

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY

The Message  
North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
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Membership Growing in  
Park River

Marquita Novak, Unit President and Membership Chairman for Paul Farup Unit 147 of Park River, put her foot on the gas and made a push to recruit new members for 2025. Her dedication and work on the project resulted in the recruitment of ten new members. Candace Berg, Department President-Elect and Membership Chairman was invited to a unit meeting in Park River where she presented a certificate to Marquita in commemoration of her extraordinary work. Great job, Marquita!

Article submitted by: Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary.



Marquita Novak (left) receiving award from Candace Berg. Photo courtesy: Candace Berg, IceBerg Art

Harwood Volunteer  
Donates to VAMC

Theresa Gross, a member of Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 of Harwood, donated dozens of handmade wheelchair and walker bags, 'heart' pillows, and 'port' cushions to the VA Medical Center in Fargo. Volunteers will be distributing them to current VA patients. Utilizing purchased and donated fabric, Theresa completed the project items, many with unique fabric and designs, while residing in Arizona over the winter months. Theresa was introduced by Harwood Unit President Carol Grieve at the April 14 District 1 Spring Meeting. Theresa displayed some of her creations for meeting attendees before delivering them to the VA.



Photo Caption: Stephen Sanders (on left), Specialist, Center for Development and Civic Engagement (VAMC Volunteer Services) and Theresa Gross, member/volunteer Unit 297 Harwood.

National Auxiliary  
President to Visit  
Flickertail Girls State

National Auxiliary President Trish Ward will be visiting ALA Flickertail Girls State this year. Make plans to visit with her in Grand Forks on June 10th. For more information, please contact Department President LoAnn Dick at 714-334-4798.

"She (Trish) is a wonderful lady with so much wisdom and so many useful ideas that we can use in our Units. Please bring as many people as you can to hear her, and to let her know that we in North Dakota are glad to have her here to learn from her. Please come! Let's make Trish feel really loved and welcome North Dakota style!" (Courtesy Department President LoAnn Dick)

Below is a letter received at the Department Office from Trish Ward:

Greetings, Fellow American Legion Auxiliary Members:

It's hard to believe department convention time is already here! This is always such an exciting point in the year for our members. We have had a great 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary administrative year so far by "Leading the Way" as we invest back into our units.

It has been an honor visiting so many of our ALA departments across the country, sharing with and educating members about the Department Excellence Initiative, a primary goal and focus for this ALA year. I have truly enjoyed delivering content to units and departments to help our members have a greater awareness, knowledge, and understanding on how they can positively impact this organization at the grassroots level.

During each visit, the conversation has been engaging, many great questions have been asked, and I enjoyed seeing the spark in members focused on growing membership and improving our organization even more from the ground up.

I look forward to seeing how many departments will be recognized at National Convention for the Department Merit Medallion as part of the Department Excellence Initiative.

I hope your department convention is productive as you conduct official Auxiliary business and you continue to focus on our importance as a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. Remember: Together, we are stronger and can have a greater impact on those we serve.

Thank you for your continued membership and commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary and our mission! Have a great department convention!

Trish Ward  
National Auxiliary President 2024-2025



Trish Ward

Welcome To Convention

Carol Wolf, President of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo and Carol Grieve, President Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 Harwood and their team of convention volunteers welcome all members of the American Legion Family to the 2025 American Legion Department Convention. The event will be held June 27-29 at the Ramada by Wyndham (formerly Doublewood) in Fargo. The Convention Committee encourages everyone to experience not only the convention events but to get out and enjoy the dining and shopping experiences the Fargo-Moorhead area has to offer. Welcome to Fargo and enjoy your stay!

FARGO

104th Department  
Convention

Ramada By Wyndham in Fargo

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (may be revised without notice)  
Changes will be available at [www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/](http://www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/)

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

11:00 AM	Department Finance Board meeting
1:00 PM	Auxiliary Registration Opens (Registration closes at 5:00 PM)
1:30 PM	Auxiliary Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting
3:00 PM	Meet and Greet - Incoming District Officers and Incoming Department Commander and Department President
4:00 PM	Legion VA&R Committee Meeting / Auxiliary Members Welcome
4:00 PM	District Commanders and District Presidents Flag/Banner Rehearsal (for Joint Session)
4:30 PM	Auxiliary Installation Rehearsal - Department Officers, District Presidents
5:00 PM	Pictures for Department Officers, District Presidents and Department Chairmen
5:00 PM	District Presidents and Department Chairmen (Incoming and Outgoing) Exchange Duty Books and Flags (Meet with LoAnn Dick and Candace Berg)
5:30 PM	No-Host dinner
7:00 PM	Joint Opening Session

