

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# The Message

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
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## National Auxiliary President Visits North Dakota

The Department of North Dakota had the honor of hosting National Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson of Fairbanks, Alaska, in mid-July. We treated Lisa to 2 days of showing off our state and visiting with Legion and Auxiliary members. Hosts included: Tammy Ryberg, NEC; LoAnn Dick, Department President (2024-2025); Gloria Covert, Past Department President (2023-2024); and Andrea Neshem, Department Historian.

The traveling group lodged in Minot and traveled from that point. We spent a day up north with our first stop at Annie's House at the Bottineau Winter Park. Dwight Olson from Bottineau served as our tour guide and told us how Annie's house was created. Annie was a native of Stanley, ND, and worked in one of the World Trade Center towers that was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. At Annie's House, disabled veterans use the adaptive summer and winter program free of charge because of generous donations.

The International Music Camp was our next stop, where Camp Director Tim Baumann served as our tour guide. We enjoyed listening to practice groups sitting out on the lawn rehearsing their music lessons. The American Legion and Auxiliary built and help maintain the practice huts for students known as American Legion Row.

After Music Camp, we headed for the International Peace Gardens where we had lunch at the café, toured the cactus conservatory, and wandered around the Peace Gardens. We enjoyed the tranquility of the gardens.

Our next stop was Mystical Horizons, the only authentic working stonehenge in North Dakota. The



Legion riders escort National Presidents tour. Pictured (l-r): LoAnn Dick, Department President; Ted Asp, Legion Rider; Lisa Williamson, National President; Steve Anderson, Legion Rider; Gloria Covert, Past Department President.

Canadian smoke was pretty thick, so the view was not as pretty as it usually is. On the return trip to Minot we stopped at the large wheel turtle located in Dunseith and visited the geographical center of North America located in Rugby.

On our second day we traveled to Washburn for a meet and greet with members of the American Legion Family from around the area. We enjoyed an impressive noon meal prepared by the Washburn Post and Unit members.

National President Williamson is a member of the



Washburn meal and social. Pictured (l-r): Arliss Koski, District 5 Vice President; Gloria Covert, Past Department President; Peggy Moran, District 5 President; Lisa Williamson, National President; LoAnn Dick, Department President.

Legion Riders in Alaska. Steve Anderson and Ted Asp of the Cando Legion Riders and Milo Wallace of William G. Carroll Post 26 Minot escorted the entourage to Washburn and back to Minot. The traveling group visited the beautiful Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and then headed to Fort Mandan for a tour.

We appreciate National President Williamson for taking time from her busy schedule to visit North Dakota. We also appreciate Ed and LoAnn Dick for serving as our chauffeurs for two days on the road.

Article and photos submitted by Past Department President Gloria Covert



## Homecoming Announced

Join us for a memorable evening as we celebrate and recognize Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Auxiliary President LoAnn Dick. We cordially invite all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and their guests to be a part of this special event on September 28 in Bismarck. See page 16 for details.

## Sparrow Wins 2024 Unit Member of the Year

James Roberts Unit #124 of McClusky proudly and enthusiastically nominated Deb Sparrow for the 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year. At Department Convention, Past Presidents Parley Chairman Sharon White Bear presented a gift card and certificate to Unit 124 President Lynn Helm on behalf of Deb, who was unable to attend. Deb's dedication to our veterans and her service were celebrated by the McClusky unit.

In their nomination, unit members described Deb as one who exemplifies the values and ideals of the Auxiliary to the utmost degree. Her impact on the program of work in the McClusky unit is without measure.

Deb further shows dedication to her community by playing organ and supporting other church projects. Deb has served on election boards and, of course, votes as is her duty as a citizen. Veterans are always on Deb's mind when doing activities with the Auxiliary. Honesty, dependability, and responsibility are all character traits of Deb. She is respectful to all she encounters. Along with all these characteristics, Deb is a retired school speech therapist, who served children in three schools for several decades. Finally, Deb is a dedicated wife of a rancher/farmer and is an enthusiastic supporter of her children and grandchildren as well.

Deb Sparrow has held several local unit offices including secretary, historian, public relations chair, and most importantly, junior leader. With the support of our unit, she was the member responsible for the revitalization of our Junior Auxiliary. While we have always had Junior members, the group had not been active for many years. Several years ago, Deb restarted the program and gave it new energy. The Junior members have been a vital part of our program activities since then because of Deb's leadership and encouragement. She has taught our young members patriotism by example and the Junior members have responded to this with enthusiasm. Members of the McClusky unit are proud of and grateful for Deb's contributions to her family, community, veterans, and our unit.

