



THE MESSAGE

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

Mountain Unit 227 'Salutes the Military'

Bjornson Sigfusson Unit 227 of Mountain participated in the Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association's Christmas tree decorating project. The theme for 2019 was 'Salute to the Military'. About a dozen patriotic trees were on display at the Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park from mid-November 2019 through early January 2020. Marlene Simundson, Unit 227 President, was quoted as saying, "This was a fun project and unit members enjoyed the opportunity to work together".

Pictured (l-r): Dori Heck, Gloria Steinolfson, Myrna Readel, Karen Kristjanson, Kathy Thorlakson, Linda Readel and Marlene Simundson. (Photo and article submitted by Marlene Simundson)



Parley and Education Scholarships Awarded

Three North Dakota students were awarded \$500 Past Presidents Parley Scholarships for the year 2020.

Jacob Arnold, a student at Maddock Public Schools was awarded the prestigious Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship.

Ashley Bauer, a student at Kenmare Public Schools and Mya Gibbens Halverson, attending North Star High School in Cando were awarded the Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarships.

The Department of North Dakota extends our sincere congratulations to the scholarship winners and wish you the best as you pursue your dreams of working in healthcare.

Education Program Scholarships Awarded

Six students were awarded \$300 Department Education Scholarships in May.

- **Raquel Bata** of Langdon – Langdon Area H.S.
- **Madelyn House** of Bismarck – Century H.S.
- **Christian Lietz** of Casselton – Central Cass Public H.S.
- **Kelsey Mischel** of Bismarck – Shiloh Christian School
- **Andrew Muhs** of Langdon – Langdon Area H.S.
- **Karla Sherfy** of Jamestown – Jamestown H.S.

Congratulations on your accomplishments and the Auxiliary wishes you the best in your future endeavors.

Foundation Grant Awarded

Whenever I have attended National Conventions or a National Leadership Conference, there is someone who tells us about the 'Foundation' and encourages us to apply for grants. This past year, I did just that. As chairman of the Finance Board, I know that American Legion Auxiliary units and especially our Girls State program can always use some financial assistance.

Recently, the Department of North Dakota was awarded a \$1,200 grant from the National American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Mission in Action to be used to promote our North Dakota Flickertail Girls State program.

Due to our recent setback and cancellations of major events at the Department and National levels, I have not yet made the grant purchases. I am planning to acquire two table runners and a backdrop featuring the Auxiliary and Girls State logos. These items will identify the Auxiliary as the sponsor of the Girls State program. It is important to promote our brand to parents, students, and community members involved with the program.

Another item that will be purchased later is a pop-up canopy to be used during the annual Girls State event, either for an outdoor activity or for skit night.

On behalf of the Department of North Dakota and the Girls State program, I want to thank the Foundation Mission in Action for the generous grant.

Marlys Aubol
Past Department President (2013-2014)

2020 Department Convention Canceled

So much has happened in the last couple of weeks. As you may know by now, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Departments of North Dakota took action in response to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

The following American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary events for 2020 have been canceled or suspended:

- Department Convention in June
- ND Flickertail Girls State
- ND Boys State
- ND American Legion sponsored baseball programs
- Boys and Girls Nation
- National Convention

More information regarding specific programs and events is available in other articles within this issue of 'The Message'.

The Department and National Offices had the safety and security of all its members in mind when making these difficult decisions. Other future events are uncertain at this early point in time. Please refer to the Department website at www.ndala.org and other Department releases regarding upcoming in-person gatherings.

Until we can be together again, please stay safe and follow the recommended guidelines of your local and state agencies.

-American Legion Auxiliary Department Office

Richardton Unit 180 Honors Bernie Staudinger

Lt. Theodore R. Zech Unit 180 of Richardton is proud of extraordinary unit member, Bernie Staudinger. Bernie is a member of the unit's Education Committee and is the driving force behind the unit's efforts to welcome teachers and staff of the Richardton-Taylor School District back to school for the past thirty years.