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

7:00 AM	Legion Children & Youth Committee / Auxiliary Members Welcome
8:00 AM	Auxiliary Registration Resumes (Auxiliary Registration closes at Noon)
8:30 AM	Auxiliary Opening Session: Memorial Service, Guest Speakers, Chairmen Reports, Awards
12:00 PM	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon
1:30 PM	Auxiliary Session resumes
2:00 PM	Registration and Credentials Committees Reports Nominations and Elections of Department Officers (2025-2026)
4:00 PM	National Convention Meeting (Auxiliary Delegates)
5:30 PM	Social
6:30 PM	Department Convention Banquet
7:30 PM	Dance by ND State Band

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

9:00 AM	Joint Worship Service
	Joint Session
	Auxiliary Session Resumes
	Installation of Department Officers (2025-2026)
	Department President (2024-2025) Report, LoAnn Dick
	Close of 2025 Department Convention
12:00 PM	Organizational Meeting (2025-2026)
	Department Officers and District Presidents

Jamestown Helps Local Families

Auxiliary Past Presidents Parley members of Ernest D. Robertson Unit 14 of Jamestown donated five boxes of diapers and packs of baby wipes to Healthy Families North Dakota through owner/director Sarah Kramer.

Healthy Families North Dakota, based in Jamestown, is a free and voluntary home visiting support program that works with prenatal families and families with infants and toddlers. Healthy Families North Dakota staff partner with families on their parenting journey by providing home visits. They focus on parenting, child development, financial wellness, social connection and accessing community resources.



Pictured (l-r): Jamestown Auxiliary members Lola Rudnick, Dorothy Speidel, Sarah Kramer, Director of Healthy Families North Dakota; Betty Giele, Judy Hoyt, Ione Somsen and Charlotte Lassonde, Past Department President 2007-2008.



## Department President

Dear Auxiliary Members of the Department of North Dakota,

It has been my greatest honor to be your Department President this year! And it has been my great joy to serve you and our wonderful Veterans! What an amazing experience it has been as I have traveled around North Dakota to all the District Meetings to have had the privilege to get to meet so many of you! I have loved every minute of it! You are priceless people, and I love you all! I am so proud of you for all the fantastic projects, and meals, and events you have carried out as you work for your Veterans in your Posts, Units, and communities! What a blessing you are to them all! And what a blessing you are to me! May God richly bless each one of you!

Keep up the tremendous job you are doing on getting all your members renewed, and in recruiting new members, and in going back and rejoining any who have fallen away! Please do everything you can to not let any of your members fall away! They are such an important part of your Unit! They enrich your Units with their ideas, their participation, the Veterans they represent, and their very presence in your midst, and for those far away, with their increasing the scope of your work! They are all part of the National American Legion Auxiliary! What a blessing we all are to the United States of America!!! God bless us all!

Our Department Convention is coming up on June 27 to 29 at the Ramada by Wyndham in Fargo. Please come to the Convention and bring as many of your members as you possibly can!!! It is the perfect place to meet our long-unseen friends, to meet new friends, to talk to others who are having similar experiences in their Units, to get new ideas, to learn new innovative things, and just to get a little time away. I so hope you will all come! I am eager to see

you again!

Our National President, Trish Ward, will be in North Dakota to attend Girls State in Grand Forks from June 9 to 11. I am so excited that on the evening of Tuesday, June 10th, that we will be able to have dinner with her and get to have her talk to us, to encourage and inspire us. She is a wonderful lady with so much wisdom and so many useful ideas that we can use in our Units. Please bring as many people as you can to hear her, and to let her know that we in North Dakota are glad to have her here to learn from her. We will have the meal at a restaurant in Grand Forks on that Tuesday night. We will send out the time and place as soon as it is finalized. Please come! Let's make Trish feel really loved and welcome North Dakota style!

The American Legion is planning two Chairmanship programs at the Convention that will be held at times that can include the Auxiliary members as well. These are VA&R on Friday at 4:00 pm, and Children and Youth on Saturday at 7:00 am. If you can attend them, please do. The AL Commander, Mamie Havelka, has planned these specifically at times that we are not in session so we can attend without having to leave our meetings.

