

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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 Honors Poppy Contest Winners

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle sponsored the 2023 Poppy Poster Contest at the Gackle-Streeter school. Twelve winning posters were selected and sent to the Department Poppy Chairman for judging.



NW Division Poppy Poster Winner Alexia Guerrero

Four of the Gackle-Streeter school posters won at the state level. Winners of the Poppy Poster Contest: Chase Zabka, Payton Elhard, Judith Jaeger and Alexia Guerrero, (winner at the Northwestern Division level) were announced at "Coffee With the Kids" at the Gackle-Streeter school gym on October 6, 2023. The four winners were presented with a certificate and a \$25 gift card.

Article and photos submitted by: Unit 250 President Elaine Ackerman



Pictured (l-r) Poppy Poster Winners: Adrian Guerrero (accepting for Alexia Guerrero), Chase Zabka, and Payton Elhard. Not pictured is Judith Jaeger.

Napoleon Unit 72 Veterans Day Program

A Veterans Day at School program was coordinated by Unit President Helen Braun of Barry-Hoof American Legion Auxiliary Unit 72, and Principal Whitney Weigel of Napoleon Public School Grades K-6. Teagan Erbele, Student Council President, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The American Legion Color Guard presented the colors to open the program with the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Veterans residing at the Napoleon Care Center as well as veterans living in the area and American Legion and Auxiliary members were recognized.

Helen Braun shared a reading of the 'Military Child Table Ceremony' with elementary students participating. The 'Military Child Table Ceremony' represents the absence of a military parent during the growing years of a child and the important dates and activities a parent may miss participating in.

Chelsie Gross, MSGT North Dakota National Guard, was invited as the guest speaker. With the aid of a slide show program, "Embarking on a Journey of Purpose," Chelsie described her military training and career that

took her around the world while obtaining a good education. Most recently she has had a joint career experience with the Bismarck Army and Fargo Air Force. She has been deployed four times and plans to make the military a 20-year career.

The program closed with the American Legion Color Guard retiring the colors and presenting the playing of 'TAPS.'

Article and photo submitted by: Ann Knecht



Guest Speaker MSGT Chelsie Gross of the North Dakota National Guard

Galesburg Unit 210 Sponsors Fundraiser

On October 20, 2023, Sigvard B. Aasen Post and Unit 210 of Galesburg sponsored their annual fundraising event featuring BINGO, meat raffles, a silent auction, and a barbecue dinner. This event was a huge success and will allow us to sponsor students to both the Boys and Girls State programs. Thank you to everyone who traveled to our community to participate in the raffle, enjoy dinner, and meet new and old friends.

Article and photos by: District 1 President Virginia Satrom



District 1 President Virginia Satrom and granddaughter Livy Schuety



Attendees enjoying a meal and BINGO

Scranton Unit 151 Honors Americanism Essay Contest Winners

When American Legion Auxiliary Harry W. Lindberg Unit 151 of Scranton sponsored the 2023 Americanism Essay Contest, little did they know that one of those essays would be a winner on the National level. Unit members judged Americanism essays written by students at Scranton Public Schools. Three of the essays were Department winners in their individual group. The winners were Blake Pierce, Kiley Mausehund, and Sonora Stoltzfus. The winning essays were then sent on to Northwestern Division and National for judging. One of the essays written at Scranton was a first place winner in her class from Northwestern Division at the National level. The winner is Kiley Mausehund.

Mr. Richard Norton, the history teacher who assigned the essay to his students, has done this as part of his curriculum for many years. Members of Unit 151 thank Mr. Norton for helping his students to expand their thinking and helping them grow into citizens that are the future of our country.

On October 27, 2023, an assembly was held at Scranton School to honor contest winner Kiley Mausehund. Mr. Norton, who now resides in Bison, SD, traveled to Scranton for the ceremony. Norton is quoted as saying, "I wouldn't miss this. She is my first national winner." We are fortunate to have such dedicated teachers as role models for our young citizens.

Unit 151 President Terry Freymiller presented a certificate to Kiley Mausehund, now a freshman at Scranton High School. Kiley read her essay to the assembly. The inspiration for her essay was her dad, Paul Mausehund, who served in the US Army from 1998 to 2012.