In September 2019, Bernie began her 29th year as a bus driver for the school district. She loves her job and the children on her route, but the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting shutdown of so many services, including school attendance, has changed how Bernie does her job.

Now, instead of picking up and driving students to and from school each day, she drives the daily route alone to drop off lesson assignments and meals to the homes of shut-in students. After completing the required daily disinfection of the entire bus interior, Bernie collects school-related items including meals and assignments and delivers them to the students' homes.

Bernie will be happy to see the COVID-19 shutdown come to a halt so she can enjoy interacting with her bus route's student riders again.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota congratulates and thanks Bernie for her dedication to her 'children' and the community depending on her. You are doing a wonderful job.

Article and photo submitted by Fran Hauck, Unit 180 President



Pictured are Brent Bautz, Superintendent of the Taylor Richardton School District (left) and Bernie Staudinger, Unit Education Committee Chairman.

Department President

Auxiliary members and friends. My term serving as your Department President is quickly coming to the end. I am feeling mixed emotions, including both happiness and sadness, as I write this today because I was enjoying the year until everything seemed to suddenly turn upside down.

My project this year was to raise funds for the VA Medical Center in Fargo and the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. A dear friend of mine painted a picture of poppies that will be donated to the Lisbon Veterans Home. Although we will not have a 2020 Department Convention, there will still be a drawing on July 1, 2020, for the beautiful handmade quilt.

Please keep our veterans #1 in your hearts. I had the opportunity to meet many veterans this year and enjoyed visiting with them at various District and Department events. Commander Kenny Wiederholt was a terrific counterpart and I enjoyed working with him and becoming acquainted. Thank you, Kenny, for your leadership.

I want to extend my appreciation to the District and Unit Presidents who planned for the Fall District meetings and to those members who took the time to attend them. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and I enjoyed each one I was able to visit with. I attended several notable and remarkable events around the state of North Dakota this past year. Some of those events included: attending parades in Park River, Minot, and Jamestown; traveling to Fargo to visit the Department office; attending the annual VA Voluntary Services dinner in Moorhead; and enjoying a Christmas party with Fargo Unit 2 parley members.

I was fortunate to be invited to the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary party in Gackle, North Dakota. What a party! Everyone involved did a beautiful job greeting folks and serving a delicious dinner. My traveling companion Charlotte Lassonde and I enjoyed meeting the veterans and their families who attended.

The highlights of my year were traveling to Lisbon for the annual Gift Shop event at the North Dakota Veterans Home and attending the Gold Star Mothers luncheon hosted by William C. Carroll Unit 26 of Minot. Thank you to everyone involved with these projects. You all did a remarkable job and I was touched and honored to be included in those events.

I want to thank the 2019-2020 Department Officers and District Presidents for your support and encouragement this past year. Although it had been several years since I had attended a national event, I enjoyed every minute of the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, especially the comradery and fun time with all of you.

I want to thank my Department Chairmen. You have done a remarkable job getting information to units across the state of North Dakota. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Marcy Schmidt, our Department Secretary, who was always available to answer my questions or assist me when I needed her.

Thank you to Unit Officers and Auxiliary members across North Dakota. You are the key to our mission to support veterans, their families, and your communities.

Finally, I want to say that it was my honor and privilege to serve as your 2019-2020 Department President. Although I am disappointed that we will not be able to gather for a Department Convention this summer, the time has come to turn over the reins to my successor. I know that you will support Bev Wolff and her team as you have supported me. May God Bless all of you.

Myrna Ronholm



Myrna Ronholm

Department Secretary

Greetings to North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

In April of this year, the North Dakota American Legion's Department Executive Committee made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 Boys State, all ND American Legion baseball programs, and the 2020 Department Convention. Soon following, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota also made the decision to suspend the 2020 ND Flickertail Girls State program. The National organizations have since canceled not only the 2020 Boys and Girls Nation programs but the National Convention in Louisville as well.

