AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

CANDACE BERG, DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

2025-2026 PROGRAM REPORTS

North Dakota Americanism Report
Submitted by Arliss Koski, Department Americanism Chair

In North Dakota, a total of 18 essays were received and judged for the Americanism Essay competition. This years theme was "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans that Fought for Our Freedom". Winners of each division were notified by Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary. Winning essays for each division were forwarded to the Northwest Region for further judging.

Quarterly National Americanism zoom meetings were held. Ideas were shared at the Winter Conference on ways to promote Americanism within our communities. This year emphasis was on promoting America's 250th Birthday.

Reports from various Units from North Dakota included the following information:

Treumann-Webb-Phelps, Unit #6, Grand Forks

We received one entry for American Essay Contest. We had no entrants for the Oratorical contest. We had two programs at two schools for flag care and proper respect for the flag. We participated in Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Flag Day Programs. We encouraged our members to support the flag amendment program. We just started the shooting program so have not been involved yet. We work the gate at all American Legion baseball games and three tournaments. One member presents a plaque and a check for $100 to a senior member on the team and a name plate for the perpetual plaque. We have done this for 26 years. We wear Auxiliary branded clothes, hats, and emblems with ALA when we attend any functions.

Lavern J. Thompson Unit #11, Cavalier, ND

Auxiliary members participated in the American Legion's Memorial Day activities on May 26, 2025. ALA members provided a wreath that was tossed into the river by Legion members in a touching ceremony. After Legion members visited local cemeteries, they returned to the Legion for

lunch. Denise Papenfuss set up and delivered an explanation of the POW/MIA table. During the reading of the roll call of deceased veterans, family and friends were invited to pick up a poppy and place it in a wreath prepared by Jean Elke and Corene Vaughn. ALA President Furstenau maintains the roll call of deceased veterans. The Legion Commander and his wife provided barbecues, while ALA members provided potluck dishes, along with the setup and cleanup after the dinner.

Auxiliary members provided support and assistance to Future Business Leaders of America who organized Cavalier School's Veterans Day program for November 5, 2025. ALA members set up a POW/MIA table in the lunchroom at the school and explained the meaning and significance of the table elements as part of the Veterans Day program. The program ended with a video offering thank you's from students to veterans and a parade of veterans through the hallways of the school as students and faculty lined the hallways and cheered.

Ms. Tunks, 4th and 5th Grade Language Arts instructor at Cavalier Public School, submitted 38 essays written by her students for the 2026 Americanism Essay Contest with the essay title, "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." Cavalier High School English teacher, Michele Moquist, submitted nine essays written by high school students. ALA officers judged the essays and submitted the top five essays in each category to the rest of the members at the March meeting. Members evaluated the essays to determine the top three in each category. The top essays were submitted to Arliss Koski, Department Americanism Chairman. Certificates and cash awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners at the school where both essay and poster winners are recognized. All students who participated will receive a poppy. Winners may be invited to read their essays at the Memorial Day program scheduled for May 25.

VICTOR B. WALLIN UNIT #12, WASHBURN

Poppies were handed out and donated money collected Memorial weekend, and also at the Memorial Day Program. A meal was served after

the Memorial Day Program. The program is attended by about 350 people where the local high school band performs as well as elementary students singing patriotic songs and a guest speaker. Auxiliary members participate by carrying flags and leading the Pledge of Allegiance in the program. The Legion provided food, and the Auxiliary serves coffee, lemonade and sets out food, silverware, napkins, and plates for lunch. We also clean-up afterwards. Members of the Auxiliary also assist Legion members in putting out/picking up small flags and white crosses on veterans' graves at three cemeteries for Memorial weekend. We also sponsored the Poppy Poster Contest and gave out $413 in cash prizes/ candy bars to participants. When promoting the poppy poster contest, students received poppy bookmarks or coloring books. The posters were displayed at the Memorial Day meal as well as at local businesses and the McLean County Museum. We ordered 500 poppies for $135 and took in donations of $933 to use for special veterans' programs. The Auxiliary contacted the local elementary school and several classes made Valentines that the Auxiliary mailed to the Veterans' Home at Lisbon, ND, as well as a variety of candy for treats for the veterans and employees, and crossword puzzles and word find books for the veterans.