Kiley is the daughter of Paul and Corrine Mausehund of Scranton. The award event was attended by Kiley's parents; Bob and Kathy Kromerak, grandparents; Laci Coates, County Veterans Service Officer; Bill Schaar, Post 151 Legionnaire; and Unit 151 Auxiliary members Dianne Pierce, Carla Teske, Cindy Miller, and Terry Freymiller. Students and staff of the Scranton Public Schools were also in attendance.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Article and photo submitted by: Unit President Terry Freymiller



Pictured (l-r) Dianne Pierce, Carla Teske, Cindy Miller, Bill Schaar, Mr. Richard Norton, Paul Mausehund, Kiley Mausehund, Brad Mausehund, Corrine Mausehund, Bob Kromerak, Kathy Kromerak, Kaitlyn Mausehund and Terry Freymiller.

American Legion Auxiliary 2024 Winter Conference

January 26-28, 2024

(Tentative schedule/subject to change)

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center
 (hotel formerly known as Ramkota)
 800 South 3rd St., Bismarck, ND
 Phone: 701-660-8063

Friday, January 26 Conference Rooms - TBD
 11:00 AMDepartment Finance Board Meeting
 1:00 – 6:00 PMAuxiliary Registration-Hotel Lobby
 3:00 PMDepartment Executive Committee Meeting
 5:00 PMNo-Host Dinner - TBD
 7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 27 Conference Rooms - TBD
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration
 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Conference Sessions
 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM ..Oratorical Contest
 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ..Auxiliary Conference Activity-TBD
 5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet Social
 6:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet

Sunday, January 28 Conference Rooms - TBD
 8:00 AM-9:30 AMAuxiliary Meetings Wrap-Up
 9:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

Department President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
My first order of business is to thank the Districts and the unit hosts for the great hospitality and socializing at the ten Fall District meetings. The meals served were exceptional, so a big shout out to the food preparers! Our small-town communities are the best in every way!

Another thank you goes to everyone who attended the homecoming social in Medora for Commander Clarence and me. It was a beautiful weekend and visiting Medora without the summer crowd was exceptional. It was like we had the whole town to ourselves!! The "Million Dollar Quartet" concert was fabulous.

Our collection of membership dues needs to be put in high gear. The 2024 dues need to be paid by December 31, 2023, to be considered a member at your 2024 meetings and not a guest without privilege. Remember your "why" of becoming an Auxiliary member. Our veterans, youth, and communities are always in need of your support. Let's everyone get "fired up" about our "why" and get our units revitalized. We need to look at the future with positivity and a new lease on our goals.

Our Department Office has a new email program to send out email blasts to all members with an email address on file. It is called Constant Contact which will show at the bottom of the email that you receive. If you wish to receive the Department email blasts, be sure the Department Office has your name, unit #, position held (if applicable), and an updated email address. Some email addresses were collected at District meetings. If you were not at a District meeting, I encourage Unit Presidents to send this information for your unit members to the Department Office.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a member of your



Department President Gloria Covert (left) with Department Commander Clarence Carroll at the October Homecoming.

unit have access to ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System). This program has information for every member of your unit. There are three levels of access, so choose the one that works for your unit and send a request by email to the Department Office at secretary@ndala.org. Please include the access level desired, member's name, and email address. In turn, Department staff will request your access from National Headquarters.

Every program that the National office administers has a Facebook page. All members have access to these pages. They are a great resource for information as a lot of questions and answers are addressed.

Every member with computer access should sign up under the "members only" portal on the national website: www.ALForVeterans.org. All members should review the courses that are available under the ALA Academy page. Everything you ever wanted to know about the American Legion Auxiliary is available on the national website.

The Department's website, www.ndala.org, features information on our programs, scholarships, application forms, unit mail material, "The Message" articles, and more. All members with a computer have access to this information.

Wishing everyone the best of the holiday season.
Always be kind,
Gloria Covert



Gloria Covert



Pictured (l-r) Department President Gloria Covert, Past Department President Sandra Petermann (2022-23), Past Department President Marlys Aubol (2013-14), Past NW Division National Vice President Judy Twete (2015-16), and NEC Tammy Ryberg.