So, in closing, let me again thank you for your love and friendship to me this year. It has meant so very much to me! You are wonderful ladies! Your kindness has been amazing and precious to me. Thank you with all my heart!! May God bless you richly and abundantly!

Yours in service of our Veterans,

LoAnn Dick



LoAnn Dick

## Department Chaplain

In today's social media, we have become accustomed to a term called "canceling." It is a way of expressing disapproval of something or someone in a public forum. People cancel others when they want to stop the spread of objectionable ideas, but those who have been canceled see it as their right to free speech being suppressed.

We can appoint ourselves arbiters of right and wrong and judge and jury. And now, thanks to social media, we get to dole out punishment.

Aunt Jemima was canceled. They had to rethink how they promoted their product to an increasingly enlightened and more modern audience. Dr. Seuss had to pull six books because of racist and insensitive imagery. Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during the National Anthem was seen as disrespecting the American flag and the military. Canceling is a practice of groups on both sides of the political spectrum who want to promote their own ideology and silence their opponents.

Followers of Christ have always faced pressure from those who disapprove of certain aspects of the gospel message. People tried "canceling" them – from the biblical stoning of Stephen to present day massacres in African villages.

The Apostle Paul tried combating the cancel culture at the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians Chapter 15) by starting with their belief that there is no bodily resurrection and then explained what it would mean if that was actually true. He used "if...then" statements to show that "if" the bodily resurrection of Jesus is canceled, "then" our hope of the gospel is gone and useless and we are "still in our sins."

Paul's reasoning may be a good pattern for us to follow when challenged by differing views or opinions. There may be unpopular aspects of the gospel message that we may feel pressured to suppress, but does that removal distort the message? And to what gain?

During our upcoming Convention in June, we will be discussing changes and/or additions to our Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. I am asking everyone to be in prayer for these meetings. Rather than choosing sides and trying to cancel each other, let us objectively look at the proposals being presented. Let us see how we can try to clarify these documents to make our organization the best it can be and one in which everyone is proud to belong.

Prayer – "Heavenly Father, we ask You to be with us and guide us in our convention giving us wisdom and understanding. Help us to follow Paul's example. "For "if" the dead are not raised, "then" Christ has not been raised either." 1 Cor. 15:16

Rose Laning



Rose Laning

## Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Make plans soon to attend the 2025 Department Convention to be held June 27-29, 2025, at the Ramada By Wyndham (formerly known as Doublewood) in Fargo. You will find the registration and banquet ticket order form for the convention elsewhere in this publication. Members of Gilbert C. Grafton Unit 2 Fargo and Richard E. Nelson Unit 297 of Harwood have teamed up to co-host the 2025 Department Convention. We welcome you all to Fargo and hope you will be able to explore our beautiful communities while you are here.

As I write this article, North Dakota has forty-five units and one district with 100%+ membership dues paid. Thank you to Unit Membership Chairmen for your work gathering dues from your current members and new and rejoined members as well. By now, all officers and chairmen should have paid their current dues for 2025. Members who have not paid their 2025 dues are not eligible to hold office in a unit, district or department and those names will be removed from the officer list. This may result in your

unit not receiving important information and materials from the Department Office.

The annual year-end reports are coming in. From the information that has been compiled, units and their members continue to be active in their communities supporting veterans and their families. Congratulations and thank you for all the work you do on behalf of veterans, children and youth, and your communities across the state of North Dakota. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization.

I wish each of you good health, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Fargo in June. Keep our veterans, active military, and their families in your prayers. Take care of yourself and others.

God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt



Marcy Schmidt

## Department NEC

Bees hide a surprising secret. When a hive loses its queen—the only one capable of giving life to the colony and maintaining order in a perfectly organized society—all seems lost. Life in the hive slows down. Without new eggs, the future disappears. Within a few weeks, the colony is threatened with extinction. But bees don't panic. Nor do they wait for salvation from outside.

With an extraordinary display of collective intelligence and deep instinct, they launch a spectacular emergency response that is hard to imagine in a world ruled by insects. Transformation begins with a simple but essential choice. Worker bees select some ordinary larvae—the very ones that would normally become ordinary workers. They are nothing special. They were born no different. But now their fate changes completely.

