March...March...March. American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members keep marching year after year providing service to veterans, the military, their families and communities. At times activities seems like routine drill in a straight line, but occasionally a right or left face is done with an activity having a new twist or an about face adding something new.

March...March...March. Department of North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary (NDALA) installed Diane Kraemer as President June 26, 2016 at Department Convention in Fargo. Judy Twete, 2015-2016 Northwestern Division National Vice-President and 2001-2002 Past Department President, officiated the ceremony which was a special event for Diane’s family including her son Michael who escorted Diane to the dais. Diane’s Department President’s Pin was placed by Marlene Boyer who then relinquished the gavel becoming a Part Department President. In her remarks, President Diane stated how important her parents were in encouraging her to be an active member of ALA. The presidency was especially poignant since Diane’s father Treumann Lykken was a Past Department of North Dakota American Legion (NDAL) Commander.

President Diane’s theme was “Take Flight for Our Veterans” with her pin the shape of the state of North Dakota having a butterfly and her slogan. Because President Diane was already fond of butterflies, they were a natural choice for her. Since butterflies take flight, the symbolism suggested the idea of NDALA members taking flight for veterans. While going over things that needed to be completed for her presidency with her mentors, Past Department Presidents Charlotte Lassonde and Linda Juntunen, Linda put Diane’s ideas together and designed the pin. Diane’s President’s Projects included marble benches for the Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota Flickertail Girls State, and helping
NDAL Commander Orletta Kilen to purchase a baritone saxophone for the International Peace Garden.

March…March…March. The Fourth of July Parade at Park River was one of President Diane’s first official duties. She also represented NDALA in the North Dakota State Fair Parade held in Minot.

Go left…Left…Left, right, left. To accomplish the promotion of ALA goals for the 2016-2017 administrative year, President Diane, the Department Officers and Chairmen developed Program Action Plans formerly called Plans of Work at the Department Organizational Meeting held at the Jamestown Gladstone Inn July 7-9. Beginning in September, these plans were sent in monthly mailings to units and placed on Department’s website ndala.org.

Americanism Chairman Eileen Vondra encouraged increasing participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. “How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?” was the Contest theme for this administrative year. Eileen also asked members to support The American Legion (TAL) Americanism programs of Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest and Junior Shooting Sports as well as to promote pride in ALA’s brand.

Robin Witkowski chaired both the Junior Members Program and Children and Youth Program. She emphasized that youth are busy but can participate by actions such as showing respect for the flag, singing the National Anthem, and encouraging school organizations to promote drives that support veterans and their families. Based on last year’s report of four thousand hours and $24,000 in donations from members and units, Robin encouraged members to keep up the good work of protecting, caring for and
supporting children and youth especially those from veteran and military families. Units were encouraged to participate in school back pack programs in their communities and make “Dignity Bags” for their county’s Child Protective Services.

The Communication Committee is really about NDALA’s website and ALA information that is available online. About face! For the first time Convention was live on Facebook and at least one person watched it as noted by the comment of the viewer. Chairman Shauna Dubuque sent out monthly emails to members who have signed up to receive information via the internet. She also sent out thinking of you announcements and other updates. Shauna informed members that unit information could be added to the website following guidelines.

Community Service Chairman Sandy Smith asked members to be aware of all the help they give the community either through monetary donations or donations of time all year long and not just through ALA. She reminded members to wear ALA clothing and jewelry to other organizations, walks and events to show pride and membership in ALA.

Sandra Petermann chaired both the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Legislative Committee. Chairman Sandra explained the difference between bylaws and standing rules. She reminded members that reading through the unit constitution is updating it even though no changes were made and to drop her a note to let her know. Department’s Constitution and Standing Rules were made available on NDALA’s website as were Districts’ and Girls’ State Constitutions. Sandra handed out information from National’s 2014-2019 Legislative Centennial Strategic Plan which explained that while advocating for the legislative agenda of TAL, Auxiliary members raise awareness of our mission and increase ALA’s brand.
Education Chairman Myrna Ronholm encouraged members to try one new idea to promote education which would allow students to gain more knowledge to become better citizens. In the Give 10 for Education Program, Myrna suggested that 10 could be 10 hours of volunteering in a classroom instead of items. Myrna also made members aware of scholarships available through ALA and NDALA by providing applications in the monthly mailings and on NDALA’s website.

Emergency Fund Chairman Deanna Reed Olson explained the origin of the Emergency Fund, eligibility requirements and encouraged individual and unit donations. Applications were included in a monthly mailing and were available on NDALA’S website along with a PowerPoint presentation and a link to National’s website alaforveterans.org.

Girls State Chairman Catherine Olson was excited for her first year as Girls State Director even though she had assisted Flickertail Girls State for several years. She promoted recruitment ideas and resources for Girls State in NDALA’s newspaper The Message as well as a monthly mailing. Flickertail Girls State had its own website ndgirlsstate.org, but information was available on Department’s website, too.

What did Leadership, Past Presidents Parley and Public Relations have in common? 2013-2014 Past Department President Marlys Aubol chaired all three programs. Marlys explained that the Leadership Program enhanced knowledge of ALA documents, materials and programs to guide members to lead organization activities and nourish a culture of goodwill. She encouraged Past Presidents Parley programs to use the knowledge and experience gained in ALA to encourage strong future leadership through mentoring. Marlys stressed promoting a positive image of ALA using “who we are, what we do, and why we do it” for Public Relations getting the ALA brand recognized through media outlets
including online visibility.

Department President-elect Mavis Goodroad was Membership Chairman. Mavis encouraged membership recruitment with the theme of “go for the goal and get a touchdown”. Unit membership chairmen were to be the head coaches while unit members the teammates helping to score members. Units were to retain current members, rejoin previous members, and attract new members. Mavis’ goal was for each unit to get at least one touchdown with a new member. Honoring Female Veterans was emphasized as was online membership at alaforveterans.org.

According to 2015-2016 Past Department President Marlene Boyer and National Security Chairman, the program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. The Program Action Plan located at ndala.org informed small units not located near military bases that coupon clipping, used phone collections, holiday card programs and care packages would be available ideas. Marlene also wrote an article for The Message for members about emergency preparedness.

