

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT 5 SPRING MEETING

MARCH 25, 2023; BISMARCK, ND

Hosted by: Bismarck Post 1/Garrison Unit 49 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bismarck Amvets.

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

Greetings were given by Russ Kochis, Post 1 Vice Commander and Karen Meier, Representative from Unit 1/49.

Speaker at the joint session was Sandra Petermann, Department President who spoke on "Not My Job" and Mr. Dan Brown, Department Commander.

Auxiliary relocated to the Auxiliary Room to continue the Spring Meeting.

President Peggy Moran called the meeting to order. Opening Prayer provided by Arlene Davis. Four guests in attendance-Lualice Stockert, Unit 78, District 7 President; Rose Laning, Unit 78, District 7, State Chaplain; Sandra Petermann, Department President; and Gloria Covert, Department President-Elect. Past Department President in attendance: Lualice Stockert; Past District Presidents in attendance: Arlene Davis, Rose Laning, Sandra Petermann, Lualice Stockert. There were 5 Unit Presidents present.

Registration Report – Peggy Moran

Hazelton-2	Napoleon-1	Washburn-3	Wilton-1	Wing-1	Guests -4	Total-12
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Minutes from the October 1, 2022 Fall District Meeting were read. President Peggy Moran made a motion and Gloria Opp seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

Financials in the program indicate a District 5 balance of \$168.86. \$100 was given to Quilts of Valor following the Fall, 2022 meeting. A thank you was received from Arlene Meissel.

Highlights of Guest Speaker, Sandra Petermann's comments:

- The Winter Conference was a success. Four Gold Star Mothers were recognized.
- Encouraged Units to collect dues and send them to the Department Secretary immediately. Washburn was recognized with 100% paid dues as of March 22, 2023.
- Reminder of the \$6 dues increase that will occur with the 2024 dues. Members were encouraged to consider becoming life members.
- Required contributions are due. Please send them as soon as possible to the Department office.
- If you are interested in running for any of the Department Offices, submit your endorsement no later than, April 1, 2023.

- Alfred Steiger, poppy assembler at the Lisbon Veterans Home passed away. Searching for other options to put poppies together. Units may consider putting them together and documenting hours for community service.
- Diane Kraemer, Constitution & ByLaws Chairman has received updated Unit Constitution and ByLaws from Hazleton & Napoleon. Please complete these and send them to Diane as soon as possible.
- Girls State will be held June 11-16 at the University of North Dakota. Application deadline is May 15.

Gloria Covert, Department President-elect focused on the following topics:

- Ghosting-not contacting members
- Opportunities to Revitalize membership-reaching out to members, flyers, have a “casual” meeting, send birthday cards, text and e-mail. Include all members, including out of state members.
- ALAMIS-Shared information on the 3 levels ranging in fees from \$10-20 per year. Also included number of people at each level who can access the information. The data base access for ALAMIS is provided by the department secretary. Members in attendance commented that ALAMIS is not user-friendly.
- Shared information on Honorary Life Members. Dues Notice comes to the Unit and is paid by the Unit. Some Units already do this but do not refer to the member as an Honorary Life Member. This is important for those that struggle to pay dues and may drop their membership. It is a way for Units to honor members who have dedicated much of their life to being a member and now struggle to pay dues.
- Reminded those in attendance that if your dues are not paid at the time of the meeting, the member can not make a motion or vote. The membership year is from January-December with dues notices sent in the Fall of the year.
- Expressed the importance of Junior members. Invite them to meetings and to help out at events.

Unfinished Business:

- Peggy Moran reminded those in attendance that Unit Constitutions and Standing Rules need to be updated.
- Attendance at the Mid Winter Conference was 54.
- Membership: 20 Units in the Department are at 100%
- Reminder to notify deaths to the Department so National dues are not paid for them.
- “The Message” will continue with the Legion News
- Issued \$137,000 compared to \$119,00 last year for disasters from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- Watching 118 bills at the State Legislature.

New Business:

- Heart and Neck Pillows needed for VAMC in Fargo.
- Branding should be worn at each meeting/event. New logo has been revealed.

- Group discussion on getting more members to attend meetings. Some ideas shared included holding meetings on the same night Legion hold their meeting; having a potluck prior to the meeting

Daniel Suerwein, Sons of American Legion Commander briefly met with the Auxiliary. He shared he is looking at developing a Youth Academy. Membership is for descendants of a legion-eligible veteran. Adopted sons and stepsons are eligible.

A Memorial Ceremony was held honoring the following: Katherine Knudson; Marjorie J. Gegelmann, Mary A. Coppin, Doris E. Wolfe; Theola Stetson, Joan F. Klucker, Sylvia Stephens, Heleen R. Vetter, Ruth Sandwick, Betty J. Maier, Ann Glanville, Alvina Kemmet, Esther Opp, Florence Weist, Joyce Schauer, Jean Kottsick, Marjean C. Boe, Linda J. Schlafmann, Marion Anderson, Sandra M. Murrey and Delores Holman.

Dates to remember

Department Scholarships-Due April 1, 2023
Impact Reports-Member to Unit President (April 1, 2023)
Unit to District President (April 15, 2023)
Report 520 hours/year for living with a veteran spouse
Poppy Poster Contest-due May 1, 2023
Unit dues Verification-due May 1, 2023
Unit Member of the Year Award-due May 15, 2023
Unit Officer Verification-due June 1, 2023
Girls State will be June 11-16, 2023 in Grand Forks
Department Convention is June 23-25, 2023 in Bismarck

Arlene Davis shared Quilts of Valor will be at the Emmons County Court House in Linton on May 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. To find out if veterans qualify contact Arlene Meissel.

Charity Organizations-resource to verify validity-charity.navigator.com

Thank you to Karen Meier of Unit 49 for her help with registration.

Arlene Davis performed the Closing Prayer and meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Arliss Koski, District Vice President.