Department President-Elect

Hello North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

Thank you for all your work to get membership dues brought in!

The National Committee has set a theme for Membership this year. Our National President Lisa Williamson is from Alaska. The theme that has been presented is a dog sled theme, as in Iditarod. That is a very cool theme! However, I think that a better, more fitting theme for North Dakota is: "The Great North Dakota Buffalo Roundup for Membership!"

So, my dear buffalo herders, let's Round Up Our Members! Let's get all our dues paid right up front this year so we don't have to worry about it anymore. Then we can concentrate on recruiting new members. Enlist all unit members to assist your membership chairman to contact unpaid members.

If we all work together, we can get our members rounded up. As paid-up members, we can together accomplish all our goals and projects for our veterans, our communities, our youth, and fellow Auxiliary members!

RENEW MEMBERS, RETAIN MEMBERS, REJOIN MEMBERS, and RECRUIT MEMBERS! Let's get ALL OUR UNITS, ALL OUR DISTRICTS, and therefore, OUR DEPARTMENT to 100% this year! Let's aim for 75% 2024 dues paid by December 1st.

Roundup time is here! Herd on my herders!
LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Make your plans soon to attend the 2024 Winter Conference to be held January 26-28 at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center (former Ramkota Hotel). You will find the registration and banquet ticket order form for this event elsewhere in this publication.

Fred and I attended District 1 and District 10 meetings this fall. We were impressed by the Fairmount Sons of American Legion (SAL) Squadron that performed the opening ceremonies at District 10. The attendance in District 10 was impressive as well. Post 13 of Finley (District 1) did a phenomenal job serving the meal prior to opening session. Although District 1's attendance by Auxiliary members was disappointing, I met several phenomenal members.

In February, the National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants. The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation, which make it more difficult for families to afford their basic needs. The new grant amount took effect on October 1, 2023, the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year.

The updated grant award of \$3,000 is for Auxiliary

members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance. Information on the AEF Program and updated applications can be found on the national website at www.ALForVeterans.org. You may also contact Department AEF Chairman Wanda Tostenson if you have questions.

Thank you, Unit Membership Chairmen, for your work to gather dues from your current members and new and rejoined members as well. By now, all officers and chairmen should be paid for 2024 and no unit should be experiencing a 'goose' egg. National President Williamson's membership theme this year is sled dog racing, so keep mushing on.

I wish each of you good health, and happy and safe holidays as you celebrate with your family and friends. Keep our veterans, active military, and their families in your prayers. Take care of yourself and others.

God Bless America.
Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

Department Vice President

Introducing Department Vice President Candace Berg

Candace joined the Auxiliary as a junior member under the eligibility of her father, Harland Berg, a Vietnam veteran. During her years as a junior member, Candace served as the trumpet player (bugler) for Memorial Day programs until graduating from high school.

Candace is active with the York unit as well as the Devils Lake Neathery-Simenson VFW Auxiliary, having served as a flag bearer, unit secretary, unit chaplain, and several chairmanships.

Candace is also involved with Ramsey County 4-H, serving as the treasurer and a 4-H leader. She emphasizes community service projects with her group that are veteran-focused, such as learning the meaning of the US flag, flag folding, honoring businesses and homes who display the US flag, putting together veteran food and supply packages, and helping with veteran and patriotic holiday services.

Candace currently lives and works in Devils Lake and is the proud parent of 3 children and a menagerie of pets. She is a licensed foster care parent, and in her spare time she enjoys volunteering at White Horse Hill National Game Preserve, sketching, photography, genealogy, watching hockey, exploring nature, and spending time with loved ones.

Candace's focus this year is to embrace the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and meeting as many veterans as possible.

Article submitted by Marcy Schmidt



Candace Berg

Department Treasurer

Our calendar year is ending, and our ND weather is reminding us of it! Bundle up my friends! This is a season of giving and gratitude – my favorite time of year. There have been a whole lot of "warm fuzzies" passed around during the last couple of months! What if we could carry that through into next year?