Veteran Albert Stiegler, who helped make NDALA’s poppies, was pictured in The Message. Poppy Chairman Joan Buske counted and distributed all the poppies through the mail this year. Joan sent poppy poster contest rules to the units. An interesting count would be the total of poppy posters judged across the state! Joan indicated that she enjoyed judging the winners. Most units that reported to the Department Historian included information about poppy distribution.

Candace Schaffer marched up to the plate after a resignation at the Department Organizational Meeting to chair the Strategic Plan. A chart and the plan were posted on
Department’s website and sent in the monthly mailing. A call was put out for members to step up and implement the various goals.

Before becoming Department Secretary, Shirley Montgomery had worked with the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Program. She asked to chair the program when former Chairman Mavis Goodroad became Department President-elect. Shirley stressed that with troops constantly deploying and serving multiple deployments during our nation’s longest period of war ALA’s mission to assist with transition back to civilian life has never been more relevant. Units were encouraged to sponsor activities, donate funds and give supplies to the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Fargo and the North Dakota Veterans Home (NDVH) in Lisbon.

Secretary Shirley Montgomery reported the decisions of the Department Executive Committee to units and members through letters in the monthly mailing and articles in The Message. Monthly mailings began being sent the third week of each month for continuity and availability to units that met the first week of each month. All unit reports began being sent to the Secretary for her dispersal to all officers and chairman which streamlined the process for units and permitted those in Department responsible for reporting the ability to select what was pertinent to each program. Shirley stated that more reports were received at mid-year than in previous years so the change had worked well. Showing her passion for ALA, she asked members to stretch outside their comfort zone and say “yes” when asked to take on new responsibilities in the organization.

Historian Lynn Tomlinson thanked members for all the information sent for the Department’s History Book and the President’s Scrapbook and urged members to continue sending items even though activities are often repeated year after year because those
activities make up this administrative year’s history. Units were asked to participate in Members Remember and Women’s History Month. The past three Department Histories could be accessed on NDALA’s website.

August 12, President Diane and nine members represented NDALA at the funeral of Past National Commander Justice H. F. Sparky Gierke.

Hut, 2, 3, 4. Hut, 2, 3, 4. March…March…March. NDALA organized and served a picnic lunch August 20 at the request of the North Dakota Army National Guard Medical Readiness Unit for their family day activities at Bismarck. District VII President Holly Eslinger and District Vice-President Candace Schafer contacted Bismarck businesses for donations. Holly’s Legionnaire father Fred grilled and members from Elgin’s George W. Snook, Jr. Unit 246 provided salads and desserts, helped set up and serve along with 1995-1996 Past Department President Lualice Stockert, Department Historian Lynn Tomlinson, Department Community Service Chairman Sandy Smith and District VIII President Sonja Groll. Sixty-five military members were in attendance and thirty-five family members were served. The above activity was reported to National Historian Coral May Grout.
ALA was still marching, marching, marching. ALA’s 96th National Convention was held August 26 through September 1 in Cincinnati. President Diane and eight delegates represented NDALA. Presiding over the convention was ALA President Sharon Conatser from the Department of Illinois whose theme was “Keeping Our Promise”. Department Historian Lynn Tomlinson was announced as The Toomey Award winner. Northwestern National Vice-President Judy Twete from NDALA Unit 135 at McVille presided over the Northwestern Division Caucus. Mary E. Davis from the Department of Washington was installed as 2016-2017 National President. ALA’s members planned to incorporate President Mary’s theme of “ALA Member Pride” into Program Action Plans.

Left…Left…Left, right, left. The first round of Fall District Meetings scheduled September 12-16 found President Diane accompanied by President-elect and Membership Chairman Mavis Goodroad at District VI hosted by Minot’s William G. Carroll Unit 26 home of NDALA Vice-President Jeannie Roman. District IX followed hosted by Grenora’s Alvin T. Larson Unit 116. Dickinson’s Matthew Brew Unit 3 hosted District VIII where Department Chaplain Beverly Wolff gave the opening and closing prayers. Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 in Rolla hosted District III where President Gloria Covert invited Girls State Governor Samantha Nordmark and NDAL Oratorical finalist Billy Lentz both from Unit 235 as guests. NDALA Member of the Year Jan Gladue (Dunseith’s Archie Jardine Unit 185) also from District III was recognized as was NDALA Department Historian Lynn Tomlinson (Rolla’s Fred C. Wagner Unit 235) for being awarded The Toomey Trophy. Gloria also announced that North Dakota’s Boys State Governor was from Langdon which is in District III, too. Wow, what a year for District III! The week finished with District II hosted by Fordville’s Rotnem-Abel Unit 274.
Hut 2, 3, 4. Hut 2, 3, 4. Right face. After a year’s hiatus and at the end of the first round of District meetings, President Diane’s Recognition Dinner was held Saturday, September 17 at the Grand Forks Inn and Suites hosted by Truman-Webb-Phelps Unit 6. Diane received tremendous support from her family and the North Dakota Legion Family. She emphasized her messages from District Meetings of the personal rewards associated with ALA membership from taking care of veterans, military and their families.

2015-2016 Past Department President Marlene Boyer and Department Secretary Shirley Montgomery made a day of it and traveled to Judd to present Marlene’s project funds for service dogs for veterans. On the way the two stopped at NDVH to present Marlene’s project funds for the new shop.

Go left…Left…Left, right, left…Left face. Fall District Meetings began again on Tuesday (instead of a Monday), September 27 and continued through Saturday, October 1. District VII was hosted in Elgin by George W. Snook, Jr. Unit 246. Hazelton’s Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 hosted District V. District IV was hosted by Jamestown’s Ernest DeNault Robertson Unit 14 with Carrington’s John Raymond O’Hara Unit 25 providing the door prizes and Goodrich’s Albert Block Unit 56 and McClusky’s James Roberts Unit 124 providing refreshments. Harwood’s Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 hosted District I. Wahpeton’s Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 hosted District X and sent pictures for President Diane’s Scrapbook.