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Department Convention, Department Officers, District Presidents, and Department Chairmen will remain in their respective offices and/or program chairmanships unless they are unable or unwilling to continue in that capacity. If they choose not to continue, the officer or chairman must submit her resignation in writing to the Department Office no later than June 1, 2020. For units to maintain continuity, it is recommended that unit officers and chairmen retain their current positions through the 2020-2021 administrative year as well.

This coronavirus crisis may be a blessing in disguise.

Carol Wolf, a veteran and member of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 of Fargo, has graciously assisted me with the archiving and preservation of valuable historic Auxiliary documents. This really has been a great project. Oh, how things have changed over the years.

I encourage all units to continue to preserve your Unit histories and meeting minutes, which should be kept forever. If you want to display some special artifacts from your Unit's past, please prepare it and bring it with you to the 2021 Department Convention.

The American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Birthday Celebration has been put on hold until we meet at our 2021 Department Convention. The celebration planning committee will continue to meet occasionally until that time.

Thank you for everything you do for our veterans, their families, and your communities.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department NEC

This is and will be a very different year for the American Legion Auxiliary on all levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting all sectors of our communities and regions of our Nation.

Although the future may look different, all Unit Officers are being asked to review your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws document. Some areas that will need to be reviewed and updated immediately and then presented at a unit meeting for approval are the Preamble, membership eligibility dates, membership eligibility, and unit dues changes.

District Presidents, please review your District financial reports and mail your 2019-2020 financial report to both the Department Office and the Finance Board Chairman. Your District's financial report can be voted on at the next scheduled District meeting, but please send it in now.

Are you still in a virtual lockdown due to the pandemic? Do you have a computer? Make it a point to check out the ALA Academy classes available on the National website (www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Academy/). Take one or several classes to learn more about our organization.

While you practice social distancing for at least the foreseeable future, make it a point to stay in touch with your unit members by phone, mailed note, email, Facebook or wave from your porch or backyard.

Here is some advice for those procrastinators and pack rats. Now is a great time to sort through your stored stuff and clean out what you do not use or need. Make four piles: Keep, Throw, Goodwill, Family.

Remember, we are the American Legion Family. We are anyone and everyone. We are of every age. We are of every color and faith. We are a community that helps each other, and we commit ourselves to "Service Not Self"

Tammy Ryberg



Tammy Ryberg

Education Program

Hello everyone.

Well, I think one of my friends summed up everything from the last couple months in one word: strange. I know my life has certainly changed in the last few weeks as I am sure many of yours have as well. Although these times have altered many things for us, we continue to prevail as volunteers within the great organization we call the American Legion Auxiliary. Our work may take on different formats such as making masks or having meetings by conference call; however, there is still some wonderful news out there for the education program.

I had the honor of reading through over 50 scholarship applications for both the National and Department scholarship programs. Wow! What a great class of students out there who have such wonderful ideas and enthusiasm. They have amazing spirit, intensity, and will succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders within our schools. It was difficult to pick winners as all the candidates were worthy of awards.

The Education scholarship winners are listed in a separate article in this publication. The four students selected as Department candidates for the National scholarships are: Alison Freier of Glyndon, MN, Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship; Kimberly Asp of Cando, ND, Non-Traditional Student Scholarship; Elizabeth Nolan of Hazen, ND, Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, and Haylee Carlson of Devils Lake, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members. Each of these applications was sent on to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Winners are expected to be announced sometime in late May. All candidates were sponsored by a North Dakota Auxiliary unit.

Many units sent in education reports through District Presidents. Some unit's sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications to be sent to the Department. Other units donate funds to local colleges, universities, and high school foundations. Several units

also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs.

One unit donated funds to a local library in recognition of National Education Week. Several units celebrated the school in their area during National Education Week by bringing in trays of meat, cheese, and crackers. Another unit celebrated its educators and staff by providing fruit. This unit also donated \$35 in school supplies to two schools in their area and presented All-American Student plaques at a high-school awards banquet.

