude commented on what it was like to watch Flynn, who has been an auxiliary member for years, live in her element.

"The award was a total surprise," Gladue said. "I asked Minnie 'What the heck did you say?' We went to the convention together and I watched so many people come up to her and say hi, hug her and tell endless stories together."

Glaude said she was surprised Flynn nominated her, but was quick to state the auxiliary wouldn't be where it is today without Flynn.

"I don't know what we would do without Minnie," Gladue said. "She is the mainstay of the organization and has been a mentor to me."

Glaude said she wants her honor to hopefully stir up some additional interest in the organization, and possibly some new members. There are currently 54 paid members but Glaude indicated only about 10 are active.

"We are eager to have people join and we need new members," Gladue said. "If anyone is interested they can call our members and we will provide them with an application."

Glaude's nomination has been submitted to the National ALA organization and she has been awarded a stipend to attend the National Convention and be recognized for her service to veterans, military, their families and communities.



2016-2017 Officers

- President..... Diane Kraemer, 741-5369, president@ndala.org
- Department President-Elect..... Mavis Goodroad, 361-0413, presidentelect@ndala.org
- Department Vice President..... Jeannie Roman, 340-0702, vicepresidentelect@ndala.org
- Department Secretary..... Shirley Montgomery, 253-5992, secretary@ndala.org
- Department Treasurer..... LaVonne Matthews, 361-8908, treasurer@ndala.org
- Department Historian..... Lynn Tomlinson, 550-9097, historian@ndala.org
- Department Chaplain..... Bev Wolff, 872-3309, chaplain@ndala.org
- National Exec Committeewoman..... Marlene Boyer, 652-3070,
- Alternate NEC..... Aria Roth, 426-3131, necalternate@ndala.org
- Parliamentarian..... Linda Juntunen, 230-2779, parliamentarian@ndala.org
- District 1 President..... Marcy Schmidt, 232-1327, district1@ndala.org
- District 2 President..... Marlene Simundson, 520-9631, district2@ndala.org
- District 3 President..... Gloria Covert, 266-5467, district3@ndala.org
- District 4 President..... Joan Lasher, 363-2770, district4@ndala.org
- District 5 President..... Katie Pulley, 260-2698, district5@ndala.org
- District 6 President..... Deanna Reed Olson, 263-5318, district6@ndala.org
- District 7 President..... Holly Eslinger, 891-1909, district7@ndala.org
- District 8 President..... Sonja Groll, 872-4938, district8@ndala.org
- District 9 President..... Pauline Kilbride, district9@ndala.org
- District 10 President..... Gigi Moore, 680-2079, district10@ndala.org

2016 Fall District Meeting Schedule

Mon, Sep. 12 – 6 th	Minot
Tue, Sep. 13 – 9 th	Grenora
Wed, Sep. 14 – 8 th	Dickinson
Thur, Sep. 15 – 3 rd	Rolla
Fri, Sep. 16 – 2 nd	Fordville
Tue, Sep. 27 – 7 th	Elgin
Wed, Sep. 28 – 5 th	Hazleton
Thur, Sep. 29 – 4 th	Jamestown
Fri, Sep. 30 – 1 st	West Fargo
Sat, Oct. 01 – 10 th	Wahpeton

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DIANE KRAEMER RECOGNITION DINNER

SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 • Starts at 5:30 pm
 GRAND FORKS INN AND SUITES (FORMERLY HOWARD JOHNSON)
 1210 North 43rd St • Grand Forks ND 58203 • TELEPHONE: 701-772-7131

RSVP BY 20 AUGUST 2016 TO:
 DIANE KRAEMER
 2466 ESTABROOK DR
 GRAND FORKS ND 58201



Department Secretary

This has been a very interesting year and I want to share some of the things that I have learned this year as being secretary of the ND American Legion Auxiliary. First the need to get new members in this great organization, second would be that the needs are great for all of the Veterans and active military members that the state provides. There is a lot more to this job than being here to answer your questions and knowing everything that happens within the state of North Dakota. The one thing that I have tried to do is to be here to help you with your concerns within your units. So feel free to email me or call me with any questions that you have.