March…March…March. Winter began with a big storm when the Veterans Gift Shops were scheduled. The gift shop organized by LaVonne Matthews and Shauna Dubuque at the VA Medical Center on December 7 went on as scheduled but without a number of the volunteers who could not travel due to the weather. The gift shop at NDVH
organized by Carol Jentz was scheduled for December 8, but was rescheduled until December 15 due to the weather. President Diane was able to help at Lisbon where the veterans are usually anxiously waiting at the door and are always appreciative.

Go left…Left…Left, right, left. Winter Conference was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck January 27-29. About face! New this year to encourage attendance, first time attendees received one free banquet ticket. President Diane’s address was live on Facebook. On the schedule was training on Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service and VA&R. Sandy Smith included a skit in her Community Service presentation. Northwestern Division National Vice-President Virginia Nelsen from Department of Nebraska gave a workshop for unit presidents. At the conference banquet NDALA was surprised by NDAL with gift of $2500 and a gift of $1000 for Girls State.

ALA members just keep on marching! Even though ALA had been a partner of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for sixteen years, this was the first year that the Fargo VAMC sponsored one. NDALA and especially Department Secretary Shirley were instrumental in its organization sponsoring the classes for painting. The event was held February 13-17 with a reception February 15. President Diane attended and remarked that the event was outstanding.

March…March…March. President Diane and Marlene Boyer, National Executive Committeewoman, attended the American Legion Family Washington D. C. Conference February 26 through March1. A strong voice was presented on Capitol Hill to support TAL’s national legislative and public policy agendas. The North Dakota delegation met with Senators Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven to advocate for veterans’ issues. ALA members also learned about ways to impact ALA’s mission of advocacy for veterans,
military and their families which begins at the unit level. President Diane presented National President Mary E. Davis a check in the amount of $1500 for her scholarship project. ALA members were quite noticeable in red windbreaker pullovers as they visited the Viet Nam Veterans Wall for its thirty-fifth anniversary.

March was still for marching. On March 9, Past Department President Betty Malkowski celebrated her eightieth birthday. NDALA members wished Betty well and many more with a card shower supported by Department.

ALA members know the drill. Go left…Left…Left, right, left. Spring District Meetings began April 3-7. The first meetings were held at Miller-Linn Unit 90 at Center followed by Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 at Hazelton, Florence Kimball Unit 7 at Lisbon, Ernest DeNauert Robertson Unit 14 at Jamestown, and Jefferson-Steinke Unit 18 at Hope. Meetings continued April 17-21 at Kern-Thompson Unit 77 at Pembina, Langdon Unit 98 at Langdon, Bottineau Unit 42 at Bottineau, Edgar M. Boyd Unit 37 at Williston, and Harley Salzman Unit 5 at Beach. President Diane addressed information from her trip to D. C., the Viet Nam War Memorial, membership and the book North Dakota Nurses over There 1917-1919 which was available for sale with the profits going to the Dr. Grace Holm Nursing Scholarship.

March…March…March. Most communities in North Dakota are small rural communities. Adams is no exception boasting a population of about one hundred twenty-five. Qualy-Dvorak Unit 237 made the most of its few members to serve a dinner after the Memorial Day Program where one member was recognized for sixty years of service and another for fifty years. Members sponsored and worked two blood drives also providing treats and beverages. Dressed in navy blue capes, red shirts and white slacks, members
attended and participated as an honor guard at Auxiliary and Legion member funerals.

Lilley-Dionne Unit 262 in Belcourt sent articles and pictures for President Diane’s scrapbook. Members assisted the Legion with the annual Veterans Day celebration at the Sky Dancer Casino serving cake to veterans and other guests. Members used the occasion to recruit new members. A bake sale and raffle for three Thanksgiving baskets was held at the same time. On Thanksgiving, members organized and supported a community dinner for those in need helping to provide a meal and fellowship and the opportunity to be encourage community youth to become involved in service.

Members of Belfield’s William C. Blair Unit 144 addressed the needs of a medically fragile infant by organizing a fund raiser raising $26,000. Another member routinely baby sat a veteran’s child for free. The Unit decorated posters which were placed in local businesses for awareness of American Education Week and treated staff at three local schools with goodies. Unit 144 donated funds to the school’s book fair so teachers could select books for students that cannot afford them. For the community’s Christmas Extravaganza Walk of Lights, Unit 144 decorated a tree in a patriotic theme.

Bowbells’ Carl Oftedahl Unit 127 reported volunteer hours in Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Legislative, Public Relations and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation programs.

A citywide cleanup was sponsored by members of Brocket’s Royal O’Gray Unit 61 in advance of the community’s annual celebration. Veterans Day activity attendance spurred a discussion of ways to increase attendance. At the annual holiday party, members donated to Devils Lake’s homeless veterans. Members supported the Post’s annual birthday breakfast fundraiser.
Lawrence E. Meidl Unit 270 from Butte, population about seventy, reported volunteer hours in Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Legislative, Public Relations and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation programs. Memorial Day was the biggest event for Unit 270 with a program and dinner. Since Butte has no school, Unit 270 recognized the Sunday school teachers at the two local churches with cake and ice cream. Members are willing to get involved in whatever big projects come along in their community.

Youth members were an important part of Cando’s Hal Parker Unit 79 during Poppy promotion and Memorial Day activities. Miss Poppy presented a poppy to Cando’s Mayor which was reported in *The Towner County Record-Herald* along with a picture. Poppy girls placed poppies while the Unit Chaplain laid wreaths after a march to the cemetery. A junior member played taps at the close of the ceremony. For this Unit, Veterans Day started with a program at the Living Center where resident veterans were given a gift. About fifty-five veterans were then served dinner. Members made holiday goody plates for local veterans and shut-ins which included homemade jams this year.

John Raymond O’Hara Unit 25 at Carrington remembered its National Guard Unit each month during training with donuts for Saturday morning breakfast. Unit 25 hosted the Legion Riders for lunch in July holding a silent auction during the event which raised $1000 for the Legacy Fund. Approximately forty-five National Guardsmen, veterans and their families were served a pork roast and trimmings dinner in December. Forty-two students in grades three through seven from Carrington School participated in ALA’s Americanism Essay Contest.

Witer J. Thome Unit 45 from Carson reported participating in a piano drive, pine
car derby event and clipping coupons. Members were part of a Memorial Day parade and other Memorial Day activities.

