

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
www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

Family Fundraising in Grand Forks

American Legion and Auxiliary Treumann-Webb-Phelps Post and Unit 6 of Grand Forks recently held their annual fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch for the 'Canine Heroes' project. The 'cut-out' of the service dog and boy pictured is a representation of the statue slated to be placed at Veterans Memorial Park in Grand Forks.

Photo and article submitted by: Erica Claus-Numsali, District 2 Vice President



Volunteers pictured (l-r): Erica Claus-Numsali, Auxiliary District 2 Vice President pictured with Grand Forks Post 6 members J P Hricak, 2nd Vice Commander; Tim Gagnon, Son's Department Sergeant at Arms; Ryan Kaste, First Vice Commander; Shawn Gunderson, member; and Gary Spicer, Third Vice Commander. Not pictured: Past Post 6 Commander Robert "Bob" Greene.



Erica Claus-Numsali (left) and Gary Spicer as Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Americanism in the Schools

Ruth Quam, President of Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 of Wahpeton, presented "I Pledge Allegiance" booklets to students at St John's School on January 15, 2026. Ruth is pictured in the back row (left) with School Principal Kaja Kaste, back row (right) and some of the students who received the colorful booklets.



Veterans Day Observed

American Legion Posts and Units, including Aneta, McVile, Pekin, and Tolna, observed Veterans Day in Pekin on November 11, 2025. The American Legion Family made up of veterans, Auxiliary members, and other guests made for a nice evening to celebrate our veterans. A delightful prime rib meal, sponsored by the Tolna and McVile Posts, was prepared and served by the famous Danny Bakken from Cooperstown. Those in attendance enjoyed the dinner, the music, the speaker, and the camaraderie of an evening spent with fellow veterans and family.

Ole Semling Post 135 was the host post this year. Post 135 Commander Judy Sateren opened the evening with table grace and continued after the meal with introductions, the POW/MIA Table service, and introduction of our local violinist, Jordan Ridgeway, for some patriotic music. A lot of hard-working members supply the energy to be productive, while assisting veterans, serving military families, and their communities. This is where the National American Legion slogan of "Be the One" comes in. Picking up the ball and being committed to the great programs of this service-oriented organization is so important.

Recognition of 50-year Legion members were presented at the event. Pekin's Post Commander, Doug Messner, announced David Foering as a 50-year Legion member. McVile's Auxiliary Unit 135 presented

certificates to two 50-year Auxiliary members, sisters Carma Hanson and Dawn Johnson, daughters of Curt and Judy Twete. Carma currently serves as the Department Legislative Chairman and is involved with "Safe Kids Car Seat Checkups" in Grand Forks, while Dawn is employed as an elementary teacher in Devils Lake.

Unit 135 President, Judy Twete, introduced guest speaker Annie Gehardt from Devils Lake. Annie is a Lieutenant Colonel in the North Dakota National Guard and was deployed most recently to serve with Guard troops on the US Southern border as a Provider (66P). Annie shared stories of her work while on the border and her deployment with Joint Forces regular Army and Army Reserve units in Ghana, West Africa. Annie shared ideas about building up morale of the troops while deployed to the border. She is employed as a Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner at the Altru Express Clinic in Devils Lake. We thank Annie for her military service and for her dedication to her patients.

We thank all who made this a successful Veterans Day event. We especially thank all veterans who have given so much.

Article and photos submitted by: Judy Twete, Unit 135 President



Pictured (l-r): Curt Twete, Past Department Commander; Dawn Johnson, 50-year Unit 135 Auxiliary member; Judy Twete, Past NW Division Vice President; and Scott Johnson (Dawn's husband).



Veterans Day guest speaker Annie Gehardt.



Carma Hanson, 50-year Unit 135 Auxiliary member and Department Legislative Chair.

2026 Spring District Meetings

Tentative and subject to change without notice. Also available at www.ndala.org/district-meetings/

Auxiliary Registration is \$4. Auxiliary Registration Funds are to be presented to the appropriate District President.