Another unit donated funding to the local school to help students with lunches and to help teachers with classroom supplies. 100 Veteran comic books were also purchased and sent to the school in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Auxiliary. Several units participated in the "10 for 10 for Education" with local schools where they donate supplies in 'groups of 10'. Box Tops for Education were also donated to local schools. Several units also provide scholarships to send students to International Music Camp.

There is likely much more that units and Auxiliary members do to support education within their communities. I just may not hear about it in reports or otherwise. Thank you to all who support our youth, our communities and our veterans through education and outreach. You all truly make a difference.

Also, please remember to thank the educators in your community. They have an awesome responsibility that has recently been made more challenging by the coronavirus pandemic. Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

Take care and stay safe,

Shauna Dubuque

Department Chairman



Department Chaplain

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Did you ever watch children play "red light green light"? Everyone lines up in a straight line. When the person leading the game says, "green light" everyone runs forward, when they say, "red light" all the runners stop. The first runner to get to the front wins the game. Stop start, start stop. If a runner is moving when "red light" is still called, they are disqualified. In our own lives we stop and go so often it seems like we are playing "red light green light". At times of sorrow, sickness, and need we are running towards God as fast as we can. When life is good, we slow our pace. When in need we might be moving so fast that we ignore or do not see God working in our lives. We miss God's instructions. Slow down, relax, do not look to the finish line, but turn your gaze to God.

"Dear God, thank you for being my God of peace. Help me to slow down, relax, and be patient. I know that you are watching, and all things happen in your time not mine. Amen."

I would like to leave you with this:

Always remember: You are worthy, you are beautiful, you are important, you are special, you are unique, you are wonderful, you are talented, you are blessed, you are God's beloved!

Each of you are in my Prayers,
Sandra Petermann



Sandra Petermann

Constitution and Bylaws Program

The committee that worked with me to update our Constitution and Bylaws has worked hard and we presented this information at the 2020 Winter Conference in Bismarck.

In the meantime, we have made several more revisions. Now, we also must add to our Standing Rules a rule to cover the issues we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and how to handle this kind of situation should something like it happen in the future.

Every unit will receive a copy of the revised Department Constitution and Bylaws in the mail soon. Please take some time to review it and be prepared to vote on it at the 2021 Department Convention. The unapproved revisions will also be published on the

Department website (www.ndala.org/constitution-bylaws/) for the convenience of unit members who will perhaps form your unit's committee and/or convention delegation in 2021.

We will be voting on all the changes at the Department Convention in 2021. Once the Department's Constitution is approved, all North Dakota units will need to change their Units Constitution and Bylaws.

Diane Kraemer

Department Chairman



Past Presidents Parley Program

Past Presidents Parley is still looking for units that have not sent in your dues or donations for the year. We have received twelve applications for the Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship and eight applications for the Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship. The committee eliminated four applications because they were not completed properly.

Two Women of the Year applications and one Salute to Service Women application have been received. The committee will review those applications and select the winners by May 20. Winners will be contacted and the names will be announced on the Department website.

Diane Kraemer

Department Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota

Thank you to our frontline heroes!

**You are the best!
You are loved!
You are AWESOME!**



Poster courtesy of: Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit #20 Wahpeton, ND

District 4

Greetings District 4 Auxiliary members.

I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. Please practice social distancing but stay in touch with each other by phone, Facebook, Twitter, or email. Having a person to talk to or a note from someone who cares is so important in these uncertain times.

Although Auxiliary activities have recently stopped due to the coronavirus pandemic, our Year-end Impact Numbers Report and Narrative Reports show we were able to do as much or even more to support our veterans, communities, and youth. Listed below are just a few projects accomplished this year by a few District 4 units (not all reports are listed).

"October is Education Month" The John Raymond O'Hara Post and Unit 25 of Carrington presented a flag etiquette program to the government classes at the local high school and flags were presented to each of the students. Carrington Auxiliary members participated in a flag etiquette presentation for 5th and 6th graders. The programs reached approximately 130 students. The Carrington unit also donated funds to the Carrington city library, and the elementary and high school libraries to purchase books of their choice.

