

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# The Message

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047  
701-253-5992 • www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

## Ward to Visit Winter Conference

National Auxiliary President, Trish Ward, will visit the Department of North Dakota and will be a guest at the 2025 Winter Conference to be held in Minot, North Dakota, January 24-26, 2025.

President Ward is a member of the Department of Kansas John P. Hand Unit 250. She is eligible for membership through her father, John M. Brusati, a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and her grandfather, Edmund S. Lindberg, a U.S. Navy veteran.

President Ward has served in several Unit, District, Department, and National positions including: National Chair of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Leadership, Legislative, ALA Girls Nation, Public Relations, Membership committees; served as Central Division National Vice President; National Executive Committee member; American Legion Auxiliary

Foundation Board of Directors member; and served on the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Team.

The Ward family is a proud American Legion Family that shares a passion for engaging in activities that support the mission of the Legion Family. Trish's husband, Steve, is currently National Executive Committeeman for the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas. Together, Trish and Steve bring children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to The American Legion Family experience.

Trish recently retired from Lumen, a global multinational technology and IT company where she served as a Senior Lead Project Manager. Since retiring, she now focuses on volunteering for The American Legion Family and spending time on her hobbies which include studying parliamentary law and Robert's Rules of Order. Trish possesses bachelor's degrees from both the University of Southern California and

the University of Kansas. She is also a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

When commenting on her time with The American Legion Family, Trish cites her favorite quote: "Follow your passion. It will lead to your purpose." She continues, "Serving our nation's heroes is my life's work, passion, and purpose."

(National and Department submission)



Trish Ward National Auxiliary President

## Hankinson Supports Suicide Awareness Program

On July 24, 2024, members of American Legion Auxiliary Eberhard Unit 88 of Hankinson donned "BE THE ONE" t-shirts to raise money for this important suicide awareness program. The event was held at the local Farmers Market in Hankinson city park. We served foot-long hot dogs with all the trimmings, potato salad, chips, cookies and water for a free-will offering.

The beautiful weather brought many people out to support this important program and to spend time together visiting. More than \$600.00 was raised for the "BE THE ONE" suicide awareness project.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Berg



## Medina Demonstrates Flag Etiquette

Adam Job Unit 245 of Medina conducted an assembly presentation on "Flag Etiquette" at the Medina Public School to 110 students in Grades 4 through 9 on Friday, October 4, 2024. In addition to students and faculty, several Legion and Auxiliary members were in attendance.

ALA member Mabel Cowell spoke about the importance of proper respect, display, and care of the American flag, as established in the United States Flag Code. She also talked about the history and design of the American flag. A flag-folding demonstration was then given by North Dakota Army National Guard First Sergeant Mitchell Cowell and Sergeant First Class Andrew Tanata. ALA member Ardella Rau explained the meaning of each of the 13 folds during the demonstration.

At the conclusion of the presentation, as the students exited the assembly, each was given a bookmark. It was designed by Mabel Cowell and featured the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article submitted by Mabel Cowell



## Department President

Dear Auxiliary Members,

I am excited to talk to you about what is going on in the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary! We have held all our Fall District Meetings, and it was such a joy to get to meet so many of you! You are all looking so well, and it was fun watching you getting to interact with each other, and sharing things going on in your different Units. That is such a wonderful place to get new ideas, solutions to things you are facing, and getting to meet new people, and make new friends, plus getting to see friends you haven't seen for a while. These are very special times!

Winter Conference is hot on our heels! It is coming on January 24 - 26 in Minot at the Grand Oasis Hotel. Our National President, Trish Ward, will be with us to share her vision, ideas, and solutions for our Units. It is her greatest desire to help us to revitalize our Units, our Districts, and our Department. She is from Kansas, and has seen in Kansas many of the same issues with which we are dealing in North Dakota. Things like small rural towns with few people to recruit, Units which were told to close down due to Covid, and now are struggling to get restarted, members who were once very involved, but now don't seem to want to come out to meetings or help with activities, and on and on. She believes these are issues that are common to much of the country, but she wants to reinvigorate us, inspire us, and set us on a joyful upward path that will help us support, inspire, and be of service to our precious, dearly loved Veterans. So, PLEASE COME TO WINTER CONFERENCE!!!! Bring as many of your members as you can possibly pack in your cars!!!! If you need someone to drive you, perhaps one of the Legionnaires will be willing to drive for you!!!! Just ask them!!!! PLEASE COME!!