DISTRICT 1

Saturday, April 11 – Hope, ND – Legion Building
 11:30 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM Meal – (\$10)
 1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 2

Friday, April 10 – Lakota, ND – Till House Saloon
 5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 5:00 PM - Meal (Free)
 6:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 3

Friday, March 20 – Langdon, ND – Legion Building
 6:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM - Meal (\$10)
 7:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 4

Friday, April 17 – Jamestown, ND – All Vets Club
 5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM – Meal (Order from Menu)
 7:00 PM – Meeting

DISTRICT 5

Saturday, March 14 – Hazelton, ND – City Restaurant
 11:30 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM – Meal (\$10)
 1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 6

Saturday, March 28 – Roseglen, ND – Old Scouts Veterans Memorial Building
 11:00 AM - Registration/Social, 12:00 PM – Meal (Free)
 1:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 7

Saturday, April 18 – Bismarck, ND – AMVETS
 5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM – Meal (Order from Menu)
 7:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 8

Saturday, April 18 – Mott, ND – KC Hall
 (Located in Mountain Time Zone)
 11:00 AM (MT) - Registration/ Social, 12:00 PM (MT) – Sloppy Joes/\$5, 1:00 PM (MT) – Meeting

DISTRICT 9

Saturday, March 28 – Wildrose, ND – Country Club
 5:00 PM - Registration/Social, 6:00 PM - Meal (\$10)
 7:00 PM - Meeting

DISTRICT 10

Saturday, April 11 – Milnor, ND – Veterans Hall
 4:00 PM - Registration/Social, 5:00 PM - Meal (Free Will Offering), 6:00 PM - Meeting

Are you signed up for monthly Department e-newsletters?

Send an email to news@ndala.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line. In the body of the email, please list your name, unit number, and position held (if applicable). You will be added to the Constant Contact group list.

Department President

“The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to the community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” (Mitch Albom)

Happy February! We recently finished our Winter Conference, and I am now eagerly looking forward to our upcoming Spring District Meetings across the state. I am anticipating continued involvement with our Auxiliary programs and all the related activities going on this time of year.

Thank you to all who braved the extremely cold temperatures to attend the 2026 Winter Conference in Mandan. It was a valuable opportunity for attendees to connect, learn, and be inspired. As your Department President, I was in awe many times over the weekend because of the enthusiasm, smiles, camaraderie, energy, and the helpfulness towards each other. It was a special weekend for me, as I led my first full conference. I hope those in attendance came away with valuable information, created great memories, and were inspired by meeting others face-to-face. I hope each of you left with a smile and a warm heart. Thank you to everyone who helped with the conference events in any way.

What is coming up next? We have big events and dates to consider as we are getting closer to the deadlines for our scholarships, Year-End Reporting, Poppy Poster Contest, and more. Don't forget to check out the Department website at www.ndala.org for information on Auxiliary programs and updates, and please share the scholarships and contests with junior members, your local schools, and others who may be interested. One of my goals this year is to put our program information in the spotlight and encourage more involvement and more applicants for scholarships and contests. These are opportunities to encourage our youth to join the American Legion Auxiliary and get involved.

I am looking forward to 2026 Spring District Meetings and traveling across the state to see you all. We had close to 140 in attendance at the Fall District Meetings and I hope to see that number double this spring. I am also looking forward to providing some fun and interactive activities at the spring meetings. In the meantime, be thinking about “What is your why?” in joining and remaining an Auxiliary member.

During our Winter Conference, revisions to our governing documents (Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules) were presented and discussed. Those documents are currently posted on the Department website at www.ndala.org/constitution-bylaws/ for your review. The committee took comments until March 1st. When the committee finalizes the comments and other edits, the documents will be mailed to unit presidents for review with unit members. The revisions will be voted on at the

2026 Department Convention in June. Questions may be sent to Chairman Diane Kraemer at constitutionbylaws@ndala.org or by calling her at 701.741.5369.

