

American Legion Auxiliary Fall Dist. 1, 2, & 10 Meeting

Harwood, ND

October 30th, 2020

The fall meeting of Dist. 1, 2 & 10 was called to order at 7:30pm by Dist. 10 President, Gigi Moore.

Members were reminded to register if they hadn't already and also to please silence your phones.

Welcome was given by Shirley Montgomery, President of the Harwood Auxiliary.

State President Sharon White Bear addressed the meeting.

Minutes from the Regional meeting held in Hillsboro 2019 were read.

Past State Presidents were introduced. Judy Twedt & Diane Kraemer.

Speaker:

Frank Vondra of the Sons of the Legion gave a presentation. Encouraging people to join. Their goal is to have 5 new squadrons in the next year. They do have an opening for Sgt. at Arms for SOL.

Katrina Hodny- Walsh County Veterans Office will be resigning at the end of the year. She has been working on SVSO claims on Agent Orange, Blue Water Navy. Laws have changed may not have qualified several years ago but might qualify now. Let your veterans know to try again if they were declined in the past. This is also for Vietnam Vets, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Covering many illnesses.

Q- Is there a place you can look to find out more information?

A- You can find info on the VA Website & Public Health Dept.

Q- Do veterans have to use their CSO in their county or can they go to another county to get assistance?

A- Most counties prefer veterans to go to their own county, but it depends on the county.

Q- There is a new presumptive disease from Afghanistan, what is it?

A- It has to do with the burn pits. Soldiers had to guard the burn pits so fire wouldn't go anywhere. Must prove the condition started within 10 years of being there. Conditions include asthma, respiratory, sinusitis, and rhinitis.

Sharon White Bear reported on national retreat she attended.

1. Not retreat- Conflict resolutions wants to do workshops at Winter Conference.

2. Diversity- Habits or impartial, stereotypes

3. Governing Dept.- Parliament procedures, fed & state laws, Incorporation, governing law, Spec. Rules of order, parliamentary order, standing rules, customs.

4. National President- Caring for those who care for others. Working for caregivers.

Sharon's project is helping Veterans with no resources to help. Helping with their apartments or other areas that they may need assistance.

Girls State presented a check to Sharon for \$1000 to help her with her project. ND takes care of our Veterans.

Q- What is your favorite part of being State President?

A- Meeting the people at nationals. She also stated how proud she is of our state on how

We take care of our veterans.

Gloria Covert Dept. VP & membership chair. Since Oct 1, 1800 members have renewed. We are 4th in our division & 1st across the United States.

Alamis- All units should sign up, it has all the info you need for your unit.

1. Paid memberships
2. Unpaid memberships
3. Who didn't renew in 2021, which expired.

Can help get members back, names, email addresses. If interested contact Marcy, she will contact National to open an account. It is \$10 per person, only 2 members allowed per unit. You can also change addresses.

Membership-

1. If you have a blue star mother in your community, ask them to join. Legion has a membership roster to help find out if family members can qualify to join in not already members.

2. Send out newsletter to members, especially the ones out of the area so they know what we are doing, this should help with retention of members. Members can be hurt by exclusion. Good communication is important. Every member is important.

3. Dept. awards- If we get our membership up to 75%, dept. will get \$200. Reminder, send in dues right away, don't hold on to them.

4. Branding- Wear something that says Auxiliary when doing projects in the community & any time you are out in public.

5. There will be no mid-winter reports this year, annual reports will be due in the April.

Unit Mailings

There will be a survey coming out concerning the mailings. The cost of paper is going up and we need to cut back. Please fill out the survey. Need to start sending the mailings out by email. If it is impossible for you to do this check with your members or family member to print out for you, if not they will mail it out. The

mailings are on the website every month. We need to start using our National & North Dakota resources. National website is: ALAforveterans.org North Dakota website is: NDALA.org

Website, right now NDALA.org site has someone doing it for us free of charge. This person is looking at retiring in the future. This will be an added expense in the next year or two. We need to cut back in other areas.

Marcy Schmidt

After the attacks in Afghanistan a memorial was made in memory the 13 soldiers that were lost. Winter conference is January 28-30, 2022 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. National President will be in ND May 8, 9, 10 in the Whiteshield/Minot area. Details to come.

Gigi Moore Dist. 10 President

During the winter conference, Matthew-Brew Unit 2 of Dickenson will be sponsoring a silent auction. All Dist. Presidents are asked to bring at least one item for the auction. Let Sandra Petermann know you have an auction item, what it is, who donated, value.

Bernice Froiland Dist. 1 President

They would like to nominate Virginia Satrom as Dist. 1 Vice President.

Eileen Vondra Dist. 2 President

Reflected on trials & tribulation in her first 6 months as president. Park River had their 4th of July parade. There were several floats/vehicles representing the Auxiliary. She looks forward to the next 1 1/2 years.

Diane Kraemer

Discussed the Constitution by-laws and standing rules. Each unit should be updating theirs, when signed and approved, send a copy to Diane. Gigi added a couple changes that have been made eligibility date- If you have great-granddaughters listed, they are no longer eligible. If they were already members

they will be grandfathered in but need to keep their membership current. There is a chance this could change. The other change is the preamble it should read, **during all wars.**

VA Hospital

LaVaun said they are updating their white boards in all their rooms. They need to raise \$5000. They are asking for monetary donations, you can send your donations to the ALA office and they will get it over to the VA. Be sure to make a note the donation is for the white boards.

Lisbon Gift Shop

Gift shop will have virtual shopping. They love cards. They also like to play Bingo. If you would like to send money for Bingo prizes. If you would like to send any baked goods, please make sure you order from a grocery store or bakery. They ask that you call the home ahead of time as to when the baked goods will be delivered so they can plan accordingly.

Sons of the Legion Commander Joseph Cornisa Jr.

Discussed squadrons. He wants North Dakota to earn the Triple Nickel at National Conference. They are encouraging to sons, grandsons and great-grandsons to join. They will be at the Winter Conference.

Q- If your father was not a legion member; can a son join the Sons of the Legion?

A- If the father is deceased yes he can, just needs to prove eligibility. If he is living he would need to join the legion than the son can join. Trying to change this.

Old Business-

New business-

Carol Wolf - we have 54 soldier out of Devils Lake over in Kuwait right now. If you are interested in sending anything, contact the Dept. office for information.

Marlys Abul purchased a banner from a grant for the Girls State & Auxiliary and a pop tent to be used outside of Girl State.

Registration- 23 present Dist. 1- 8, Dist. 2- 9, Dist. 10- 4, 2 guests.

Door prizes were drawn.

Closing prayer by Carol Wolf.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Respectfully submitted by

Shelley Schuster

Dist. 2 Vice President