HUGH P. MINEHAN UNIT #49, Garrison

We helped set up the auditorium for the program. A member carried the Auxiliary flag in. Another member read the recent deceased veterans. We baked and served goodies for the social after the program. After the program we put away the table and chairs and cleaned the kitchen. A member went to the nursing home to celebrate with the veterans there. Veterans served: 100+ Hours: 38 Cost: $60.00

We held the program at Garrison High School gym to include the kids on November 10th. The band played the National Anthem and the choir sang. A member carried the flag in. Another member was emcee. On Nov. 11th we went to the nursing home to celebrate with the vets there, we handed out coins and baked goods. Vets served: 50+ Hours 39 Cost: $35.00

Barry Hoof Unit #72, Napoleon

We talked with the students at school about the poppies and veterans. Also reminded the students about April being the month of the military child and April 15th is "Purple UP Day".

For Memorial Day, we had a service by the cemetery. Then served a potluck lunch.

In August, our Unit participated in the Community Day parade by handing out lots of flags and other red, while and blue items.

We had a Veterans Day Program at school for all grades and also visitors. We had a service member to talk to the students about his experiences. For our Veterans Day Speaker, we made a monetary donation to the Fargo VA for Homeless Veterans.

Carl Oftedahl, Unit #127, Bowbells

In May, a program was held at the Memorial Hall with a potluck after the program and everyone enjoyed the social during the meal. Auxiliary members decorated the hall and set it up for chairs and tables. In June, an auxiliary member puts up the Flags on main street for Flag Day. An Article was written for the local paper about celebrating Flag Day. Cookies we handed out at the local senior center. In July, flags were put up on main street for the Fourth. They are put up for about five days to honor the Fourth. Two Legion/Auxiliary families held a picnic and fireworks for 4 Veterans. One Legion family flies all the Flags of the service in the yard for a week, in honor of the service. They are spotlighted to be able to fly them at night.

Lawrence Stephenson Unit #133, Turtle Lake

The Auxiliary members for the Taste of Turtle Lake. We served approximately 200 people. Program Worked: Community Services, Americanism Volunteer Hours: 8 Costs: $10.00 May 2025 Memorial Day remembrances were planned and held.

The Auxiliary participated in the Memorial Day services held in Turtle Lake for the community. After the program, a luncheon was held where we served about 150. Program Worked: Community Services, Americanism, Education, and VA&R Volunteer Hours: 580 Veterans Served 50 Costs: $.00

Unit #151 Scranton, ND

We are proud to announce that Natalia Martinez was a winner of the 2025 Americanism Essay Contest at the Northwest Division. Terry Freymiller and members of Unit 151 presented a certificate, gift cards, and a journal to Natalia at Bowman High School with her instructors and many of her peers in attendance.

Minto, Unit #201

Legion Steak fry- 10 pans of bars were donated by Auxiliary members and members also helped with cleaning tables after the meal.

Poppy color books were distributed to twenty-one fourth grade students.

Memorial Day- Boys & Girls Scouts, along with an auxiliary member, helped place flags on the graves of veterans buried in the local cemeteries for a total of 4 hours. Memorial program was held at the Minto Community Center. The raising of the flag was done by the Post Commander with the assistance of the Boys & Girl Scouts. Memorial service began with an opening prayer led by Rev. Dill. Thirty-five veterans were in attendance. Unit 201 Auxiliary served brunch to fifty-five people. Everyone was encouraged to place a large poppy on veteran's headstones when they visited the cemeteries. Seven members took 2 hours to set up and 2 hours to clean up.

July 4th- 3 members took part in the Park River parade. One member rode with the dignitaries as the Dept Vice President. Two had a float and threw candy, frozen treats, and rubber ducks. $100 for the treats, total of 1-2 hours for the parade.

Thursday Night Cookout- Legions night to cook. 5 Auxiliary members helped serve food and donated two salads. Over one hundred people were served.