My family is going to be putting on an American Legion Family Day in York on Saturday, April 25th, from 11AM-4 PM. We will be serving lunch and having activities for all ages. If you plan to attend and/or are interested in helping in any way with the event, please let me know.

Don't forget to sign up for leadership training courses available on the National website at: www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy. Online ALA Academy training courses are free, self-paced, and take about an hour of your time per session.

Thank you to all who have donated toward my president's 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. Additional donations for my projects are always welcomed and can be sent to the Auxiliary Department Office at 1801 23rd Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102-1047.

Please share your “happenings” on our ND American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page. I love seeing the page becoming more active! The page is there for everyone to be uplifted and inspired by what others are doing across the state. Please share a few short sentences or an article, along with pictures to this site: www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary/

Our membership is growing! We are now at 76.97%. We have around twenty units that have reached 100% membership so far. Keep doing what you are doing to help with membership! There are three easy options for paying membership. You can send your payment to (1) your membership unit, (2) the Department Office, or (3) National Headquarters by paying online or by calling (317) 569-4570 where your continued membership becomes effective within minutes. Not sure where to start? Contact the Department Office at (701) 253-5992 or send an email to secretary@ndala.org.

I am so thankful for all of you and feel so blessed to be your Department President. I will try to do all I can to keep this organization going strong into the future. Remember... what you are doing for our veterans and their families DOES matter! Thank you for your continued loyalty and commitment! It is a great feeling being a part of our North Dakota American Legion Family. God bless you all!

Candace Berg



Department Chaplain

As I sat in the sessions of the Winter Conference in Mandan, I looked over the crowd of men and women who served so gallantly in all parts of the world. I still have regrets that I did not offer more in some way when I was younger.

I am sure many of you know the story of Albert Funk Jr. He joined the US Army in 1941 at the age of twenty-five. Albert volunteered as a paratrooper and was stationed in England during much of WWII until D-Day in 1944. That day, the small unit he commanded landed in Normandy, which was forty miles inland. They fought for several days before breaking through enemy lines to rejoin their regiment closer to the coast. He later took part in another operation known as the “Battle of the Bulge.” He led a 3-man patrol against a German battery that were targeting all incoming allied gliders. Later, in Belgium, this same company ran into eighty German soldiers and a German officer put a gun to him. Initially, he pretended to comply, but instead grabbed the German's weapon and began firing at the enemy which gave his company time to successfully capture all enemy weapons. Many German soldiers were killed or wounded that day due to his bravery. Albert received numerous awards for his bravery and today is one of the most decorated paratroopers. Following his tour in the military, Albert worked for the VA in Pittsburgh, PA. He passed away in 1992 at the age of seventy-six and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

I know Albert is just one of many who answered the call and so deservedly was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, indicating extreme sacrifice was involved. He was lucky to survive. I think of those who served in all wars and did not survive. It makes me sad. In the past year, Albert Elliot Jr. and Leon Sand, two men from my high school graduating class from the small town of Clifford, passed away. Both men served in the Vietnam War, so it brings it close to home.

With Memorial Day quickly approaching, allow me to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all who served and continue to serve in one capacity or another. You are truly heroes and we are eternally indebted to you. May God richly bless you.

Virginia Satrom



Department Secretary

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Winter Conference is already history. It was wonderful to see and visit with so many in Mandan even though the cold weather was tough on everyone. After dealing with the extreme cold over the past few weeks, I can tell you I am so ready for Spring.

The American Legion Family is already preparing for 2026 Spring District Meetings. You will find detailed information on District Meetings in a ‘call out’ box in this publication. The American Legion Family will not be holding Joint Legion and Auxiliary District Meetings starting this spring. District Presidents, you will hold your Auxiliary meetings separately, so please contact your District Commander for details on the venue.