MEMBERSHIP is one of our MOST IMPORTANT issues! We love our members and don't want to lose a single one of them! Often we forget to get the dues paid, so a kind reminder often helps. Maybe have a membership table set up at your meeting so it is a very visual reminder! Ask them if they have renewed. Send a reminder card. Have a Membership party where you share fun, goodies, and collect Membership dues! Make it fun to renew your membership! As of the 30th of October, the Department of North Dakota is at 43.08% Membership renewal. In

the Northwestern Region of 7 states: Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado,, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming we are in 6th place between South Dakota and Wyoming. Wouldn't you love to see us much further up in the list? So would I!!! Membership in North Dakota looks like this: Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 are all above 51.05%, while Districts 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are all in the 30th percentile. Come on Western North Dakota and Fargo area, LET'S CATCH UP, and maybe could you pass the Bismarck area and Eastern North Dakota in Membership? Let's try!!!! Let's make it a fun competition!!!!

I'm not sure if I have really told you what my President's Project is. My Project is TROOPATHON. It was called Move America Forward, but a few months ago they changed the name to TROOPATHON to make the purpose more clear. TROOPATHON is a company that sends Care Packages to our deployed troops all through the year. The packages used to go out on holidays and Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but now they go out year round. Our deployed military are out in far places in very hard conditions, and often feel alone, forgotten. The Care Packages are loaded with personal care items, treats, nuts, books, puzzles, whatever they can send to make a soldier, airman, sailor, corpsman, guardsman feel loved and remembered. My goal is for us to be able to send out as many packages to as many of our deployed military men and women as we possibly can. My pin is an eagle, and my theme is Our Veterans, Our Heroes, Our Freedom. Whatever money comes in from the sale of my pins and for my President's Project will go to send packages to our troops. I thank all of you who have bought my pin and hope that beautiful little eagle will bring you joy as you wear it!

I love you ALL, and can't wait to see you at Winter Conference!

For our beloved Veterans and our precious deployed,  
LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

## American Legion Auxiliary 2025 Winter Conference

January 24-26, 2025

(Tentative schedule/subject to change)

Grand Oasis Hotel - Minot  
1505 North Broadway, Minot, ND  
Hotel Direct Phone: 701-852-3161

### Friday, January 24

1:00 PM .....Department Finance Board Meeting  
2:00 - 7:00 PM .....Auxiliary Registration-Hotel Lobby  
3:00 PM .....Department Executive Committee Meeting  
7:00 PM.....Joint Opening Session

### Saturday, January 25

7:00 AM.....Breakfast  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM ..Auxiliary Registration  
8:30 AM.....Joint Session  
10:00 AM.....Membership Workshop (Auxiliary)  
12:00 PM.....Lunch  
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM ...Oratorical Contest Finals  
4:00 PM.....(Tentative) National and Department President Reception  
5:00 PM.....Winter Conference Banquet Social  
6:00 PM.....Winter Conference - Commanders Banquet

### Sunday, January 26

7:00 AM.....Breakfast  
9:30 AM.....Joint Memorial Service

## Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members,  
The Department Office has been very busy keeping up with membership and working on Unit mailing packets, Message articles, and archiving records when time allows.  
Thank you, Unit Membership Chairmen, you have done a great job getting dues in.

As we prepare for the upcoming 2025 Winter Conference, you should be aware that the Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot has been undergoing renovations to better serve its customers. The hotel restaurant is also being renovated and at this time is closed. However, the Legion's Department staff has worked with hotel management to make our event the best it can be. I know it will be successful with perhaps a possible glitch or two.

Please note that making hotel reservations and pre-

ordering meals is important this year due to this renovation. Information on the Auxiliary's tentative schedule and pre-registration and pre-ordering of meals can be found elsewhere in this issue.