Cavalier’s Lavern J. Thompson Unit 11 sponsored and worked a blood drive in November. Member Denise Papenfuss made one hundred eighty stuffed toys which were included in Operation Shoebox packages sent overseas for Christmas.

Griggs County Nursing Home was the focus of Gordon Lindgren Unit 143 from Cooperstown during the fall months. Fifteen members played bingo with residents in October. In December, members decorated the nursing home’s Christmas tree. The Unit hosted a potluck Christmas dinner for veterans presenting each with a gift bag.

Dickinson’s Matthew Brew Unit 3 was revitalized this year with the help of President Diane. Unit 3 reported that the year was full of new, fun and challenging projects. Post and Unit 3 decorated a float that was used for Dickinson’s Fourth of July Parade and Dickinson State University’s Homecoming Parade. Frozen popsicles, which were a big hit for the parade watchers, were distributed along the parade routes. ALA members joined Legion members for Trunk and Treat at Halloween handing out candy and hot chocolate. Unit 3 participated in the First Annual Veterans Appreciation Day held at Dickinson’s Veterans Memorial selling nachos and snow cones.

Clarence McCormick Unit 195 of Donnybrook organized the Memorial Day Program for the community’s veterans. High school senior and North Dakota 2015 National Girls Nation representative Elizabeth Erickson was the guest speaker. North Dakota ALA 2015-2016 Member of the Year Mary Ann Michel dressed as Uncle Sam for Berthold’s Fourth of July Parade. For Veteran’s Day, Unit 195 had Afghanistan veteran Wyatt Goettle speak to Kenmare School’s grade three through six students. He permitted
them to try on some of the equipment he had to wear. *The Kenmare News* covered the program and interviewed Mr. Goettle.

Drayton reported five able bodied members who assist Drayton Post 159 members with Memorial Day. Poppy Posters were displayed in the local bank which provided the prizes. Sadly, Unit 159 reported the passing of their adopted veteran after Christmas.

Dunseith’s Archie Jardine Unit 185 nominated Janice Gladue for Unit Member of the year. After her selection as North Dakota Department Member of the Year, Unit 185 honored her with a Coffee Party. Gladue was honored by the city of Dunseith as their Citizen of the Year during Dunseith’s annual parade in which she represented ALA.

Besides helping host the National Guard picnic previously mentioned, George W. Snook, Jr. Unit 246 of Elgin participated in two parades, monetarily supported their local firemen and police, recognized local teachers during American Education Week and spent members spent many hours quilting for community service.
Erie, population about fifty, is the home of Dokken-Schroeder Unit 223. On Memorial Day, Unit 223 helped prepare and serve meals for one hundred twenty-five at Erie and seventy-five at Arthur. Unit 223 reported running out of poppies, but not out of food! The Veterans Day program was held at Arthur with fifteen veterans in attendance recognized.

Gilbert C. Grafton Post and Unit 2 in Fargo moved to a new building. April brought Unit 2’s annual Easter basket project where five hundred bags were filled and given to children at local day cares. In November, Unit 2 purchased travel sized personal care items for patient bags at the VAMC. December brought stormy weather for the VAMC Veterans Gift Shop and many Department and out of town volunteers could not attend, but with the help of Unit 2 members the activity went on as scheduled. Unit 2 members also helped with the Veterans Creative Arts Festival held at the same facility.

The town of Fingal has a population of about one hundred which supported John
V. Raen Unit 187 at a County Christmas event to raise funds for programs. Members provided a free Memorial Day meal for the community. Since Unit 187 is close to the NDVH, members sponsored a bingo and lunch for the residents. One lucky resident was adopted by Unit187 for the year.

Schafer-Boye-Lang Unit 69 in Flasher pinned a poppy on all veterans attending the Memorial Day service. Helping to get ALA’s brand recognized, Unit 69 decorated a car for Flasher’s Summerfest Parade and threw candy to youngsters of all ages along the parade route. District VII President Holly Eslinger was a special guest for Unit 69’s pot-luck dinner Christmas party.

Forbes, population about fifty, had four active members in Nicholson-Gerdon Unit 277. In November, Unit 277 held a bingo and car race event for children. Members were thrilled to raise $200 to go toward the training of a service dog designated for a special needs veteran. Unit 277 also visited NDVH and delivered Meals on Wheels.

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 in Gackle raised funds for Girls State and to offer two $200 scholarships to graduating seniors. Although Gackle is a larger town, population just over three hundred, it does not have a café. ALA members served coffee and breakfast items on Monday mornings in October in an effort to provide an opportunity for citizens to meet. Members joined the neighboring town of Streeter to host a Veterans Day program with a special segment on Vietnam War era veterans. Unit 250 sent monthly care packages to a local deployed Marine and held a Christmas dinner party for the Marine and his entire family when he was home on leave. One Member made buttons to wear in honor of active duty service members and veterans.

Grafton Unit 41 in Grafton reported twelve members delivered Meals on Wheels
in August for community service. Minutes published in The Walsh County Record showed nine past presidents, twenty-one members with fifty or more years of membership, Grafton’s Girls Stare representative and International Music Camp attendees were honored in October. November’s meeting featured an Americanism presentation which found members dressed in patriotic attire/costume. Two dual ALA and TAL Naval veterans presented an educational program for members. For Christmas, Unit 41 delivered fruit baskets to twenty-seven local veterans. When The North Dakota National Guard was called to respond to protests near Bismarck, members stepped up and provided items in support. Members sent cards and care packages to a local service member serving in Afghanistan.

Truman-Webb-Phelps Unit 6 from Grand Forks presented All American Student Awards at each of the city’s high schools. Each student received a plaque and the name was added to a perpetual plaque on display at the school. Members assisted with The American Legion baseball program and registration at Girls State. Unit 6 got a head start on Girls State recruitment by presenting information to parents at the fall parent teacher conferences. Grand Forks is fortunate to be located near an Air Force base which permitted Unit 6 to support Operation Warm Heart for active duty military members. At The University of North Dakota, Unit 6 provided lunch for twenty-eight veterans taking a week long seminar on campus.