I want to remind all unit presidents to prepare your 2026 Year-End Impact Reports now. You will find upcoming

2026 deadlines in a ‘call-out’ box in this publication for American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships, the Poppy Poster Contest, the Americanism Essay Contest, and Year-End Impact Reports.

Thank you, Unit Membership Chairs, you have done an amazing job. North Dakota 2026 membership goals are at 77% as I write this. Armed with the dedication and hard work of every Auxiliary member, we can make 100% well before Department Convention in June. Let's do this!

For God and country,
Marcy Schmidt



Department Treasurer

As of this writing, I do not know if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow or not, but I really do not mind winter. In addition to my duties as your Department Treasurer, I am the Finance Manager for Grafton Drug, and I have my own small bookkeeping and tax practice. So, I really do not have much of a need to be outside and can just admire the pretty snowy landscape from my home office window.

We had a wonderful Winter Conference in Mandan! It is always so fun to see old friends again, plus make new ones. We had a workshop on how to make poppies, and I could not believe how many members were eager to learn and how fast they were at assembling them. If you have never attended a Winter Conference or Department Convention, plan to come and get a first-hand look at what your Department and Units are accomplishing across our great state.

Many of our Units have completed their registration with the North Dakota Secretary of State. If you were new to registration in 2025, your Registered Agent should have

received a letter reminding you to file your annual report. The deadline was February 2nd of this year, since the first was on a Sunday. If you missed the deadline, it is not too late to file. You will just pay a fee of \$15 instead of \$10.

I have also had several Units working on regaining their tax-exempt status with the IRS. It looks daunting at first, but as you go through the form, whole sections are skipped that do not pertain to a 501(c)(19) organization. Local CPA's are available to help you file, or you can go to pay.gov and submit the form yourself. Remember, if you are not tax-exempt, you need to be filing an income tax return for your Unit every year, whether or not you have taxable income.

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!
Susan Degner, CPA



Department NEC

Strategic planning shouldn't be a scary task for units.

The phrase “strategic planning” may seem complicated and something you may not need at the unit level. But strategic planning is important for organizations and businesses — no matter the size — to prioritize objectives and reach long-term goals. It helps every level of our organization focus on the priorities and the steps needed to have success. This will ensure the American Legion Auxiliary continues its long-standing mission of serving veterans, military, and their families long into the future.

Think of strategic planning in the same way you would your personal goals. Have you made a plan for retirement? What steps do you need to take to reach your post-employment objectives? Are you planning a job change? What do you need to do to make that happen? In both scenarios, you need to have a plan and know what action you need to take.

Goals of an ALA unit strategic plan:

- Cultivate a variety of program engagement opportunities.
- Enhance organizational effectiveness for your unit.
- Recruit and retain members.
- Ensure financial stewardship of resources to maximize unit delivery.
- Enhance the use of technology for easier communication.
- Make better use of the training that National has available to better your knowledge on all levels.
- Enhance and foster the family relationship with The American Legion.

When you create a strategic plan, it should allow YOUR unit to have multiple accomplishments in each area. At the end of each year, units should evaluate the plan to make sure progress is being made toward accomplishing the strategies. This allows for adjustments to be made if necessary.

Please try to get a Strategic Plan created in your unit. It does not have to be complicated. Set up future goals that will allow you to flourish better. There is a lot of help available out there, and if you as a unit have some great ideas, be sure and share them with others.

Until next time,
Judy Twete



Department Historian

Hello everyone. We had a great Winter Conference. Many memories were made. I took many pictures, but I would love more pictures for the Department President's scrapbook. If you had a chance to take photos and capture different memories from different perspectives, I would love to share those pictures as well. Please send them my way. I would also appreciate any pictures and articles you may already have shared publicly in your local newspaper and a copy of your unit's 2025-2026 history. I can be contacted at historian@ndala.org.



Carrie Heinz

District 3

Hello everyone and welcome to what is hopefully the start of spring! We are still working on our dues for the year. We have several units that have reached 100% membership, and I am hoping to see more soon!



March is community service month! Has your unit been reaching out to the community and working hand-in-hand with each other? What about a pancake breakfast that needs volunteers or putting one together for the community?

American Legion Family Day is coming up on April 25. Is your unit planning a celebration? American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 268 of York are planning to celebrate the American Legion Family Day on April 25. If you are free and in the area, please join everyone that will be at York!

Here is to warm weather and melting snow for everyone! If I do not see you before, I hope to see all of you at the 2026 Department Convention in Fargo on June 26-28!

For God and country,
Andrea Neshem
District 3 President



Poppies

The Poppy Committee has mailed fifty-four orders that include 13,042 small and 478 large poppies. Several units have asked for kits to assemble their own poppies as well. Thirty-one orders have not yet been filled, and we are waiting for more assembled poppies to arrive after our poppy assembler returns from vacation.



Carol Wolf and Cheryl Gustafson
Poppy Co-Chairmen

Legislation

Legislative advocacy is often looked at as a daunting task, one that frightens many as they do not know how to get started in making their voice heard. To some, making their voice heard and "making the ask" is easy; for others, it can be something they do not even know how to begin.



I challenge each of you to recognize that your voice matters. Let me give an example. Imagine someone stepping up to the front of the room or onto a stage, all alone and without a microphone. In a large space, or even a smaller space, but with competing noises, the voice may be hard to detect or go unnoticed altogether. Now imagine that others come and "join the chorus." The stage is filled, the voices become louder and the sound carries, making what is being sung, shared, preached, or told audible and noticed.

When voices come together around legislative advocacy, it is as if our message – our ask – is amplified. Our policy makers, whether on the city, state or federal level, begin to hear the same things repeatedly, and it resonates that the ask is real and important to those they serve.

Legislative advocacy can take many shapes or forms, and while this year is not a legislative year in North Dakota, there are still many things that our officers, members and units can be doing in the legislative arena. I hosted a virtual Legislative Advocacy Training on February 17. The session was recorded so you can watch either individually or as a group. Email me at legislation@ndala.org for the video link. Some of the things covered included:

- 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 veteran's issues with your voice and actions

I hope you will join me and learn how you can become part of our American Legion Auxiliary "legislative chorus." While it may seem easier to take a backstage, we all need to do our part, make the chorus louder, the ask clearer and the work lighter for everyone. Our elected officials and those running for office in upcoming elections this fall are counting on the voice of those who know and understand veteran's and military issues. Come, join the stage!

Carma Hanson
Legislative Chairman

2026-2027 Endorsed Officers

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

Membership

Hello Auxiliary Members. As your Department Membership Co-Chairman, I would like to thank you for paying your 2026 dues. As I write this article, the Unit Goals indicate we are currently at nearly 77%, with over 17 units already achieving 100% or greater membership goals. Even with this much success, we still have a way to go to be a 100% Department. I would love to see the last 23% of members continue to honor our veterans by paying your dues.



The current dues year began on January 1 and if you have not yet paid your 2026 dues you are not a member until your dues are paid. National Headquarters sent out second reminders during the first week of February. So, open that reminder and send your dues to your unit membership chairman.

Remember, many Auxiliary members joined your units several years ago. I encourage units to remember to honor those long-time members for their continuous years of membership whether 25, 30, 40, or 50 or more years. Certificates and pins can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.

As your President-Elect, I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Spring District Meetings. It would be great to see about 75% of our units represented at District Meetings. The Legion is at about that goal so perhaps asking your post members to share rides would be a wonderful way to come and meet everyone and to share your views. We cannot make it to all the units, so this is a wonderful way to hear from all of you.

Sandy Smith,
President-Elect and Membership Co-Chairman

VA & R

There is always something going on at the VA Medical Center in Fargo. In August, there were two winners at the North Dakota Creative Arts Festival who will advance to the 2026 National Creative Arts Festival competition in South Carolina on September 17.



