

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT 5 FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023; HAZELTON, ND

Hosted by: Joseph E. Appert Unit 126 Hazelton at Hazelton American Legion and Hazelton Senior Center

The 5<sup>th</sup> District joint Legion and Auxiliary meeting was called to order by District 5 Commander, Ron Dykema. The Colors had been posted, Invocation, POW/MIA Remembrance, Pledge to the Flag, and Preamble were performed in a joint opening session. Peggy Moran, 5<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary President, performed the POW/MIA Remembrance.

Greetings were given by Brad Huber, Post 126 Commander and Sherrye Miller, Unit 126 Auxiliary President.

Auxiliary relocated to the Hazelton Senior Center to continue the Fall Meeting.

President Peggy Moran called the meeting to order. Opening Prayer provided by Latoya Carpenter, Unit 1 Bismarck. Sherrye Miller welcomed the group and Mary Anseth, Unit 133 Turtle Lake responded. Three (3) guests in attendance – Lualice Stockert, Unit 78, District 7 President; Gloria Covert, Department President; LoAnn Dick, Department President-Elect. Past Department Presidents in attendance: Lualice Stockert and Mary Ann Gefroh; Past District Presidents in attendance: Mary Anseth, Shirley Hoberg, Mary Ann Gefroh, Lualice Stockert, LoAnn Dick, Gloria Covert. There were seven (7) Unit Presidents present.

Registration Report – Peggy Moran

Ashley – 1 Bismarck – 2 Hazelton – 10 Linton – 6 Napoleon – 4 Turtle Lake – 1 Washburn – 3

Minutes from the March 25, 2023, Spring District Meeting were read. President Peggy Moran made a motion and Margie Pulkrabek, Unit 1 Bismarck, seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financials in the program indicate a District 5 balance of \$194.67.

Highlights of Guest Speaker, Gloria Covert's comments:

- Members should be “fully dressed” with membership applications when out and about.
- Communication is crucial with all members. The ALAMIS Program has three (3) years back of members in reports to keep track of them. Two (2) members per Unit can have access to lots of reports. She brought up Honorary Members (HLM) where units can pay dues to keep members current. An example is where one unit pays dues for a member over 90 years of age.
- Eighteen (18) Departments in the United States achieved 100% last year and got \$500.
- July 15-18, 2024, the National President Lisa Williamson will be in North Dakota.
- ALA is partnering with Wreaths Across America to place wreaths at the State Veterans Cemetery in Mandan (6,500) and the National Cemetery near Fargo. There are 257,000 wreaths placed at the Arlington National Cemetery.
- Remembering Everyone Deployed – wearing red on Fridays is promoted in communities and schools.
- Coupon Clipping still happens to give to veterans/military families.
- POW/MIA table ceremony is encouraged at meetings.
- Past National President Vickie Koutz project raised \$87,552 for caregivers accompanying Veterans to the Creative Arts Festival. The North Dakota Creative Arts Festival is coming back in September 2024.
- The ALA Foundation has grants for any Units to apply, examples being exercise equipment or instruments. The audit report on the ALA Foundation was good.
- Reminder that approval is needed to use the ALA Logos.
- A technical upgrade is being done by National. The National ALA Website and Facebook page have lots of information.
- Ten (10) members are required to charter a new Unit.
- National Standing Rules changes voted in at the National Convention were seven (7) delegates plus one (1) more per every 1,200 members from each Department are now allowed at the National Convention.

- Public Relations – use social media and local newspapers. Report information to the Department Historian.
- Stress branding – wearing clothing with the ALA logo or getting a magnetic logo/pin that can be moved between garments.
- Invite Junior members to meetings and use them to help with technology and to help with projects.
- The National Convention theme was “Mission Driven”; and “Be The One” refers to more than suicide prevention.

Highlights of Guest Speaker, LoAnn Dick’s comments:

- Membership – look at the Legion membership lists for new members.
- Point of discussion could be to remind or ask members why they joined.
- When approaching potential new members, ask for their support by encouraging them to join – not that they are expected to attend a bunch of events. Just paying dues is a form of support.
- There are several levels of the ALAMIS program depending on how much each Unit wants to use it. Example: Level 1 - \$10 is READ only; Level 2 is for Read, Report, and Print; etc.
- Reminded attendees that All of us are on the membership committee, not just the Unit Chairman.
- Renew, Retain, and Rejoin members.

Unfinished business remains Unit Constitutions and Standing Rules updates continue. Peggy made reference to “The Messenger” articles. Department Convention in June had 88 members from 42 units attend. Five (5) Units disbanded were Adams, Belcourt, Portland, Sharon, and Sheldon. Girls State had 63 participants in June 2023. Units were reminded to register their Non-Profit Status with the State Filing for \$10 and the Federal IRS 990-N e-card.

New business was to watch for the National Convention Report in the National ALA November magazine. Peggy brought back piggy banks from the National Convention for each District Unit that could be used to collect funds for the Child Welfare Foundation. Units were asked to report Gold Star Mothers with names and locations. September 24 is Gold Star Mothers’ Day.

October is Education Month with scholarship information going to schools and Units. Give 10 to Education is a way to support teachers with supplies all year long. The Spirit of Youth Scholarship is increasing with awarding a \$1,000 scholarship in each Department besides five division winners at \$5,000 each.

November is membership month and a request to update the Unit Officers List if you haven't, and to provide cell phone numbers if no longer using landlines. The goal is 90% renewals by December 1, 2023. National dues increased by \$6 in 2024.

Dates to remember:

October 21, 2023 – Homecoming for Commander Carroll and Department President Covert at Medora

2023/2024 Mandatory Contributions (green sheet) and Poppy (pink sheet) order due November 1, 2023

January 25-28, 2024, is the Winter Conference in Bismarck

The Hazelton Unit provided several doorprizes.

Thank you to members of Unit 126 for their help with setting up the meeting and registration.

Latoya Carpenter read a Closing Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Peggy Moran/Meri Martin, Acting Secretaries