

THE MESSAGE

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047 701-253-5992 • www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

Gackle Unit 250 Shows Kindness with Books and Quilts

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle donated funds to the Gackle-Streeter school. Funds were applied toward the monthly Scholastic book order thereby placing a personal book in the hands of each elementary school student. The donation provided books for 62 students.

Scholastic book club magazines have been going home with students for years. Many times, students are unable to order books because of limited funds. The Auxiliary's donation will provide each elementary student with a book every month during the school year. This program has allowed teachers to purchase books and send them home with students to share, read with their family, and keep as their own.

Five members of Mayer-Morlock Post 250 were honored with Quilts of Valor® during a program held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the Gackle Legion Hall. A Quilt of Valor® is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

The Quilts of Valor® presentation was preceded by a light meal sponsored by the Gackle Auxiliary unit and was followed by dessert consisting of cake and ice cream.

Editors note: Quilts of Valor® Foundation is not a program of nor affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary

Article and photos submitted by Elaine Ackerman



 $\label{lem:condition} \textbf{Gackle-Streeter school book recipients.}$



Quilts of Valor® recipients (I-r) Tim Dewald, John Mayer, Russell Geiszler, Randy Entzminger and Dean Entzminger.



National Officers to Attend Winter Conference

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is proud to announce that National President Vickie Koutz will be a guest at the 2023 Winter Conference to be held in Minot on January 27-29, 2023.

Past Department President Jeannie Román cordially invites all American Legion Auxiliary members to attend Winter Conference at the Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Minot. Important information will be shared at Auxiliary sessions.

President Koutz is focusing on honoring our veterans every day. Her project is to bring awareness to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival companions who attend those events with their veteran. President Koutz noted when she recently volunteered at a Creative Arts Festival that some companions could not afford to pay for a meal plan and were not included in the activity with their veterans. This broke her heart and she decided to do something about it

Her project on companions who attend the National Creative Arts Festival is triple-tiered – raising funds for a meal plan, travel, and/or a separate hotel room if needed for non-family member companions. President Koutz is



Vickie Koutz Marlene Boyer

also working to raise awareness of our country's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

A reception in honor of National President Vickie Koutz, Northwestern Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer, and Department President Sandra Petermann will be held on Saturday, January 28. Make plans now to attend. We want to share a special North Dakota welcome with our guests.

Jamestown Unit 14 Shows Appreciation to Community

Members of Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 of Jamestown presented cookies to teachers and public servants of the community. Jamestown high school teachers, city police officers, and the Stutsman County Sheriff's Department were shown appreciation for their service and profes-



Jamestown Auxiliary members with local high school teachers.

sionalism in conjunction with a recent 'active shooter" lockdown at Jamestown High School.

Thank you to all teachers and law enforcement officers of Jamestown and Stutsman County for the work you do every day.



Auxiliary members Betty Geigle, Charlotte Lassonde, Lola Rudnick, and Gail Marsolek together with local law enforcement.

Hatton Unit 70

Members of Carroll O. Flesche Unit 70 of Hatton hold the original American Legion Auxiliary charter signed on the 26th day of September 1922. (I-r) Janice Grotee - member since 1997, Mary Carlson - member since 1998, and Alice Verke - member since 1969.



American Legion Auxiliary 2023 Winter Conference

January 27-29, 2023

(tentative schedule/subject to change)

Grand Hotel and Conference Center Minot, ND Phone: 701-436-2999

Friday, January 27 Conference Rooms - TBD

10:00 AMDepartment Finance Board Meeting

1:00 PMAuxiliary Registration Opens

3:00 PMDepartment Executive Committee

Meeting
5:00 PMNo-Host Dinner
7:00 PMJoint Opening Session

Saturday, January 28 Conference Rooms - TBD

Sunday, January 29 Conference Rooms - TBD 9:00 AM.....Auxiliary Meetings Wrap-Up 10:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

Department President

Greetings American Legion Family,

I would like to thank each of the District Presidents for your hard work preparing and holding the District meetings. You all did an amazing job. A heartwarming thanks to everyone who has supported my projects. Whether it be by purchasing raffle tickets or donating funds. Thank you to the American Legion family of Edgar M. Boyd Post and Unit 37 of Williston for hosting the homecoming event for me and Commander Brown. A special thank you to everyone who attended. I will cherish the wonderful memories from that evening.

I have heard the question asked: "Why can great granddaughters no longer join the American Legion Auxiliary?" The eligibility change was made in 2019 through National in response to a ruling by the IRS. Membership could only be within 2 degrees of separation from the veteran under which he/she is eligible. As it was explained at a recent National Convention Membership training, until Congress chooses to change the eligibility, the American Legion Auxiliary must follow this decision. Current members that are great granddaughters may retain their existing membership.