If your unit is ordering meals and registering for more than one person, please send a list of those members along with your order sheet and payment.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Holiday season. See you at the 2025 Winter Conference!

**Marcy Schmidt**



*Marcy Schmidt*

## Department Chaplain

As we enter into the rush of the Christmas season, I like to set aside a few minutes to quiet my mind. I think back on the simplicity of the first Christmas because, to me, the Christmas story has had a fairy tale idea of what it was like in the stable that first Christmas night. My quiet time usually involves sitting in front of a manger set and thinking what it was like on that still evening long ago, in a humble stable with the traditional stable animals resting in the background. A little baby was born - the Son of God. While we may have considered this to be a quiet event, in actuality, the greatest event in history had just happened. The Messiah had been born!!

I always wondered what was going through Mary's mind. Had she wished her mother were there to help her through her first childbirth? She was not afforded the luxury of an epidural or heart monitors. The only ones who witnessed this birth were herself, her husband Joseph, and a few stable animals. However, she KNEW Jesus was virgin born. She knew she was the virgin whom Isaiah had prophesied would deliver the Messiah to the world. The angel had told her "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:32. She was walking down a road no one had ever walked before. A host of angels filled the skies and announced the joyous event to the shepherds telling them they had great news because "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

A Savior? For us lowly shepherds?? The angels told them "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." Luke 2:12 If I had been a shepherd, I also would have left for Bethlehem to see this baby who would be my Savior. When the shepherds left the manger, they went away praising God and spreading the news for this was truly a gift from God to man.

For ages, the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds. Do you know who I feel sorry for? The people at the inn who missed it. They were right next door!! They were too busy with their everyday lives to notice what was taking place eternally.

My reminiscing fills my heart with wonder and brings me into a more purposeful Christmas season, especially when I look at the little baby in the manger and think "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Reading scripture, we can see God's love woven throughout history as He continually reaches out to man. As difficult as this seemed for Mary & Joseph at the time, this was all part of God's plan.

"Look to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22.

**Rose Laning**



*Rose Laning*

## Department Treasurer

Well, 2024 is ending, and we are approaching the season of giving. Our Units are embracing this concept through their yearly contributions. It has been so interesting for me to learn about who our Units are and where they are. I know that our various programs will be so grateful to all of you for your thoughtful donations. Please remember to get your contributions in as soon as possible if you missed the November 1st deadline. This allows us to get those funds out to the programs as soon as possible after the first of the year.

Speaking of thoughtful donations, Units, Districts, and Departments have been collecting funds in response to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund's (AEF) request for donations. These funds will help with the disasters caused by two back-to-back hurricanes that affected the southeastern United States. So far, \$1,119 in "extra" AEF donations have been made from our North Dakota Auxiliary members and Units!

I know there are many of you who are working diligently on making sure that your Unit is complying with state and federal registration and reporting requirements—thank you! I know that some Units are unsure of whether or

not they are going to seek to have their tax-exempt status restored with the IRS as it is a \$600 fee to do so. However, regardless of what your Unit decides to do with the IRS, your Unit is still a non-profit operating in the State of North Dakota and must be registered with the state. I sent out instructions for doing so in the September Unit mailing packet. The instructions are also available at [www.ndala.org/unitmailings/](http://www.ndala.org/unitmailings/) under the heading September 2024. It is a \$40 fee to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State with an annual report due February 1st of every year. The annual fee for that report is \$10. If you have any questions, the staff at the Secretary of State's office are ready to assist you. You can contact them at (701) 328-2900. You will be registering as a new business.

Happy Holidays to you all, and Blessings in the New Year.

**Susan Degner - CPA**



*Susan Degner*

## Department NEC

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton made landfall on the west coast of Florida bringing devastation to everything in their path. The ALA's Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is available to members who have been affected by disaster, offering grant awards up to \$3,000. However, this assistance can only continue with your support. Make a difference by ensuring we have the funds now, and in the future, by donating to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Learn more and donate here: [www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF).

