



American Legion Auxiliary Legislation Chairman's Report

Carma Hanson – Legislation Chairman

Carma Hanson | 2025-2026 Legislative Chairman | randicarma@gra.midco.net | (Cell) 701.739.1591 | Grand Forks, ND

Greetings and Happy New Year!! When we head into the new year during odd numbered years, our legislature is gearing up and starting their biennial legislative session. If that were the case this year, I would have lots to report on for upcoming bills that are being introduced for consideration, many of them impacting veterans. However, non-legislative years are quiet ones as it relates to trips to Bismarck to testify, writing letters to the editor, or attending legislative update sessions held in our communities to update constituents on the work being done in our state's capitol.

That being said, this is a time when we need to keep our "eye on the ball". We need to be aware that in our state at this time of year, districts will be holding their endorsing conventions to select candidates to run in the primary and fall election. This is a great time to promote causes important to our military and veterans so those seeking office know what their constituents want of them. Here are some ways I would encourage you to engage in the process:

- Sign up to attend your Party's district endorsing meetings. These can be held any time after the first of the year and are usually completed by March, allowing the candidates to file with the state by the April 8th deadline. Go to the meetings, meet the candidates, ask them questions and let them know what issues you would like them to support.
- Attend candidate fundraisers and share with them your position on legislative topics impacting veterans, the military or other topics that are important to you and your family.
- Have a conversation with potential or endorsed candidates when you meet them on the streets, at the post office or in church.
- Follow candidates on social media. "LIKE" their page and keep abreast of what topics they hope to promote and support during the legislative session.
- Sign up for your elected officials newsletters that they provide. These offer a glimpse into the projects they are working on and contain contact information so you can reach out to them with ideas, questions, feedback, etc.

While the cold days of January may feel like a time to "curl up and be cozy", don't forget that lots is happening in our communities, state and nation. It is important for us to engage and remain active, even in non-legislative years. Because, fall will come, elections will happen, and the initiatives that we, as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, find important may be impacted by those who win the races in November—the same races that started in the cold months of January through March.



ADVOCATING FOR VETERANS

North Dakota's
Congresswoman
Julie Fedorchak

North Dakota's lone Congresswoman, Julie Fedorchak hosted a constituent forum in November, in honor of Veterans' Day. As part of her discussion that evening, she shared the work she is doing in Washington on behalf of veterans. She also shared resources for veterans needing assistance with any issues and provided the following contact information to reach out to her office.



For veteran's issues
& help:



Contact:
Charlie Costanzo at
202.816.1343



Julie
Fedorchak

NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSWOMAN

Join Carma Hanson, ND ALA Legislative Chairman for an advocacy training session. This session will be held on-line on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026 from 6:30—7:30 p.m.** It will also be recorded for those not able to make it to the live session or for Unit's that would like to share it with your entire team. **To receive the link for the on-line meeting, please email legislation@ndala.org.**

Come, join in the conversation as we learn about how to write letters to the editor, how to reach out to your Senators and Representatives, how to propose legislation or lobby for bills of importance to you. Learning how to engage is a great first step in the process of advocacy; we need all the voices possible to share and promote our military and veteran's needs to those making policy decisions.

I hope to see you there!! (Promotional flyer on the following page to share with your Unit.)

Carma Hanson, ND ALA Department Legislative Chairman

ADVOCACY TRAINING

FOR THE NORTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Join us for a workshop designed to enhance your advocacy skills and build your confidence

What You'll Learn

- ✓ How to write a letter to the editor
- ✓ How to reach out to an elected official
- ✓ The process of how a bill becomes a law
- ✓ How you can make a difference for veterans' issues with your voice and actions

Contact Us



Carma Hanson
701.739.1591



Email: legislation@ndala.org
for the link to the virtual
training



Meeting Details



February 17, 2026



6:30 - 7:30 p.m.



On-line (training will be recorded for those that cannot attend live)