They are selected to receive a special diet: royal food. A rare substance produced by nutritious bees, rich in protein, vitamins, and bioactive compounds. It's royal food in the purest sense. The larva fed exclusively on this substance no longer follows the usual path. In just a few days, its body develops differently. The body becomes larger, stronger. Life expectancy is multiplied by almost twenty. It won't work. It will rule. It will not follow routine. It will bring life. The queen isn't chosen based on genes. It's created.

What makes this process truly fascinating is that the worker bee is the king. It's as if, in a human society, you could take an ordinary child and, with the right nutrition, the right environment, and the necessary support, turn it

into an extraordinary leader. Without genetic interventions. Without fireworks. Just thanks to support and perspective

A leader is born out of crisis. This metamorphosis doesn't just save the larva. It saves the entire colony. Once the new queen is ready, she takes over the hive, begins laying eggs, restores order, and begins a new collective life cycle. From the threat of extinction, the colony is reborn stronger, more organized, and more balanced.

A silent but profound lesson. Bees show us without words that in moments of great crisis, what is needed is not despair—but clarity. The right choice. Care and guidance. In their world, no queen is born. It is nurtured & guided.

And perhaps, just as in the beehive, in life too, it doesn't matter who you are at the beginning, it's the end result that counts. But rather than what you receive, how you are cared for, and what decisions others make in difficult times. Because sometimes the strongest leaders are born in the most difficult moments.

-Unknown author, news feed

Can you relate your ALA life to this narrative? Think hard, and try taking some actions to make our ALA stronger.

Judy Twete



Judy Twete

## Department Treasurer

Spring has sprung at last! Ever since I moved to North Dakota in August 1995, I have always said that Spring is the one season that you cannot really count on to show up. But when it does, it is just so lovely.

Hopefully, many of you were able to attend your Spring District Meetings. There is always so much good information being shared, and it is really beneficial to keep us united in our mission to take care of our veterans and military families.

The Department Convention is quickly approaching. I encourage all unit officers and as many unit members as possible to attend the Convention in Fargo this summer. It is a fun time as we gather and talk about how we support our veterans, hear the Legion Band, enjoy great food, vote on Department leadership, and meet new people. It is so important for leadership in the units to understand how the Department works, and to get to know the Department Officers who can support them throughout the year.

As many of you know, I was elected as your Department Treasurer at the last Department Convention but was unable to attend due to a family wedding. Thank you all for your faith in me. I have had a wonderful year getting a feel for how the Department finances work and have had such positive support from our Finance Board. I look forward to my first official report to you at Convention.

Hope to see you there!

Susan Degner, CPA



Susan Degner



District 2



Happy Spring District 2 Members!

It looks like Spring is finally here and I hope everyone had a good winter!

District 2 held their 2025 Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 26. The meeting was well attended with twenty members from ten units and four guests. Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you to Paul Farup Unit 147 of Park River for assisting with registration and door prizes and Unit 201 of Minto for presenting the Memorial Service ceremony.

Department President, LoAnn Dick, discussed membership and encouraged members to recruit all granddaughters. She reminded units to send in dues as you receive them and do not hold them. She spoke on the upcoming Department Convention and National Convention encouraging members to attend.

Department President-Elect, Candace Berg, congratulated our District on reaching 91.9% membership. Keep it up everyone and let us make the push for membership to 100%. Congratulations to Marquita Novak, membership chairman of Park River Unit 147, for signing up ten new members!

- Discussion on service hours and volunteering with more ideas to help members fill out their impact reports.
- Quilts of Valor – keep track of shopping, driving, sewing time, and amount of funds spent on supplies.
- Poppies- if interested in helping make poppies, contact the Department Office.
- Pop can tabs - Continue to collect and give them to your Post to support Legion Programs.
- Helping homebound - Delivering Meals on Wheels and running errands.
- Care packages to deployed – Include items such as: Chapstick, squirt guns, game balls for outdoor sports, and soft toilet tissue.

Proposed changes in the Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules were discussed. All units should review these documents. If you have concerns or comments, please bring them to the 2025 Department Convention in June. If you cannot attend, please send comments to me so I can bring them to the convention.

Cheryl Evenson, Department AEF Chairman, is seeking donations for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. A collection was taken and \$100 has been sent to the Department Office. Units, please consider sending donations to this fund. It helps our members during emergency situations they may experience.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in June!