So you think you know everything about shipping packages! Whether you are sending care packages to deployed troops, handling returns, sending packages for your small business, or simply shipping personal items, are you truly optimizing the process? If you are still manually creating labels, juggling spreadsheets, and making frequent retail counter trips to ship, you might be missing out on a smarter, more efficient way.

ShipThrifty is not just another tool — it is a game-changer. The platform simplifies label creation, cuts costs, and eliminates the need for cumbersome manual tracking. Whether you are shipping care packages, business returns, or personal items, ShipThrifty's platform adapts to your

needs, saving you time and money. Plus, you can schedule pickups to save even more time. (Courtesy National Auxiliary)

The American Legion considers looking out for each other and fellow veterans, one of its membership's most sacred responsibilities. Since May 2019, by way of Resolution No. 18, Legionnaires have been urged to conduct "Buddy Checks" during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and around Veterans Day. The result has been more than 1 million veterans getting a phone call, email, text message or in-person visit, just to see how each of them is doing.

This is a great way to contact a veteran and to share some "ALA Sweetness" too. Bring a plate of cookies when you make your visit/check and make it a great experience for both of you.

This is not just a Legion program; it is a nice thing to do for veterans from an Auxiliary member too.

**Judy Twete**



*Judy Twete*



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## District 1

Certificates were presented to several in attendance at the 2024 District 1 Fall Meeting held in Hatton on October 17. The 2024 Americanism Essay Contest NW Division winner, Amber Schmidt of Hope, was honored. The Department's VAVS Representatives, Carol Wolf and Marge Gourde, were recognized for perfect attendance at their 2023-2024 quarterly meetings.



**Marcy Schmidt,  
Department Secretary**



**Essay contest winner Amber Schmidt (left) and Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary.**



**Carol Wolf, Department VAVS Representative (right) and LoAnn Dick, Department President.**

## District 2

Hello District 2 Auxiliary Members,

We had a good turnout for our 2024 Fall District meeting held in Park River. Thank you to our members and guests that attended.



Department President LoAnn Dick attended and reported on the National Convention. The theme was "BE THE ONE." There was a class on suicide prevention at the convention. More information can be found on the national Legion website [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

Other topics at the convention included encouraging Units to apply for grants to help with projects they may be working on. The goal is to award five grants from National for each Department. More information can be found on the national Auxiliary website [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

Candace Berg, President-Elect/Co-Chair membership, spoke about membership. She distributed member benefits brochures. Renewals for 2025 are due December 31, 2024. Encourage your members to renew by December 7th.

Congratulations to Units whose membership is already at or over 100%. Certificates were presented to the following District 2 Units: Cavalier, Lankin, Mountain, and Tolna. Others that received their certificates at the 2024 Department Convention were Park River and Pisek.

Judy Twete, NEC, spoke about the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) that responds to member needs during a disaster. She also mentioned Leadership Workshops. If you get a chance to attend, do so. You will not regret it.

A motion was made and approved to send \$150 of our District funds to the AEF program to assist the hurricane victims in the southeast United States.

At our spring meeting someone suggested compiling lists of ways to volunteer. We had several wonderful suggestions including: Halloween gifts, May baskets, Socks of Love, beautification of their Legion and town, Pocket flags, and Purple Up Day for military children. Please keep the suggestions coming.

I asked for nominations for District Vice President. Larissa Schmitz has accepted the position of District Vice President. Thank you, Larissa. You will do a wonderful job.

Have you finished updating your Constitution & Bylaws? If not, please complete them as soon as possible. I also want to remind every Unit to fill out your IRS 990-N tax-exemption form online to maintain your non-profit status.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 Winter Conference in January!

**Shelley Schuster  
District 2 President**

## Poppy Program

The Department's Poppy Program is going well. Poppy orders are being processed for mailing as they come in. If you have not already received your order, I will get them to you as soon as I can.



We are seeking additional Auxiliary members and veterans to assist in assembling poppies. If you would love to be on the poppy assembly team, please give me a call. Directions on how to assemble poppies are also available by calling me or visiting the Department poppy webpage at [www.ndala.org/poppies-2/](http://www.ndala.org/poppies-2/). Feel free to email me at [poppies@ndala.org](mailto:poppies@ndala.org)

I attended three Fall District meetings and distributed information on how to make felt poppies as well as our traditional crepe poppies. Information on the 2025 Poppy Poster Contest was also dispersed.

