

December 2025

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Winter conference is soon upon us. We are planning a great conference that we hope many are planning to attend. Please fill up your vehicles and bring as many members with you as possible. National President, Pam Ray, is planning to attend our conference and she will provide inspiration to all in attendance.

My Team of Chairmen has been working diligently on their programs and information sharing. Some will be presenting their programs and answering questions from unit members attending the Winter Conference. **HINT**, bone up on your auxiliary knowledge, because we are holding a Q & A/Trivia Contest during the Auxiliary Workshops on Saturday, January 24. This should be a lot of fun!

Updated information on Auxiliary programs and the 2025-2026 department year can be found on the Department website at www.ndala.org and for even more information visit the National website at www.alaforveterans.org. A lot of work goes into these websites, so please check them frequently for updates.

One of my goals this year is to increase the number of people involved in leadership opportunities for growth, education, refreshing, and to empower more members to become confident leaders for the future of the auxiliary. Sign up for online ALA Academy training courses: they are free, self-paced, and take about an hour to complete per module. Online training can be found at: www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy

Thank you to all who have purchased pins and donated toward my president projects, the *Honor Flight Network for Eastern/Western North Dakota and the NDSU Bison Strides Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies Program for Veterans and their Families*. Plans are in the works to hold a "Chinese" raffle at the Winter Conference. I am asking anyone who wishes to, to bring a 'basket' of something that can be raffled to raise additional funds for my 'president projects.' A few suggestions are home or office decor, personal care items, movie night, kitchen items, etc.

Just a reminder that the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page is active. I encourage members to share your auxiliary activities in your communities. The page is there for everyone to be uplifted and inspired by what others are doing across the state. Share your pictures and few short sentences or an article on this site: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

As I draft this article, North Dakota's 2026 membership stands at 61.02% goal. We are well on our way to our goal of 100%. I am proud of our unit membership chairmen. Keep up the good work. Please do not hold on to dues, send them in as soon as you receive them. Remember, everyone is on the membership team and every moment is a potential membership moment.

The department office recently sent a letter to units requesting your assistance sending packages for deployed troops in Germany. I encourage every unit in North Dakota to make up at least one box and mail it to the troops. Remember, when you make up a package that you include a note card with an address so the soldier who receives it will be able to send you a personal "THANK YOU." You will need to fill out a 'customs form' at your local post office when it is mailed, however, your postmaster should

be able to assist you with that process. Send packages to:

MAJ Garrett Boyer

603rd ASB

PSC 416 BOX 6158

APE AE 09140

Below is a list of items Major Boyer has requested for his troops.

- Prepaid Gift Cards (any amount)
- O'Keeffe's "Working Hands" hand cream
- Chapstick or Lip repair balm
- Gloves
- Black fleece hats (adult size)
- Socks
- Candies such as gummies or other simple treats that will not melt are (always welcome)
- Snack items such as packaged Oreos, chips, crackers
- Personalize cards are always great to receive, especially around the holiday season. Individuals in leadership positions could also benefit from correspondence and encouragement (example: Christmas Greeting Cards)

Customs will not allow any of the following items to be shipped or distributed:

Alcoholic beverages	Cheese or cheese products
Controlled substances	Coffee or coffee products
Tobacco products	Meat or meat products
Cigarettes or Vaping products	Milk or milk products
Medication of any kind, including over the counter items	Over the counter vitamins or nutritional supplements.

I know I have said this before, but I am immensely proud to be a part of the American Legion Family and working to make this Auxiliary year the best possible. Let us continue to humbly pay it forward, as the American Legion Family, supporting each other and continuing to be inspired by our mission to serve our military, veterans, and their families.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Mandan for Winter Conference. Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful **"HOLIDAY SEASON"** as you gather with family and friends.

Candace Berg, Department President (2025-2026)