Things that I am working on for the next year. First is a ND National Guard Woman's Appreciation Night for those that are at the guard offices in Fargo. Next would be a creative arts festival at the VA Hospital. Not all of the information is available for each of these activities so hopefully I will be able to fill everyone in soon as to what I am doing.

Because membership is something that is dear to my heart I came up with a way to make some money for incentives. In the meantime I got the shirts so that we can do some advertising for ND American Legion Family,

because after all we are a family. Please ask me if you are interested in purchasing a shirt, hopefully soon you can go onto our website at ndala.org and order your shirts.

I am working on getting funds to help the Veteran's that leave the hospital in the same clothes or pajamas that they come to the hospital with so that they can purchase clothes so that the Veteran can go home with pride and knowing that someone cared enough to give them clothes so they can have something.

Shauna has been working hard on getting the website up to date. We have been having a few problems with this website but hopefully we will finish the work that we need to do on this site.

We got 10 file cabinets from another company in the building that was going to get rid of the file cabinets. Hopefully I will have enough time to get all of these file cabinets filled with the many boxes that I have in the office.

Shirley Montgomery
Department Secretary



Shirley
Montgomery

District 3



District 3 is very proud to have the ND Legion Auxiliary woman of the year, Jan Gladue from Dunseith. We also have the 2016 Girls State governor Sami Nordmark from Rolla.

Jan Gladue was honored at a coffee party at the Peace Lutheran Church in Dunseith by family, friends and auxiliary members.

Sami Nordmark participated in the Ragtop parade in Rolla. She was escorted in the convertible by retired Corporal Rick Gibney a Rolla native.

Gloria Covert
District 3 Pres.

District 10

I'm no stranger to the Legion Aux or to District 10. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as your District President again. I will be attending the National Convention in Cincinnati at the end of the month.

It will then be time to start our new year. Start working on our programs, make sure to keep track of what you do, how many hours are spent on the program, money spent and number of people served. Get working on membership renewals and new members, they are so very important to our organization. I have only received a list of unit officers from a couple units, please send me one from your unit, along with a date and time of your meetings. I would like to visit every unit in the District. Am looking forward to working with each and everyone of you. Any question please give me a call. Cell 702-210-0048 or home 701-742-2647

Gigi Moore
District 10 President.



Historian

Greetings, Historians, Scrapbookers, and Members

I am pleased to be Department Historian for the fourth year. This undertaking cannot be completed without your help. Please continue to send me photos, news clippings, and memorabilia so I can compile the many accomplishments of our units and members.

For those who attended Convention, I hope you had the opportunity to look at the President's scrapbook presented to Marlene. Thanks to these units who sent contributions, Cando, Carrington, Dickinson, Fargo, Gackle, Grand Forks, Hazelton, Lidgerwood, McClusky, McVile, Napoleon, Portland, Rolla, Rutland, Sherwood, Streeter, and Wilton.

These units sent either mid-year or year-end reports, Belfield, Buffalo, Cando, Fargo, Gackle, Grafton, Grand Forks, Langdon, Larimore, McHenry, Minto, Mooreton, New Rockford, New Town, Park River, Portland, Richardton, Turtle Lake, Valley City, Velva, Wahpeton, Washburn, Watford City, and Willow City. No unit sent both which should be the done.

Kudos to Barry Hoff Unit 72 from Napoleon for having ALA Unit activities published in four newspapers and to Ole Semling Unit 135 of McVile whose chairmen send reports all year as the activities are completed. Keep up the great work.

Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 at Fargo submitted their Unit History. A great big thank you goes to Marcy Schmidt for following the directions! Following the directions to complete a unit history is important, but most important is keeping a visual record of all the great activities units and members complete.

Both news clippings and reports are used to complete the mid-year and year-end reports to the National Historian and for writing the Department History which is submitted for competition at the National Convention.

