

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Message

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
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Ruth Quam Receives Award

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is proud to announce that Ruth Quam of Wahpeton, ND, was selected as the winner of the 2023 Unit Member of the Year Award.

Ruth was nominated for this distinguished honor by Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 of Wahpeton. Ruth is a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has served proudly for 53 years. In District 10, the Quam name is synonymous with the American Legion Family. Ruth accompanied her husband Carroll on his many travels around North Dakota and the country while he served as the American Legion Department Commander.

Ruth has served in various unit offices and currently serves as the unit's vice president. Throughout the years, she has provided countless gallons of lemonade and dozens of cookies for the North Dakota Boys State counselor's picnic. She has served or donated food and volunteered for unit fundraisers, community veterans programs, and

dinners. Her other efforts include distributing poppies in the community, donating countless funds and personal hygiene items to the Lisbon Veterans Home and Fargo VA Medical Center, and working the 'Give 10 for Education' program for school students.

In addition to her involvement with the American Legion Auxiliary, Ruth is active with St John's Catholic Church, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and Quilts of Valor. She was actively involved and served on various committees with the North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary. In recent months, Ruth has provided care and support to her husband, Carroll, as he continues to recover from recent surgery.

Ruth embodies the American Legion Family's mission of being an active member within a community of volunteers serving our veterans, active military, and their families.

Congratulations, Ruth, on a job well done!



Ruth with husband and Past Department Cmdr Carroll Quam

Photos from Department Convention



Department Leadership at Convention. Photo courtesy of IceBerg-Art Candace Berg



Past Department President Sandra Petermann preparing for meetings at Convention



Three Past Department Presidents honored at Convention Memorial service: Rosella (Rosie) Weber, Myrna Ronholm and Marjean Boe. Photo courtesy of Rose Laning

Department President

Auxiliary Members,

First of all, I want to thank all the members for their vote of confidence in me. This title is a team effort so your participation in helping me out with any concerns or suggestions would be very much appreciated. My phone is always open and I text.

I participated in three parades to start my year off. The Ragtop parade was held July 1st in Rolla. The annual 4th of July parade was held in Park River. National Legion Commander Jim Troiola also participated in this parade. The Deuce of August parade was held in Mountain and it showcased their Icelandic heritage. The crowd participation was huge at all the events and a good homemade meal was a must. I enjoyed the great hospitality from each of these small towns. Small towns are what life is all about!!

The first dues renewals were emailed in July. Dues can be paid online so units need to check their ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) computer reports so they know who has paid online. Members that have paid online will receive their membership card from the National Office. The paper dues renewals will be mailed out in September. Units need to start collecting 2024 dues ASAP. The 2024 membership dues need to be paid by Dec 31 for the following year. If you don't have your membership card for 2024 in hand by Jan 1st you are considered a guest at meetings and events. You do not have privileges such as voting or making motions at your

Auxiliary meetings. Please, please, members get your membership dues paid as soon as you receive your notices, whether it comes by email or snail mail.

District Presidents need to communicate with their District Commanders so you both know the correct information about the District Meeting schedules. Please let me know of any changes in a timely manner.

I will be attending all the District Meetings barring any unforeseen circumstance. I am looking forward to meeting with members and hearing what their units are busy doing in "their neck of the woods".

Commander Clarence and I will be having our "homecoming" together this year. It will be held in Medora on Saturday, October 21. The social will begin at 5:00 PM followed by a buffet meal. The program will end by 7:00 PM so guests can attend other evening events. We look forward to everyone attending and helping us celebrate our coming year with the Legion family!! More information is available on page 3.

Please keep membership renewals and recruiting at the top of your priority lists this year. Our members are the future for our veterans, youth, and community.

Always be kind,
Gloria Covert



Gloria Covert



August of Deuce parade in Mountain



Gloria Covert being escorted for installation by daughter Shantel (right) and granddaughter Korri (left)

Fall District Meetings

*Information is subject to change without notice. Visit www.ndala.org/districtmeetings/ for updates.