Many members fly the American Flag on patriotic holidays.

Mini Museum- 8 members helped with the flag ceremony.

One member attended homecoming for the Department Commander and Department President. Donations were made to the Department Presidents projects $120.

Veteran's Day- Program included an opening prayer and pledge. Two girls attended Girl State and gave a report. Both girls enjoyed their time at Girls State. Meal was served to sixty-five people, thirty-five being veterans. The patriotic music entertainment was provided by Misti Koop. 2 Girls Scouts and four auxiliary members helped with setting up and cleaning up for 2hrs.

Donations were made to the National Guard Foundation and Salvation Army. $100 each.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

2026 Year-End Report

Devin Anderson, Department (AEF) Chairman

[redacted]

Although I am relatively new to the Auxiliary, I have truly enjoyed serving in this chairmanship. It is likely one of the easiest programs to raise funds for because our Auxiliary members understand that, at any moment, a calamity can bring hardship to families and communities.

Our members are exceptionally generous in supporting this program, and through donations from North Dakota Units alone, we were able to raise $3,978.76 for this cause. This is a point of pride for our Units and members alike.

Devin Anderson, Department AEF Chairman

Department Of North Dakota Children and Youth

Jill Carstens

Box 2405

Watford City, ND 58854

[redacted]

*** Unit 12 -Washburn ND**

Donated $150 to the Washburn school lunch program. Sponsored 2 young ladies to Girls State. Area students made Valentines for the Veterans in Lisbon. Donations were also made to Special Olympics, Children and Youth and the Teen Alternative Group for their post prom party.

*** Unit 151- Scranton ND**

Donated $200 to each cause: AHOY-after prom party, Boys/Girls State, Home on the Range and the giving tree to help needy families. Helping young people is very important. They are our future.

*** Unit 127-Bowbells ND**

Donations were given to the after-prom party and to the city to plant flowers around town. This unit collected Kleenex boxes and cleaning wipes to give to the teachers for their classrooms. The local 4th graders made Valentines for the Veterans.

*** Unit 6-Grand Forks ND**

This unit encouraged teachers to get the kids entered in the Americanism Essay contest. Military Veteran's children were encouraged to apply for all scholarships that are available. Donations were given to support Children's Miracle Network and to Angel Tree for children of deployed parents. This unit also helps with rides to enable these children to get to doctor's appointments.

*** Unit 201- Minto ND**

This unit donated $1,000 TO THE Allen Sitzer Scholarship, $500 to a youth needing help with baseball fees for travel, $500 to the Julie Kennedy Scholarship and gave $100 to the after-prom party. Two members made 9 lovey blankets for the U of M Cranial Facial Department for new babies born with cleft lip and palates. $100 for the FCCLA for their National Convention. This unit assembled 25 busy bags to donate to the VA. Poppy coloring books were presented to local 4th graders. Puppies and bears were given to the Minto Quick Response team. These stuffed animals are to comfort children during stressful situations.

*** Unit 235- Rolla ND**

An auxiliary member distributed 10 comfort stuffed animals for the Children and Youth program. A few of the junior members took part in the 6 cemetery ceremonies. Educational scholarships were given to 2 junior members. An auxiliary member donates $5 to books weekly. Three juniors were also given money for educational benefits. For National Education Week, $150 was given to Mt. Pleasant school in Rolla for school supplies. Rolla had a fundraiser for a junior member who is traveling to Europe for a choir program. Comfort Stuffed animals were distributed where needed. A $100 donation was given to International Music Camp and $500 was donated to the Rolla school playground. A Good Deed award was presented as a nomination for Maggie Neameyer for her role in organizing and collecting pop tabs for recycling. Her plans are to donate the money to the auxiliary through her "Pull for a Purpose" project. Good luck, Maggie!