Our American Legion Family recently lost fellow Legionnaire and Past Department Commander Floyd Semenko. Someone shared that you could count on him sitting in the audience making his "KISS" lips, reminding you to "Keep It Short Stupid." One may think this gesture rude or uncalled for, however, I think we could all learn something from Floyd. When leading a meeting, it is

important to get to the point. If we can keep it short, we maintain the attention of those we are speaking to. A presentation over 5 minutes will cause your audience to stop listening. When one is holding a meeting, it is best to keep the meeting under one hour. If longer than that, your

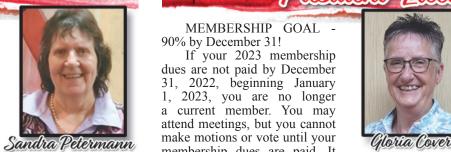
audience may already have checked out and you will not be able to maintain their attention.

This holiday season, send cards to hospitalized veterans and perhaps prepare some treats for those who may be shut-in at home or a nursing facility. It truly touches their heart and shows that you care and support them

As Auxiliary members, let us all remember to "Be kind and open to new ideas." All of us can be mentors. Share your ideas with those around you and invite members to become involved. We need every member, and everyone is important to our unit and organization. Listen to what they have to say, remain open minded, show compassion, and be willing to learn new things. As we continue to grow in our membership, please keep these thoughts in mind. Try to make everyone feel included and special.

Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Conference in January 2023.

Sandra Petermann



membership dues are paid. It

is important that your dues are current. Unit membership affects not only the District but the Department membership as well.

To date, our Department total membership is down 472 members compared to 2021. 209 of those members are deceased. The other members didn't pay dues so they will appear as expired or former members in ALA MIS. The Department budget functions from the membership dues that are paid. The Department finances suffer when units do not collect or submit dues in a timely manner. Congratulations to units that have already achieved 100% membership. Great job!

Units, please ensure that your members' personal information is current. This includes addresses, phone numbers, birth date, and email address. Please report deaths in a timely manner as well. Deaths need to be reported to the Department Office as units cannot update that information in ALA MIS. Email addresses are important, too, because National Headquarters and the Department Office will utilize email communications more in the future in an effort to cut costs.

ALA MIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) has a new structure this year:

Level 1 - view only and print reports.

Level 2 – same as the access you now have. View and print reports, change profile info such as name, address, email addresses, birth dates, change subscriptions, and add new members.

Level 3- full access to include Level 1 and 2 plus renewals. Units can now pay their dues online to National and Department with a debit or credit card. The National office will reimburse the Department Office every 2 weeks for their share of the dues.

More information is available on the National website: www.ALAforVeterans.org/Members/Resources/ALAMIS. Unit ALA MIS access must be requested from the Department Office. When making your request for access please include your email address and your unit number. Two members from each unit can have access to ALA MIS, however, only 1 can have full access. Full access users will need to view a 30 minute video on how to use the program before they are granted full access. Fees will increase in January 2023 for ALA MIS access: Level 1 = \$10, Level 2 = \$15, Level 3 = \$20.

Junior members are a great asset to your unit. Invite them to attend your meetings. They probably are techsavvy and could assist with finding information in ALA MIS or use email. They are more than willing to help with your events.

Community organizations are a great resource for extra help at your events, especially if you are a small unit. Reach out and ask! Volunteer hours can be recorded for their assistance at your event.

I attended 2022 Fall District meetings in Belcourt, Oakes, Jamestown, Minto, Williston, and Mayville. I want to thank members of those units for the genuine hospitality shown me. I enjoyed visiting with members from around the state. I can say, without a doubt, that our North Dakota members are the BEST!

Gloria Covert



Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

As I write this article, we are experiencing our first ice of the season and I am hoping we do not get this stuff on a regular basis. I really don't mind snow, but I am not an ice skater.

First, I want to thank everyone who reached out with sympathy and condolences for the recent loss of my mother. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated by me and my family. Mom's only brother, Buddy, was a veteran of the Korean War. Although I never managed to sign her up as an Auxiliary member, she assembled hundreds of colorful potholders for friends and family members and donated dozens for homeless veterans moving into apartments.

I recently returned from the "2022 Mission Training" event held in Minneapolis. It was well worth the time spent, and we learned a lot not only from the instructors but from each other. The camaraderie that Auxiliary members share is wonderful. "Mission Training" is an annual event held in various venues across the country. I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about American Legion Auxiliary programs to make a point to attend next year. The material we reviewed and discussed at "Mission" is available on the National ALA website – www.alaforveterans.org. I urge all unit and Department chairmen and Auxiliary members atlarge to take some time to review the national website for ideas, classes, and more.