District 1 Finley October 12
Location: Peterson-Olson Post 13
5:30 pm Registration • 6:00 pm Meal • Meeting to follow

District 2 Larimore October 28
Location: Willy's (old Legion Club)
5:00 pm Registration & Social • 6:00 pm Meal \$10/person
Meeting to follow

District 3 Devils Lake October 28
Location: Fireside Inn
10:30 am Registration • 11:00 am Meeting
Meal \$10 following meeting

District 4 Jamestown September 21
Location: All Veterans Club
5:00 pm Registration & Social • 6:00 pm Meal (cost TBA)
Meeting to follow

District 5 Hazelton September 23
Location: Hazelton Community Center
11:00 am Registration • 12:00 pm Meal (cost TBA)
Meeting to follow

District 6 Donnybrook October 13
Location: Donnybrook Community Center
5:00 pm Registration • 6:00 pm Meal (Cost \$10) RSVP by Friday, October 6 • Meeting 7:00 pm

District 7 Hebron October 16
Location: Hebron Community Center
6:30 pm (CST) Registration & Meal • 7:30 pm (CST) Meeting

District 8 Scranton October 14
Location: Scranton Community Center
9:30 am (MST) Registration • 10:00 am (MST) Meeting

District 9 Watford City October 14
Location: American Legion Family Building
3:00 pm (CST) Registration • 4:00 pm (CST) Meal (free)
Meeting to follow

District 10 Fairmount September 22
Location: Fairmount Community Center
5:00 pm Registration • 6:00 pm Meal (free will offering)
Meeting to follow

Department President-Elect

Membership! Membership! Membership!
That is the key to a successful unit. No members – No Unit! So let us set the goal to get all Auxiliary members signed up for 2024 in the first month of September. Our first priority!

Membership is everyone's responsibility. Make it the most important thing. Talk membership all the time! If your unit lost members due to unpaid dues last year or the year before, go out and ask them to come back. North Dakota lost 300 members due to unpaid dues in 2022. It happened again in 2023. We must strive to prevent non-renewal, or soon, our beloved organization will not even exist. I pray that never happens. Rejoin former members, recruit new members.

Let's get every Unit, every District, and the Department of North Dakota to 100% of goal in 2024! We are aiming for North Dakota to rank 90% by December 1, 2023.

Go Units! Go Districts! Go North Dakota! We can do it! Let's hit the ground running and not let up! Remember, we are honoring our very precious veterans who sacrificed for us, for our freedom, and for our country. Let's make them proud!

LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

Department Treasurer

How time flies! Welcome to the fall season—the cooler weather, football, and the “season of generosity!” All of my favorite things. As your units gather together, get reacquainted after the summer months, and work on welcoming new members, begin thinking about the many programs that veterans rely on and how you can help.

If you have not received the Mandatory Contribution forms yet, you will see them very soon. They need to be returned to the Department Office by November 1st. Start talking about what programs your unit wants to support. Contributions that are received on time are sent to their respective programs in December. Contributions that are received at a later date are not forwarded to the designated program until June. Thus, I urge you to complete the form at your October meetings and get it sent in. Then these programs can receive their funding before the beginning of 2024.

In this season of generosity, I want to thank each one of you for the great things you do for our veterans in North Dakota. Many of you work within your units and continue to work diligently. Your efforts, combined with other units across the state, make a huge impact.

Every single thing you do, no matter how small, is important. Anytime we can put a smile on the face of a veteran, it is well worth it.

Sonnie Otto



Sonnie Otto

Department Secretary

Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

It is rumbling a bit as I begin drafting this article today. We welcome the rain as the lawn appears to have gone dormant already. The park across the street has youngsters taking part in the ‘great American past time’, baseball. The new Auxiliary year is beginning to come into focus. Soon you will be traveling to your 2023 Fall District Meetings. More information on Fall Meetings can be found elsewhere in this issue of ‘The Message’. Be sure to ask other members of your unit to attend with you. Make it a fun road trip and join your District President and welcome Gloria Covert, your new Department President for 2023-2024.

By the time you read this, The American Legion Family Department of North Dakota delegation to the 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, NC, will already be back in North Dakota.