Read the complete 2015-2016 Department of North Dakota History online at Department's Website, www.ndala.org under the Program Tab, then click on Historian. 2016-2017 History Rules can also be found there and will be sent in a monthly mailing, too.

Keep tooting NDALA's horn and send me the info from your unit's and members' activities. My address is PO Box 1088, Rolla ND 58367-1088. If you choose, you can email pictures and scanned, attached news articles and reports to me at historian@ndala.org.

Lynn Tomlinson
Historian



Girls State



The 2016 ALA Girls State session was held June 5-10th and had 121 citizens registered. Samantha Nordmark from Rolla was elected Governor, and Sofia Murato was elected as Lieutenant Governor. Girls Nations Senators were Alyx Schmitz and Abigail Moberg.

Girls State participants may receive high school credit for participating in the program. Credit information was mailed to schools in mid-August. Next year the Civics exam will be offered to citizens and can fulfill the North Dakota Civics requirement. It is up to the school district to decide if they wish to accept the high school credit and civics exam.

Staff positions will be filled differently than they have been in the past. With the exception of the Girls State Director, all other staff positions will be filled through an application process. Application deadlines are:

Filled by time of publication: Marketing Director
October 1st: Dean of Counselors, Director of Government
November 15th: Senior Counselors
December 1st: Junior Counselors
January 15th: City Moms, Sales Director, School

Education/Counselor, Director of Ceremonies, Music Director, Choir Accompanist, Newspaper Editor/Coordinator

Two new positions have been established for



the 2017 session. The first new position is *Grand Mom*. The Grand Mom will lead the other city moms throughout the week and will be selected from within the city mom applications. We are also seeking a *School Educator/Counselor*. This person should have a secondary education license and have experience counseling students.

Applications and job descriptions will be sent to units in the September unit mailing, posted on the Girls State website, or can be requested from me or the Department office. The Girls State board encourages you to consider being part of the Girls State staff.

I'd like to specially thank Dana Thoreson for her time, talent, passion and leadership of the Girls State program during her time as Director. Though she is no longer Director, Dana continues to serve on the Girls State board.

On a related note, please notice the revised address to send registration and medical forms. Girls State also has a new phone number: 701-314-2460.

If you have any questions or suggestions please reach out to me or the other board members: Dana Thoreson, Laurie Horton-Senger, Lauren Hoffman, and Gigi Moore. Committee members also include the Department Secretary, Treasurer and President.

Sincerely,
Cat Olson
Girls State Director

Membership

Greetings Ladies:

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the Fall District meetings. I will be traveling with President

Diane and will be talking to you about membership. As you have heard before, we need to work hard to

get new members. I hope I can count on all of you to work with me and present any ideas that you may

have to help in this process. We need to work together and I will appreciate all of your effort. I would like to see that every Unit gets at least one member this year and some of you I am sure can do better than that. We will talk more on that subject when we meet.

I hope all of you had a great summer and are ready to work hard for our Veterans. They are the ones we are here to serve. Take care. God Bless all of you and God Bless our Veterans past and present.

Mavis Goodroad
President Elect



Department Leadership Training

Department Leadership National Conference is held in Indianapolis in the spring. I have attended twice and I learned a lot. It is open to all Auxiliary members. You fly in on Friday and leave on Monday.

This is a good source of information for all. You learn about the vision for the upcoming year. There is an overview of the Centennial Strategic Plan. We learned about Fiduciary Stewardship, about EIN's and the 990 forms. We listened and talked about ways to strengthen our units. The training opportunities that is available to all of us. We talked about membership. We also talked about communication, the ALA Brand, and the ALA website.

If you have a chance to attend this conference I would encourage you to go.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation



The needs of the Veterans are many. The VA Hospital and all of the CBOCS are looking for activity bags. The new craze is to get a nylon back pack (that you can get for about \$2) and fill this with treats, activity books, crayons or colored pencils.