Shelley Schuster  
District 2 President

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



Recipients of the ‘Welcome Home’ coins.

District 4



Hello District 4 Members.

I would like to thank everyone who made our Friday, April 4, Spring District meeting a huge success. Thank you to Marlene Boyer, Carrington Unit 25 President, for hosting our event. The Chieftain Conference Center did an amazing job on the buffet supper and meeting rooms. Six of our ten District units were represented!

Our guest speakers were Department President LoAnn Dick, President-Elect Candace Berg, and Vice President Sandra Smith. Sandra spoke about Junior Activities. Her unit has an active Junior program and she gave us some ideas of how one could start a Junior Activity program in our own units.

Gloria Covert, Department National Security Chairman, joined our meeting. Gloria spoke about the “Service Member of the Year” award.

It was brought to our attention that we do not need to bring the large District flag to District meetings if we have 3 tabletop flags. This discussion was brought up at the National Convention several years ago. A decision was made that District 4 would purchase the small American flag, ALA flag, and a POW/MIA flag with stand to use at District meetings.

Susan Degner, Department Treasurer, sent a postcard requesting donations for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The hat was passed and \$180 was collected.

Although it was disappointing that the 2025 Winter Conference was canceled, the 2025 Department Convention is just around the corner. Mark June 27-29 on your calendars and make plans to attend. I encourage all Districts and units to get those Junior members involved. They are our future.

God bless our country.  
Jane Schoonover  
District 4 President

2025-2026 Endorsed Officers

Department President-Elect – Sandra Smith  
Department Secretary – Marcy Schmidt  
Department Treasurer – Susan Degner  
Department Chaplain – Virginia Satrom  
Department Historian – Carrie Heinz

This list is current as of publication. Further nominations may continue to be brought forward.

For full endorsement information see May Unit Mailing or visit [www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/](http://www.ndala.org/2025-department-convention/)

Gackle Area Units Honor Veterans and Members

The American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units of Gackle, Streeter and Fredonia and the American Legion Post of Kulm co-hosted the 106th American Legion Birthday Party / Vietnam War Veterans Day event at the Gackle Legion Hall on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Approximately 100 people attended. A light meal was served, followed by a program.

Gackle Legion Post #250 Commander Jon Metz welcomed everyone to the event and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Entzminger, Gackle Legion member and guest speaker, shared an informative presentation titled “The History of the Gackle American Legion Memorial Hall.” His discourse included names and pictures of the founding members of the Gackle Legion and Auxiliary, and pictures of the building progress during construction of the Legion Hall.

The Saturday event was highlighted by the presentation of North Dakota “Welcome Home” coins to sixteen veterans who served between 1959 and 1975. The coin has a circle of 238 dots representing the known ND lives lost during the Vietnam War. 10 panels of the Vietnam Wall represent the remaining unrecovered ND MIA. The Welcome Home presentations were made by Veterans Service Officers, Jim Hilzendeger (Logan County) and Dave Bratton (Stutsman County). The audience gave a standing ovation to thank these veterans and provide the recognition they did not receive when they first came home.

Another highlight of the event was the presentation of Milestone Service Awards to Post and Unit members including a Legion 60-year and 70-year award and two Auxiliary 60-year awards.

American Legion – Gackle

50 Years: Luxton J. Brooks, Leslie Wirkkunen,  
John Henke, Michelle Pich, Rod Gilmore  
60 Years: Wilbert Denning  
70 Years: Darrell Ova



Legion Birthday Party - Vietnam Veterans Front (l-r): Vietnam Veterans Rodney Zaun, Kulm; Dennis Mueller, Fredonia; James Anderson, Streeter; Elmer Schleicht, Fredonia; Clifford Klundt, Gackle; Mark Dockter, Streeter and Jim Hilzendeger, Logan County Veterans Service Officer of Napoleon.  
Back (l-r): Rodney Brosz, Kulm; Verlye Bjur, Kulm; Harry Krause, Gackle; Russell Gieszler, Gackle; Tim Dewald, Gackle; Loren Schroeder, Gackle; Wendel Janke, Gackle; Jay Posselt, Gackle; Dale Strobel, Kulm; Doug Wittmier, Streeter and David Bratton, Stutsman County Veterans Service Officer of Jamestown.