*** Unit 135-McVille ND**

Close to 65 puppies and bears were presented to the Nelson County Health System and the McVille Ambulance to comfort children. A generous donation was presented to the Department of Children and Youth Fund. After Treats were handed out after local students helped create cards for Veterans-on-Veterans Day, Christmas and Valentines Day. The cards were sent to Fargo VAMC, Lisbon and the local health care system. This unit pays for the registration for local girls attending Girls State. The auxiliary also promoted Purple Up for Military Children by passing out suckers to elementary through high school students that have a serving military parent.

*** Unit 49- Garrison ND**

Poppy coloring books were brought to elementary school. An auxiliary member was mentoring a young woman for 6 weeks. A pre-Thanksgiving meal was served to 60 kids.

*** Unit 72-Napoleon Nd**

Members spoke at the local school about Poppy Day and April being the Month of the Military Child. Greetings were sent to the units Adopt-a-child. On Poppy Day, their Miss Poppy helped distribute poppies around town. Donations were given to the local school in support of Give 10 to Education program. Poppy coloring sheets were given to all grades!

*** Unit 133- Turtle Lake ND**

This auxiliary volunteered with many community activities such as Turtle Days, Halloween party, Children's Christmas store and Bike Fest. Members also visited with junior girls about attending Girls State.

*** Unit 11-Cavalier ND**

Auxiliary members visited Cavalier High School to speak with junior girls about attending Girls State. Children and Youth puppies and bears were delivered to the Pembina Hospital in Cavalier, the police station and the Cavalier Ambulance for children in need of comfort.

*** Unit 147-Park River ND**

This unit donated to the after-prom party. Two local students were each presented with $250 educational scholarships.

*** Unit 180-Richardton ND**

This unit sponsored a burger night with the proceeds going to help send local students to the International Music Camp. Donations were made to Camp Recreation, RTHS after prom party, R-T Elementary PAWS organization for santa bags, as well as, a

donation to the International Music Camp. A poppy coloring contest was also held at the elementary school with prizes given out for each grade winner.

*** Unit 144-Belfield ND**

This unit donated milk for snack break for 4 schools in a 40-mile area for 8 days!! Posters were designed and letters were sent out to explain their donation. In return, members were invited to the schools during snack break. Puppies and bears were distributed to local ambulance and police stations. These stuffed animals are for children in crisis. Members also supported Angel Trees of their choice. One member also oversees the local church puppet show. The teens also travel to local groups and present a biblical story.

*** Unit 36-Oakes ND**

This unit handed out candy to kids at their Halloween parade. In December , the unit had their 4th annual kids Christmas Carnival. Around 150 children attended to play games and win prizes.

*** Unit 29-Watford City ND**

This unit helps over a dozen local students attend the International Music Camp. Comfort puppies and bears have been delivered to the local hospital. Local 2nd graders took a field trip to the legion post to learn about flag folding. Treats were shared and a flag pin was given to all kids in attendance. All 1st graders were given a poppy and poppy coloring book in May. The units Miss Poppy handed out poppies and accepted donations at the rodeo on Poppy Day. Donations were also made to the local Eagles club for their Christmas party to help children in need. Various donations were given to local children's sports, as well.

2026 CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT

JILL CARSTENS, CHAIRMAN





ROLLA UNIT 235 COLLECTS POP-TOPS FOR VETERANS PROGRAMS



Cavalier Legion Donates To Children and Youth Program

Pictured are members of the local American Legion and Pembina County Memorial Hospital staff with stuffed bears and puppies, provided to PCMH by the North Dakota American Legion family through donations to the Children and Youth program. They were delivered by representatives from the local Lavern J. Thompson American Legion a Auxiliary.

Pictured from left: Joe Cook, Legion Commander; Re Sapa; Dawn Falk, PCMH DON; Carol Dietrich, Patty Bec and Christina Cook.

AMERICAN LEGION LAVERN J. THOMPSON POST AND UNIT 11 CAVALIER DELIVER STUFFED BEARS AND PUPPIES TO PEMBINA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL STAFF.