There is a great need for this item and it is a little fun to fill it with items to keep the young ones busy while they wait for a Veteran at their appointment. The one in the picture is one that I have made and I put the American Legion Auxiliary Logo on the bags.

Other needs for the VA Hospital are eye glasses, eye glass cleaner, men's body wash, men's shampoo, and back scratchers. The VA hospital is in need of more men's items than woman's items. Next newsletter I am hoping to have the needs for the Veteran's Home in Lisbon. Please send the items to me if you would like because my office is real close to the VA Hospital.

Shirley Montgomery
Co Chairman for the VA&R

Past Presidents Parley

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY—Marlys Aubol, President 2016-2017.

As your President of Past Presidents Parley for 2016-2017, I decided that my article for The Message this time will be focused on Past Presidents Parley.

I will put together a Past Presidents Parley Program Action Plan for 2016-2017, which will be sent to all units and will also be available on www.ndala.org web site. You will also be able to find the National Action Plan at www.alaforveterans.org

First of all I am referring to the Programs Action Plan—this was formerly call the Plan of Action. Another change in our lives!

The following is taken from the National Programs Action Plan chaired by Virginia Hobbs, Past National President (1998-1999) from the Department of Kentucky. She writes: "The purpose of the Past Presidents Parley committee is to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. Through the Past Presidents Parley committee, women who have served as unit, department, and national presidents have an opportunity to continue in active service to the Auxiliary, helping ensure future leadership for the organization. The Past Presidents Parley also recognizes and honors outstanding unit members through Unit Member of the Year, and female veterans through the Salute to Servicewomen awards."

As past presidents of all levels—unit, district, department and national, we are encouraged to continue our support to future leaders of this great organization by contributing our experience, knowledge and wisdom.

I don't know how many units in our department have a Past Presidents Parley. My unit does not, but we can look to our Department Past Presidents Parley for support and assistance, or we can organize our own Past Presidents Parley in our unit, or we can refer to our Programs Action Plan.

Out of Past Presidents Parley, comes the Unit Member of the Year Award, which is presented to the winner at the Department Convention Past Presidents Parley Luncheon. Look around in your unit, and you may find someone who gives 110%, one who is always there to help in any way, or one who has a passion for a certain program of The American Legion Auxiliary.

Past Presidents Parley also honors a woman who has been nominated for the Salute to Servicewomen Award. The selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc., for the current administrative year.

Past Presidents Parley presents Nursing Scholarships to those young women who are attending college to obtain a nursing degree.

All of the guidelines for the awards are outlined in the Programs Action Plan, both National and Department. Let's have a great year and see you at the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon at the Department Convention in 2017 at Minot.



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COME OUT FOR THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE STARK COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

1ST ANNUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Veterans Helping Veterans

SEPTEMBER 10TH
11:00-3:00 PM

MEMORIAL PARK
801 5TH AVE W
DICKINSON ND

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ENTERTAINMENT
KIDDY CORNER
JUMPING CASTLES

FREE WILL DONATIONS
CONCESSIONS
SILENT AUCTION

SPECIAL GUESTS: POST 9/11 VETERANS, ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS & FAMILY MEMBERS.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING/SPONSORING? CONTACT: TOM COONS AT 307-262-2955 OR CATHY 701-260-5052

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Event On Behalf of Chapter 3 American Legion Riders, Matthew Brew Post 3 American Legion, Stark County Veterans Memorial Association, and Legion Auxiliary Unit 3.

Please Help us Find Advertisers

Each District has major cities with Businesses doing business statewide, Contact them and ask them to support our veterans through advertising.

We only need five (5) Ads per district to break even

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@ 701-293-3120
ND American Legion Headquarters

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Four Generations of Auxiliary Members



Ted Valerius unit 97 in Larimore North Dakota has members that are of 4 generations. Ivy Aaland, great granddaughter, Bridget Aaland, granddaughter, Anita Sanda, Daughter and Oma Hebert, wife of the Veteran. Congratulations on keeping this going in your family and thank you for the generations to come.