American Legion Department Commander Clarence Carroll and Auxiliary Department President Gloria Covert are planning a combined ‘homecoming event’ for Saturday, October 21. It will be held in Medora and from all accounts, it sounds like quite an event is being planned. You will not want to miss it. Make plans now to attend. More information can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Start planning your unit's activities now. Let us make 2023-2024 a year to remember with your whole-hearted support for veterans, active military, their families and your communities. Be sure to wear the American Legion

Auxiliary ‘brand’ when you are volunteering in your community. American Legion Emblem Sales is a great place to find apparel to represent the Auxiliary. Check out their website at emblem.legion.org.

Auxiliary program information such as AEF, Poppies, Community Service, Americanism, Girls State, History, VA&R, and so much more can be found not only on the national website at www.alaforveterans.org but the Department website at www.ndala.org. You can download the latest ‘Unit Guidebook,’ Chaplain's book, membership applications, poppies and Halloween coloring books for children's programs, and so much more.

I encourage everyone to remember to track your volunteer hours and monetary donations in preparation for Unit Reports in April 2024.

Remind yourself and fellow unit members why you became an American Legion Auxiliary member. Is your ‘why’ personal? Support your ‘why’ by paying your dues early and supporting the activities of your unit. Make 2023-2024 a great year!

Take care of yourself and others.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department NEC

I encourage all of you to read the ‘National Auxiliary’ magazine that is sent to each member's household. It contains great information on American Legion Auxiliary programs. The Auxiliary publication is helpful in sharing what other Departments and units are doing and provides ideas for units to try in their own communities. It is full of information on how and where to look for help if needed. It is also available for online download at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Magazine

It is time to plan the year for your unit. Review the unit's yearly budget and start there. Next, decide what programs you wish to support and work on and get started on how to implement those programs. Each Department Chairman will assemble a work outline for their program. Unit Presidents will receive that information from the Department Office in unit mailing packets and it will be posted online at www.ndala.org/unitmailings/

One main way to stay connected to unit members is for the Unit President or a specified member to make contact. Utilize texting, emails, or phone calls to let members know what is coming up and what volunteer opportunities are available. That way everyone knows and can decide how to be useful. All unit members should be encouraged to share their ideas. Keep unit members involved and lines of communication open.

Involvement is the key to keep your unit active, helpful, and ALIVE!!!!

Tammy Ryberg



Tammy Ryberg

Department Chaplain

I was with some of my grandchildren when we ran into friends who had been to the Black Hills. We talked about the various sites they had visited, and they told us about going to one of the underground caves. My granddaughter piped in, “We were there, and when they turned the lights off, we could not see anything. It was scary!!” Later, she said they could not even see their hands in front of their faces.

In the book of Exodus and the story of Moses and the 10 plagues, Moses was speaking to Pharaoh. The Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven, and there would be a plague of darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt.

“During all that time the people could not see each other, and for three days they did not move from where they were.” Exodus 10:23

Can you imagine being in pitch blackness for three days?! I would think that would be a fearful time for Egypt and it seemed that Pharaoh would allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. However, his heart remained hardened, and he refused to yield to God.

Spiritually, darkness represents what is sinful and evil. In the dark, if you can see at all, different objects look alike; in the light, good and evil can be easily distinguished. Just as darkness cannot exist in the presence of light, sin cannot exist in the presence of a holy God.

1 John 2:9 “He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his

brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

1 John 1:5-7 “God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth, but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

The statement that God is light means that God is perfectly holy and true and that he alone can guide us out of the darkness of sin, showing us the right path. We become hypocrites if we say we belong to Him but then go out and live only for ourselves with little thought of serving others. As Auxiliary members, we should be reaching out to our communities and helping those in need. We may even find new members.

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Lord, help us be the light in dark places. Amen.

Rose Laning



Rose Laning

Poppy Program

This year, I utilized poppy poster submissions from 2021 to design playing and pinochle cards, placemats, greeting cards, and puzzles. These items are being sold and the funds raised are dedicated to support our veterans programs.

Some items were donated to the Fargo VA Medical Center and the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon for the patients and residents to enjoy. Two of the posters each month were utilized to design a calendar that was mailed to units from the Department Office. I have had many positive comments on those calendars as well as the fundraising items. The Department poppy chairmen packaged 25,000 poppies and mailed them to units across the state.