**Carol Wolf  
Poppy Co-Chairman**



**Ashlyn Chavers (right), Department poppy poster contest winner from District 3, is presented her certificate by Candace Berg, Department President-Elect. Well done!**



**Gackle-Streeter poppy poster winners were recognized at the District 4 Fall meeting in Jamestown. Pictured from left: Elaine Ackerman, Gackle Unit President; Jenna Homola, Department winner; Kyla Lybrand, Department winner; and Olivia Lang, Department and NW Division National winner. Congratulations! (Poppy photos and several headshots courtesy of Candace Berg/IceBerg Art)**

## Children & Youth

Greetings Auxiliary Members! This is my second year as your Department Children and Youth Chairman and, once again, I am looking for nominations for the Good Deed and Youth Hero awards.



### Good Deed Award

- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service.
- A specific deed should be present.
- Winners receive a certificate

### Youth Hero Award

- Act of valor
- Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor
- Winners receive a medal and certificate

Simply visit [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) for online nomination forms and instructions. You can also find other great ideas such as:

- Star Spangled Kids
- National Poppy Poster Contest

Looking ahead, let's get ready for Purple Up for Military Kids in April!

Whatever your Unit can do, let's do it! Nominate an amazing local youth, volunteer at a nearby school, deliver ALA coloring books, show you care! Let's help the youth in our communities and pass on the torch of patriotism!

Hope to see you at Winter Conference!

**Jill Carstens  
Children and Youth Chairman**



**Natalie Rangeloff was presented with the Good Deed Award from the American Legion Auxiliary for her support and dedication to Western ND Honor Flight veterans. She makes first aid kits for every veteran on the Honor Flight as well as mailing out July 4th cards to remember them. Pictured from left: Shelly Steinwand, WNDHF Board member; Natalie Rangeloff; and Dennis Burdolski, WNDHF President. Submitted by Past Department President Sandra Petermann and WNDHF.**

## Membership

Greetings and warm wishes to all American Legion Auxiliary Family Members! To each and every one of you - thank you so much for your support as I proudly serve as your Department President-Elect.



Department Vice President Sandy Smith and I are your membership co-chairs for the 2024-25 year. We both thoroughly enjoyed our recent Fall District Meetings across the state. We enjoyed getting to know more about each of the Units/Districts and all of you representing those areas in the Department.

As we move into the month of November, did you know that it is membership month? Every aspect of our organization is important, but as you know, membership is what ultimately keeps us going and keeps our veterans and veteran families supported in our organization.

Our national membership theme is "Leading the Way through their innovative and creative thinking using Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Energy which nature provides us." North Dakota is part of the Northwestern Division, and our division theme is "ENERGY." The Northwestern Division is currently in first place! Using the national "energy" theme, how can you use the "energy" theme toward your Unit membership goals and our overall Department goals?

Membership is everyone's responsibility. A member is a member, whether they pay their dues annually or are a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) or State Life Member (SLM). No member is more important than the next.

- Negativity and lack of support and respect for all members within an organization will cause an organization to implode.
- Respect and kindness goes a long way in maintaining your Unit and encouraging your members to stay engaged.
- One's actions speak louder than words.

Keep these things in mind as you work toward your Unit membership goals:

- Remember why you joined and let that be your reason to keep going strong!
- Learn your elevator speech (you have 30 seconds to convince someone to join).
- Always carry a membership application or the website information to direct people to membership.
- Keep this in mind that "every moment is a membership moment!"

Thank you Auxiliary members. Great job to all Auxiliary members doing all you can to keep our organization going strong!

**Sincerely,  
Candace Berg  
Department President-Elect and Membership Co-Chairman**

## Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

Hello Auxiliary Members!

Fall is rapidly coming to a close. By the time you read this message, you will already have filled out the mandatory contribution form. To all Units who donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, thank you for your generosity. A special thank you to the District Presidents for passing the hat and collecting more funds for the AEF at their Fall District Meetings.