District 4 Meeting

The American Legion and Auxiliary District 4 Spring Meeting took place in Carrington at the Chieftain on Friday, April 4. After a social hour and delicious meal, all attended a joint meeting for mutual greetings, introductions, and honors.

The dedication of members and their support for our veterans/military and their families was evident throughout the meeting. One especially impressive part of the meeting was when all Vietnam veterans were acknowledged and honored for their service. A beautiful silver coin was given to each member who served during the Vietnam War era.

Afterwards, the members separated into their respective groups to take care of various Legion Family business issues. Before leaving, all were reminded to help themselves to brownies, pumpkins bars, and other delicious treats provided by members of John O’Hara Unit 25 of Carrington. As the evening closed, many members expressed their appreciation to Carrington for hosting the event.

Article submitted by: Judith Keller, Unit 25 Public Relations



Vietnam-era veterans honored during the joint meeting.

American Legion Auxiliary – Gackle

35 Years: Rachael Smaage  
45 Years: Rebekah Wilke  
50 Years: Brenda Mayer  
55 Years: Doreen Mickelson  
60 Years: Nedina Denning

American Legion Auxiliary – Fredonia

60 Years: Isabel Weber

Marella Presler Sebring read the elements of the “Missing Man Table” and Randy Entzminger offered prayers. Sharon Schlittenhard, pianist, provided accompaniment to the group songs “Star Spangled Banner,” “God Bless America” and “Happy Birthday.”

Thank you to all who attended!

Article and photos submitted by: Elaine Ackerman, President Unit 250 Gackle



Brenda Mayer (left), recipient of a 50-year membership award and Elaine Ackerman, President Unit 250 Gackle.



Let's Recognize our Gold Star Families!



Gold Star families are those who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. This includes, but is not limited to, those who died in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Gold Star recognition dates back to WWI when blue stars were displayed in honor of a family member serving in the Armed Forces. A family would display a gold star if the family member was lost in the war.

In an effort to recognize these families, a metal Gold Star Plaque can be made and displayed on the grave site. These plaques, along with the stakes, can be purchased for \$35 each plus standard shipping from Midwest Metal Art of Elgin, North Dakota.

Visit Midwest Metal Art at [www.midwestmetalart.com](http://www.midwestmetalart.com) or call their office at: (701) 870-1703.

Let's make sure Gold Star families receive the recognition they deserve.

Article submitted by: Holly Eslinger, President of Elgin Unit 246

Children & Youth

Greeting's Auxiliary Members,

I hope you are booked in a room and ready to have a great Department Convention in Fargo. We have so much to catch up on since last year.

I am always amazed by the hard work put in by members of so many of our units providing activities for children across our state. I am always proud to see their accomplishments posted on the National Auxiliary Children and Youth Facebook page!

April was "Purple Up! for Military Kids" month and many great ideas have already been shared for next year!

Once again, we will team up with the Legion Children and Youth Program to bring back the door prize-raffle event on Saturday evening of the Department Convention. This event will raise funds for Children and Youth projects such as the comfort teddy bears that are distributed to hospitals and other organizations. These bears can help a child through a difficult situation.

How can you make this raffle a success? Bring an item or two for the raffle table. Be creative! We had such a great selection last year and I'd love to see more of the same happen again this year.

I appreciate all of your hard work and hope to see you all in Fargo in June!

Jill Carstens  
Children and Youth Chairman



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

By the time you read this article, our 2025 Spring District Meetings will be but a memory. I hope your gathering was informative and you had a chance to exchange new ideas and maybe do a little socializing.

I want to thank all District Presidents who passed the hat in my absence in support of the American Legion Auxiliary AEF program (Auxiliary Emergency Fund). North Dakota has far surpassed last year's contributions. Without caring, supportive members like you, this would not have been possible. My hat is off to you!

The amount of grant money that has been awarded nationally by the AEF from October to April is just short of \$400,000. That is a lot of members being helped, and our year is not over yet. Financial and natural disasters can happen at any time to any of us, so do not think your contribution, no matter how small, does not have an effect. We are there for each other. I still have AEF wristbands to sell if anyone is interested. They will be available at the 2025 Department Convention in June. I hope to see you there!

Cheryl Evenson  
AEF Chairman



Education

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Happy Spring Everyone!