This was my first year as a co-chairman for the Poppy Program. I enjoyed learning about the program, counting poppies, and most of all meeting members of the American Legion family at various District meetings and conferences.

Carol Wolf



Homecoming Announced

Join us for a memorable evening as we celebrate and recognize Department Commander Clarence Carroll and Auxiliary President Gloria Covert. We cordially invite all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and their guests to be a part of this special event. See page 3 of the Legion News for complete details!

District 3

Hello District 3 Auxiliary Members,

I want to thank all of you for your support and trust when you elected me as District 3 President. When I became a member of Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 of Rolla in 1996, my eligibility came through my father Don, a Vietnam-era veteran. My husband, Mike, and I have been married for 24 years and we are the proud parents of two children. Our daughter, Sara, is a member of the Auxiliary and our son, Zack, is currently serving in the Air Force and is stationed in Tampa, Florida. He is also a Legion member.

My role model and the strongest woman I know, my mother Sandy Smith, has been my mentor and has helped me along the way. Watching her serve in various roles in the Auxiliary has helped develop my passion for the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and gives me confidence that I, too, can be an asset in my role as your District President.

I invite each of you to the 2023 Fall District 3 Meeting. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know many of you.

If you need assistance, feel free to reach out and I will be happy to help in any way I can. Phone me at 701-895-8187 and leave a message if unanswered.

Cheryl Gustafson
District 3 President



District 7

Department Convention is over, and I will continue to serve as President for District 7 for the 5th straight year. There were a number of District 7 members at convention, but no one stepped up to take the job. I did, however, talk Annette Zeller of Carson into serving as District Vice President in the event I cannot finish my term.

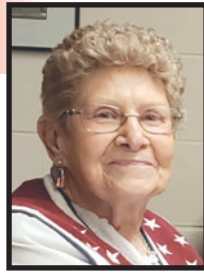
As I sit here thinking about what to write, the TV is broadcasting the 'Twins' game and they are winning. There are storm warnings, some severe, coming every few minutes. It is enough to scare one half to death.

District 7's Fall Meeting will be held in Hebron on Monday, October 16.

The Auxiliary meeting will include discussion on membership, updating your unit's constitution and bylaws, and much more. Join us for the meeting, door prizes, and camaraderie. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Hebron.

I recently read some old 'Messages,' dating as far back as 1975. 1975 was the end of my first two years as a District President. I was then known as Lualice Stiefel of Stanton, ND. At that fall meeting in Mandan we had forty-six unit members and 4 guests in attendance. Times have certainly changed. Let us try to have that many members in Hebron this fall.

Lualice Stockert
District 7 President



District 5

THANK YOU to District 5 Unit members for submitting your 2022-2023 volunteer hours and narrative reports! Six of the twelve units in District 5 reported hours, which included a total of 14,731 hours of volunteer service. A total of \$34,736 was spent in providing support and services to our veterans, active military and their families, Children and Youth, Community Service, Department Scholarships, and Girls State. The numbers are impressive and were included in the Department's report to National Headquarters. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

As we begin a new service year, we have renewed excitement coming off the summer 2023 Department Convention. At Convention, it was approved to support International Music Camp and the North Dakota State Legion Band with funds from the Auxiliary Memorial Fund. National dues increased by \$6.00 beginning with dues year 2024. We were reminded that all unit Constitutions, Bylaws and Standing Rules need to be reviewed and updated. Only 18 units have completed this process so far. We were entertained by the North Dakota State Legion Band several times during the Convention. The Legion Band organization will be 100 years old in 2024 and they are hoping to make the trip to the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, LA!

Discussion at the Department Executive Committee Organizational Meeting held on July 21, 2023, included compiling a list of "Gold Star Mothers" in North Dakota. If you know of a 'Gold Star Mother' in your community, bring that information to your District Meeting or let your District President know who they are and where they are located.

Thank you to all members of Joseph E. Appert Post and Unit 126 of Hazelton for stepping up to host our 2023 District 5 Fall Meeting in September.