I am so grateful when I see the contributions that units from all over the state send in for the Auxiliary Veteran's programs. When we pool our funds, so much more can be achieved for these VIP's! THANK YOU to each and every unit – you are all a blessing!

Now, I wonder what we can do when January shows up? The dark, dreary days of winter. Where are the "warm fuzzies" then? My hope is that units continue to reach out – perhaps making a monthly or quarterly calendar of one thing the unit can do each month or quarter to keep those appreciative vibes for veterans going. Maybe it is sending them a card (birthdays?), inviting them to a picnic in the spring/summer, or sponsoring a social or game night for them to enjoy each other's company. Every little thing matters.

Enjoy the season – then pass it on. One small thing at a time - one smile at a time.

Thank you for your generosity.
Sonnie Otto



Sonnie Otto

Children & Youth

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

As your 2023-2024 Department Children and Youth Chairman, my main goal is to recognize outstanding youth in North Dakota.

We have some amazing youth in our state. Let us give them the recognition they deserve! Be on the lookout for youth in your community who deserve to be nominees for the Good Deed and/or Youth Hero Awards.

I encourage you to visit www.ndala.org/children-and-youth/ and www.ALForVeterans.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards for award details and the nomination process.

There are so many ideas on how to assist military youth and their families. You can also check out the various activities listed and get your units involved.

Be sure to share your successes with other North Dakota units by posting your activities to your unit's Facebook page and forward articles and pictures to the Department Office for publication in "The Message." We will succeed when we make our youth a priority!

Jill Carstens
Children and Youth Chairman



District 2



Hello District 2 Members.

It was good to see so many members at the Fall District Meeting in Larimore, especially after all the snow we received in the days before. The roads were not good in some areas. I appreciate the people who were able to attend.

Department President Gloria Covert reported on the National Convention and encouraged communication with all your members. If you have any Honorary Life Members, send this information to the Department Office so renewal notices will go to the unit and not the member.

President-Elect LoAnn Dick discussed membership and shared an example of "Be The One" by a teacher who assigned essay topics to students. She also is encouraging units to restart their meetings now that we are post COVID. Do not forget the reason you joined; it is to help our veterans. Our volunteer numbers, dollars, and memberships help in much-needed lobbying in Congress on important legislation that impacts veterans such as burn pits and Camp Lejeune.

Thank you to the units whose membership is already at 100% or more. Certificates were handed out to those units present at the Fall meeting. We are coming to the end of the year. If you have not sent in your dues for 2023, your membership expires on December 31, 2023. Please send in your dues. Your membership is important for our 'mission' to support veterans, military, and their families. Membership dues for 2024 should be paid by January 2nd.

Everyone is encouraged to wear RED on Fridays to 'Remember Everyone Deployed.' Spread the word by sharing with your friends, families, and area schools.

With the upcoming holidays, remember our veterans with cards, goodie trays, phone calls, or even a visit. There are so many ways to remember our veterans.

Have you finished updating your Constitution & Bylaws? If not, please complete them as soon as possible. Also, I want to remind all units to fill out your 990-N tax exempt form online to maintain your non-profit status.

Hope to see everyone at the Winter Conference in January!

Shelley Schuster
District 2 President

Department Chaplain



Rose Laning

Have you ever wondered who you really are? Who or what defines you? When I was much younger, it was important to me that my hair was cut and fixed just right because my appearance was important to me. After getting married and having children, I still wanted to look nice, but my appearance wasn't quite as important as my identity of being known as a wife and mother.

Many struggles and responsibilities of marriage and parenthood soon brought me to my knees before Jesus. He opened my eyes to the danger of defining my own identity. This type of selfish thinking had to be put aside and many times, instead of demanding control, I chose a path of humility and let Jesus take the throne in my life. When I did, His definitions of me were so much more than anything I could have imagined. To have the honor of being called a child of God brought so much joy along with the realization that no human definition of me could prove greater than that.

To know Jesus compels us to make Him known to others. When the shepherds saw the baby Jesus in the manger, "they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child." (Luke 2:17). When Andrew discovered Christ, he "first found his own brother Simon" and told him about the Savior and "brought him to Jesus" (John 1:41-42).