Information submitted by McClusky unit members



Deb Sparrow

## Convention Speaker Puts Fargo VA Program on the Map

Audrey Beauchesne, Representative of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)-Fargo, was a guest speaker at the 2024 Department Convention held in Bismarck in June. The story Audrey shared with our Auxiliary members deeply touched those members in attendance. Her story also drew the attention of her supervisor who in turn sent it to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough in Washington, DC.

Audrey recently returned from the VA's Military Sexual Trauma Symposium held in Nashville, TN. VA teams who work with the VA's Military Sexual Trauma programs across the country were invited to attend the symposium to learn and share experiences.

It was at the Symposium's dinner on Tuesday, July 30, that Audrey and two other VA representatives from other


states were recognized for their work with the VA's Military Sexual Trauma program. Their stories were shared by Secretary McDonough in his speech to the event attendees. Audrey's story put the Fargo VA's Military Sexual Trauma program on the map.

Thank you, Audrey, for sharing your story as an example of the excellent work the VA is doing for all of our military veterans.

Department Staff article




Audrey Beauchesne



## 2024 Fall District Meetings

\*Meetings subject to change without notice. Please see updated information at [www.ndala.org/districtmeetings/](http://www.ndala.org/districtmeetings/)

- District 1 – October 17 - Hatton**  
Community Center, Railroad Ave. E.  
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting
- District 2 – October 19 - Park River**  
Legion Building, 505 Railroad Ave W.  
1:00 PM Registration/Social • 2:00 PM Meeting
- District 3 – October 18 - Rugby**  
Community Center, 224 2nd Ave SE  
5:00 PM Registration/social • 6:00 PM Meeting
- District 4 – September 26 - Jamestown**  
All Veterans Club, 116 1st St. SE  
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting
- District 5 and District 7 joint meeting - September 20 - Bismarck**  
Amvets, 2402 Railroad Ave.  
5:00 PM Registration/Social • 6:00 PM Meal • 7:00 PM Meeting with training to follow
- District 6 and District 9 joint meeting – September 14 - Watford City**  
Legion Family Building, 313 12th St. SE  
11:00 AM (CDT) Registration/Social • 12:00 PM (Noon) (CDT) Meal • 1:00 PM (CDT) Meeting
- District 8 – September 14 - Belfield**  
Legion Building, 107 2nd Ave. E  
5:30 PM (MDT) Registration/social • 6:00 PM (MDT) Meal  
7:00 PM (MDT) Meeting
- District 10 – September 21 - Wyndmere**  
Legion Building, 449 4th St. S  
4:00 PM Registration/Social • 5:00 PM Meal • 6:00 PM Meeting



## Department President

Greetings to all American Legion Auxiliary members. We have now started the new Auxiliary year. We are aiming to make this an "It Is What We Make It" year! We will go back to monthly or maybe quarterly Auxiliary meetings. We will work hard to get every unit to 100% membership.

It makes me sad that the COVID lock downs and concerns caused so many of our units to stop meeting and gathering for projects. This has had a devastating effect on our units, our friendships, our veterans projects, and in some cases, a massive loss in memberships. I would like to ask each of you to remember why you joined the Auxiliary. Remember the veterans through whom you joined and let us get excited about what we can do to honor them. We have big things to accomplish for our veterans! Let's never let them think or feel that we have forgotten them or our mission in supporting them. They are our purpose! They are our heroes! They are our heart! Let us stand up and wholeheartedly support them.

Most of the 2024 Fall District Meetings have been set. Let us all surprise our District President by showing up in large numbers to support them, to learn all that they have planned to teach us, to gather with old and new friends alike. It is so much fun to get together and talk about our units, our successes and maybe our challenges, our lives, our kids, and all those things friends love to talk about. You will find more information on District Meetings elsewhere in this publication and online at [www.ndala.org/district-](http://www.ndala.org/district-)

meetings/. Your leadership teams are working hard to make the District meetings as informative and fun as possible. Please join us! See you there.

