

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE END OF YEAR REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

VERNA WIGHTMAN, CHAIRMAN

I received 14 reports out of a possible 104, so if space allows I will just describe what each report said. I received no applications for best narrative from a unit.

Unit 121 Parshall, ND has done several projects within the past year. One project known as partial auxiliary cares reached out to those who once lived in this community. These individuals now reside in nursing homes assisted living or by themselves and we also reached out to the active duty military personnel. Some of our monthly correspondence or small gifts included Christmas ornaments, seasonal cards, Valentine's, shamrocks, sparkling eggs, Memorial Day cards with poppies. In May we provided patriotic cartoon and coloring books to the various grades. A bouquet of poppies was also given to each teacher and administrator. The auxiliary provided the lunch following the Memorial Day program in addition they set up the missing man table with an explanation of the items displayed. In November the auxiliary held a social and dinner for the veterans and families on veteran's day. In December our auxiliary unit and individuals contributed to Wreaths Across America in Mandan honoring the veterans from our hometown and others who were laid to rest in the North Dakota veterans cemetery.

Unit 14 of Jamestown, ND went to all the elementary schools where they displayed the folding of the flag and its meaning. Auxiliary member Charlotte questioned the boys and girls on the etiquette of the flag and flags were handed out to all.

Unit 116 of Grenora, North Dakota reported participating in and serving a meal after Memorial Day services, help when there is a community event or a funeral, sponsor a poppy poster contest for the elementary students and visit our veteran friends who are in nursing homes and assisted living to give rides when needed.

Unit 270 Butte, ND reported only eight active members. They reported that they have a meal after the Memorial Day program and the crowds attending for Memorial Day are quite large and then they did the same for veteran's day. They also had a float and through frozen treats to the crowd in a parade last summer and then later had free bingo for the community and they won money if they won the bingo game that was also a large crowd. They contribute money for the 4th of July fireworks

expense they served for funerals when necessary and when the legion has a community bingo night at the legion hall they serve a supper for some of the nights and they are active in selling cards and helping the men with serving drinks in the bar. Helping out with bingo it's quite a dedication because they do it every single week. At Christmas they go all out to help and give gifts. The ladies gave 10 veterans \$10 each to spend in the gift shop also sending boxes of cakes and buying plants for local people in the assisted living facility or in the community. They give gas cards to new people in the community and take a few cards off the Angel tree and velvet and buy the things on the list plus more for the children. They also do Christmas treats for local people in the community that they feel need a little lift at Christmas.

Unit 112 Willow City, ND does a Memorial Day program and meal, and also sent money to Lisbon. They donate money to Wreaths Across America. The volunteer hours helping in the hospital total 250 and quilting hours for making quilts to donate are also 250 hours.

Unit 201 in Minto, ND reports 1500 service hours by members which include Fall supper, collecting food for food pantry and giving tree, also cleaning the church. For Thursday night cookouts 15 members worked and donated food and 250 people were served. Made bars for the fire department meal and two designer bingo purses, fire department had 350 people served and the bingo had 475 people served. Also donated money to Salvation Army and food pantry.

Unit 127 in Bowbells, ND reported one auxiliary member makes up baskets and delivers them to 10 people in the area for mayday. For Memorial Day a program is held and the potluck is right after the program auxiliary decorates the whole and all the poppy posters are displayed and money is given to poppy poster winners. They also gave ten boxes of Kleenex to grade school teachers and thirty boxes of cleaning wipes for all the teachers. At Halloween apples and candy were given to all at the school and for veteran's day meals were made by an auxiliary member and delivered to all the single veterans and bowbells and five other married veterans along with the wives were taken out for a meal, cards were also sent to all of the listed veterans in the area they also report sending cards and food for Thanksgiving for Christmas Valentine's Day Saint Patrick's Day Easter as well as managing the local food bank.