Members of Raymond B. Thorn Unit 30 of New Rockford hosted a joint supper with Legion Post 30 to celebrate the Legion's 100th Birthday. New Rockford's Auxiliary met in October and members were asked to donate non-perishable items to the local Food Pantry. The guest speaker at the October meeting was Cinde Wiley, a retired social worker that is now working with hospice. Ms. Wiley spoke on the "We Honor Veterans" program which provides education and services to vets.

The James Robert Unit 124 of McClusky was involved in fundraising activities to sponsor the placement of a flagpole and flag with an LED light in the "Cemetery by the Crosses" in honor of our deceased Veterans. In addition to \$1,500 donated by local merchants for the project, the unit sponsored a successful fundraiser serving bean soup, tortilla soup, sandwiches, and dessert to complete the project.

In January, members of Unit 124 McClusky collected over one thousand hotel-sized toiletries intended for donation to organizations supporting homeless female veterans.

Thank you District 4 Auxiliary members for all that you do in support of our veterans, our communities, and our youth.

Joan Lasher
District 4 President



District 7

Hello everyone,

Sorry to have missed all of you with the cancellation of our Spring District meetings. In fact, there are several changes due to the coronavirus. Since the Spring District meetings were canceled, all officers in our District will maintain their present positions. I am assuming all units will remain the same, but if there were changes, please send me your updated 2020-2021 Unit Officers list. I have not received the list from all units. I have also not received the 2021 Unit Dues and Data Verification form from many of you. Please send them to me.

ND Flickertail Girls State has been suspended for 2020, but junior girls from this year will be invited to participate in the program next year. Please continue to recruit high school girls for the 2021 program.

The Poppy Poster Contest is still on, however, we now have to submit our entries via .jpg (picture) through email to poppies@ndala.org or to the Department Secretary. The deadline is May 20th. We may have to use our imagination to contact our school kids, but I hear many of the kids who are now homeschooled are very bored and would probably welcome taking part in such a great program.

Our Department Convention has also been canceled. It would be fantastic if you could write a short article about any projects your units are working on. If any of you sew, the VA Medical Center is asking for donations of cloth masks for their patients. Other places requesting masks are hospitals, clinics, or other workplaces. There are several mask patterns and instructions available on the Department's website at www.ndala.org/covid19/. The VA medical center also needs 60 X 80 twin size blankets for their veteran in-patients.

Our Memorial Day Programs may be a little different this year. We will need to be aware of social distancing, but this will vary according to the various units and their communities. We are still looking forward to celebrating our 100-year anniversary during the 2021 Department Convention. Continue to work on archiving and collecting historic items from your units which can be shared at the convention. We have great impact numbers but would love to see the narrative reports and pictures to go with them.

Thank you all for your dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary. We are all in this together and will be stronger because of it. I wish you all well and hope you stay healthy.

Rose Laning
District 7 President



District 8

Hi Ladies,

I am glad to talk to you today. I know you are still going through a very difficult time in this unprecedented situation. I believe we will be coming back from it all very soon! I trust you are all well, and that you have had a fun, happy time with your family. God bless you all!

I will reiterate what I am sure you already know. The Department and National Conventions have been canceled for this year. All the National, Department, and District Officers will be remaining in place until we are able to have Conventions. ND Flickertail Girls State has also been suspended for 2020, but they still want units to recruit for 2021.

I still need Impact Reports from some of you, as well as your Unit Officers Lists. I know that many of the Units have not been able to hold meetings and therefore have not had elections. As soon as you have your elections, please send me the list.

This is a reminder that the Department membership dues will increase by \$3 effective with dues year 2021. National dues for senior members will be \$12, Department dues will be \$13, for a total of \$25. Please make sure that your dues are such that they accommodate \$25 plus your Unit's dues. The Junior dues are now a total of \$7.50 (National \$2.50, Department \$5.00, plus whatever your Unit's Juniors Dues are). Along this subject, let me remind you to keep working on your membership! We ALL are part of the Membership Committee! Seek new members, remind each other to renew, and do whatever you can to increase your total paid-up memberships and Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members. North Dakota is at 85% membership and working hard to achieve 100%. Let us ALL be part of achieving that goal! It is all part of supporting our Precious veterans!