North Dakota Community Service Report 2025-26

District 1

District 2

Treumann-Webb-Phelps Unit 6, Grand Forks, ND

We had about twenty members participate, donating about 900 hours and 80 canned goods and macaroni products to the Food Pantry. We help at our churches with funerals, food banks, recycling, and donating blood as often as possible. We donated $1000 to the fundraiser for the working dog statue at the new Veterans Park. We made a special donation to the Senior Center Silver Campaign.

Lavern J. Thompson Unit #11, Cavalier, ND

Unit 11 Auxiliary hosted its annual blood drive on October 27, 2025, at the American Legion in Cavalier. Thirty-five potential blood donors registered for the drive resulting in thirty-three successful donations. Seven Auxiliary members participated by registering donors and providing juice and bars. Four of ALA Unit 11's members volunteer weekly at the Cavalier Thrift Store. This non-profit organization donated over $100,000 in 2025 to local charities. Unit 11 received a $500 donation from the Thrift Store in support of the "Taste of Home" project.

American Legion Auxiliary Ole Semling Unit 135, McVille, ND

Our Unit gives to the local Nelson County Health Service's Foundation during the Christmas season when they have a fundraising event, The Tree of Remembrance. We give in honor of our living and departed veterans. We donate again in February when a Match Raising event is Giving Hearts Day. A health system in a small town is always grateful for the much-needed donations. The Health Service's included the Clinic, the Hospital, the Care Center, and the Assisted Living. To help area residents suffering from food insecurities, our unit members donated groceries to two local food pantries during the holiday seasons, through their church affiliation. Funds were donated to the local Ambulance Squad at Christmas time.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 201, Minto, ND

Thursday Night Cookouts- Auxiliary served 140, 11 members helped cooking, serving & clean up. Members donated 2 Salads and a watermelon. Christmas Party- 5 members helped with the set up (2 hours each) seven members brought food and helped clean up. Guests of honor were District 2 President & Vice President. One-member donated door prizes. Bars were donated to 2 Fire Department fundraisers, Legion Steak Fry, and Purse Bingo, proceeds donated to two local animal shelters also one member also worked at the fundraiser. Donations were made to Walsh County Food Pantry, Life Skills & Transitions for the clients' Christmas gifts.

Several members donate their time to their churches by reading, choir, and teaching.

District 3

Fred C Wagner American Legion Auxiliary Unit 235 Rolla, ND

Our unit sponsored two huge rummage sale with donations from the community. One member again donated three beautiful quilts for us to raffle! Members organized another beautify Rolla day. An estimated 150 volunteer community service hours goes to members who volunteered. When Rolla's North Forty Restaurant was closed on a Sunday in November the Auxiliary was asked to serve a buffet

breakfast, funds helped to support our programs. Members prepared Christmas cards for residents at Cando and Rolette nursing homes and Rolla's assisted living. Rolla's Chamber and organized our stop on the Coffee Crawl.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #268 York, North Dakota

The small town of York, North Dakota, population seventeen, held their first American Legion Family Day on April 25, 2026. American Legion Auxiliary Department President Candace Berg, a 49-year member of the York American Legion Auxiliary, was encouraged to host an American Legion Family Day at her unit after seeing national encouragement to 'open the doors' to the community for the National Day of Recognition. After watching the American Legion Family Day (ALA Academy) webinar, which provided a lot of ideas and guidance, she reached out to her family, the York American Legion Post and Auxiliary, and the planning began.

A Facebook event was created on Facebook, a news release sent out, and an ad put together and sent to the newspapers. In addition, while President Berg was attending her winter conference in January and district meetings across the state this spring, she invited all attendees to the York American Legion Family Day.

Hosting the First American Legion Family Day in York by opening the doors to the communities on behalf of the American Legion Family was a day to show support for and recognize American legion Family members amongst others at the event.

This year is a year of many celebrations, including the York American Legion celebrating 80 years, the York Auxiliary celebrating 75 years, and American celebrating 250 years!One hundred people walked through the doors to celebrate American Legion Family Day in York. It was a day to remember for years to come.

According to North Dakota Commander, Mike Weyrauch, "It was a great day for our American Legion Family." And President Berg said, "Today, the communities showed up in a huge way! The day was full of laughter, smiles, fun and inspiration, as well as tears for our veterans no longer with us. Everyone who attended was there with the right intentions, to support our American Legion Family. I look forward to having this annual event in the years to come."