I am interested in visiting District 5 unit meetings this year, so let me know when and where you meet. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2023 Fall District 5 meeting and more of you at your unit meetings.

Peggy Moran
District 5 President



District 9

Hello District 9 Auxiliary Members.

So much has happened since our Spring District meeting in April. We had three District 9 units represented at the Department Convention in June, where we received the exciting news that District 9 membership reached over 100% in 2023! Great work everyone! Continue to recruit and ask the people you have been meaning to ask but have not yet. Let us strive for 100% again for 2024; we can do it! This was my first time attending the Department Convention and I really believe everyone would benefit from attending. It is a perfect time to learn more about our organization from experienced leaders, get to know other Legion and Auxiliary members who become great friends from around the state, and immerse ourselves in the camaraderie of the American Legion Family.

We have a wealth of information at our fingertips by searching both our National and Department websites. The National American Legion Auxiliary website can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org. If you have not yet, I suggest setting up your member log in. In the member portal we can find membership forms and applications, the unit guidebook, recruitment tools, convention downloads, and trainings. The ALA Academy is an online training that you can do at your own pace. After completion of each course, you can even print a certificate of your achievement. The American Legion Department of North Dakota website is www.ndala.org. On the Department website you will find various forms, District resources, Auxiliary programs, and member resources including current and past issues of 'The Message'. Both websites have excellent references; bookmark them in your browser so you can quickly find them.

I invite all of you to attend the District 9 Fall Meeting and I look forward to meeting and visiting with many of you. Thank you to all members of Carl Rogan Post and Unit 29 of Watford City for hosting our fall meeting.

American Legion Family Building, Watford City
May God bless you and our American Legion family.
Ronda Rudnik
District 9 President



Children & Youth

Our Auxiliary worked together with the American Legion in taking stuffed comfort bears and puppies to our hospitals, EMT's, police, fire, and sheriff's departments across North Dakota. The light brown bears have a white t-shirt with lettering of 'American Legion, North Dakota' and the Legion logo on each. The American Legion also purchased puppies with red t-shirts and the American Legion family logos on them, as well as lettering that reads "The American Legion Family." In working along side our American Legion, we all got the opportunity to see the benefit and smiles it brought to our Children and Youth, especially when they might be scared, feeling alone, and just in need of a comfort animal. They were also very well received in each community. Such a wonderful way to work with our American Legion family and make a difference in the lives of our children and youth.

Annette Zeller



Community Service

In 2022-2023, forty-eight North Dakota units reported activity in support of veterans, military families, and their local communities. One of the activities reported was participation in veterans appreciation programs which included inviting the public to attend. One unit hosted an annual "Poppy" breakfast and included their junior members in the planning, preparation, and clean-up. Other units indicated they included community members in many of their projects such as: placing flags on graves, holding fundraisers, cleaning up local parks and cemeteries, and working concession stands at their local high schools.

I noted that members and units that took time to report were from small communities with active high schools. The correlation I see here is that small communities, whether through a school or a church, tend to nurture student involvement in civic activity.

Beverly Wolff



Junior Activities

North Dakota started off the 2022-2023 year by re-introducing Junior Activities to all unit presidents with material sent out by the Department Office along with other Auxiliary program materials.

Three units sponsored greeting card writing. Finished products were sent to local long-term care facilities, the VA Medical Center in Fargo for distribution to patients, and residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon.

Units enlisted their junior members to assist with flag placing at local cemeteries in time for Memorial Day as well as participation in poppy distribution in their communities. Juniors helped organize community clean-up days, collected food items for the needy, and participated in various veterans programs at their schools.

I know many activities by junior members go unreported. Although the reporting from units was low for 2022-2023, I am hopeful that with more awareness, units will work with their youth members and encourage them to become active Auxiliary members.

Jeannie Román



Flickertail Girls State

Hello everyone,

This year, American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State came with a lot of changes including me stepping into the role of Director and being in the new UND Nistler building in Grand Forks where we set up our week-long operation. Even with all of the changes, Girls State week was a huge success.

It brings me great pleasure to announce that we had 63 girls in attendance for the entire week. On Sunday evening, the girls assembled poppies as a community service project and wrote thank you cards, participated in a flag retreat, and broke the ice within their 'cities' by electing mayors and other city officials.