Remember to file your 990-N tax exempt form with the IRS. It is required to be filed on a yearly basis to keep your non-profit status. Also, if you have not registered your Unit with the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office, you may not be covered as a ND non-profit entity. The initial cost to register is \$40 and an annual fee of \$10 after that. Please contact me or the Department Office if you have questions.

This year is the American Legion's Auxiliary's 100th birthday, so come up with a way to celebrate this event in your Unit. Have a party, a dinner, whatever. Reward yourselves for your long years of service to the Veterans! Have fun with it!

Have a blessed summer, and may your gardens produce massively! God be with you all!

Yours in the service of our veterans,

LoAnn Dick
District 8 President



Community Service Program

Hello Auxiliary Members.

Congratulations and thank you for all the work you performed for veterans and their families and your communities. Following are just a few of the projects and works submitted for the 2019-2020 year-end reports.

- Participation in Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs which included readings and placing bouquets of poppies on veteran's graves.
- Sponsorship of students for Boys State and Girls State programs and International Music Camp.
- Generous donations to local Food Pantries.
- Fundraising for the "Warm Hearts" program to support Minot military airmen and their families during the Christmas holidays.
- Sponsor an "Adopted Veteran" residing at the North Dakota Veterans Home at Lisbon.
- Assembled "Heart Pillows" and donations of linens, towels, and toiletries for patients at the VA Medical Center in Fargo.
- Collections of gently-used purses and backpacks filled with toiletries, socks, and gloves for local homeless veterans and women's shelters.
- Lovingly assembled homemade quilts for veterans.
- Prepared and served community Christmas Eve dinners and delivered Meals on Wheels for shut-ins.
- Participated in and assisted Legion Posts with local fundraisers such as pancake feeds and charity breakfasts.
- Distributed poppies in your communities on National Poppy Day.

- Participation in community based activities including: shoveling snow for elderly neighbors, baking bars and cakes in support of the Gold Star Mothers Banquet, assisting with flag retirement ceremonies, cleaning your local American Legion Post, presenting programs to veterans and residents of local nursing homes, and working concession stands in support of your local school district.
- Unit members in a number of communities also took part in the following: parades, sponsored community blood drives, made face masks in response to the recent pandemic crisis, donated gift cards from local restaurants to thank frontline health care workers and first responders, made tie blankets for the comfort of cancer patients, donated platters of goodies to local schools for American Education Week, and promoted wearing purple in April to show support and thanks to military youth for their strength and sacrifices.

This list shows just some of the projects the Auxiliary members were involved with. You can see that we are collectively a busy group. I am so proud and honored to be part of this great organization. Thank you for all that you do. You are valued and you are important.

Colleen Hauf, Department Chairman



Finance Board

What a crazy year we are having! I am enjoying being at home and working on projects that have been sitting on my 'Retirement Shelf' for several years. We will all remember 2020 as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I will miss seeing my American Legion Family at our annual functions such as Flickertail Girls State and Department Convention in June and the National Convention in August. These events have all been suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Although we are not gathering this summer, the Finance Board consisting of Diane Kraemer, Gloria Covert, and myself as chairman, have still been meeting every month. Department President Myrna Ronholm, Department Treasurer Annette Zeller, and Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt also attend those meetings. We have utilized phone conference calls that worked out nicely. We are planning to use Zoom video conferencing in the future, but we may need to dress a bit and comb our hair for those.

At each Finance Board meeting, Annette walks us through the Department's profit and loss statement, balance sheet, and bank statements. Diane keeps us informed about the progress on the revisions to the Department Constitution and Bylaws and the Standing Rules document.

Department President Myrna Ronholm has put the 2020 American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Birthday Celebration on hold for the time being. The planning committee met shortly before the Department Convention was canceled. Although the 'party' will not occur until the 2021 Department Convention, we will have a party. Stay tuned!