By the time we have our District meetings, all those who represented you at the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans will be back in North Dakota. Their heads will be full of new things they learned, fun things they experienced, and all the things they want to share with you. They will bring you ideas on how to excite your units, teach your members, and help you make your units run better than ever.

It is my greatest honor to serve you as your Department President this year. With God's assistance, I will strive to lead with the best of my ability. With God on your team, who can be against you. Let us work together to make the Department of North Dakota a department we can be proud of. Let us work together to excite and inspire every unit to be the best it can be. Let us work together and make our 2024-2025 theme and purpose "It Is What We Make It." Let us make it great!

Yours for our veterans.  
**LoAnn Dick**



LoAnn Dick

## Department Chaplain

How do we live our lives? Do we daily listen for God's voice and ask Him to lead us? – Or do we charge ahead living our lives as we wish giving no heed to God who is watching over us.

Do we talk to Him? Do we thank Him? Sometimes we would like to see progress, and we look for evidence that God is at least doing something.

God loves us because we are human beings created in His image. While God loves us because we are human, the world despises our humanity. Our culture is constantly sending us messages that being human is not enough. Advertising constantly tells us we are not beautiful enough, not sexy enough, not healthy enough, not clean enough, not young enough, not happy enough, not well-dressed enough.

Human beings may be dehumanized by numbers. But Jesus calls each of us by name. "Of how much more value are you than the birds!" Matthew 6:26

When God looks at us, what does He see? Well, He sees human beings. If we are doing our part, He sees the cross, and He sees Jesus. We are enough in His eyes.

"I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14

Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us as we are. Forgive us for the times we ignore you, for letting the noise of this world make us deaf to your voice and drowning out the one we need the most. Open our hearts to your love so we can hear you and tell others about you. In Jesus name. Amen.

**Rose Laning**



Rose Laning

## Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members. Where has the summer gone? By the time you read this article the 2024 National Convention will be in the rearview mirror and the delegates back home preparing for 2024 Fall District Meetings.

Watch for a mailing coming to your unit contact person (Unit President and/or other member). This mailer will include the (green) 2025 Required Contributions and (pink) 2025 Poppy Order forms. Send your unit's poppy order early so our poppy assemblers can ensure enough poppies are available.

Mark your calendars for your District's Fall Meeting and make plans to attend. You will find the meetings informative, and you will have an opportunity to visit with

members from around your District and catch up on the 'news.'

Have you reviewed your unit's Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules? Make it a point to complete that task this year. Keeping your governing documents up to date is important to the success of your unit. Email your completed document for review to Chairman Chloe Weyrauch at [constitutionbylaws@ndala.org](mailto:constitutionbylaws@ndala.org).

God Bless America and God Bless our veterans!  
**Marcy Schmidt**



Marcy Schmidt

## Department Treasurer

Hello Everyone! I am so excited to be your new Department Treasurer. I am both honored and grateful to succeed such a distinguished treasurer as Sonnie Otto. Happy retirement, and good luck in your move home to Nebraska. Thank you for your service to the Department of North Dakota.

I have over 40 years of experience in accounting and payroll. I work part-time as the Finance Manager for Grafton Drug. I also have my own small tax preparation and bookkeeping practice.

I have been an active member of Paul Farup Unit 147 in Park River since 2004. I have held unit offices as Secretary, Chaplain, and am currently Treasurer. I also just finished a two-year term as District 2 Vice President. I did not move up to District 2 President, as I opted to run for Department Treasurer instead. Luckily, our wonderful District 2 President, Shelley Schuster, agreed to serve a second two-year term. She still needs a vice president, so if you or anyone you know would be willing to serve and learn under her capable example, give Shelley a call!

I want to remind all of our units to remember to file your annual Form 990-N (e-Postcard) with the IRS. This

is not a tax return, per se, but has been a government requirement for some years now in order to keep your unit's non-profit status. The due date is the 15th of the 5th month after the close of your unit's fiscal year. In order to file, you will need an account with the IRS. I can walk you through that process. Ideally, each unit should have at least one member (does not necessarily have to be the unit treasurer) willing to create the "ID.Me" account necessary to file. All filings are required to be done electronically—paper filing is NOT an option. If you do not have a unit member assigned to file, I am a tax preparer with an IRS account and can file for you.

If you need to reach me, please email me at: [treasurer@ndala.org](mailto:treasurer@ndala.org).

I look forward to working with all of you as your Department Treasurer.