Congratulations to units that have achieved 100%

plus membership already! North Dakota is doing remarkably well in membership. Membership is everyone's job so offer to assist your unit chairmen. Contact members who have not yet renewed for 2023 and encourage former members who have dropped away from the unit to come back. Remind them why

Marcy Schmid

they became members. Was it because someone who loved them gave them that opportunity? Find out their 'why" then ask them to rejoin. Let us make this organization even greater! Finally, make reservations as soon as you can to

attend the 2023 Winter Conference in Minot. More information and an early registration form can be found elsewhere in this publication. National President Vickie Koutz has announced that she will be traveling to attend this conference. Come meet Vickie. She is an inspirational leader and is looking forward to meeting you. NW Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer will also be attending. She is a Past Department President from North Dakota. Way to go, Marlene!

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Stay safe, stay

frosty, and see you in Minot! **Marcy Schmidt**

Department Vice President

Hello Auxiliary Members.

I trust you are doing well. Hope all enjoyed a nice imn and now as you prepare for the upcoming h season. This is such a wonderful time of the year!

How are your membership drives going? Are they producing amazing results? The Department of North Dakota is striving to be a department with 100% membership this year. We can do it, but we need everyone's assistance to achieve it! If you haven't heard from a member in a while, reach out to visit and encourage them to renew their membership and attend a unit meeting.

As I write this article, Northwestern Division is sitting at 53.88% and North Dakota is at 46.80%, just ahead

of Wyoming. North Dakota already has several units with of goal! Congratulations Hannaford, Milnor, Tolna, and Beach! Let's all put a BIG push on and GO FOR GOAL!

It will be great fun to see which District can achieve 100%

Have a wonderful holiday season.

LoAnn Dick





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District 2

Hello to our District 2 Members. I would like to thank the members that made it to the Fall District Meeting held in Minto on October 1. I was pleased with the attendance, especially considering that harvest was still in full swing.



A message was read from Department President Sandra Petermann concerning membership, dues increase, ALA Emergency Funds, and more. We also heard from Department President-Elect and Membership Co-chairman Gloria Covert. She spoke on some of the same subjects and is encouraging members to get their dues paid by December 20, 2022 to keep membership current. She also discussed the membership database American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS). It is a good way to check on your unit members and keep them current. Now is the time to sign up for system access as the rate will be going up in 2023. Department Parliamentarian Diane Kraemer discussed the Constitution & Bylaws program and reminded units to get documents updated and sent to

Remember to get your memberships dues sent in and encourage people to join. Borrow a roster from your Legion post. You could be missing out on a number of great potential memberships.

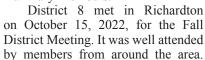
In response to the hurricane in Florida, the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman has encouraged donations to help affected Auxiliary members. A suggestion was made to have a special collection of AEF donations. Members and guests donated \$125. Thank you for your generous donations.

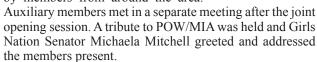
Remember to honor your veterans on Veterans Day and every day.

Shelley Schuster District 2 President

District 8

Season's Greetings to District 8 Auxiliary Members.





Make plans now to attend the 2023 Winter Conference at the Grand Hotel in Minot on January 27-29. Come and meet National President Vickie Koutz at the reception to be held in her honor.

Barb Fulton District 8 President



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District 10

Greetings District 10 Members. The new Auxiliary year is here again, and I hope that you are all working on our Auxiliary programs.

Membership is the most important because without our members we would not have an

organization. When you get memberships, send them in to the Department Office. Do not hold them at your unit. It was voted on at the 2022 National Convention for a \$6.00 dues increase beginning in 2024. The national dues increase will take effect with dues year 2024. Now is the time for units to consider increasing their unit dues.

All units are required to update their Unit Constitution and Bylaws. When completed, please send a copy to Department Constitution Chairman Diane Kraemer.

Units should already have sent in 2023 Mandatory Contributions and Poppy Orders. If you have not, please do so by December 1, 2022.

With Veterans Day in November be sure to Honor our Veterans. Unit presidents, please share information from the Department with your unit membership. This way, everyone knows what is going on within the Department.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. I would love to visit your unit and meet your

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Gigi Moore

District 10 President

Education

Holiday Greetings Auxiliary Members!

It has been a nice autumn so far windy at times, but what can you expect for North Dakota?!

This year, as always, the Department Education Program is promoting student learning through scholarships. The four scholarship applications available through National are:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
- Junior Auxiliary Member Loyalty Scholarship

The bottom three applications are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2023. More information is available at www.ndala.org/education/ or at www.ALAforVeterans. org/scholarships/. These scholarship applications were included in the November mailing from the Department Office to units and ND schools. Thank you, Marcy! Please share the applications with eligible students within your families and communities.

NEW LAST YEAR – The Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship is only available as an online fillable submittal form. No paper forms will be available and there will be no unit review needed. National will be emailing the completed online applications to each Department. More information will be available as it is received. This was a new process, so hopefully the bugs are worked out.