The Finance Board has also worked on 'recommendations' to keep all things financial rolling along smoothly. The Department Executive Committee and the convention general assembly will be voting on several things in 2021. Stay tuned for that as well.

Until we can gather once again, please know that I am thinking of you and miss you. Stay safe and healthy.

Marlys Aubol
Department Finance Board Chairman



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Thank You

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Thank you for all the wonderful cards and messages you sent during my recent illness. I am improving every day. I also want to thank Diane Kraemer and Marcy Schmidt who graciously took over my Department Chairmanships for Constitution and Bylaws and Legislation. Your support is appreciated, and you did a wonderful job. The Constitution revisions were a big task and thank you for handling that as a committee. The results are timely and very much needed.

Sincerely,
Ginny Brazil
Past Department President (2010-2011)

Flickertail Girls State Program

Greetings to you from the ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board!

Normally, I would be writing to you and telling everyone about the upcoming session for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 ND ALA Flickertail Girls State session has been indefinitely suspended. Notice that I did not use the term canceled. Here is why we chose that wording. By indefinitely suspending something, it will not be happening at this time but could still happen in the future, although we do know the reality is the program will not host until 2021. To state canceled means something is done, communications cease, the discussion ends, and the event will not occur at any time in any format. We do not want the discussion about our program to stop for the year because our mission is not done, nor are our communications about our program. There have been some inquiries by email from girls that are interested in the program as well as some applications that came in prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Those application fees were not deposited and will be returned asap to the units. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has canceled the 2020 ALA Girls State program in Washington, D.C. In addition to that information, the American Legion National Headquarters has stated that the 2020 Samsung American Legion Scholarships have been

suspended due to the amount of AL Boys State and ALA Girls State programs that will not be in session this year.

Here's what we are doing to continue to support ND ALA Flickertail Girls State:

Girls that would have been eligible for the 2020 session will continue to be eligible for the 2021 ND ALA Girls State session. This means that the 2021 session will have girls attending that have completed their senior year. ALA National Headquarters gave each Department and Girls State program guidance suggesting that they consult their respective program Constitution and Bylaws regarding accepting seniors in the program next year. At this time, there is no statement in our ND Girls State Constitution and Bylaws that would prohibit having senior girls attend.

What we want to do for the summer and fall of 2020 is take the names of girls that are interested and continue to reach out to them. We are looking at sending monthly emails, possibly including a short video clip from ND ALA Girls State counselors, to keep them excited about the program as well as giving them more information on what to expect. What we need from units is to keep sending in names of girls that would be interested in ND ALA Girls State, including the upcoming juniors. It's never too early to promote the program. This is an extension of recruitment efforts and by no means a replacement for the

2020 session. The ND ALA Girls State board believes that by using this platform we can get girls excited about 2021, and in turn, they can help us find more young women that would like to be involved. The ND ALA Girls State board has requested approval for 2021 session dates of June 13th-18th from the ND ALA Department Executive Committee.

As we are not certain when the next DEC meeting will be held, we appreciate your understanding that we are unable to confirm dates at this time and consider them pending approval and not set in stone.

The ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board will continue their communications with the ND ALA DEC and ALA National Headquarters on any changing needs. As always, we appreciate any feedback that you may have. We hope that this finds you all safe and well. Thank you for your support!

ND ALA Girls State Board

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Thoreson, Chairman

Any additional questions? Please contact Dana Thoreson at 701-720-5612 or email at ndgirlsstate@gmail.com



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program

Members reported 12,376 hours assisting and serving veterans and veterans' families. Around

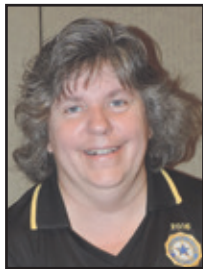
\$53,300 was spent, and 6,500 veterans and families were reached.

Units reported helping their Legion Posts with holiday celebrations, parades, bingo, programs, and Centennial celebrations this year. Meals were served for various activities, including Memorial Day programs and Veterans Day programs. Cards and gifts were given, either to the veterans personally or sent to nursing homes, the Veterans Home in Lisbon, and the VA Medical Center in Fargo.