The town of Grenora celebrated its one hundredth birthday with a big bash. Alvin T. Larson Post 116 opened a brand new hall during the celebration and provided it as a rest stop for the public. Unit 116 served refreshments at the hall and sponsored an “old timers” dance for the celebration. At the Veteran’s Day dinner, guests from Department spoke and recognized Legion and Auxiliary members with anniversary years of service.
If you were a member at Fiegel-Fischer Unit 258 at Halliday, you would have been making quilts on Fridays. Two hundred were made and distributed to NDVH and missions. For the holidays, Unit 258 packed boxes of personal items for veterans at NDVH and VAMC.

Hankinson’s Eberhard Unit 88 reported having three bake sales in conjunction with breakfasts sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion. Income from the sales was used to sponsor girls to Girls State.

Mervin J. Armstrong Unit 113 from Hannaford, population about one hundred twenty-five, cosponsored a Christmas Party for senior citizens with the local homemaking club. Lunch was served, bingo played and live music entertained attendees.

Hatton’s Carrol O. Flesche Unit 70 provided suppers for Post 70’s monthly meeting with two to three members working together and taking turns. Unit 70 served Memorial Day and Veterans Day meals.

To provide care packages for service members in Afghanistan, Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 at Hazelton placed boxes in local grocery stores and asked the community to help fill them. Unit 126 received a text message of thanks from the service members just before Christmas. Members also remembered nine local veterans with holiday baskets. In March, Unit 126 sponsored a reading program for the preschoolers at the local school.

For the month of May, Hazen’s Clark-Grosz Unit 189 had a window display on the main street recognizing local deceased veterans. Unit 189 sponsored three students attending International Music Camp who then participated in the Memorial Day program. As in most small communities, ALA members participated in other organizations. Many members of Unit 189 spent hours working, baking and driving for the local hospital and
nursing home activities.

Hope’s Jefferson-Steinke Unit 18 reported volunteer hours in Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Public Relations and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation programs.

Ernest DeNault Robertson Unit 14 of Jamestown provided cookies for the Veterans Outreach Clinic for the months of June, July and August taking a turn with other civic organizations. In September, October and November members served treats at the two local nursing homes. Members celebrated one hundred one year old veteran Ernie Hubacher’s birthday with a party. Unit 14 also provided a newspaper subscription for Lisbon Veterans Home.

Lakota’s Rundell-Holicky Unit 21 reported financially supporting numerous activities including the VAMC at Fargo, NDVH at Lisbon and the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Unit 21 also gave boxes of candy and cards to veterans and ALA members at the local nursing home at Christmas and Valentine’s Day.

Langdon Unit 98 at Langdon sent year-end reports for community service, public relations and VA&R. Post 98’s Boys State attendee was elected governor for the 2016-2017 session.

Kathleen Tuma of Larimore’s Ted Valerius Unit 97 collected articles covering President Diane’s activities from The Grand Forks Herald for President Diane’s scrapbook.

Lidgerwood’s Bullis Unit 84 played bingo and provided lunch at NDVH on July 7. Teacher Donald Nash and his junior class provided and served apple pie and ice cream for dessert after the Veterans Day meal. Unit 84 served a pot luck holiday meal to Legionnaires
in December. Bingo followed the meal.

Honoring veterans was a major focus of Monson-Finkenhagen Unit 35 at Lignite. Unit 35, with the help of the local high school English teacher, had each member of the senior class choose two veterans from the county to interview. Together, the student and veterans gave a presentation to underclass students to learn why we celebrate veterans. The previous activity was reported to National Historian Coral May Grout. Members also showed the Auxiliary brand by wearing ALA shirts and sitting in the front row at a high school concert where veterans were honored.

Many units sponsor blood drives like Linton’s Dan R. Richardson Unit 54. Unit 54 also sponsored a birthday party and a Christmas party at the Strasburg Care Center. Post 54 was recognized with a social and dinner for TAL’s birthday in March.

James Roberts Unit 134 in McClusky shared information from an August meeting that featured a pot luck salad luncheon. Girls State attendee Skylar Simes spoke about her week at Girls State. Using 2015-2016 Northwestern Division Vice-President Judy Tweet’s suggestion, Lynn Helm had a toy soldier at each place setting for members to take home as a daily reminder of sacrifices made by service members. Unit 134 received $1000 from
the local convenience store to support Mail Call for Friends of our Troops. Proceeds from Unit 134’s Memorial Day free will donation meal were given to NDVH for the wood shop project.

In an effort to promote ALA, Carl Bostrom Unit 160 at McHenry made a display board to be used at local basketball games. The display featured a student’s Americanism essay and poppy posters from two students along with ALA brochures. Members served a spaghetti supper fundraiser to send girls to Girls State with the donations matched by Farmers Union Insurance. Unit 160 also reported supporting Bibles for Troops.

McVille’s Ole Semling Unit 135 made a sizeable donation to McVille’s ambulance program to train additional members. The Unit put out a challenge to other community members and organizations for donations to a service many in the community will use. The donation and challenge demonstrated who we are, what we do and why we matter. Unit and life member Mallory Tweet was selected for Department’s Past President’s Parley Nursing Scholarship. One hundred veterans from Nelson County were invited to a Veterans Day program organized by Unit 135 at Dakota Prairie Elementary School, a consortium of seven towns. Students advanced the colors, the sixth grade band played the National Anthem and students sang patriotic songs. Of course, lunch (beverages and cookies) was served following the program. To promote Girls and Boys State Unit 135 invited both 2016-2017 Governors to Dakota Prairie High School to give presentations to juniors and sophomores.

This paragraph was sent to National Historian Coral May Grout. Ole Semling Unit 135 at McVille supported the Nelson County Homeless Veterans Art Exhibit at Pekin providing funds for basic art supplies to the program that supports these veterans,
receptionists for the exhibit and treats for the attendees. The art was made exclusively by area homeless veterans who live non-traditionally (where ever they can find – in underground dug-outs, abandoned grain bins, vehicles in the woods). The veteran’s art was done with what they found in nature, from rescued items and basic art supplies distributed by an employee of a grant program who regularly visits them also providing some other necessities such as clothing, nonperishable food and bottled water. Some of those veterans chose to share their work in this moving exhibit which helps tell the stories of their lives, fears, dreams and military experiences.