**Susan Degner**



Susan Degner

## District 5

Hello District 2 Members! Thank you to District 5 unit members for submitting your 2023-2024 volunteer hours and narrative reports! Ten of the twelve units in District 5 reported, which included 28,656 hours of volunteer service and \$41,906 spent in providing support and services to our veterans, active military, and their families. This also included supporting Children and Youth programs, Community Service, Department Scholarships, and ND Flickertail Girls State. These numbers are awesome and were included in the Department's report to National Headquarters. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

As we begin a new service year, we have renewed excitement coming off the summer 2024 Department Convention. There were 96 members from 40 units registered at this June event. At the June Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, it was voted to approve splitting the Memorial Funds 50/50 to support both the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN and the Western ND Honor Flight programs. We were reminded that all unit constitutions, bylaws and standing rules need to be reviewed and updated, with copies to be sent to Chloe Weyrauch, Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman.

Once again, we had the pleasure of hearing the North Dakota State Legion Band several times during the Convention. The State Legion Band organization is now 100 years old and they will be attending the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, LA, in late August!

I am interested in visiting with members of all District 5 units and would love to attend one of your meetings this year. Let me know when and where you meet.

Check elsewhere in this publication for information on the Fall District Meeting. It will be great to have as many units represented as possible when the time comes. See you soon!

**Peggy Moran**  
**District 5 President**



## District 7

I recently attended the annual organizational meeting in Jamestown where we learned information to pass on to you.

Membership chairmen, send those 2024 dues in as soon as possible and start collecting and sending in 2025 dues. Don't let your unit have a goose egg as we enter into Fall. Contact your former members and continue to recruit new members. Sign up those granddaughters and great-granddaughters, too. Do not hold memberships. Send dues in as soon as you receive them. National Headquarters will mail reminders on September 15, 2024, to all members who have not yet paid 2025 dues. Let's work toward being a 'Goal' District in 2025!

The Department is trying to get more information to individual members by using an email platform called Constant Contact. I want to remind all members to update your mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses when sending in your dues. Chairmen, please update the information in ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) or send to the Department Office to update.

Districts 5 and 7 will meet together in Bismarck for the 2024 Fall District Meeting. The Department Office will send out more information as it becomes available. You will find more information on the front page of the Legion News. Make plans to attend the Fall District Meeting. I

look forward to seeing many of you there.

Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Department President LoAnn Dick are planning a joint "Homecoming" event for Saturday, September 28, 2024. More information will be available soon. Make plans to attend. See you there!

God Bless our veterans and God Bless our Auxiliary members.

**Lualice Stockert**  
**District 7 President**



## District 9

Hello District 9 Auxiliary Members!

It was great to see you at the 2024 Department Convention in Bismarck where we had four District 9 units represented. Let us make it a goal to have each of our 12 units represented next time. It would be great to have at least one person from each unit at both the Winter Conference in January and the 2025 Department Convention next June. We can do it!

LoAnn Dick and her husband brought their soft-side hyperbaric chamber to Department Convention so our veterans and spouses could get more information about mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy (mHBOT). Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is used to treat wounds and other medical conditions by supplying oxygen in a pressurized environment. Several attendees experienced the benefits and said that they felt well-rested at the end of their time in the chamber. One of President LoAnn's goals is that each American Legion Post would have a hyperbaric chamber for veterans and families to use. What a benefit that would be to the health of our veterans and families.

A Homecoming Event for Department Commander Mamie Havelka and Department President LoAnn Dick will be held on September 28 at the Bismarck Amvets Club.

District 6 and District 9 will have a joint Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 14, at the Watford City American Legion Family building starting at 11 am Central. More information can be found on the front page of the Legion News. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

May God bless you and our American Legion Family.

**Ronda Rudnik**

**District 9 President**



## Community Service

Following are just a few examples of the activities units submitted in year-end reporting.

Unit 121 of Parshall sponsored several projects. One project, known as Parshall Auxiliary Cares, reached out to those who once lived in the community. They also reached out to active-duty military personnel. Monthly correspondence and small gifts were included in care packages.

Unit 14 of Jamestown went to all the elementary schools where they displayed the folding of the flag and its meaning.

Unit 116 of Grenora and other units reported participating in and serving a meal after Memorial Day services, assisting during community events or funerals, sponsoring a poppy poster contest, and visiting veteran friends that are shut-ins.