Units donated items to Veterans Closets at the offices of county Veteran Service Officers. These items are in turn given to the veterans in need of paper goods, personal hygiene items, hats, and gloves.

Reports sent in also mentioned the following projects: sewing quilts, making children's busy bags and wheelchair bags, putting together move-in baskets for the homeless veterans transitioning into permanent housing, game nights, ice cream socials, bake sales, memorial dedications, and motorcycle runs.

LaVonne Matthews, Department Chairman



Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 of Rolla sponsored a fundraiser on Valentine's Day featuring a steak fry and all the fixings at the American Legion Post Cabin. Pictured (l-r): Grace Azure-James, Sandra Smith, Gloria Covert, Janice Sappington, Cheryl Gustafson, Jaime Wishart, and Elaine Lange. Photo submitted by Gloria Covert, District 3 President



Jeanette Anderson quoted on April 5th, "Just sent a box of 110 cloth face masks to the Fargo VA Medical Center on Friday. I am a member of Carl E. Rogen Legion Auxiliary Unit 29, Watford City".



Celebrating the Class of 2020! Abby Johnson, a member of Ole Semling Unit 135 of McVille, is sporting a unique shirt, a gift from Grandmother Judy Twete. Abby is currently a senior in high school and is having fun despite the pandemic. Photo submitted by Judy Twete, Past Department President (2001-2002) and Past NW Division Vice President.

Dates to Remember in 2020

June is Dairy Month and National Accordion Awareness Month. I am not sure these should be in the same month!

- June 4** Hug Your Cat Day
- June 5** National Doughnut Day (Don't you just love this one?)
- June 6** D-Day, World War II
- June 12** National Flip-Flop Day (You know you want to wear them to work!)
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 18** Go Fishing Day, International Picnic Day, and National Splurge Day (How on earth did these three come together?)
- June 20** National Bald Eagle Day
- June 21** Father's Day and National Selfie Day (Wow, what an idea!)
- June 26** Take Your Dog to Work Day (Sit, down, stay! Give 'em a treat)
- June 28** Paul Bunyan Day (Someone felt bad for Minnesotans)
- June 30** Meteor Day (What a great way to end June!)



Poster and photo by Americanism Chairman Holly Eslinger

In Memoriam

District 1

Rita Halland, Buffalo
Joyce Strehlow, Casselton

District 2

Theresa Dahlgren, "SLM", Adams
Debra S Johnson, Edinburg
Mary L Cyr, Grafton
Joann E Davis, Grand Forks
Lois Springen, Hoople
Diane Johnson, Lakota
Amanda C Askin, Lankin
Alice Carlson, Lankin
Henrietta Karas, Lankin
Donna Rice, "SLM", Past Dept President, Maddock
Loretta Quanbeck, "VIM", McVille
Adeline Morrison, Neche
Anselma Clemetson, Park River
Estelle Heggen, Park River
Alice G Midboe, Park River
Glenna Tallackson, Park River
Lorraine Guttu, Pembina
Muriel Olson, Thompson

District 3

Doris Severtson, Brocket
Anna Hunt, Rolla
Elizabeth R Sweeney, "SLM", Rolla

District 4

Delores Muller, Gackle

District 5

Katie Haag, Fredonia
Frances N Janke, Fredonia

District 6

Marion Swenson, Bowbells
Loretta Meredith, "SLM", White Shield

District 8

Bonnie M Stockwell, Beach
Pauline Olson, Hettinger
Aileen Treichel, Mott
Caroline E Germann, Rhame

District 10

Muriel Avery, Forman
Carol D Busche, Forman
Leona L. Fischer, Hankinson
Jeanette Paulson, Past Dept President, Lamoure
Ramona A Kadoun, "SLM", Lidgerwood
Paulette M Lien, Milnor
Kurene Foss, Oakes
Kathleen A Dosch, Wahpeton
Judy Larson, Walcott

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL