

DISTRICT 2 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SPRING MEETING

APRIL 11, 2016 LARIMORE

The spring District 2 meeting was held in Larimore on April 11, 2016. A joint opening session was held with the Legion, with District Commander Helland calling the meeting to order at 7 pm. The colors were advanced and opening ceremonies were held. Opening remarks were made by Department President Marlene Boyer and Department Commander Bud Goldsmith. Department Adjutant David Johnson explained the tobacco tax efforts, and handed out clipboards with information and petitions for people to gather signatures for submission to Department Headquarters, and from there they will be forwarded to Secretary of State Jaeger.

District President Janie Pflaum called the Auxiliary meeting to order at 7:45. The minutes of the prior meeting were read and approved. Janie reported that the balance in the treasury is about \$289.

Membership Chairman Diane Kraemer gave statistics on the national and regional level. North Dakota currently ranks 44th in the nation, and last in the Northwest Division. 5 units in the state are at 100%. April 22 is the 85% target date. Diane encouraged everyone to work on membership, and also to attend the state convention in June.

Grand Forks Health representatives Hailey Thorson and Sarah Odegard visited with the Auxiliary to further explain the tobacco tax measure, and to encourage participation in gathering signatures.

Department President Marlene Boyer had more statistics on tobacco use. 14.5% of North Dakota women smoke during pregnancy. The \$1.76 additional tax is expected to decrease start up smokers by 20%. Veterans Service Officers will get their salaries from this tax money. Marlene thanked Larimore for hosting. She handed out a loose change can for donations for her projects, and showed her raffle ticket items: 3rd place-a lap quilt, 2nd-a quilt, 1st-a garden statuary. Money raised will go towards the art therapy room at the Veterans Home, and service dogs for veterans. Marlene talked about the Strategic Plan, and that leadership training is an important part. She said that at the DC conference, there was much discussion about the feasibility of "the million member goal".

Catherine Olson reported on the continuing work of the strategic plan committee. The highlights had been posted at the winter conference. The committee received \$500 in March for two achievements. Three of the five goals have been

overhauled—Goal 1 is revised to “enhance membership strength”, rather than attain a million members. Leadership conferences will be held every two years. The next steps are to continually revise, as the strategic plan will always be ongoing and never finished. Catherine encouraged everyone to have conversations at our unit levels to identify our strengths and weaknesses.

The Department Convention will be in Fargo June 24-26. There will be two resolutions: (1) Election of NEC woman, (2) Auditing and finance committee to separate into two groups.

Marlene Boyer reported about the Washington DC conference where Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Legislators met all in the name of veterans and their clout on Capitol Hill. 100 years of keeping America safe ,serving our country, and demanding accountability from Congress and the VA.

Election of officers for the next 2-year term were held. District President will be Marlene Simundson of the Mountain unit. District Vice President is put on hold until the convention.

A memorial tribute for the 24 deceased members this past year in District 2 was led by Janie Pflaum, assisted by Debra Muus and Marlene Simundson.

Further items of discussion included filing the IRS form 990N, the disbanding of the Aneta unit, and questions about reports.

Eileen Vondra of the Lankin unit reported on a happy note that her son Frank had received recognition at Bismarck State College, and Judy Twete gave us a reminder that Goal #2 on our strategic plan is to be nice and be positive.

The Larimore Unit presented Janie with a gift. Motion to adjourn by Judy Twete, seconded by Diane Kraemer.

ROLL CALL: A total of 44 members attended, representing 15 units, and there were 2 guests.

Submitted by
Marlene Simundson
District 2 Vice President

DISTRICT 2 ATTENDANCE
SPRING MEETING—LARIMORE—APRIL 11, 2016

15 units were present:

Adams

Cavalier

Forest River

Grafton

Grand Forks

Lakota

Lankin

Larimore

McVille

Michigan

Minto

Mountain

Northwood

Park River

Pisek

44 District 2 unit members and 2 visitors attended