

Department of North Dakota

Education Chairman – Lynn Tomlinson

My hat goes off to our previous Chair, Peggy Moran! Her organization and thoroughness gave me a solid foundation for implementing this program.

Department Activities

As I took on this role in late June my first assignment was to have the Education Program ready for publication in Department's September mailing to Units before National Convention. I explored the information on alaforveterans.org to implement a partial plan. My first mailing included handouts on National ALA's programs Ten for Education, American Education Week, Veterans in the Classroom and a project of my own asking individual members and Units to purchase used books for a variety of ages for free distribution in their local area.

Many Units repeat projects year after year thinking there's nothing new so why report and it seems like you're tooting your horn. Most members are happy to do the work and remain in the background – "Service, not Self". I made Education Program reporting forms with what I hoped were attention getting designs hoping to increase reporting. Unfortunately, I had only two returned.

After the Scholarship Webinar, I wrote a Letter to the Editor of my local newspaper highlighting National ALA and Department scholarships. A copy was included in Department's December Unit mailing and Department's newspaper "The Message". Thanks to the Department office, all North Dakota high schools and Auxiliary Units received letters promoting the scholarships. This year National Guard Units and college student aid offices were added hoping to increase Member Loyalty and Non-Traditional applicants. The North Dakota Home School Association website received the information.

In December's mailing, Units were given suggestions gleaned from the Education Zoom meeting such as supporting ALA's Americanism Essay, TAL's Oratorical Program and Girls/Boys States.

At Winter Conference, I used the Unit reports that I received to highlight Education Programs on my display board. I also developed a handout with information on National's Unit Education Program Award. I received one besides my own Unit.

For a final promotion of the Education Program, sent in the February monthly mailing, I asked Unit Chairmen to resolve to take on one more activity possibly Purple Up Day or Teacher Appreciation Day.

June's Education "Message" article lists the scholarship selectees.

All information is also on Department's website, ndala.org. where this year-end report will be posted.

Units Activities

Jamestown, Ernest D Robertson Unit 14 was the first to report \$148 of items donated for 10 for Education.

Gackle, Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 gave \$1062 for books for individual elementary students, \$100 for school supplies

McVile, Ole Semling Unit 135 provided 4 backpacks with specific classroom supplies, \$220; unit member and teacher, Haley Klefstad, had first through sixth grade students make Valentine's for about 100 Veterans - \$ priceless; Purple Up Day students were recognized with cards and purple heart shaped suckers

Rolla, Fred C Wagner Unit 235 gave \$250 for school supplies at two schools; thank-you notes with a packet of cocoa to each staff member of Rolla School for American Education Week @ \$30; ice cream sundaes for teachers at two schools for Teacher Appreciation Day @ \$120; one member bought \$5 of used books/week to give away at a thrift store @ \$240; \$500 to the school's playground fund

Park River, Paul Farup Unit 147 coordinated with nine veterans from Vietnam to current retirement to visit first grade classes who read to the veterans and gave them thank-you notes; notes were sent to the local nursing home veterans; Post members discussed Flag Etiquette and showed a video to the sixth graders who asked the veterans about their service; sixth grade students were given "Let's Be Right About Flag Etiquette"; first graders were given "Pledge of Allegiance" comic books; 71 students and \$63.25

Carrington, John Raymond O'Hara Unit 25 coordinated with eighteen CCD high school students from the local Catholic Church to make twenty-five emergency food bags and ten clothing bags for homeless and at-risk veterans for Christmas; students wrote a personal message to the veteran receiving the bag; @\$550 and 30+ hours

Lidgerwood, Bullis Unit 84 provided caramel rolls for all staff (51) at the local school thanking them during American Education Week; \$82

Grand Forks, Treumann-Webb-Phelps Unit 6 donated \$79 in school supplies to three schools; participated with their Post and SAL in two Veterans in the Classroom presentations; sponsored the selection of two All-American Students at two local high schools who are presented a plaque, \$100 and their name added to a Perpetual Plaque at each school

Belfield, William C Blair Unit 144 members assisted by junior members visited four schools to talk about the poppy and Memorial Day distributing over 600 poppies; treated three school staffs

to meat, cheese and cracker trays; gave gift cards for coffee to the bus drivers; combined flag folding with Veterans in the Classroom; individually donated to Give 10 for Education; supported Belfield School librarian buying books for students during her Book Fair with one member assisting during the Fair; \$1320 and 37 hours

Minto, Minto Unit 201 presented mints as a thank you to teachers for their commitment to education; gave \$50 to each K-5 teacher to be used as needed for their classroom; donated to Department's scholarship fund; \$350

Cavalier, Laverne J Thompson Unit 11 members attended Cavalier School's FBLA presentation on smartphone usage

Bowbells, Carl Oftedahl Unit 127 gave every teacher boxes of tissue and cleaning wipes; put candy in the lounge for Halloween; presented apples and candy bars to all staff for Education Week

Scranton, Harry W Lindberg Unit 151 members spoke to students about veterans who served during recognition of the NW Division Americanism Essay Contest winner

Washburn, Victor B Wallin Unit 12 had high school band and elementary students participate in their Memorial Day program; students made Valentine's Day cards for veterans; the school speech team entertained at their Legion Birthday event; \$150 was given to the school's lunch/milk program

Garrison, Hugh P Minehan Unit 49 had a member mentor a student; the same member served a pre-Thanksgiving meal at an after-school program for 60 students

Napoleon, Barry Hoff Unit 72 talked with students about veterans and Purple Up Day along with a Veteran in the Classroom; participated in 10 for Education and National Education week; sponsored an "adopted" child.

Turtle Lake, Lawrence Stephenson Unit 133 assisted with a Bike Fest safety program and ride to a local lake for 30 youth; 69 hours, \$100

Richardton, Theodore R Arch Unit 180 reported donating a fruit and veggie tray to the local school for Education Week; promoted ALA's scholarship programs

Scholarships

National Scholarships

9 applications were received – 2 Spirit of Youth; 1 Children of Warriors; 2 Member Loyalty; 4 Non-Traditional

Department Scholarships

37 applicants for 3 Education scholarships awarded (\$1,500)

23 applicants for 4 Nursing scholarships awarded (\$2,500)

Units donated \$1706 to the Education scholarships and \$1357 to the Nursing Scholarships through a solicitation on the Mandatory Payments form.

When a National applicant is selected, an article is written for “The Message”. For all recipients, their local school is notified as well as their hometown newspaper.

Unit Scholarships

Edinburg Unit 156 – 2 scholarships; \$500

Grand Forks Unit 6 – 6 scholarships totaling \$1215

Park River Unit 147 – 2 scholarships, \$2000

Rolla Unit 235 gave each graduating Junior member \$15/year of membership upon graduation – 3 members, \$875