Unit 112 of Willow City donates funds to the Wreaths Across American program.

Unit 201 of Minto reported 1500 volunteer service hours by members which includes: Fall supper, collecting food for food pantry and giving tree, and cleaning the church.

Unit 6 of Grand Forks made donations to the Salvation Army, the Northland Rescue Mission, and to the Senior Center for activities and home meal delivery. Several members reported assisting at their churches for funerals and special events.

Unit 258 of Halliday (an all PUFL member unit) purchased 83 metal crosses and placed them before Memorial Day to honor veterans laid to rest in their local cemetery.

These are just a few of the numerous activities that Auxiliary members were involved in to lend support on behalf of veterans and their families. Thank you, members, for the impressive body of work you do to honor and support veterans and their families in your communities. Each of you is important to the success of the Auxiliary's mission.

**Verna Wightman**

**Community Service Chairman**

## Poppies

The poppy program is alive and well in North Dakota. The Department of North Dakota distributed approximately 27,000 small and 1,800 large poppies this year. We also mailed poppies to three out-of-state units.

Our poppy assembly work nearly ground to a halt after the 2023 death of Alfred Steiger, a veteran and resident of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, ND. Alfred assembled poppies for the Department of North Dakota for over 20 years. We estimate that in his time with us he assembled over 500,000 poppies. After some searching, the poppy committee was lucky enough to find a retired Auxiliary member to step in to help assemble poppies and several units have volunteered to assemble their own orders as well. The poppy committee reached out to Boy Scout troops who, along with their leaders, lent a hand as well.

Overall, the Poppy Program is well supported by units across the state of North Dakota and for some units serves as its main fundraiser to support our veterans programs.

**Carol Wolf and Virginia Stendahl**

**Poppy Co-Chairmen**

## Americanism

Excerpts from Programs Year-End Reports.  
For full report information, please visit  
[www.ndala.org/2024-department-convention/](http://www.ndala.org/2024-department-convention/)

I was honored to be the Department Americanism Chairman again this year. What a wonderful program. I learned a lot and was thrilled to read some wonderful essays from the Americanism Essay Contest. The hard work, skill, and love of country was evident in the students' writing. We have some very talented and patriotic youth that I am confident will be great assets to the workforce and country in coming years.

Nine units sponsored essay submissions at the Department Level. We had students compete in all six class levels. We also had 2 entries from home-school students. A total of 21 entries were judged and 6 were sent to the NW Division. I am grateful to Department Secretary Marcy Schmidt for including the essay contest in a unit mailing and school mailing in December. We got full class participation from several high schools in history/social sciences classes where educators had the essay become part of the curriculum.

We received the Star Spangled Kids Kit in early September. We (as a Department) decided to showcase this part of the Americanism program at our Winter Conference in January. We felt that more units would be reached through this method. I created sample kits from the items that were mailed to us in September. These sample kits, including an explanatory letter and list of kit ideas, were distributed at Winter Conference with the remaining kits distributed at Spring District meetings. A unit mailing to all Department units was sent out in February that had a letter and kit ideas regarding the Star Spangled Kids program.

I truly appreciated the information in the quarterly newsletter from the NW Division and National Americanism Chairmen. I could not have completed my job without the wonderful help from Ann Ritacco, Sallie Rossman, and the others at national during the quarterly meetings. Thank you all!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I continue to appreciate the new insights and encouragement that I have received from the American Legion Auxiliary. What a wonderful organization with truly patriotic members.

**Shauna Dubuque**

**Americanism Chairman**



## Public Relations

My experience serving not only as Department Secretary, but as co-editor of our Department's quarterly publication 'The Message' and Department Public Relations Chairman has given me an insight into the workings of many of our most active units.

I have received numerous articles along with countless photos submitted by unit presidents and members-at-large from across the state of North Dakota. Those articles include the dates and times of unit activities submitted for publication in our Department newspaper as well as the names of those in photos. Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, we are unable to publish all of the photos and articles received, however, the editing team utilizes as many as possible.

Some unit presidents and members also use social media such as Facebook to publish their pictures and activities and make announcement for upcoming events. This will be the trend going into the future.

Newspapers and I mean those that used to be found in the local diners or purchased at a local grocery store are becoming a rarity in the state of North Dakota. Units with access to local hometown newspapers regularly submit articles and pictures of American Legion Family events held in their communities. Americans today live such a fast-paced lifestyle that we sometimes forget how it feels to be part of a community and simply gather for camaraderie and fun. The pictures and articles that are shared with me show that age does not matter. Young and old gather to enjoy meals together, play bingo, participate in flag burning ceremonies, distribute poppies, march in parades, and participate in Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs.

I am so proud of Auxiliary units and members who take the time to record, photograph the activities, and author these wonderful little articles. It is nice to know that the American Legion Auxiliary as an organization is recognized and continues to remain relevant in North Dakota.

Department Certificates were awarded to the following North Dakota units.

**District 1 - Sigvard B. Aasen Unit 210, Galesburg**

**District 2 - Ole Semling Unit 135, McVile**

**District 4- Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 Jamestown**

**District 4 - Mayer-Morlock Unit 250, Gackle**

**District 4 - Adam Job Unit 245, Medina**

**District 4 - Barry Hoff Unit 72, Napoleon**

**District 8 - Harry W. Lindberg Unit 151, Scranton**

**District 10 - Bergman-Evenson Unit 215, Rutland**

**Marcy Schmidt**

**Public Relations Chairman**

## Children & Youth

It was an honor to serve as your Department Children and Youth Chairman this year. Thank you to all units that sent in year-end reports. There is a lot of work and volunteer hours going on out there. The following is a sampling of the activities units and members are involved with throughout the year. They work in conjunction with their local posts and enlist the participation of community school students.

- Donations to children's causes such as St. Jude's Hospital, Shriners Children's, and Toys for Tots.
- Donations of schools supplies and backpacks to students.
- Sponsoring poppy poster contests and poppy coloring books for 1st graders.
- Sponsoring "Veterans in the Schools" and Veterans Day and Memorials programs.
- Volunteering at concession stands at local high schools and community events.
- Making homemade Valentine's Day Cards, Easter Cards and Veterans Day cards for hospitalized veterans.
- Participate in flag burning ceremonies and distributing poppies in May

**Jill Carstens**

**Children & Youth Chairman**



## Education

It was an honor to serve as Department Education Chairmen this past year. I enjoyed the role while learning about education and opportunities units provide in their communities. I have put together a brief glimpse of what North Dakota units have accomplished on behalf of Education.

Units celebrated educators and staff during American Education and Teacher Appreciation Weeks by furnishing treats. Other units donated funds to local libraries recognizing teachers and staff or donated to local elementary schools to assist students with lunch and milk needs. Units participated in the "Give 10 to Education" program with local schools and members also provided school kits for world education through World Relief. Units provided scholarships to send students to International Music Camp and participated in the "Veterans in Community Schools" program.

Units sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications to be sent to the Department. Several units also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs. Units continue to help educate youth through community safety and health fairs.

I am so grateful for the units and Districts that reported on their wonderful activities. I know that there are many things going on out there that might not be shared at the Department level. Regardless, I know that this program has a great impact on youth and others in the community.

Gloria Covert, Carla Bickert, and I had the distinct honor of judging over 50 scholarship applications for both the National scholarship program and the Department Education program in 2024. Wow! What a great group of students, all with an eye to the future and drive to succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders in our North Dakota schools.

**Peggy Moran**

**Education Chairman**

## National Security

I will try to give you a brief glimpse into the highlights of my trip to the National Security Conference held in Washington, DC, in February.

Ann Rehbein, National Chair for Border Security, Enforcement, Defense State, BASE Program: Some of the discussion items included: visit bases to determine quality of life, securing a better life for those serving in harm's way, networking, and sharing information.

Pam Ray, National VA&R Chairman - Need more volunteers and reporting.

Donna Dillard, National Legislative Chair - ALA Advocacy Guide, study TAL Legislative Agenda brochure, Point papers.

The PACT Act was discussed as well as paying the Coast Guard, as it is still under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD.

The Defense-State Liaison office spoke about State Policy Priorities for 2024. The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life. This is part of the Defense Department's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families.

The American Legion brought to the floor a discussion regarding making the Gold Star Family a Federal Holiday.

It was an honor to be invited to the National Security Conference and I enjoyed the opportunity to gain knowledge about all of the programs the American Legion Family supports. I enjoyed reminiscing with other members of the American Legion Auxiliary and our Legion Family.