When the risen Christ appeared to the women at the gravesite, "they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to bring His disciples word" (Matthew 28:8). When the disciples were forbidden from preaching Christ in Jerusalem, they said, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

So, who are we? What defines us? Do we want to live a life where we are in total control? Or do we invite Jesus into our lives and in humility, let Him give us the honor of being known as a Child of God? As we get to know our Lord better, we want the whole world to know Him more. What can we do to make Him known?

It always begins with who we are. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

"Heavenly Father, help us to realize how important we are in Your eyes. Let us reach out to others so they realize they need to invite you into their lives also. Help us to reach out and share Your message of love to everyone we meet – today and every day of our lives. Amen."

Rose Laning

District 4



Greetings to all District 4 ALA Members.

Our District meeting was held on September 21st at the All-Vets Club in Jamestown. At the joint opening, we enjoyed a medley of American songs performed by Tim Metz, District 4 Commander Jon's brother. Tim received a standing ovation. We thanked Carol, the banquet manager, for her years of service. Carol had already retired but came back just to do the District 4 dinner.

Our guest speakers were Department President Gloria Covert, Department President-Elect and Membership Chair LoAnn Dick, and Past NW Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer.

President Covert reminded us that we need to make sure we have a quorum before we start our meetings. She suggested maintaining communication with our members by using Zoom meetings, letters, texting, and emails.

Some other topics that came up included: reviewing and updating our Unit Constitution and Bylaws, sending pictures to our Department Historian of our events, including Junior members in events and meetings, campaigning for Suicide Prevention, and utilizing Land's End Business for ALA logo clothing (<https://www.legionaux.org/lands-end-business>).

Membership Chairman LoAnn stated that membership is our lifeline. LoAnn opened with "Remembering why we became a member of the ALA." Numbers count. Even though we may have only a few members that go to meetings or physically work, the greater number of members speak to our Legislators when making decisions for our veterans. Year-end Reports are important in showing how much time and money is donated in support of our veterans.

Marlene Boyer, Past NW Division National Vice President, spoke on her travels during her time in office. Marlene discussed a new project with military children which is called Dandelion Children. They have a very important role in our veterans lives.

I want to thank Unit President Betty Geigle and other Unit 14 Auxiliary members of Jamestown for hosting the District meeting. Thanks to Shirley Knapp for repairing the flagpole. There is no need to purchase a new flagpole due to her efforts.

God Bless our veterans and best wishes for the upcoming holidays.

Jane Schoonover
District 4 President

District 10



Greetings to all.

I hope this finds you well. This Auxiliary year is already one-third over. I hope you are working hard on our programs and working on membership, recruiting new members, retaining old, and reinstating former members. Find out why they have not paid in the last year or two and listen to what they say. Let them know that they matter to the unit.

Do not hold onto membership renewals. Send them in to the Department often. When you receive information from the Department staff, be sure to share it with your unit members. Reach out to our veterans and their families. Some are too proud to ask for help. Remember them this Holiday season and all through the year.

We held our 2023 Fall District meeting in September in Fairmount. It was an informative meeting. If your unit is struggling, please contact me and I will help in any way I can. If there is a unit that has extra Pocket Flags they are willing to share, please let me know.

We really need someone to step up to be the next District 10 President and Vice President. My term as District President expires in June and I will not be taking the position again. I have served as your District President for fourteen years and six as Vice President and it is time to pass the baton. Serving as District President is a rewarding experience and the job is not a difficult one. I am willing to mentor someone and will assist you in any way I can. Please consider stepping up and serving as District President. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want more information.

I am looking forward to working with all of you this year. Make your plans to attend the 2024 Winter Conference to be held in Bismarck in January. May your holidays be safe and memorable while spending time with family and friends.

Gigi Moore
District 10 President

Americanism

Hello Auxiliary Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

Just a short message to let you know that information for the Americanism Essay Contest is now available. It has been sent out to units and schools in a November mailing from the Department Office. It is also available online at www.ndala.org/americanism/



The essay title this year is: "What does Freedom mean to me?"

Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in the contest. Home-school and special-needs students are also welcome to enter. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented by the Northwestern Division. Division winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in their name to the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship fund. Winners at the Department level will be announced at Department Convention, will receive a certificate, and will be submitted for consideration at the Division level.

I am also promoting the 'Star Spangled Kids' program this year. Look for more information online and in upcoming unit mailings.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas season.

Shauna Dubuque
Americanism Chairman

Education

Holiday Greetings Auxiliary Members!

What a surprise – Christmas or should I say winter has arrived early as I write this in late October, but what can you expect for North Dakota!

This year, as always, the Department's 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, 2024. 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 were mailed to North Dakota schools as well. 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.

The Department of North Dakota's Education Program Scholarship Applications are now available online. Each scholarship is valued at \$500. These applications are available at www.ndala.org/education/. Applications should be sent to me no later than April 1, 2024.

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 with family and friends!

Yours in service,
Peggy Moran
Education Chairman

Poppies

The Auxiliary's Poppy Program has been busy. Poppy Co-Chairman Ginny Stendahl has been collaborating with staff and residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. She has been working to wrangle enough volunteers to assemble poppies for distribution to our Auxiliary units across the state of North Dakota.

Several units and individual members have stepped up and are assembling poppies as fast as they can. Ginny and I appreciate all the help. Thank you everyone. If you know a member or a veteran who would like to assist us with assembling poppies going forward, please reach out to the staff at the Department Office.

We have already distributed 8,200 poppies and are awaiting the arrival of more from our dedicated assemblers. If you have not already received your poppy order, we will mail them out as soon as they arrive.

We are raising funds for our veterans programs with the sale of poppy puzzles, playing cards, pinochle cards and placemats. These are a great holiday idea for a special veteran in your life. You will also find poppy coloring books at www.ndala.org/poppies-2/ and www.ALAforVeterans.org/Poppy

Carol Wolf and Ginny Stendahl
Poppy Co-Chairmen

In Memoriam

District 1
 Betty J. Terry, Hillsboro
 Gloria A. Boeddeker, SLM, Hillsboro
 Jean A. Ulland, Hatton
 Sheila K. Verke, Hatton
 Helen F. Johnson, HLM, Hannaford
 Marion D. Johnson, HLM, Hannaford
 Ilah Lettenmaier, SLM, Sanborn

District 2
 Mildred Machart, SLM, Larimore
 Georgia A. Matejcek, Lankin
 Betty Brekken, Tolna

District 3
 Loraine Ohm, Rugby
 Geraldine Holien, SLM, Cando
 Marlene A. Striker, SLM, Dunseith
 D. Lorraine Haas, SLM, Rolla

District 4
 Charlotte Broten, Jamestown
 Joann E Deede, Jamestown
 Doris Lauer, McClusky
 Mabel Tkach, McClusky
 Aileen Astrup, Wimbledon

District 5
 Jeannette G. Neil, SLM, Washburn
 Bernice Kautz, SLM, Linton
 Marlene Eckholm, Wing

District 6
 Mildred Edwards, Minot
 Georgiann E. Desilets, Velva
 Jacquelyn L. Krumwiede, Velva
 Claudette Merck, SLM, Velva
 Cindy Meyer, Willow City
 Delores Swehla, SLM, Bowbells
 Ardella Johnson, Donnybrook

District 8
 Ellen J. Gregory, Belfield
 Shirley Kitzan, Richardton

District 9
 Ruth Rolfson, Watford City
 Judy L. Meyer, Crosby
 Gladys Homdrom, SLM, Crosby
 Geraldine M. Moum, SLM, Crosby
 Lavon Grubb, Powers Lake
 Eleanor Enget, Powers Lake

District 10
 Marlene Miller, Wahpeton
 Sharon M. Larson, Wahpeton
 Alma M. Siemers, PUFL, Wahpeton
 Roberta O. Johnson, Ellendale
 Oline Nelson, Milnor
 Ardyce Snyder, Wyndmere
 Cordy Farsdale, SLM, Walcott

Unit 500
 Harriet Drury, SLM
 Jane Grage, SLM



We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.
 Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Do you know someone who wishes to donate to a foundation to support American Legion Auxiliary programs such as Girls State? The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation positively impacts the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the American Legion Auxiliary today and for future generations.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation was founded in 2007 to assist in conducting the educational, charitable, and other exempt purposes of the Auxiliary by raising funds for, assisting in conduct of, and providing support to the Auxiliary programs. As a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, the ALA Foundation provides a resource to engage investors interested in supporting our mission.

Grants are available to departments and units in their efforts to support local veterans, military, and their families by offering three different grants.

Veteran Projects Fund – For any Auxiliary unit,

district/county, or department that identifies a new, one-time need for your local veterans or active military.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival – To aid in the well-being of veterans by introducing them to art therapy through a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival or offers art therapy courses that feed into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Subgrant: American Legion Auxiliary units, districts, or departments that have identified a source for grant funding from a foundation or corporation that requires the recipient to be a 501(c)(3) can have the ALA Foundation serve as the recipient. The ALA Foundation will then, in turn, sub-grant the full amount to the unit, district, or department according to the terms and conditions of the grantor.

To learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation or to apply for a grant, visit the national organization's website at www.alafoundation.org
 (Information sourced from the Foundation website)

McVille Post 135 Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor®

Three members of Ole Semling Post 135 McVille were honored recently with beautiful Quilts of Valor®.

Richard (Rick) Urvand who is currently residing at Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo was back for a few days for the celebration of 'McVille Days.' Rick served in the US Army (1966-1968). Although Rick spent the weekend in the Nelson County Hospital, Mark Olson arrived at the hospital to visit and was presented with a quilt as well. Mark served in the US Army (1969-1970).

Judy Sateren, Commander of Post 135, was the recipient of the third quilt. The presentation to Commander Sateren took place at McVille Park during the Community Dinner. Commander Sateren served for 35 years starting in 1967 in the active duty Army and Guard Reserve.

The 'Homebound Quilters' from area communities create the quilts with love and dedication. These quilts are machine or handmade and presented to Service Members or Veterans who have been touched by war. The Quilts of Valor® Foundation is located in Iowa, but there are many volunteer quilters in many states who volunteer their time and material to make these special quilts.

The Quilts of Valor® ladies from the area who create the quilts are appreciated for their generosity, dedication, and the love that goes into each of the beautiful quilts. To help defray costs to make these masterpieces, Post 135 of McVille made a generous donation to the Quilts of Valor® organization. A big 'thank you' to all involved in this loving project.

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

Article and photos submitted by: Unit 135 President Judy Twete



Quilts of Valor® recipients Richard (Rick) Urvand (left) and Mark Olson.

Gackle Unit 250 Donates Books

Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 of Gackle donated funds to the Gackle-Streeter School to be applied toward the monthly Scholastic book order. This places a personal book into the hands of each elementary school student.

Scholastic Book Club books have been going home for years. So many times, kids are unable to order books because of limited funds. The Auxiliary donation provides each elementary student an opportunity to receive books during the school year. Books are sent home with students to keep as their own and share and read with their families.

Article and photo submitted by: Unit President Elaine Ackerman



Gackle-Streeter smiling first grade students with their new books.

Volunteers Honored at September Event

On September 18, 2023, the VAMC Center for Development and Civic Engagement honored area volunteers at a banquet held at the Moorhead American Legion.

Pictured (l-r): MN Auxiliary Department President Sharon Cross, ND Auxiliary Department President Gloria Covert, Unit 2 President and VAVS Rep. Carol Wolf, and Department VA&R Chairman LaVonne Matthews.



2024 Winter Conference Pre-Registration

Pre-order your conference banquet tickets at \$35 each no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2024
 Banquet tickets will increase to \$40 after January 10, 2024

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, (hotel formerly known as Ramkota)
 800 South 3rd St., Bismarck, ND 58504
 Hotel Direct Phone: 701-660-8063

Meetings - January 26-28, 2024

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

Please send this form along with payment to the
American Legion Auxiliary Department Office, 1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
 Auxiliary registrations received after January 18, 2024, will be held for on-site registration at Winter Conference.