

Regional Meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary

Department of North Dakota

Joint Meeting of District 6 and District 9

October 10, 2021 2:00 PM

The American Legion Auxiliary joined the Legionnaires for the opening of their meeting. White Shield's American Legion Post 253 presented the color guard of the various flags from all branches of service. Legion members, auxiliary, and guest stood in respect to the flags and the songs of the drum—"Dead Grass", Flag song, Prayer song, and the Food Blessing song.

Both groups enjoyed White Shield's hospitality and the delicious meal with its many courses, prepared by the women of White Shield...

After dinner, we divided into our own organizations to hold meetings.

The meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, District 6 and 9, was called to order by District 9 president Brenda Ekness. The chaplain of White Shield's unit, Daniele Henry opened the meeting with a prayer.

Madonna Azure, White Shield's unit president, spoke of the purpose of the Auxiliary—membership, and encouragement for growth in each unit. White Shield has displayed pictures on the walls, depicting what they have done. They also have a binder of names and their 20 years of membership.

Marlys Aubol, a past department president, thanked the ladies of White Shield for their hospitality and wonderful food.

Department Commander of the American Legion, Steve Anderson reminded us of a huge problem among Vets, PTSD. No one wants to speak of suicide, but it's a real problem that affects communities. Commander Anderson now has ads on TV and newspapers urging Vets to seek help, or if you know of a Vet who needs help,

be an encouragement to him or her. The Auxiliaries need to also help in ways we can, possible donations.

Another guest Dan Saurwein with the program, Sons of the Legion, spoke to the auxiliary. His intent was to create more interest in the American Legion at a younger age. He stated that this program would bring more warm bodies getting families involved and demonstrating "service above self". He was asking each auxiliary unit to contact individuals to join Sons of the Legion. There is no minimum or maximum age. 10 new members could be a chartered squadron to the unit's post.

Discussions followed on the limitations to belong to the American Legion or Auxiliary. Presently, a great grandson can join the Sons of the Legion, but not a great granddaughter to the Auxiliary. This is the IRS's standards, and needs to be approached. Many of the WWII Vets are no longer here, and with a volunteer service, there are not as many individuals eligible.

The past Presidents Marlys Aubol, Tammy Ryberg, and Jeannie Roman were recognized. Brenda also has the new up-dated copy of the constitution, the same as each unit would have received. Units need to up-date their own constitution and by-laws.

Dues are planning to increase in 2024.

How each unit does poppy donations was discussed by Districts 6 and 9.:

Locations for poppies: Bars, grocery stores, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and some Legionnaires dress in uniform. The meaning of poppies can easily be explained to younger ages with a coloring book on-line that could be copied.

There is now a new branch of service concerning "space", called "Space Force.

Sandra Peterman, membership chairman, informed us of membership changes. IRS does not want to change the great granddaughter issue. Another member also shared information concerning membership. They reach out to inactive members of 2019 and up, and ask if they want to rejoin.

Check on deadline for scholarships.

Loyalty Senior members can apply for scholarships, even if they're going for their masters. Contact Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary for more information.

Attendance: District 6 had 19 members and District 9 had 8 members present.

Minutes of the previous meeting for District 6 and 9, in New Town, was printed and distributed. The reading of the minutes was dispensed and approved as written.

A closing prayer was given by Chaplain Daniele Henry.

Many wonderful door prizes were drawn. White Shield explained that it was their culture to give gifts to visitors. We all received pens and auxiliary cups. District presidents Brenda Ekness and Alicia Roman Randall, along with past department president Marlys Aubol, and NEC for ND Tammy Ryberg all received blankets in appreciation for their dedication.

The Winter Conference will be Jan-28th-30th at the Ramkota in Bismarck.

Meeting adjourned by President Brenda Ekness.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Waldock,

Vice-President of District 9