The "Giving Tree" was prominently located in the hospital's lobby this Christmas season and the project was immensely successful, surpassing other years with a total of over \$20,000 in commonly requested emergent needs items for veterans.

Thank you to the 2026 Gift Shop Committee for their assistance in making this the most successful holiday giving season to date. On December 3, 2025, we served fifty-seven veteran/patients at this year's Gift Shop. Holiday meals were served at the VAMC-Fargo, North Dakota Veterans Home-Lisbon, and Fargo's VA Veterans Community Resource & Referral Center (CRRC). Activities for the year at the Fargo VAMC include: National Salute to Veterans Week from February 9-15, Patient Casino Night on March 24, Recognition Banquet on May 7 at the West Fargo VFW, and Vet Fest set for June 17 from 3-7PM.

The VA has a new program/project some might be interested in, or you might know someone who is. Please pass this info along to them. "Project Healing Waters" is a non-profit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military and veterans through fly fishing, rod building, and fly tying. Founded in 2005, the organization provides free, long-term therapeutic programs in 183 nationwide locations to foster recovery, camaraderie, and mental wellness. Classes are open to all VA-enrolled veterans twice a month. Recently, "Sisters on the Rise," a female-only course is also being offered. To learn more about "Project Healing Waters," contact the VA CDCE office at (701) 239-3700, extension 3396.

Carol Wolf
VA&R Chairman

Americanism

It is hard to believe it is already February! It was great to visit with so many of you at the 2026 Winter Conference. Along with this article, I have included a call-out box that highlights ways units can promote Americanism during 2026, America's 250th birthday.



One item highlights ways to promote Americanism in honor of America's 250th birthday and the other item is a list of books that units and individual members might consider donating to their local schools or libraries. I hope this information is helpful as you promote Americanism in your communities and schools.

I encourage all units to let me know what you are doing to promote Americanism so I can share that information when I attend the April Northwestern Division Zoom call.

This year's theme for the Americanism Essay Contest is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." You can find more information regarding the essay requirements and the 2026 cover sheet on the Department's website at: www.ndala.org/americanism/ under Programs/Americanism. Essays are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2026, for judging. Unit winners should be mailed or emailed to me no later than March 15, 2026.

Arliss Koski
Americanism Chairman

***** AMERICANISM ***** 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IDEAS

For Valentine's Day or Memorial Day: Work with your local school district, home school group(s), Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc and sponsor a "Valentine's for Veterans" or "Heart Campaign" where students write thank you notes to Veteran's on red/white/blue hearts. These can be hung on doors, refrigerators, etc.

Contribute 250 items to a community program serving Veterans- 250 pairs of socks, underwear, t-shirts, flag pins, snacks, puzzle books, etc.

Make Poppy Greeting cards using Thumbprints. Ideas can be found by searching Pinterest. Have students or local clubs (Homemakers, church groups, etc.) use those to write thank you notes to Veterans.

Along with the Americanism Essay contest sponsor a local poetry or poster contest highlighting the 250th birthday of the United States. Hang up posters in local businesses to celebrate America's birthday. (Make sure identifying information is not visible on posters.)

Consider purchasing items from Emblem to distribute to students to promote Americanism-coloring books, flags, etc. or use ideas from the Star Spangled Kit highlighted on the North Dakota ALA website. Attached is a list of books that your Unit may want to consider purchasing for your local schools, daycares or community libraries.