Judy's Funtime Band, from Minot ND, donated their time and music to the festivities. The program consisted of the POW-MIA Table Presentation, American Flag folding presentation, presentation of the North Dakota Vietnam 'Welcome Home' coins to ten Vietnam Era Veterans, Thank you for your service coins to all veterans in attendance, Be the One presentation and continuous years of service certificates were presented to Unit 268 Auxiliary members by President, Candace Berg.

There were youth activities, American Legion Family Resources were available, donation of fifty-five raffle items to buy tickets for a chance to win, and a free meal for all in attendance. Funds from the raffle will be donated to Berg's president projects, the Eastern/Western Honor Flights and the NDSU Equine Therapy for veterans and their families. An American Legion Family Day Proclamation was put together and signed by Department Commander Michael Weyrauch and President Candace Berg and was on

display at the event. Many Legion and Auxiliary members from across the state were present as well as Department, District, and Unit officer positions, Past Commanders, and Past Presidents.

York looks forward to hosting an annual American Legion Family Day in the coming years. Next year, the consensus was to have BINGO added to the day's activities.

District 4

GACKLE LEGION AUXILIARY BINGO

The Gackle Mayer-Morlock Legion Auxiliary Unit #250 hosted a BINGO event on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at the Gackle Legion Hall. The event was held in conjunction with "American Legion Family Day," which takes place on the last Saturday in April. The event featured not only BINGO games but also offered attendees the opportunity to buy tickets for a variety of Bag Drawings. Sloppy Joes, chips, bars, and beverages were available for sale. The community support was outstanding and very much appreciated. The proceeds from the event are being distributed to sponsor local students attending the International Music Camp and to contribute donations to the Western North Dakota Honor Flight. The Gackle Mayer-Morlock Legion Auxiliary Unit #250 extends its gratitude to everyone who attended, took part, and contributed to making the event such a tremendous success.

District 5

Victor B. Wallin Unit #12, Washburn, ND

We have made donations to Special Olympics. At our December Christmas social, we collected canned gravy, stuffing, ketchup, toilet paper, box salads, canned fruit, and pie filling for the McLean County Resource Center. In February, the Auxiliary served seventy-four at the Emergency Services Banquet. Nineteen (19) members worked approximately 50 hours total. The banquet is a fundraiser for us as the Emergency Services Committee guarantees payment per plate ordered. We collect loose change at monthly meetings to use in the future for dues for a new member, a member in need, or an elderly member.

Our Auxiliary served spaghetti supper for the McLean County Resource Center event on stalking and abuse that was open to the public. Church Volunteerism – assisting with the monthly newsletter, replenishing communion registration cards/pencils in the pews, general cleaning, communion assistance, choir, bell choir, serving funerals, ushering, reading, Altar Guild, Evangelism Committee/carnival, serving on church board/council, potlucks, serving Lenten meals, church women's group treasurer/secretary, serving coffee hour, mission quilts, and Outreach Committee. Members delivered meals on wheels, contributed to the bake sale for the meals on wheels program, preparing/serving a monthly community meal, serving at the Masonic Banquet, Helping Hands Program, decorating for Christmas social, blood donation program, work at homeless kitchen, food pantry, cheer plates, chaperone youth, Easter Egg Hunt, make supper for Lions group and volunteer for other Lions events, design Facebook, party plans, home care, career fair, serves as treasurer of condo board, and Halloween Trunk or Treat. Volunteered at Symphony and Art Gallery, Salvation Army, Humane Society, Library, Optimist Club, Open Your Heart, Dakota Zoo, Bismarck Marathon, Heavens Helpers, Camp of the Cross Ministries, McLean County Resource Center, St. Jude's, YMCA, Rotary, Closet 701, Santa Breakfast, Lions Club Box Packing, Thanksgiving Day community dinner, Chamber of Commerce, and Foster Care Clothing Closet. Made comfort quilts to be given to those going through challenging times with illness, injury, etc.