**Sandra Petermann**

**National Security Chairman**

## 2024-2025 Department Officers

<b>President</b> LoAnn Dick .....C: 714-334-4798.....president@ndala.org	<b>President District 1</b> Berniece Froiland.....C: 701-789-1110..... district1@ndala.org
<b>President-Elect</b> Candace Berg .....C: 701-740-7144... presidentelect@ndala.org	<b>President District 2</b> Shelley Schuster .....C: 701-520-1525..... district2@ndala.org
<b>Vice President</b> Sandra Smith.....C: 701-550-1025.... vicepresident@ndala.org	<b>President District 3</b> Cheryl Gustafson .....C: 701-895-8187..... district3@ndala.org
<b>Secretary</b> Marcy Schmidt .....C: 701-253-5992.....secretary@ndala.org	<b>President District 4</b> Jane Schoonover .....C: 218-298-1434..... district4@ndala.org
<b>Treasurer</b> Susan Degner .....C: 701-331-9328.....treasurer@ndala.org	<b>President District 5</b> Peggy Moran .....C: 701-315-0568..... district5@ndala.org
<b>Chaplain</b> Rose Laning.....C: 701-226-8115..... chaplain@ndala.org	<b>President District 6</b> Linda Siewert .....C: 701-720-9133..... district6@ndala.org
<b>Historian</b> Andrea Neshem .....C: 701-340-4965.....historian@ndala.org	<b>President District 7</b> Lualice Stockert.....C: 701-391-1820..... district7@ndala.org
<b>Parliamentarian</b> Holly Eslinger.....C: 701-891-1909...parliamentarian@ndala.org	<b>President District 8</b> Beverly Wolff.....C: 701-872-6150..... district8@ndala.org
<b>NEC (National Executive Committeewoman)</b> Judy Twete .....C: 701-739-8705..... jkwtete@gondtc.com	<b>President District 9</b> Ronda Rudnik .....C: 701-648-9805..... district9@ndala.org
<b>NEC Alternate and Finance Board Chairman</b> Gloria Covert.....C: 701-370-0055..... financeboard@ndala.org	<b>President District 10</b> Beverly Bozovsky.....C: 515-296-8578..... district10@ndala.org

A full list that includes mailing addresses is available from the Department Office, or may be downloaded at [www.ndala.org/contact-information/](http://www.ndala.org/contact-information/)

## Tolna Legion Family Hosts Membership Picnic

It was a warm and windy Tuesday afternoon when the American Legion Family held a membership picnic in the Tolna Park. This annual event is a great way to share comradery as well as enjoy a picnic-style membership drive for the American Legion Post, Sons of the American Legion, and Unit 162 of Tolna.

An array of lovely looking food items graced the picnic tables under the shelter, and a great turn out of Legion and Auxiliary members were sharing fellowship and a meal.

Tolna Unit President Cheryl Donahue assisted Judy Twete in arranging another event to take place during this time. Judy and Curt Twete had been invited to participate in the surprise event that was going to take place that evening. There was no previous notification of the "Quilts of Honor" presentation to any of the guests.

Veterans were surprised when presented with "Quilts of Honor," made by the Devils Lake, Lakota, and McVillie area Homebound Quilters group. Each of the quilts had a label with the veteran's name and the group that created them. Those in the quilting group include Brenda Swenseth, Kristi Berdal, Macine Lukach, Barb Anderson-Pishtek, Jill Nesheim, and Gayle Gette. These ladies donate their time

and funds to make these beautiful quilts and donate them for presentation to veterans.

Those presented with a quilt that July evening were: Keith Forde, Paul Donahue, Harry Conley, Brian Nelson, and Steven Donahue. It was a wonderful experience to have family and fellow Legion Family Members witness the heartfelt appreciation of these men when they were presented with their quilts.

Article and photo submitted by: Judy Twete, NEC



Judy Twete, NEC with Quilt of Honor recipient.

## Membership

This year our theme for membership was the North Dakota Great Buffalo Roundup for Membership.

We have struggled greatly with trying to get our units to 100% renewal. We do have 14 units at 100% or more, 34 in the 90% range, and 38 in the 80% range. Of those in the 80-90% range, 13 lack just 1 renewal, and 20 lack just 2 to 4 renewals. We are working to get those in to push their units to 100%. There are quite a few more that lack just 5 to 8 renewals. I know we can get our numbers up, but it is taking longer than I expected. We are making calls to the units, getting more of them on ALA MIS so that the process can be easier and faster, and working to get as close to 100% as possible.