***** AMERICANISM ***** BOOK LIST

- "H Is for Honor" by Devin Scillian
- "You're the Real Hero" by Melvina A. Smith
- "As Much as the Stars" by Tricia Stone Schumacher
- "America's White Table" by Margot Theis Raven
- "The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans" by Barbara E. Walsh
- "Hero Mom" by Melinda Hardin
- "Hero Dad" by Melinda Hardin
- "Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" by Jeff Gottsfeld
- "Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops" by Dr. Jill Biden
- "D-Day: A Day That Changed America: They Fought to Free Europe from Hitler's Tyranny" by Shelley Tanaka
- "The Wall: A Moving Picture Book About the Vietnam War and Honoring Grandparents on Memorial Day for Kids" by Eve Bunting
- "We Pulled Together-- and Won!"
- "Liberation of Kuwait Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm" by the State of Kuwait

Community Involvement in Thompson



American Legion Jorgenson Post and Unit 181 of Thompson sponsored the 'Breakfast with Santa' event on December 14, 2025. Approximately 150 children and adults attended this annual event.



2026 is America's 250th Birthday! Let's celebrate America and the Auxiliary's Poppy Program at the 2026 Department Convention. Sandra Petermann, Northwestern Division Poppy Chair, Carol Wolf, Department Poppy Co-Chairman and Cheryl Gustafson, Department Poppy Co-Chairman, invite members of the American Legion Family to enter the "Art Exhibit" at this year's Department Convention. The only caveat is: the art piece must be original, the theme is "America's 250th Birthday" and you must incorporate poppies in your work. Enter a colorful poster, painting, quilt, a garment or hat, or other art piece. The more patriotic, the better. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

2026 Deadline Reminders

Americanism Essay Contest
Due March 15
www.ndala.org/americanism/

Scholarships
Due April 1
www.ndala.org/education/
or www.ndala.org/ppp/

Member Impact Report
Due April 1
www.ndala.org/reporting/

Unit Presidents Impact Report
Due April 15

District President and Chairmen Impact Reports
Due May 1

Unit Member of the Year
Due May 1
www.ndala.org/leadership/

Poppy Poster Contest
Due May 15
www.ndala.org/poppies-2/

Salute to Service Members
Due June 1
www.ndala.org/nationalsecurity/

In Memoriam

District 1

Inez R McIlwain, Fargo
Yvonne L Moore, PUFL, Fargo
Sheila K Lura, Valley City

District 2

June Bjornson, Cavalier
Bonnie L Lewis, Cavalier
Angie R Carriere, Grafton
Bernadette Greenagel, Grafton
Dorothy Koester, Grafton
Maxine E Larson, Grafton
Maxine E Wilkes, Grafton
Arlene J Olsen, PUFL, Park River
Debbie Hanson, Lankin
Carol Jallo, HLM, Lankin

District 3

Mary J Eidsness, Brocket
Gladys K Freund, PUFL, Cando

District 4

Jeanette B Redlin, Jamestown
Debbie Kelly, HLM, Carrington
Marla Wesen, McClusky
Delores Sam, Medina

District 5

Mary Beth Bertsch, Bismarck
Lorraine Erickson, Bismarck
Bonita M Maier, Bismarck
Irene Roth, PUFL, Bismarck
Marcella Ulrich, Ashley
Eleanor Magrum, Hazelton
Joan E Wagner, Hazelton

District 6

Sherry Lalum, Portal
Jacqueline R Klebe, Willow City
Carol Birkeland, Donnybrook
Shirley Zieman, HLM, Makoti
Erna R Garnant, PUFL, Upham
Jane Krueger, PUFL, Butte

District 7

Jean Barth, Hebron

District 8

Dorothy Lien, PUFL, New England
Eugenia I Dietz, PUFL, Belfield

District 9

Betty Johner, Powers Lake
Mary L Quarne, Grenora
Elizabeth Sorenson, Grenora
Bernice M Feiring, Tioga
Ara Hartsoch, Tioga
Anna C Rubia, Little Shell

District 10

Norma L Honl, PUFL, Lidgerwood

We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information.

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

**REMEMBER
OUR
VETERANS**



Follow us on our NEW Facebook page!
See what the Department of ND is doing to help veterans.
Search:

www.facebook.com/ndamericanlegionauxiliary