Your willingness to help financially was amazing!

A total of \$1241.00 was collected at the Fall District meetings. With the wildfires, (including North Dakota) and devastating hurricanes, this program is vitally important to our Auxiliary members needing assistance. Any Unit wishing to further donate may send checks to the Department Office. Thank you for caring.

**Cheryl Evenson  
AEF Chairman**



**National Convention attendees. Standing (l-r): LoAnn Dick, Department President; Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary; Carol Wolf Poppy Co-Chairman and District 1 VP; Shantel Covert, Delegate; Judy Twete, NEC and Past NW Division Vice President; Gloria Covert, Past Department President; Tammy Ryberg, Past Department President and Past NEC; Susan Degner, Department Treasurer; Virginia Satrom, Past District 1 President. Seated (l-r) Pages Shelley Schuster, District 2 President and Chloe Weyrauch, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman**

## In Memoriam

### District 1

Beverly R Walsberg, Fargo  
Ruth M Siegert, SLM, Hillsboro  
Betty Moen, Erie  
Carol Peterson, Valley City  
Marian L Perhus, SLM, Kindred  
Joan L Warnecke, Harwood

### District 2

Beverly Turner, Grand Forks  
Joanne Sevigny, Grafton  
Martha R. Olson, Pembina  
Doloris Mutch, SLM, Larimore  
Virginia Hatlestad, SLM, Park River  
Margaret Dub, SLM, Park River  
Irene Hodek, HLM, Lankin  
Ruth E Hurst, St Thomas  
LaVerne A. Mahar, Minto  
Diane Slominski, Minto  
Sylvia Madson, Pisek

### District 3

Marguerite Freund, HLM, Cando  
Vivian Smith, Leeds  
Esther Krumwiede, SLM, Rolla

### District 4

Nellie Degen, Jamestown  
Frieda Larson, Jamestown  
Elvera Divers, SLM, Jamestown  
Muriel Ringerud, Carrington  
Martha O Neuharth, SLM, Goodrich  
Deborah A Sparrow, McClusky  
Donella L Johnson, McClusky

### District 5

Joyce E Tveito, Bismarck  
Alice M Wiese, SLM, Washburn  
Marjorie Keaveny, Wishek  
Theresa Sperle, Hazelton  
Marjorie A Laib, Turtle Lake  
Mavis J Widmer, Fredonia  
Esther Krueger, Fredonia

### District 6

Evelyn J Mau, Mohall

### District 7

Pauline Roll, SLM, Flasher  
Jessie R Stiefel, Stanton  
Sharon E Alt, New Leipzig  
Gloria Vaaler, Elgin  
Anna V Erhardt, Almont

### District 8

Ragnhild Frey, Mott  
Frances G Adams, Belfield

### District 9

Gen Bruins, Watford City  
Lorraine A Baye, Watford City  
Debora A Glasoe, Noonan  
Jeanne M. Drumheller, New Town  
Verlee A Kjoson, Stanley

### District 10

Phyllis Leshovsky, Wahpeton  
Clara Ann Evavold, Wahpeton  
Ruby Sonnenberg, Oakes  
Ethel Lilla, Oakes  
Lorraine Fuka, Lidgerwood  
Carol A Hogness, Milnor  
Sylvia Likness, SLM, Milnor  
Eleanor Bommersbach, Wyndmere

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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



## Unit Revitalization Committee

In an effort to help slow declining membership, Department President LoAnn Dick recently commissioned a 3-member committee called the 'Unit Revitalization Committee'. The focus of the committee is to assist the Department's Membership Committee and District Presidents when struggling units are considering disbandment. The new committee led by Past Department President Gloria Covert includes Shelley Schuster, President District 2 and Holly Eslinger, President Unit 246 (Elgin). The committee can be called in to assist units to reorganize instead of disbanding. If your unit is struggling to maintain membership, these ladies are just a phone call away.