I had the honor of reviewing scholarship applications. It was difficult to narrow the selection to three (3) \$500 Department Education Program Scholarship Winners. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarship. The committee selected Zachary James Clark from Hankinson, Jada Rose Bonogofsky from St. Anthony, and Nikki Bristow from Williston.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Auxiliary member Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College instructor, for helping with the scholarship selection process and Department Auxiliary President LoAnn Dick for trusting our selections. Three (3) scholarship packets were sent to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Rylie Lem of Thompson was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship selection; Melissa Kuhnhehn of Upham, was the Spirit of Youth Scholarship selection; and Annabelle Schauer of Grand Forks was the Member Loyalty Scholarship selection. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in May.

For those attending Girls State and Boys State, there is the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current sessions of Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State. Those applications are due no later than the FIRST day of the Boys State or Girls State program, using the online application. Check out <http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung> so the students know what information they need to have when going to Girls/Boys State to apply.

Thank you to all who support our youth, our communities and our veterans through education and outreach. You all truly make a difference.

Thank the educators in your community! Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

Peggy Moran  
Education Chairman



In Memoriam

- District 1**  
Virginia A Dahl, SLM, Valley City  
Doris Krogh, HLM, Harwood  
Carrie L Ruhn, SLM, Fargo
- District 2**  
Shari L Hanna, Lakota  
Lucille E. Ward, Lankin  
Kathleen Patron, HLM, Lankin  
Idamae Ohnstad, Lankin  
Marie Halvorson, Tolna  
Peggy A. Niswonger, Minto  
Nancy Callahan, Forest River
- District 3**  
Arlene Rieder, HLM, Cando  
Alice Carpenter, SLM, Langdon  
Debra Higgins, Bisbee  
Carole Lysne, SLM, Minnewaukan

- District 4**  
Ardys L Salisbury, SLM, New Rockford
- District 5**  
Maral A Johnson, SLM, Bismarck  
Lu L Miller, SLM, Bismarck  
Janet J. Halvorson, Turtle Lake  
Freda Voth, Turtle Lake
- District 6**  
Annette G Dunseth, SLM, Minot  
Josephine P Mogler, SLM, Minot  
Arlene Perry, Minot  
Joanne Barke, SLM, Donnybrook  
Wanda Mulligan, SLM, Makoti  
Mary A Schenfisch, SLM, Minot  
Eva A Goodman, SLM, Upham  
Deb Volk, SLM, Upham  
Carol Magilke, SLM, Fort Rice

- District 7**  
Lavila E. Meyer, Flasher  
Judith A Wieger, Stanton  
Sylvia Friesz, New Leipzig
- District 8**  
Lavon A Getz, HLM, Dickinson  
Judy Clouse, Beach  
Joyce A Westrum, Beach  
Betty Aman, Richardton  
Joyce Erhardt, SLM, Richardton
- District 9**  
Delores Hagge, SLM, Grenora  
Glenda L. Huseeth, Tioga  
Corinne Littlefield, SLM, New Town
- District 10**  
Brenda F Jones, Wahpeton  
Betty M Haberman, HLM, Ellendale  
Carol Edison, Milnor

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.  
Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Life Member; VIM - Life Member/PUFL

104th Annual Department Convention – June 27-29, 2025

Auxiliary Registration Form

Ramada By Wyndham, 3333 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S., Fargo, ND  
(hotel formerly known as Doublewood)

Hotel Direct Phone: 701-235-3333

Deadline to make hotel reservations is May 18, 2025  
Please note: Call the hotel directly – do not call the 800 # Reservation Line



Please use this order form for Auxiliary Registration and to order Convention Banquet tickets and Past Presidents Parley Luncheon tickets.

- The Auxiliary Registration fee is \$15.00 per person. Advanced registration by June 11, 2025, would be appreciated. Units are required to send in one (1) registration even if no one from the unit is attending.
- Advanced Department Convention Banquet Tickets – June 11, 2025, is the deadline for the \$35.00 (advanced price). Orders received after June 11th are \$40.00 per ticket.
- Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - \$25.00 per person. Order advanced PPP tickets by June 11, 2025.. Limited number PPP tickets may be available on-site.

Member Name	Auxiliary Registration \$15.00	Past Presidents Parley Luncheon - \$25.00	Convention Banquet \$35 by June 11 / \$40 after June 11	Total Amount Submitted

Make Check Payable to: American Legion Auxiliary

Mail Payment to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept of ND, 1801 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave N., Room 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047