Hugh P Minehan Unit #49 Garrison, North Dakota

Church Activities include serving funerals, suppers, counting the offering and driving folks to appointments either to Minot or Bismarck. The unit got together to clean the Legion building. All goes well with pizza.

Another member helped work on the Legion float. Another member volunteers at the city food pantry each week.

Barry Hoof Unit #72, Napoleon, ND

Three members attended a salad luncheon at a neighboring Auxiliary Unit. We donated bars for the American Legion Polka Party and had a bake sale for our Auxiliary. We also played a few Bingo games during intermission. Our unit participated in the Community Day parade, handing out lots of flags and other red, white, and blue items. We made monetary donations to five local cemeteries.

Lawrence Stephenson Unit #133, Turtle Lake, North Dakota

Several members volunteer at the Senior Center that serves all in the community and meets weekly. Hours: 80

Chamber Progress meetings Auxiliary members provide many volunteer hours for their church sponsored activities, local hospital, and ambulance services. Auxiliary members quilted during the months of January and February. The quilting is done for World Relief and others in need. Auxiliary members volunteered at the Community Health Fair.

District 6

District 7

District 8

William C Blair Unit #144 Belfield, ND

One member leads an exercise class at the Senior Center. Secretary/event planner for Senor Center Members Volunteering at local churches: baking, teaching, fundraising. Teach Hunter Safety Classes. Unit members donate food/money to local Food pantry.

Theodore R Zech Unit #180, Richardton, ND

Our unit spends a lot of time on community service. Our unit members have donated many hours to the events we hold in our clubroom. Donation to the American Legion for carpet cleaning in the clubroom, repair of lights at the Veterans Memorial. Purchased new deep freezer for the Legion Clubroom. Donation of time for the Red Trail Rummage Sale fundraising project. Donation of time and cooking for the Dakota Community Bank Insurance luncheon, Dakota Community Bank Customer Appreciation meal, Cenex luncheon, Fireman's Ladies Night, Greff Reunion, Class of '75 Reunion, Annual Flieschkuechle Dinner at Little Opry Land Days, Lions Christmas Party, Frederick's Christmas Party, Tessier Funeral., Annual Texas Hold'Em event. Participation at Auxiliary Christmas Potluck Supper with Bingo and gift exchange.

Donation of time at funeral, memorial services, visiting Richardton Health Center, church board, helping with music, ushering, and serving communion in church. Sending get well, sympathy and Christmas cards.

District 9

District 10



American Legion Auxiliary
Sidney Britsch Unit 268 York, ND
Presents significant years of service awards.
April 25, 2026



Department President, Candace Berg and Department Commander Mike Weyrauch signing the "Proclamation" at York's American Legion Family Day, April 25, 2026



Flag Folding Demonstration at York, ND



Vietnam Ward veterans receiving the 'Welcome Home' Coin.
York, ND



Community 'BINGO" at Gackle, ND
Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle, ND



ALA Mayer-Morlock Unit 250 Gackle, ND – Thank you to the community of Gackle for supporting the unit and post's community programs.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN

I have really enjoyed working on this chairmanship. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1959. This means a lot to me because of my late father, a World War II veteran and my late husband, a Vietnam veteran. I have served as Unit Secretary, Unit President, District Vice President, District President for 4 years. I then became Department Vice President, President Elect and Department President. I served as Department Parliamentarian for four years and have been Constitution and Bylaws Chairman for years 2020-2021 and now for 2025-2026. I finally agreed after a month of consideration to accept this chairmanship because we needed some upgrades to our documents.

I formed a working group to go over the changes we tried to make in 2024 and 2025. There were a lot of disagreements with both years, and we never voted on either one.

I formed a working group made up of our Unit President, one new mew member who wanted to learn more about the Auxiliary and our governing documents. She thanked me for asking her and said she had learned a lot that she had no ideas about. They wanted me to join them to make sure they were following proper procedures. They started working on the 2023, 2024 documents that could not be agreed to at our convention in 2025. We also included the letters I received from five units with recommendations for changes. We spent approximately 15 hours. When the governing documents were finished and typed, I contacted the Department President, and she selected the Amendment Committee to go through the changes that were needed to be made.