Department Education Scholarship applications are available. Each award is valued at \$500. These applications are posted at www.ndala.org/education/. Applications should be sent to me no later than April 1, 2023.

The Education Program is promoting the "Give 10 to Education" program. Organize a school supply drive in your area or donate money to local schools for education supplies and safety items. Remember to support your local schools, educators, and staff. Consider a COVID-safe treat donation, a thank you card brigade, or maybe sending special flowers to honor those that give so much.

Feel free to contact me at education@ndala.org or by telephone at 701-462-3919. I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Have safe and enjoyable holidays!

Yours in service, Peggy Moran

Education Chairman



Hello Auxiliary Members.

I am excited to be your Americanism chairman for this year. I recently attended a very informative video conference with Department and National program

chairmen. There is an abundance of great knowledge and information available for this wonderful program. I will be sharing some of these items with you in the following months via unit mailings and the Department webpage at www.ndala.org/americanism/

Hopefully you took advantage of the voting freedom given to us by casting a vote this year. This is an important part of our democratic process that veterans have helped preserve. However, turnout in North Dakota was historically low. Consider helping others 'get out and vote.' Offer to drive someone to a polling place or help them file to become an absentee voter.

Please support the Americanism Essay Contest in your respective areas. This year's essay title is: "What does patriotism mean to you?" The contest is open to students in grades 3-12, including home-school participants. Please include the essay contest cover sheet with your entries. I must receive entries no later than March 15, 2023. They may be mailed to Shauna Dubuque, PO Box 0251, Glyndon MN 56547-0251 or scanned and emailed to americanism@ ndala.org Cover sheets and more information will be coming out in a unit mailing and will be posted online. *Sponsor units – please collect essays from schools and send in only one Unit winner per class category to me!*

Remember to proudly fly your American flag. The flag may be flown on all days, but especially consider days such as: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Inauguration Day (Jan 20), Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (3rd Monday in Jan), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb 12), Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in Feb), and Easter Sunday. (This list is a suggestion for December-April and is not all inclusive).

I hope you have a good Christmas season and share your patriotism and kindness with others.

Shauna Dubuque **Americanism Chairman**

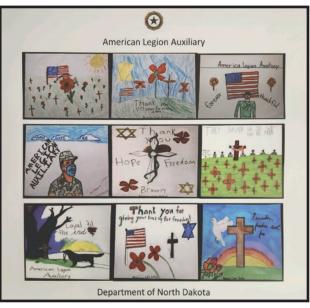
Poppies

I am honored to be your Poppy Program Co-chairman this Year.

I am excited to announce a fundraiser for the Department's Poppy Program. We are promoting the usual distribution of poppies

by units. In addition, we have for sale and distribution placemats, greeting cards, puzzles, and playing cards with images from 2021 Poppy Poster Contest entries. The entries submitted were too numerous to utilize for this project, but the end results were remarkable. Poppy poster items will be available at the 2023 Winter Conference.

Carol Wolf Poppy Co-chairman





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North Dakota Legion News

2023 Winter Conference Pre-Registration

Pre-order your conference banquet tickets for \$35 by January 11, 2023. Banquet tickets will increase to \$40 after January 11, 2023

Meetings – January 27-29, 2023 Grand Hotel and Conference Center - 1505 N Broadway, Minot, ND Phone: 701-436-2999

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration	Banquet Ticket Orders		
		Number of banquet tickets ordered	\$35.00 each	Total Amount
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			
	\$15.00			

Total Amount Enclosed Please send this form along with payment to:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of ND, 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047 Auxiliary registrations received after January 20, 2023, will be held for on-site registration at Winter Conference.

What is a Veteran?

A veteran is a person who fell in love with their country—for better, for worse—for richer, for poorer—in sickness and in health.

A veteran is a person who is willing to lay down their life for the Statue of Liberty so that her poor, her huddled masses, her homeless, her tempest tossed may breathe free and enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A veteran is a person who does what he/she must in spite of personal consequences—in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—for that is the basis of human morality.

A veteran is one who gets a lump in the throat when he/she sees our beloved flag. One who will fight to protect our beautiful flag from those who dare to dishonor it.

A veteran is one who pays their taxes, willingly; serves their country, honorably; and cherishes their freedom, passionately.

A veteran is one well deserving of our appreciation, our love, and our prayers 365 days a year.

Every day is Veteran's Day, honor and remember them, lest we forget.

(Author unknown)

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Olga Jacobson, Rugby Carmen Paulson, SLM, Maddock Luella Dion, SLM, Dunseith

District 4

Mary A Lies, SLM, New Rockford Victoria R Schimelfenig, Goodrich

In Memoriam

Myrna Aasand, McHenry Lu'Wanna Remmick, SLM, Gackle Violet L Schopp, Streeter

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We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