W. L. Cowper Unit 238 in Michigan had members who sponsored a blood drive, volunteered two days a week at the local food bank, weekly at the nursing home bingo, sewed quilt tops weekly and made fleece toys for the community’s ambulance and police vehicles.

Milton, population about fifty-five, home to Eagleson-Meling Unit 179, reported spending over five hundred hours researching, planning and fund raising for the Milton Area Veterans Monument which was dedicated at the Memorial Day Program 2016 followed by dinner. An additional amount was spent on planters and plants for the site. Many ALA units across North Dakota contribute to high school prom and graduation parties as did Milton. Unit 179 presented deceased members’ families with a poppy corsage. When Post 179 had a Flag Retirement Ceremony for the community, the Auxiliary sponsored a pot-luck supper for attendees.

Memorial Day activities in Minot included a Bridge Ceremony in which members of William G. Carroll Unit 26 participated by placing rose petals and ashes in the river. Members handed out poppies and pamphlets at two Veteran Stand Downs, at Veteran Out-
reach Day and during bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Seven hundred valentines were collected and distributed to area veterans including the Air Force Base. Unit 26 provided two scholarships for veterans at Minot State University. Members also provided birthday cakes monthly to a program for community members with developmental disabilities.

Minto Unit 201 at Minto donated to the Honor Flight Program, presented lessons in flag etiquette to the local Girls Scouts and held a community “shower” for the school to collect school supplies and winter clothing. Boys State and Girls State attendees were speakers at Minto’s Veterans Day.

Mooreton’s Robert Bergman Unit 283 supported NDAL’s beverage tab collection which goes to Ronald McDonald House. Businesses and community members collected approximately eighty pounds for Unit 283.

Bjornson-Sigfusson Unit 227 at Mountain, population about eighty-five, presented Christmas gifts to five veteran residents at the local nursing home and three veteran shut-ins. Two members prepared and delivered meals all year to two of the shut-in veterans. Post 227 held military rites to honor the life and service of Ray Jensen with Unit 227 serving sandwiches and bars afterwards. Members also provided gift items for the Veterans Gift Shop at Fargo VAMC.

_The Napoleon Homestead_ was a great supporter of Barry Hoof Unit 72 at Napoleon. Unit 72 sent thirty-three pages for the 2016-2017 Department President’s scrapbook, twenty-one of which were published in the newspaper and that was just through mid-year. Unit 72 saw Poppy distribution as a way to raise awareness of the needs of veterans and children. Local business had poppy displays in storefront windows with poppies and collection cans available. Staff assisting with a flag coloring contest were given poppy
corsages made by Unit 72 members. The Auxiliary provided bars and assisted with serving at the Post’s twenty-fifth annual Polka Party, one of the best fundraising events held in Napoleon.

This paragraph about Unit 72 was sent to Nation Historian Coral May Grout. To quote Unit 72 member Ann Knect from The Napoleon Homestead, “What is the life of a soldier like? Where do soldiers live? What kind of job do you have? What do soldiers eat?” These are questions children have and Unit 72 planned an afternoon for veterans and service members to teach and grade school children to learn in Napoleon Public School. Presenters were asked to tell their stories, share pictures and display items associated with their branch of the military, especially items students could touch, try on, or maybe even eat. The event was followed by a program to honor those in attendance.

Raymond B. Thorn Unit 30 from New Rockford reported supporting forty-six activities including apples for teachers, breakfasts for veterans and Halloween, Christmas and New Year parties for children.

Marlys Aubol from Beck-Sherven-Foreman Unit 290 at New Town reported on her experiences as a City Mom at Girls State and being part of presentations to promote Girls State and Boys State that were set up at nineteen western area schools. Girls State Governor Samantha Nordmark and Boys State Governor Dawson Schefter accompanied by Boys State Counselor Evan Kritzburger and Marlys went in various combinations over four days to the various schools. Bill Webber, a member of Post 290, contacted the schools, organized the schedule and with his wife hosted the presenters overnight.

Northwood’s Victory Unit 92 taught local grade school students the meaning of the United States flag and flag etiquette after which each student was given a flag. Unit 92
served one hundred eighty-five community members after the Memorial Day Ceremony. At Norwood’s town celebration, members provided cakes, cookies, and bars to facilitate a cake walk.

Many North Dakota ALA units sponsor blood drives as did Paul Farup Unit 147 in Park River. Unit 147 represented ALA in the local Fourth of July parade with President Diane on board the float. As for Memorial Day, the members plan and present the program and serve a meal.

Novotny-Kachen Unit 208 at Pisek invited President Diane to a Christmas Party with Post 208, social hour, dinner and games.

Anderson-Hefta Unit 93 in Portland planned the Memorial Day program which included a speaker, Americanism Essay winner, Miss Poppy, and a candlelight memorial service with refreshments served after the program. Members toured the Hatton Eielson Museum, home of Carl Ben Eielson, where members viewed memorabilia from World Wars I and II and of Carl Ben Eielson. In October, Unit 93 held an auction for fundraising which was “fun raising”. To honor Legionnaires for Veterans Day, members served a meal after the November meeting. Unit 93 supported the Shoe Box project providing useful items for twelve children in foreign countries.

Reeder’s Carl Hendrickson Unit 51 coordinated with the Legionnaires on the Memorial Day program. Afterwards, seventy community members were served lunch. Joining with the Legionnaires again, Unit 51 held a Turkey Jamboree in November with wonderful turkey sandwiches and bingo played afterwards. About one hundred fifty were served, not bad for a town with a population around one hundred sixty.

Theo R. Zech Unit 180 at Richardton sponsored a rest stop for the Candisc Bike
Tour. A total of two hundred twenty-nine cyclists from twenty-three states and three provinces were provided snacks, beverages and a place to rest with restroom facilities. Unit 180 had seven adopted veterans plus one special adopted veteran. Members provided Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Legion Birthday meals for the Legionnaires. Auxiliary members from Unit 180 who reside in nursing homes were remembered with Christmas gifts.

