

American Legion Auxiliary - Department of North Dakota

Peggy Moran, Department Education Chairman

2023-2024 Year End Report (includes activities from May 2023 - April 2024)

NARRATIVE PORTION

I am honored to be the Education Chairman for the Department of North Dakota for this 2023/2024 year. I am enjoying this role, learning about education and opportunities Units provide in our communities.

DISTRICT AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

Units celebrated educators and staff during American Education and Teacher Appreciation Weeks by bringing treats. Several Units donated funds to local libraries recognizing teachers and staff. Another Unit donated funding to the local elementary school to help students with lunch and milk needs. Units were encouraged to participate in "Give 10 to Education" with local schools and members also provided school kits for world education through World Relief. Several Units provided scholarships to send students to International Music Camp, located on the border between North Dakota and Canada. Several Units participated in the "Veterans in Community Schools" program. Financial assistance was provided to DECA students qualified to go to a National Competition.

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 more things going on out there that may not get shared at the Department level. Regardless, I know that this program has a great impact on youth and others in the community.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

This year as a Department Chairman, I promoted scholarships, the "Give 10 to Education" program, the "Veterans in Community Schools" program, Teacher Appreciation and American Education Weeks. These items were posted on our Department website at www.ndala.org/education/ and was also included in a November 2023 'unit' mailing to all Units, District Presidents, Department Officers and Department Chairmen. 'Unit' mailings are also posted online with scholarship information. A mailing to Units and all North Dakota high schools went out in November 2023 which contained National and Department scholarship applications (paper) along with instructions on obtaining online applications. I wrote articles for the December 2023 and May 2024 Department newspaper, 'The Message'. I thank the Department office for all their who have such wonderful ideas and enthusiasm. They have amazing spirit, intensity, and the work sending out this information via 'unit' mailings and posting online. I also did an Education Presentation at the Department Winter Conference highlighting the program.

I had the 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

will to succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders within our schools. It was truly difficult to pick winners, as all the candidates were worthy of awards.

Twenty-one North Dakota students applied for the 2024 National scholarships and four students were selected as Department candidates. One from each National category, Spirit of Youth, Non-Traditional Student, Junior Auxiliary Member Loyalty and Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarships, was sent to the Northwestern Division for judging. Thank you to Department President Gloria Covert and retired Bismarck State College instructor and Auxiliary member, Carla Bickert for helping with the scholarship selection process.

"AT A GLANCE" REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND UNITS

Note - These numbers reflect only what was reported to me. I suspect the numbers/dollars are much higher.

- * Celebration of American Education and Teacher Appreciation Weeks - treats provided to local schools, funds donated to local libraries, and funding for school lunches/milk programs (\$125). Books were donated that will help the students better understand why we celebrate Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the sacrifices of our service men and women.
- * "Give 10 to Education" participation - supplies and monetary contributions given to schools and school kits for World Relief by members and units. Some Units request lists from the school of what needs they have, and try to fill teachers' requests each fall, rather than just randomly buy items.
- * Money for three (3) student scholarships/maintenance to International Music Camp (\$435+)
- * Unit scholarships for graduating seniors (5 scholarships, total \$1,810); members helped serve the Masonic Banquet where scholarships are awarded.
- * Donations to DECA students going to National competition (\$100).
- * Money given to Department Education and Nursing scholarship funds.
- * Committees for selecting Unit and Department scholarship recipients.
- * 'Veterans in Community Schools' presentations held (2 presentations).
- * Participation in Memorial Day services and programs
- * Participation in community bike safety and health fairs (\$50).
- * Promotion of National and Department Education scholarships - Applications sent to all high schools and Auxiliary Units within the Department, links to applications on Department website, information in the Department newspaper 'The Message', Units and Members sharing the information with family and community members.
- * Setting up summer day camps for 6 to 12 year olds.
- * Sponsored student to Boys State and helped serve the Boys State picnic.
- * Sponsored student to Girls State (\$361).

- * Helped with reading program for elementary school.
- * Worked with sewing program for 4th through 6th graders at school.

SCHOLARSHIP BREAKDOWN

2024 Department Scholarship - \$500 each

36 applicants - 3 scholarships awarded (\$1,500)

2024 National Scholarships

21 applicants - 1 Spirit of Youth Scholarship; 1 Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship; 1 Non-Traditional Student Scholarship; 1 Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, sent to NW Division. The North Dakota Spirit of Youth Scholarship applicant was the Northwest Division Winner.

Department Education Program Scholarship Winners - June 2024

Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College Business Instructor, and I have spent several hours each going through the 36 applications for the 2023-2024 Department of North Dakota Education Program Scholarships. We then met to make our final selections. We did find all the applicants very deserving, so it was not easy to decide!

We have selected the following:

- **Jayden Melissa Bondy** - Petersburg, ND - Graduate of Dakota Prairie High School. Petersburg, ND - Planning to attend: Valley City State University
- **Jayden Grace Pederson** - Valley City, ND - Graduate of Valley City High School - Planning to attend University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
- **Andaleen Whitney Nelson** - Mandan, ND - Graduate of Mandan, High School - Planning to attend North Dakota State University