Constitution & Bylaws

We have in our Department Chairman's Constitution and Bylaws file, a copy of the National Constitution and a copy of the NDALA Constitution. There are also 10, 3-ring notebooks, one for each District. Each Unit in that District, has their Constitution in it. A number of Units have updated their constitutions over the last several years, and there are some units that are currently working on theirs. There



are still a few Units that haven't, but need to update their Constitutions and plans are to work on those this year. A big thanks to all the Units that updated their Constitutions and also to those Units that are still working on their Constitution. To those Units that have not yet updated, please contact me. I would like to ask each unit to please check your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws to see if it needs to be updated, if it is readable and in good condition (not torn, faded, etc.). When you are done, please don't forget to send a copy to Shirley Montgomery and to me. Thank you.

Sandra Petermann

Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Legislation

The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

This can be accomplished by holding Unit Legislative meetings, Legislative rallies, town Hall meetings, and Meet the Candidates nights. Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notification when they call on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic. Visit www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup to subscribe. Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Update to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues. Visit the Legion's legislative website, www.legion.org/legislative, to keep current on legislative priorities. Another excellent site is the e-newsletter of your elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities and to make sure that veteran/military national security issues are among them. Follow them on social media as well. (See each elected official's website for details how to sign-up and social media links).

Work with your Legion department's Legislative chairman and request that the Auxiliary be included in Legion meetings with national and state officials, and be invited to legion legislative briefings and other functions. Encourage members to attend. Write letters to our Senators, Representatives, State Officials and to Local Officials.

Sandra Petermann

Department Legislative Chairman

In Memoriam

District 2

Shirley Johnson, Northwood
Kay Theroux, Minto

District 3

Donna Lennon, Knox
Verna Vanorny, Rugby

District 4

Ellen Wirkkunen, Gackle
Delores Hoyt, Jamestown

District 5

Ellen Johnson, Garrison

District 8

Donna Baertsch, Beach
Myrna Farstveet, Beach
Doris Teske, Scranton
Mary Kannenberg, Beach

District 9

Lorraine Thompson, New Town
Lena Lee, Alexander
Alfreda Goodiron, Mandaree
Bernadine Yellow-Wolfe, Mandaree
Mildred Wangerud, Alexander
Eileen Hauge, New Town

District 10

Gertrude Farsdale, Walcott
Adeline Brownlee, Wahpeton
Betty Praska, Oakes
Evelyn Berg, Hankinson

What a Ride, What a Year!

I want to take some of your time to thank the Department of North Dakota for the support given me this past year as I served as the Northwest Division National Vice President. At my election I said that I prayed that I could represent North Dakota to the very best of my ability and make everyone proud of my accomplishments. I hope that you feel I did that for you.

It was quite a ride, starting with a Department Leadership National Conference in Minneapolis in November. It was so fulfilling to participate in this workshop. I wish that more ALA Members would consider attending a training meeting like this. There is going to be one held again in Minneapolis in November this year. Anyone seeking leadership skills, this is your answer to very intense training and chances to meet great women representing other departments from through the division.

November also brought about my first Department Visit to our Sister State, Minnesota. They really know how to treat a visiting National Guest. I felt like I was truly part of the Minnesota American Legion Family. They have a great mentorship program so members learn from former leaders. No one considering moving up the ladder of the ALA should feel like they are not ready for the challenges of the office. You have great knowledge when coming out of their training by department leaders from the past. It was a great first experience and members were very kind and appreciative.

After the first of the year, my weekends were almost all filled with visits to our other Sister State, South Dakota, Colorado, home Department of North Dakota and Nebraska. Each Department welcomed me with the greatest of respect and appreciation.