In Rolla, Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 held a Poppy Walk to honor veterans. Unit and community members walked around two blocks which is considered a lap. For each lap walkers received a poppy which were hooked together to form a chain that was displayed in the Legion Cabin. 2016 North Dakota Flickertail Girls State Governor Samantha Nordmark hailed from Unit 235. Samantha was honored with a tea which included Boys State Governor who was also from District III. The Turtle Mountain Star published numerous articles covering Unit 235’s activities.

This paragraph about Unit 235 was sent to National Historian Coral May Grout. On September 16, members and Auxiliary advocates from Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 prepared and served breakfast and lunch to sixty veterans and thirty family members at the initial Rolette County Veterans Wellness Workshop organized by Rolette County Veterans Service Officer Todd Poitra. Lilley-Dionne Unit 262 from Belcourt manned the registration table. Members from Unit 235 routinely bagged donated food items for Mr. Poitra which he distributed to veterans during his office hours.

Bergman-Evenson Unit 215 at Rutland, population about one hundred sixty, stated in the year-end report that even though Unit 215 was small in numbers members were huge in enthusiasm. Unit 215 held a “Veteran’s Trick or Treat” where members went door to
door obtaining new and gently used clothing, personal care items and monetary donations to give to the Gladys Ray Homeless Shelter in Fargo which has special programs for veterans. Members held a soup and sandwich supper in conjunction with Post 215’s Veterans Day Flag Retirement Ceremony after which the veterans judged entries in the Poppy Poster Contest. Unit 215 also sent Christmas cards to the Chaplain at Miramar Marine Base in California to be distributed to deployed troops. Members continued to have the support of The Teller which reports stories about and pictures of most of Unit 215’s activities.

Sharon’s Thor Vatsvik Unit 169 reported making pies for fundraising for Legion baseball, writing legislative letters, sending G. I. care packages and donating to the memorial for a police officer killed in the line of duty.

December was a busy month for ALA units across North Dakota including Bothum-Peterson Unit 213 from Sherwood. Members helped Post 213 sponsor a community Christmas party which included Santa, treats, bingo and food. Unit 213 also provided lunch at the Saturday bingos sponsored two times a month by Post 213.

Melvin E. Bender Unit 265 from Streeter had four active members who joined with ALA members from Unit 250 at Gackle for Memorial Day activities. Unit 265 adopted five veterans who are each remembered at holidays and birthdays with monetary gifts totaling $250. Members joined with a church youth group to go to NDVH to play bingo and enjoy the company of the residents. Unit 265 also took quilts and $200 worth of comfort items to the home. Members adopted a special student at the Ann Carlson Center designating $500 for the purchase of clothing, school supplies and holiday and birthday gifts. Wow, look what four ladies can do and this was just a few!
This paragraph was sent to National Historian Coral May Grout. From *The Tri-County News* published in Gackle, “On Friday, March 3, 2017, the students and staff at Gackle-Streeter Public School held a send-off party for Business Teacher and Staff Sargent for the National Guard, Shari Gerszewski.” According to the article, Shari was presented with a check from Gackle ALA and Streeter ALA served cake and ice cream to the attendees.

St. Thomas’ Ottum-Ball Unit 168 provided rides for veterans and ALA members needing to access the medical clinic. Unit 168 reported Memorial Day as their big day, visiting several area cemeteries and participating in services at each cemetery finishing with a meal after the final service at St. Thomas. Veterans Day is celebrated with a potluck and a speaker.

At the annual Christmas party, Thompson’s Jorgenson Unit 181 made holiday trays filled with treats for the community’s veterans and remembered ALA members in the local nursing home.

In Tioga, Tioga Unit 139 honored the local teachers and support staff for American Education Week by filling coffee cans with cream candies using the theme – “Cream of the Crop”. Along with congratulating the staff on a great job of educating community children, Unit 139 encouraged the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance every morning and that every teachable opportunity be used to further patriotism. Unit 139’s holiday tradition provided a gift for each veteran at the local long term care facility. President Jan Herfindahl met with members from the disbanded unit at Ray which led to an action plan to encourage Ray’s former members to join Unit 139. Nineteen did so.

Turtle Lake’s Lawrence Stephenson Unit 133 purchased yarn for an Auxiliary
advocate to make caps that are worn under helmets of active duty service members. To date, over one thousand eight hundred caps have been handmade. Unit 133 was proud of their member who volunteered as a City Mom for Girls State. Turtle Lake Mercer School held a program for Veterans Day where members of Unit 133 handed out book markers with The Pledge of Allegiance. Unit 133 served a meal at each monthly meeting, collected beverage tabs and donated quilts to VAMC at Fargo.

Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 in Wahpeton sent pictures of the Veterans Day meal and displays for President Diane’s scrapbook.

Walcott’s Hagen-Helgeson Unit 166 reported an outing to NDVH to play bingo with the residents one of whom is a member of Post 166. Because he loved to hunt and fish, Unit 166 provided him with a subscription to *North Dakota Outdoors*. Members sponsored a benefit for the diabetic son of Unit 166’s first president. Each member brought a gift to the December meeting/party to give to Fraser, Inc., a nonprofit group that provides services to children and youth.

What is a Wil-Mat? Washburn’s Victor B. Wallin Unit 12 made Wil-Mats (sleeping mats assembled from plastic grocery bags) as well as quilts and fleece blankets which were donated to various organizations for the homeless. Members reported over two thousand volunteer hours which also included sewing heart pillows for VAMC and bibs and oxygen bags for NDVH, making pillowcases, delivering Meals on Wheels, donating blood, cleaning ditches, preparing meals for the homeless, helping with fundraisers for the community library and wrapping gifts for the Optimist Club.

Watford City’s Carl E. Rogen Unit 29 paid for a flag pole for the local veteran’s park. Sixteen students were able to attend International Music Camp thanks to Unit 29.
scholarships. Members furnished lunch and helped Post 29 make lefse. When the Christmas party was stormed out, Unit 29 took the cancellation in stride and had Valentine party instead.