The following day was busy and exciting with the following: flag raising and etiquette, city government lectures, city functioning, party platforms, and



Amanda Dinger

campaigning. The evening session included learning how to run for office on the state level and getting an amazing skit on parliamentary procedure.

Other activities for the week included a women in government panel, state Party Conventions, a pep rally, campaign speeches, balloting, county functioning, and Flickertail statewide elections.

Wednesday evening we were honored to have Department Commander Dan Brown and Past Department Commander Steve Anderson in attendance as well as the Boys State Governor, staff representatives, and many other members of the American Legion for our Legion night. Each city came up with skits that were performed that evening along with having our first-ever talent show. We were also honored to have Auxiliary President Sandra Petermann



Governor Taryn Romfo

joining us for the week.

Election results included Taryn Romfo as Girls State Governor, Daci Wells as Lt. Governor, and Lauren Beck and Marjorie Rue as Girls Nation Senators. Abby Redfearn was named the state finalist for the Samsung scholarship.

The Girls State staff and I are extremely proud of all the Girls State attendees and everything they accomplished at the 2023 Flickertail Girls State week. As a staff, we couldn't be happier with how well things went.

We want to thank you all for supporting this important educational program and we look forward to prepping for next year.

Amanda Dinger
Flickertail Girls State Director



Lt. Governor, Daci Wells

Leadership

The Department Leadership Chairman initiated the program of work at the completion of the 2022 Department Convention. In September, the national Auxiliary website was reviewed for ideas.



District meetings were held in the Fall to update members on Department activities and exchange ideas on how to improve unit management. Department officers attended those meetings to speak with local members and to explain the goals for the year. Department President Sandra Petermann's theme was "Flying Together-United as One." President Petermann focused on the American Legion family in all she did. The Department staff informed units through monthly mailings and the Department's publication "The Message" which is published quarterly with articles celebrating the activities of North Dakota units.

National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz was an invited guest at our 2023 Winter Conference where she provided ideas on how to maintain energy in our local units.

Four units sent in nominations for 'Unit Member of the Year' award consideration. Although every nominee deserves to be awarded this honor, the committee and I selected Ruth Quam, a life member of Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 of Wahpeton as North Dakota's Unit Member of the Year.

Colleen Hauf

Education

"AT A GLANCE" REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND UNITS

Please note - these numbers reflect only what was reported to me. I suspect the number/dollars are much higher.

- Celebration of American Education and Teacher Appreciation Weeks – treats provided to local schools, funds donated to local libraries (\$200) and funding for school lunches/milk programs (\$100)

- "Give 10 to Education" participation – supplies and monetary contributions given to schools and school kits for World Relief by members and units

- Funds donated for student scholarships/maintenance to International Music Camp (\$420)

- Unit scholarships for graduating seniors (4 scholarships, total \$1,000); members helped serve at the Masonic banquet where scholarships are awarded

- Donations to DECA students going to National competition (\$300); also, to national FCCLA to present project to help ND veterans

- Funds donated for Department scholarship funds (\$1,847)

- Committees for selecting Unit and District scholarship recipients

- 'Veterans in Community Schools' presentations held (10 presentations)

- Participation in Memorial Day services and programs

- Participation in community bike safety and health fairs

- Promotion of National and Department Education scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP NOTES

- 2023 Department Scholarship - \$500 each / 43 applicants – 3 scholarships awarded (\$1,500 total)

- 2023 National Scholarships - 5 applicants – 1 Spirit of Youth Scholarship; 1 Children of Warriors Nationals Presidents' Scholarship, sent to NW Division

Peggy Moran

Winners of Poppy Poster Contest Announced

Winners of the 2023 Poppy Poster Coloring Contest were announced by Joan Buske, Department Poppy Co-Chairman, at the June Department Convention held in Bismarck.