Things like: assembling layettes for military women expecting babies through the VAMC's, Troop Induction Ceremonies, collection and packaging of hygiene items for homeless veterans, project items for VAMC's and Veteran's Homes, sharing an example of Goal #2 of our Strategic Plan about a 'cutting a pickle' and hurt feelings, fund raising for guide and comfort dogs for veterans, fund raising for supplies for homeless veterans, passing out toy soldiers with a reminder to 'Bring a Soldier Home', speaking about 'Nick', sharing a story about a young man heading to boot camp and the affect he had on me, the "No Crab Zone project (no one allowed in meetings that was crabby!), the great leadership training within the departments at conferences and more and more, filled my time as the NDNVP. What a year... What a ride..

It was a wonderful and learning experience at each Department Visit. I have shared some of the great ideas with our Department President Diane and Secretary Shirley and hope that some of the ideas might catch on in North Dakota. Diane and Shirley were very receptive and realize it never hurts to try some of the tried and true ideas of others.

I was able to attend the Washington Conference in February. It started out to be a delightful event and I felt very special representing the Northwest Division.

Thank you to all of my American Legion family who so generously supported my projects. Congratulations to the winners of the raffle items!

1st place- Bison Statuary- Deanna Reed Olson
2nd place- Patriotic Quilt- Patty Thompson
3rd place- Quilted Wall Hanging- Linda Jutunen

Also, received news that a \$4200 grant was given to the Veterans Home in Lisbon by the ALA Foundation, Inc. The money will be used to buy tables for the art therapy room of the new workshop that is scheduled to be completed by spring of 2017.

Hope to see many of you at Cincinnati!
Marlene



Regretfully, Curt ended up in the George Washington University Hospital from Monday noon until we caught a flight back home Wednesday afternoon. What a total scare we had with the ambulance having to pick Curt up from lunch with friends at the hotel on Monday afternoon. What a heartwarming and comforting feeling it was to have the entire Legion Family, and especially the ND Family be concerned for his welfare and well-being. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was brought to his room and the support and love-shared was unbelievable. A big thank you to all at the conference for the concern, and even continuing to be concerned to date that we have experienced. I am glad to report that Curt has had no other "episodes" and is doing just fine. Thank you American Legion Family for being there for us.



I was able to attend most of the required meetings, but had to miss the Hill Walk. That is an event that I have attended many times in previous visits to the Washington Conference, but it would have been extra special to attend as the Northwest Division National Vice President from North Dakota.

The Department Convention brought more things to make memories. I want to thank the members that were thoughtful and appreciative. Sometimes being in 'your home settings' it is difficult to represent your office.

All in all, it has been a great year and a great ride! I hope anyone that is lucky enough to be voted in as the Northwest Division National Vice President in seven years will enjoy the respect and love shared in the year I have served.

Now the year will come to a close in Cincinnati, OH at National Convention. I am looking forward to a wonderful week, presiding at meeting, hearing reports about the year I served, and mostly, visiting with so many of the wonderful American Legion Family that I have come to know in my many, many years as an Auxiliary member. You can't find a more dedicated and loving group of people.

It will be a bittersweet morning when I turn my Northwest Division National Vice President's ribbon over to the new VP from Nebraska and getting a Past-NVP Ribbon. Again, I hope that you have appreciated my service to the American Legion Auxiliary this year. I loved serving in this position.

Remember we are all in this great organization because someone we love has served our country with honor. We are a very elite group of women knowing that fact. We can never stop serving our military, our veterans and their families and the communities they reside in. We need to share who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Always be Humble and Kind...

Judy Twete

**Northwest Division National Vice President
2015-2016**

2016-2017 HOMECOMING PICNIC

**North Dakota American
Legion-Commander Oretta
Kilen**

**Saturday, September 10, 2016,
Rocky Butte Park, 566 Fairway
St., Dickinson, ND**

**Social Hour 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Picnic-6:00 pm**

**Cost - \$20 Family, Couple \$15,
Single \$10**

**A block of 20 rooms are available at
the Comfort Inn for \$85. Call the hotel
directly at 701-264-7300 to reserve
a room and ask for the ND American
Legion room block by September 3rd.**

**Come and visit and in lieu of gifts, please
donate to the Commander's Project for
the landscaping at the Veteran's Home
in Lisbon, ND.**

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