Unit 6 in Grand Forks, ND made donations of \$100 each to Salvation Army the Northland rescue mission Senior Center for activities and Senior Center home delivered meals. They have several members who help at their church for funerals and special events donating approximately 175 hours and have members who belong to several boards to help the community in any way possible.

Unit 235 in Rolla, ND reports that the unit served a free will donation pancake breakfast to support poppy distribution and members participated in cemetery services the parade and served a noon meal on Memorial Day. They also have a member who continues to organize the volunteer Beautify

Rolla Campaign cleaning at the Rolla cemetery and painting the former wielander building on main for the new owners Rolla fire department. 6 auxiliary members prepared and serve the veteran's day meal to 6 veterans and 35 community members and the auxiliary unit also baked desserts to send to a deployed North Dakota National Guard unit they also sent holiday cards to residents at candles long term care facility in raley's assisted living. Six female veteran auxiliary members were sent cards with a monetary gift to have coffee and a treat in honor of their service for North Dakota female veteran's day on March 28th.

Unit 156 in Edinburg, ND did a candle lighting ceremony in May honoring auxiliary members who had passed during the year and donated \$25 to the after prom program, also auxiliary members served a light lunch following the Memorial Day services.

Unit 258 in Halliday, ND purchased 83 metal crosses for all veterans in their local cemetery and placed them before Memorial Day.

Unit 139 in Tioga, ND Recognized all their veterans and auxiliary members that are living in the nursing home or in independent apartments, or just live alone, with gift baskets for Valentine's Day ,Easter, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In May they prepared and served a meal in honor of all Vietnam era veterans and families, and decorated the Community Center for Memorial Day with patriotic items. In June they helped with the American Legion home opener game at the new legion baseball patriot field where they cooked hot dogs and sold to the public. In July several members of the auxiliary prepared food and sold it at a unit members auction and made over \$3000. In September post 139 held its annual bike show and four auxiliary members worked the registration table and helped with clean up. In October they joined their annual community pumpkin fest and the unit members provided homemade pumpkin goodies of all variety And pass them out to the community. In November they helped the Tioga elementary decorate for their Memorial Day remembrance event and set up tables where students brought pictures with family members and a short write up about them that served our country they also helped with setting up and clean up for the American Legion where they had a supper in honor of veteran's day. In December air unit provided food for the legions New Year's Eve social potluck for our community. In January a unit member worked with the 5th grade class to send cards to Florida National Guard along with treats for Christmas. This year for the first time in February members of the auxiliary spent time at the nursing home making poppies with two members that live there, 98 and 99 years old. Although unit 139 was not the hosting unit for the spring district meeting they prepared and served all the food because the hosting unit is not active.

Unit 180 in Richardton, ND reported volunteer time with service to the community at numerous meals, parties and gatherings in the community, including bingo, firemen supper, lions Christmas party, booster club pizza night, fireman's burger night, fundraising events, wedding receptions, funerals and memorial services, and sending get well, sympathy, and Christmas cards. The unit

also gave monetary donation to the legion club room for the front window and window covering and also some items for the kitchen.

Unit 135 in Mcville, ND reported a member decorates a downtown business window with items to remind the community of those that served also provided a free will offering dinner to all in attendance following a program that the auxiliary takes part in on Memorial Day. The unit also presented generous funds to the quilting ladies to help defray their cost of materials and the quilting of each quilt which are donated to veterans in the community. In November the unit sent gift cards to morale welfare and recreation group to help a National Guard unit deployed from the Devils Lake and Jamestown area that we're going to be spending Thanksgiving at the border, and then decided to send a cookie care package at Christmas for the same organization homemade by unit members in December of the unit received a a gift from the legion and decided to donate it to a local nurse suffering from cancer at a fundraiser. In March, the birth day month for legion the unit donated a gift of money to the post.

Unit 51 in Reeder, North Dakota reported preparing and serving a lunch after Memorial Day services and they also sponsored an annual Turkey raffle in November.