

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota
Secretary Report - Winter Conference, January 24, 2020**

There are a number of changes coming to the Department of North Dakota.

1. We can no longer recruit great-granddaughters to the auxiliary. Per IRS regulations the number of degrees of separation is 2; and granddaughters are 2. However, if a unit does have a great-granddaughter of a veteran as a member they will remain so as long as their dues are always paid current. Once the dues become delinquent that member will be dropped from the roles and will not be eligible to rejoin.
2. Our 2020 Goal is 9191; Our current membership for 2020 is at about 77%.
3. Recently, I was asked to pull some numbers on membership since 2015. The numbers show that since 2015 our membership has declined at the rate of 2% to 4% per year. Some of that is related to the number of deaths of members reported to the Department Office.
4. In 2019 the reported deaths are at 230 members, including 3 Past Department Presidents.
5. Although we continue to recruit new members our declining numbers simply doesn't show an increase. I challenge every unit and every unit member to rededicate yourself to either reorganize or reenergize your units. This means a real grass roots effort and will mean working with your local posts on projects, events. The American Legion is experiencing the same decline phenomena that we are. So, try to find out who your local post members are and be willing to help them as well.
6. Mandatory Contributions and Poppy Order reminders were sent on early January to all Unit that had not submitted them by October 31, 2019. We still have some that have not responded.
7. The North Dakota Veterans Home at Lisbon is planning a tea in early March and will be inviting unit presidents and department officers to thank them for the support they have shown to the residents of the home. Watch for your invitation and please RSVP and plan to attend the event. The Department Office has provided them with a list of Unit Presidents and Department Officers.
8. Marlys Aubol and I attended a Leadership Conference for Department Secretaries and Finance Board Chair/Treasurers in December 8, 2019. There was a lot of information discussed and it seemed a bit overwhelming at times. Some of the take-aways we were most astonished by were:
 - a. About 50% of the units across the US do not have a valid EIN number.
 - b. ALAMIS will be going up to \$10.00 per access in 2021. This will be \$10.00 per person in 2021.
 - c. Each state has differing regulations for non-profit organization. Units need to adhere to their State's regulations. In the case of North Dakota, every unit is required by law to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office.
 - d. Registering with the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office should be done by the Unit Treasurer.
 - e. Every Unit needs to verify that their unit is registered: Go to: FirstStop.sos.nd.gov to register your unit if yours has not done so.
 - f. At the time of (initial registration) you will be asked to pay \$40.00; after that the annual fee is \$10.00.
 - g. Register your unit as (Example):
 - (American Legion Auxiliary Flowers & Bloomingfield Unit 9000 Brownsville ND)
 1. American Legion Auxiliary
 2. Specific Unit Name (example: Flowers & Bloomingfield)
 3. Unit # (example: Unit 9000)
 4. Location (example: Brownsville ND)
 - Enter officer names/addresses of Unit President, Unit Secretary, Unit Treasurer

Submitted by Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary