

District 2  
• 2023 Fall Mtg •

October 28, 2023

The District 2 Fall Meeting of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary was held in Larimore, ND @ Willy's Bar and the Senior Citizens Center.

Call to order by District President Shelley Schuster, Minto Unit.

Welcome by Loretta Nesdahl, President, Larimore Unit.

Special guests included Department President Gloria Covert, President-Elect Loann Dick, past NW Division National President & also Past Department President Judy Twete & Past Department President Diane Kraemer.

Gloria passed around an e-mail update for the new system "Constant Contact". She also reported on the National Convention held in Charlotte, NC. She stressed that communication with all of your member is very important. ALAMIS is one of the best resources for us to keep track of our members. Lisa Williamson is the new National President, from the Department of Alaska. She will visit North Dakota July 15-19.

Gloria also spoke about Honorary Life Members. Units needs to get their info into the Department to update the database. Then notices go out to the Unit, rather than the member.

December 16<sup>th</sup> is Wreath Day at the State Veteran's Cemetery. They are then removed in January, weather permitting.

Units are encouraged to promote "Red Friday" to remember everyone who is deployed. Units were also reminded to use the POW/MIA table at events.

North Dakota is having a Creative Arts Festival in September 2024. Also, grants are available from National ALA for various projects.

Units need to make sure that their Forms 990-N are filed every year to retain their non-profit status. Every unit needs it's own EIN.

Everyone should make an account to be able to access the National ALA website. There are many good resources available there. Each ALA program also has it's own Facebook page.

Keep your Constitution & By-Laws & Standing Rules current. Renew them annually. Submit any changes to the Department.

It takes 10 Senior members to charter a Unit; to maintain it, there must be 5 Senior members.

Please publicize your events—take pictures, publish in the local paper, use social media. Make sure your info gets to the Department Historian.

Junior members are our future! Try to get them involved through school, church, etc. Make sure that any event is branded as an American Legion Auxiliary event.

The National Commander and the National President's platform is "Be the One". This can be accomplished in many ways—give rides to meetings for members, work on getting new members, etc. They are especially focusing on Suicide Prevention.

President-Elect Loann Dick modeled her American Flag wear. She was able to purchase it on Flag & Emblem Sales. She also shared an example of "Be the One" by a teacher who assigned essay topics based on ideals from the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Loann also spoke on membership. She asked Units to restart their meetings, post-Covid. She does not want to see Units continue to disband. The Manvel unit is currently thinking about disbanding. We need to remember why we joined the Auxiliary in the first place. Memberships are important to keep our numbers up in order to lobby Congress on important legislation that impacts veterans. Sign up your new grandchildren! North Dakota is currently in the bottom ten in the country for memberships.

Pam Jallo, Lankin Unit, asked about why great-grandchildren are no longer accepted. This is due to an IRS ruling. National is currently working on it. Also, a reminder that members must be related to a Legion member, unless the veteran has already passed away.

District President Shelley Schuster asked members about any gold star mothers. She sent out a letter to all of the Units about this. She also asked that Units update their slate of officers. This can be updated in ALAMIS, or sent into the Department on paper. She also passed out Certificates of Appreciation to Units which exceeded their 2023 membership goals.

Kathy Tuma from the Larimore Unit reported on registration: there were 20 members representing 8 units and 2 guests present.

Susan read the minutes from the Spring meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes as read by Diane K, and second by Loretta N. m.c.

There was no New Business.

Announcements:

A reminder to continue to fill out your service reports. It is easier to keep track now, instead of waiting until spring to fill out the reports.

Mandatory contributions & poppy orders are due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Unit Member of the Year nominations are due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Fargo Gift Shop is open December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Lisbon Gift Shop will be open December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Drawing for door prizes was conducted. Head Table gifts were also distributed. District President Shelley Schuster gave Department President Gloria Covert a monetary donation towards her project.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Lunnette Kliniski, Grafton Unit.

President Shelley Schuster adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Degner, District 2 Vice President

**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department  
Of  
North Dakota**

**District 2 Fall Meeting**

**October 28, 2023**

**Larimore Senior Citizens  
Larimore, ND**

**October 28, 2023**

**Hosted by Unit 97  
Larimore, North Dakota**

**Preamble**

For God and Country,  
we associate ourselves together  
for the following purposes:  
To uphold and defend  
the Constitution of the United States of America;  
to maintain law and order;  
to foster and perpetuate  
a one hundred percent Americanism;  
to preserve the memories and incidents  
of our associations during all wars;  
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation  
to the community, state and nation;  
to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;  
to make right the master of might;  
to promote peace and goodwill on earth;  
to safeguard and transmit to posterity  
the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;  
to participate in and contribute  
to the accomplishment  
of the aims and purposes  
of the American Legion  
to consecrate and sanctify our association  
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**Mission**

In spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.