

The American Legion and Auxiliary held its Spring District 2 Meeting in Park River on Saturday, April 26, 2025. A large group of Legion and Auxiliary members from the surrounding area attended the meeting in the Park River Legion Building.

Prior to the Joint Meeting, special 'Welcome Home' coins were presented to all Vietnam-era veterans in attendance. These coins were especially cast to honor and welcome home the Vietnam veterans that never really received a proper homecoming upon returning from the conflict. North Dakota is the only Department (State) that has taken on this project. There were twenty-three veterans that accepted the coin and a sincere 'Thank You' from North Dakota's National Executive Committeeman, Steve Anderson. This was a heartwarming presentation with a few wet eyes in the group.

The coin face depicts the North Dakota state flag, the POW/MIA flag, the Western meadowlark (state bird), the prairie rose (state flower), and the Vietnam Wall. These are all encircled with 238 stars representing the known conflict casualties from North Dakota. The reverse side reads "The State of North Dakota /Welcome Home" with an image of the country of Vietnam and a Vietnam Campaign ribbon.

Following the presentation, a joint meeting was held with the Legion and Auxiliary. Introductions and remarks were made by James Kellogg, American Legion National Vice Commander from Minnesota; LoAnn Dick, Auxiliary Department President; Mamie Havelka, Legion Department Commander; and Candace Berg, Auxiliary President-Elect. The Auxiliary then moved to another venue and continued their meeting with District 2 President Shelley Schuster presiding.

Following both sessions, a delightful meal was served. Park River always does such a great job hosting District Meetings. A big 'Thank You' to the members.

Submitted by Judy Twete, Auxiliary NEC