We are excited by National's new system of goal setting and are sure we can do a better job of getting our Membership up to 100% in 2025.

I attended National Membership Zoom calls and I know they can be highly effective. The Zoom calls are informative because you can hear what other Departments are experiencing.

Congratulations to the following North Dakota units for achieving 100% or more of their 2024 Unit Goal.

Community	Unit Name	Unit #
Galesburg	Sigvard B. Aasen	210
Cavalier	Lavern J. Thompson	11
Park River	Paul Farup	147
Pisek	Novotny-Kachena	208
Mountain	Bjornson Sigfusson	227
Medina	Adam Job	245
Washburn	Victor B. Wallin	12
Fredonia	Clifford Ost	260
Portal	Woods-Roan	109
Elgin	George W. Snook Jr.	246
New England	Anton Ulijohn	66
Milnor	Albert Smith-Lewis Thune	148
Walcott	Hagen-Helgeson	166
Mooreton	Robert Bergman	283

LoAnn Dick and Candace Berg  
Membership Co-Chairmen

## 2024 Department Scholarship and Contest Winners

**National Presidents Spirit of Youth Scholarship**  
Breanna Martin - Grand Forks – NATIONAL WINNER

**Department Education Scholarship**  
Jayden Bondy - Petersburg  
Jayden Pederson - Valley City  
Andaleen Nelson - Mandan

**Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship**  
Tessa Page - Carrington

**Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship**  
Madison Lipper - Aneta  
Jayden Pederson - Valley City  
Megan McCarthy – Bismarck

**Poppy Poster Contest Winners**  
Class I Makayla Halverson, Carrington  
Class II Maxwell Veller, Wilton  
Class III Ashlyn Chavers, Rock Lake  
Class IV Jenna Homola, Jud  
Class V Kyla Lybrand, Gackle  
Class VI Olivia Lange, Gackle

**Americanism Essay Contest Winners**  
Class I Adlyn Neumiller, Washburn  
Class II Ryan Richards, Grand Forks  
Class III Rachel Boeshans, Carrington  
Class IV Emersen Knott, Hope-Page  
Class VI Gunner Cahoon, Center-Stanton

Class V Amber Schmidt, Hope-Page  
\*NW DIVISION WINNER

We are so proud of all participants and winners!  
Way to go!!



This photo and several headshots courtesy of Candace Berg / IceBerg Art

## PARKER CENTER



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## In Memoriam

### District 1

Joy Bertson, Sanborn  
Ilene M. Kylo, Galesburg  
Frances Folstad, SLM, Harwood  
Beverly Brummond, PUFL, Department  
Ardene D Cramer, Department

### District 2

Irene Meiers, HLM, Grand Forks  
Carol Johnson, HLM, Grand Forks  
Del Johnson, Lakota  
Cecilia M. Durand, Grafton  
Judy Marie Jiskra, Grafton  
Bertha Campbell, Grafton  
Ramona Horter, Grafton  
Betty Fisher, HLM, Northwood  
Wilma, Larimore  
Josephine M Kelly, Edinburg

Rose Sigurdson, Edinburg  
Mary A Kavli, SLM, Lankin  
Kathy S Daniels, St Thomas  
Polly A Dusek, Pisek  
Lori Larson, Michigan

### District 4

Bernice L Schaffer, Jamestown  
Genevieve Klein, Carrington  
Muriel, Carrington  
Arvilla M Weber, Carrington  
Doris Wolsky, Carrington  
Ella M. Neumiller, Carrington  
Gail Bischoff, Wimbledon

### District 5

Anna M Hagel, Wilton  
Darlene N. Holzmagel, Wilton

Claryce Johnson, Garrison  
Frances Becker, HLM, Napoleon  
Gladys Brosy, SLM, Wishek

### District 7

Theresa Renner, Glen Ullin  
Orletta L Kilen, SLM, Almont

### District 8

Cleo Kulish, Dickinson

### District 9

Dorris A Baker, Noonan  
Geraldine H Birdsbill, SLM, Little Shell

### District 10

Diana M Speidel, Wahpeton  
Laureen E Puetz, Wyndmere

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL