

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2023 SPRING DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 23, 2023
WIMBLEDON #236 HOST UNIT

- The meeting was called to order by President Jane Schoonover. (The Prayer, Pledge, Preamble, Welcome and Response were performed during the joint Legion/Auxiliary meeting.)
- Jane Schoonover and Ann Haut, Gackle Unit #250, performed the Memorial Service. 21 names were read.

GUESTS

- Marlene Boyer, Northwest Division V.P.:
 - Requested prayers for Sharon Ludwig, New Rockford Unit President, who was hospitalized 100 days after a Skid steer accident.
 - Auxiliary members are encouraged to say yes to opportunities in the Northwest Division.
 - Marlene flew to Washington D.C. for the Legislative conference to lobby for veterans. The Legion family has a strong voice on Congressional Hill. This was Marlene's first attendance to Congress and a very moving experience.
 - Legionnaires are connected to each other by the bond only they understand.
 - Veterans are not stonewalled by Congress.
 - Veterans have asked for a single electronic record of medical history from time of enlistment to death.
 - All veterans are committed to prevent veteran's suicide. Veteran suicide rate is nearly double that of civilians. 6000 Veterans commit suicide annually. "Be The One" – if you see something, say something.
 - Various bills in Washington are supported by the Legion regarding Camp Lejeune. Do not call an 800# for support as there are many predatory law firms. Contact your VSO for help.
 - Veterans offer a valuable skill set for employment.
 - National Guard and Reserves only accrue veteran entitlements for the G.I. Bill when called to active duty. The Legion believes they should accrue entitlements the entire time they are in the National Guard or Reserves.
 - Veterans have voiced support for Afghan allies. No one should be left behind.
 - We need to let Congress know we support what veterans want.
- Sandra Petermann, Department President:
 - The Winter Conference was a great success. Four Gold-Star mothers were recognized.
 - Auxiliary membership is everyone's responsibility. The Northwest Division was last with only 80.63% of membership goal. We have 6645 members with a goal of 8241.
 - The Department is considering raising dues in the future.
 - There are many Department officer positions open. Anyone interested is asked to submit their interest by 4/1/2023.

- Alfred Steiger, Lisbon Veterans Home, who assembled the poppies we receive for Memorial Day passed away. Units may assemble poppies. Units are not paid but can include their time in tracking hours.
- The 2023 American Legion/Auxiliary Department Convention is June 23 – June 25 in Bismarck.
- Gloria Covert, V.P. Elect/ Membership:
 - Ghosting can become common in organizations including ours. Do not exclude members. Communicate with all members. Communication can include email, texts, or Facebook.
 - ALSMIS is a huge resource and can be used to track membership. There are 3 levels and annual fees for each level.
 - Level 1: Read & Print Only \$10
 - Level 2: Read, Print and Write \$15
 - Level 3: Full Access \$20 (new this year)
 - Death Notices must be submitted and cannot be updated on ALAMIS.
 - Units can pay dues online. Unit needs to have a checking account with debit card.
 - The Auxiliary year runs from January 1 – December 31. Dues must be paid by December 31 to remain an Auxiliary member. Dues are not considered paid until received by the National office. Do not hold dues.
 - Senior member dues can be paid online. Junior member dues cannot be paid online.
 - PUFL – Paid Up For Life membership forms can be printed off the ALA website. The current year’s dues must be paid before applying for PUFL.
 - Junior members are an asset to Units. Invite Junior members to meetings. Junior members can often help with technology and at events.
 - Units struggling can reorganize and try to get new members involved. Reach out to graduates no longer in high school. We can’t disband 4-5 Units a year and maintain the Auxiliary, plus the loss of dues.
 - The Legion and Auxiliary have new logos/branding. We can continue to use old logos/branding. Wear logo/branding when doing community events.
 - Girls State is June 11-16 at UND in Grand Forks.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2022 fall district meeting minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was discussed and it was noted the Beginning Balance was missing from the report.
- Marlene Boyer voiced disappointment that there was no Thank You or acknowledgement from Dr. Inglish for the Ukraine donations collected last year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Roll call registration was reported with 20 attendees.
- Various reminders were noted:
 - Member Impact Reports due to Unit Presidents by April 1, 2023.
 - 2024 Unit Dues Verification form due May 1, 2023.
 - 2023-2024 Unit Officers form due June 1, 2023.

- National Poppy Day is Friday, May 26, 2023.
- There is a need for Heart and Neck pillows but verify further before proceeding.

CLOSING

- Gifts were given to Jane Schoonover, District President; Sandra Petermann, Department President; Gayle Marsolek, District Secretary.
- Drawing for 2 door prizes. (Donated by the Jamestown Unit.)
- Benediction was given by Ann Haut, Gackle Unit #250.
- President Jane Schoonover adjourned the meeting.