- Gloria Covert, Past Department President – Cell Phone: 701-370-0055
- Shelley Schuster, President District 2 – Cell Phone: 701-520-1525
- Holly Eslinger, President Unit 246 (Elgin) – Cell Phone: 701-891-1909

## National Security

Auxiliary Members,  
The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

From fires, flooding to hurricanes, the National Guard is ready to assist.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The national Guard is a key asset in the nation's response to disaster, working alongside first responders to support local, state and federal agencies:

**EXPERTISE:** The National Guard can provide expertise in areas like debris removal, damage assessment, infrastructure support, logistics, medical assistance and search and rescue.

**COMMUNICATION:** The National Guard can provide critical communication capabilities to help first responders stay connected and informed.

**FORCE MULTIPLIER:** The National Guard can act as force multiplier, with people organized, trained and ready to go.

Reach out to your local recruiters' office, to see how

your Unit can help support the families of our National Guard while they are supporting us and don't forget about your local first responders too!

<https://nationalguard.com/recruiter> Just enter your zip code to find the nearest recruiting office.

**SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS AWARD** information. Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active-duty women, to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve, E1 thru E9 rank can be nominated, no officers.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Application deadline is June 1 of each calendar year.

As members, please keep on the lookout for any service members that you feel deserve this recognition. And to submit the individual for the Salute to Servicemember

Award. Information can be found at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award>. Nomination form is located at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

You don't have to wait all year to make a nomination. The form is active NOW! Submit anytime from now until the deadline of June 1, 2025. ND had no nominations last year. Let's aggressively look for someone from each branch. If your unit is close to a recruiter, check with them for a nomination or they are eligible to be nominated too.

If you want to keep up on National Security happening, please join the National Facebook page: [ALA National Security](#). There are ideas and many questions asked so you can utilize this information.

The POW-MIA table should be part of any event the Legion Family is sponsoring. Its presence is important as we cannot forget our veterans. These veterans are not home yet so they are still considered on active duty.

If you have any questions about National Security, please contact me.

**Gloria Covert**  
National Security Chair



## 2025 WINTER CONFERENCE

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ADVANCED REGISTRATION AND BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM JANUARY 24-26 – THE GRAND OASIS HOTEL – MINOT, ND

PLEASE CONTACT THE GRAND OASIS HOTEL AT 701-852-3161 – ASK FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION ROOM BLOCK DISCOUNT BY JANUARY 8, 2025

The Hotel DOES NOT have a restaurant. The Restaurant is CLOSED! Reserve your meal tickets in ADVANCE!

Since the hotel does not have a restaurant, arrangements have been made for additional meals for members to purchase. A limited number of tickets may be available at the registration desk on a first come/ first served basis. Please note the prices of all tickets increases by \$5 after January 8<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration forms and tickets **will not** be accepted after January 16<sup>th</sup> and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Conference Auxiliary Registration Fee: \$15

Saturday Breakfast at 7AM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Cheesy scrambled eggs, cheesy hash browns, Danish roll, bacon and sausage patties

Saturday Lunch at 12PM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- South of the Border: Seasoned ground beef, fajita pulled chicken, taco shells, lettuce, tomatoes, olives, onions, shredded cheese, taco sauce, sour cream and Spanish rice.

Saturday Banquet at 6PM: \$30 (\$35 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Chicken breast topped with cream cheese, garlic, spinach and sun-dried tomatoes, pancetta wrapped, cover in a garlic sauce, mashed potatoes and glazed carrots.

Sunday Breakfast at 7AM: \$20 (\$25 if received after 1/8/2025)

- Cheesy scrambled eggs, American fried potatoes, muffins, bacon and ham.

	(Received by 1/8/2025)	(Received AFTER 1/8/2025)
Registration: \$15 _____	Registration: \$15 _____	Registration: \$15 _____
Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____
Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$20 = _____	Saturday Lunch # _____ X \$25 = _____
Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$30 = _____	Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$30 = _____	Saturday Banquet # _____ X \$35 = _____
Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$20 = _____	Sunday Breakfast # _____ X \$25 = _____
Mail Registration and Payment to: American Legion Auxiliary 1801 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave N., Room 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047	TOTAL DUE: _____	TOTAL DUE: _____