Young Hawk-Bear Unit 253 located in White Shield, a community on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, participated in the posting of colors and honoring of six service members returning home from active duty and at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck. Junior members of Unit 253, dressed in t-shirts, jackets and shawls with Auxiliary emblems, participated alongside of adult member in activities. Members traveled to Pawnee, Oklahoma with Arikara elders to reconnect and share cultures posting ALA’s colors in the powwow grand entry. Unit 253 had a display of ALA activities and information which was shared in Oklahoma and at a booth at the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nations Tourism Department passing out pens and sticky notes with the ALA emblem.
When Shirley Vatne sent Ludvig Coy Unit 110’s mid-year report by email it was minus thirty degrees at Wildrose, a small town with a population of about 100. She reported Veterans Day activities were held in conjunction with the Wildrose Fire Department some of whose members are Legionnaires. Combining with the Fire Department meant a larger attendance and more activities. Of course, the Auxiliary members helped with various activities and clean up. Unit 110 remembered a deceased veteran’s special needs daughter at Christmas and hosted a pizza party for her birthday with her group home family.

Willow City’s Lyle B. Rich Unit 112 entered a float in the local parade, laid a wreath at the Veterans Memorial at the local cemetery on Memorial Day and served lunch to the community. Unit 112 continued to quilt with the help of the community making two hundred seventy-seven quilts this year.

Louis Ousley Unit 163 in Wilton supported the USO, Wreaths across America and Comfort Warriors as well as ALA programs and assisted Post 163 when called upon. Meetings were suspended from December to March due to the harsh North Dakota winter, the extreme road conditions and the safety of the numerous senior citizen members. Unit 163 noted the beauty of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery when the wreaths are placed and the contrast with the snow.

Wing, population about 155, is the home of Francis J. Harty Unit 65 which reports six active members. Unit 65 held a supper and program in appreciation of Post 65’s Color Guard. On Memorial Day, the guest speaker was North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

Hut 2, 3, 4. Left 2, 3, 4. March…March…March. One hundred forty-three registered for Flickertail Girls State on the campus of North Dakota State University at
Grand Forks June 11 through June 16. Numerous NDALA members assisted during the week including President Diane. Breanna Maddock from Kindred was elected governor and Iida Lehto of Watford City, lieutenant governor.

At the time of this writing membership had reached ninety-four percent. This leadership year one hundred eighty-two members passed including 1992-1993 Department Presidents Ellen Johnson and Viola Vigen and Past Department Chaplain Donna Lennon. William E. Smith Unit 9 at Ray and Verona’s Jones-Benoit Unit 178 disbanded.

Seventy-five units or forty-six percent reported either through mid-year or year-end impact, narrative or history reports which was more than double last year’s reporting due to having all reporting go to the NDALA secretary who then sent everything to anyone one needed the information.

End of Year Reports listed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service to Veterans</td>
<td>533,412 veterans assisted</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95,378 volunteer hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$10,545 in donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service to Active Military</td>
<td>800 active military assisted</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,900 volunteer hours</td>
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<td>Service to Military Families</td>
<td>700 families assisted</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20,694 volunteer hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$50,761 in donations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppies</td>
<td>75,608 purchased</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$36,703 in donations</td>
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</tbody>
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Service to Children
3,810 volunteer hours
$12,450 in donations

Service to Community
17,057 volunteer hours
$36,951 in donations

Education Chairman Myrna Ronholm reported Alicia Ann Weiand from Jamestown College, Taylor Rae Dalbey of Fordville, Bowbells’ Alexis Eve Mahlum and Cassidy Jo Bjerke from New Rockford were awarded education scholarships.

Proceeded by the Finance Board and Department Executive Committee meetings, the ninety-seventh Department Convention hosted by William G. Carroll Unit 26 was held June 22-25 in Minot at the Grand Hotel. American Legion National Vice-Commander Douglas Boldt and American Legion Auxiliary National President Mary E. Davis were in attendance. On Saturday President Davis addressed the Opening Session of the NDALA and the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon. Her pin ALA and theme of “Member Pride” opens the conversation allowing members to tell others about ALA and inquire if they are illegible for membership. She informed attendees about ALA’s Leadership Academy available on National’s website, planned giving to support ALA’s Foundation, scholarships supporting children of service members and the anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. President Mary stressed the value of the female veteran’s membership in ALA, ways to use the talents of members who cannot attend meetings and finding ways to support caregivers of veterans.

Grace E. F. Holmes, MD, author of North Dakota Nurses over There 1917-1919, was a guest at Convention promoting her book to establish the Dr. Grace E. F. Holmes Nursing Scholarship administered through Past Presidents Parley and supported by the
proceeds from the sale of her book.

Department Historian Lynn Tomlinson presented President Diane with the 2016-2017 Scrapbook featuring butterflies and her administrative year’s Department History completed with a marching theme. Lynn gave a demonstration on National History Program’s Members Remember Project and challenged the Past Department Presidents to each make and post a video to get NDALA started on the project and to go back to their units and video members. Five videos were completed including one of President Mary.

Public Relations Chairman Marlys Aubol was presented with a National Public Relations Award and Nora M. Brandt from Earl Nermoe Unit 269 at Upham was recognized with a Youth Hero and Good Deed Award.

As usual the North Dakota Legion Band performed at the Saturday afternoon ALA session. Passing the hat garnered the band $766.

Leadership Chairman Marlys Aubol addressed Sunday’s General Session with an educational presentation on leadership. She encouraged members to be mentors to new members and members in new leadership positions. She presented information the National’s online Leadership Academy, a new member guide and an ALA questionnaire.

Flickertail Girls State Governor Brianna Maddock from Kindred addressed members thanking Raymond B. Thorn Unit 30 of New Rockford for sponsoring her and for the opportunity to advocate for Girls State, a program which has opened new avenues for her. From her interactions with ALA members in attendance at Girls State she learned that behind every veteran and military member there is a dedicated ALA member.

The 2016-2017 administrative year came to a close on Sunday, June 25 when President Diane graciously handed the gavel to 2017-2018 Department President Mavis
Goodroad after her installation and the installation of the 2017-2018 Department Officers.

Did someone say stand down? ALA members think not. Members still know the drill. Left…. Left…. Left, right, left…. March…March…March. Carry on… That is just what ALA members do. Plans will be made for the 2017-2016 administrative year and American Legion Auxiliary members will keep on marching to support veterans, the military, their families and communities.

Lynn Tomlinson, Department of North Dakota Historian