Class I – Grades 2 and 3

Leah Edlund, Binford
Brynn Twedt, McHenry
Neveen Eggermont, Binford

Class II – Grades 4 and 5

Marcie Linster, Finley
Ilyia Hanson, Michigan
Sia Patel, Park River

Class III – Grades 6 and 7

Karlee Tescher, Medora
Chase Zubka, Gackle
Madelyn Bohl, Flasher

Class IV – Grades 8 and 9

Payton Elhard, Cleveland
Claire Ihry, Hope
Jake McCann, Medora

Class V – Grades 10 and 11

Emma Thompson, Page
Judith Jaeger, Streeter

Class VI – Grade 12

Alexia Guerrero, Gackle
Hannah Beckett, Hope



2023-2024 Department Officers

President

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President-Elect

LoAnn DickC: 714-334-4798... presidentelect@ndala.org

Vice President

Candace BergC: 701-740-7144.... vicepresident@ndala.org

Secretary

Marcy SchmidtC: 701-253-5992.....secretary@ndala.org

Treasurer

Sonnie Otto.....C: 701-260-6886.....treasurer@ndala.org

Chaplain

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Historian

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Parliamentarian

Holly Eslinger.....C: 701-891-1909...parliamentarian@ndala.org

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President District 3

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President District 4

Jane SchoonoverC: 218-298-1434..... district4@ndala.org

President District 5

Peggy MoranC: 701-315-0568..... district5@ndala.org

President District 6

Linda Siewert.....C: 701-720-9133..... district6@ndala.org

President District 7

Lualice Stockert.....C: 701-391-1820..... district7@ndala.org

President District 8

Barbara FultonH: 701-872-3665..... district8@ndala.org

President District 9

Ronda RudnikC: 701-648-9805..... district9@ndala.org

President District 10

Gigi MooreC: 701-742-2647..... district10@ndala.org

A full list that includes mailing addresses is available from the Department Office, or may be downloaded at www.ndala.org/contact-information/

Public Relations

My experience serving not only as Department Secretary, but as co-editor of our Department's quarterly publication 'The Message' has given me an insight into the workings of many of our most active units.

I received numerous articles along with countless photos submitted by unit presidents and members-at-large from across the state. Those articles include the dates and times of unit activities submitted for publication as well as the names of those in photos. Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, we are unable to publish all of the photos and articles received, however, the editing team utilizes as many as possible.

Units with hometown newspapers regularly submit articles and pictures of American Legion Family events held in their communities. Americans live such a fast-paced lifestyle that we sometimes forget how it feels to be

part of a community and just gather for camaraderie and fun. The pictures show that age does not matter. Young and old gather to enjoy meals, play bingo, participate in flag burning ceremonies, distribute poppies, march in parades, and work veterans programs.

I am proud of the Auxiliary members who take the time to record, photograph the activities, and author those little articles. It is nice to know that the American Legion Auxiliary as an organization is recognized and remains relevant in North Dakota.

**Marcy Schmidt
Public Relations Chairman**



In Memoriam

District 1

Alice S. Ellingsberg, PUFL, Fargo
Rosetta Olson, Casselton
Gloris Gronneberg, PUFL, Cooperstown
Juanita Hodgson, Erie
Dorothy Hildreth, Harwood

District 2

Christine E Nelson, Grand Forks
Marie Halvorson, Lakota
Kathleen Kroulik, Grafton
Mary Jo Olson, Grafton
Suellen Bateman, SLM, Thompson
Isabelle Niswonger, Minto
Diann M Bratlie, Forest River
Betty Braaten, SLM, Manvel

District 4

Phyllis Denchfield, Jamestown
Shirley M Nitschke, Jamestown
Elsie Hieb, Medina
Alma Dewald, HLM, Gackle
Deborah D Schott, Gackle

District 5

Barbara G. Brewster, Washburn

District 6

Linda L Miller, SLM, Velva
Betty A Ell, SLM, Velva
Bonnie Prellwitz, Willow City
Myrtle A Sampson, SLM, Upham
Viola Latendresse, Upham

District 7

Genevieve Arthaud, Hebron
Beatha Weigum, HLM, Hazen

District 8

Marie Hauck, Richardton

District 10

Alma M Siemers, PUFL, Wahpeton
Bernice K Oliver, Wahpeton
Mona G Visto, Oakes
Amy Breuer, Mooreton

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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



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