The Amendment Committee consisted of one Past Department President, a current District President, an Auxiliary member, Parliamentarian, Department President, and me. We did a total review, and all agreed with the changes with two conference calls. The documents have been corrected, typed, and mailed to all our Unit Presidents so they can review with their members, so they are ready to vote on the changes at our Department Convention in June.

I presented ideas in unit mailings and in our section of the Legion Newspaper and asked if they had question to contact me and I would give them the answer they need. I received about seven calls. Several questions came from new members who did not understand the issues from previous years. I personally talked to each of them and tried to explain the issues about which they were concerned. I told them we had two committees that reviewed our governing documents and after discussion at convention and vote we should have good governing documents. They each sent thank you notes for helping them to understand the issues.

DIANE KRAEMER

Synopsis of Report: *The chair highlights* ***decades of service*** *in the American Legion Auxiliary and a strong personal commitment to improving the organization's governing documents. A* ***working group reviewed unresolved bylaw changes*** *from prior years, incorporated recommendations from five units, and spent considerable time refining the documents.* ***Amendment Committee completed a full review*** *and approved the revisions after discussion and conference calls. The updated documents were* ***distributed to Unit Presidents*** *so members can review them before a* ***vote at the June 2026 Department Convention****. The chair also* ***answered members' questions directly****, helping newer members understand past issues and building support for clearer, stronger governing documents.*

American Legion Auxiliary

Department Education Program

June 2026

May brings the important work of scholarship judging, and we are grateful to those who helped make this process possible. Thank you to Erin Wood, Lake Region State College Public Information Officer, and Dawn Johnson, Principal of Devils Lake Prairie View Elementary School, for judging the Department and National scholarship applications. The panel selected Zachary Berger of Velva, Rowan Jess of Carrington, and Brandi Schock of McVille as recipients of the three $500 Department Education Scholarships.

National scholarship applications were submitted and judged online. The applicants referred to Northwest Division for judging were Drew Burris, Children of Warriors selectee; Elydie Johnson, Spirit of Youth selectee; Brennan Martin, Member Loyalty selectee; and Julie Goeres, Non-Traditional Student selectee. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced by the National organization in late May.

Congratulations to these students and to all who applied. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academics and their communities are truly commendable. Every applicant was worthy of scholarship consideration.

A reminder to this year's Girls State and Boys State attendees: the Samsung American Legion Scholarship application is due on the first day of the program and must be completed online. Direct descendants of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the officially designated periods of war for American Legion membership eligibility are encouraged to review the scholarship information at http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung and prepare the materials needed to apply.

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth, education personnel, schools, and Units this year. Your reported activities helped me complete the year-end report for Northwest Division. Please watch for the Education Program year-end report on the Department website.

As we look ahead, now is a great time to begin planning for "Ten for Education" and get a strong start on next year's Education Program. Each of you truly makes a difference!

Thank you for your continued commitment to education and for the many ways you encourage and uplift students across our communities. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer filled with renewed energy and inspiration for the year ahead.

Lynn Tomlinson, Department Education Chairman

2026 Flickertail Girls State was held at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks) on June 14-19. The program saw an increase in participants with sixty-four in attendance up from forty-four in 2025. Keynote speakers at the event included North Dakota First Lady Kjersti Armstrong and U.S. Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak.

In addition to attendees participating in city, county, and state government proceedings, the 2026 participants and staff had the honor and privilege of attending a celebration of life ceremony. This ceremony was for fallen WWII soldier Staff Sergeant Irvin C. Ellingson and was held at Grand Forks Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, June 18.

Delegates of Girls State elected Leah Dokken (Minot HS) as 2026 Flickertail Girls State Governor. Cadence Fetsch (Valley City HS) and Sophia Johnson (Legacy HS-Bismarck) were elected and represented North Dakota at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., on July 18-25. At Girls Nation, Senator Fetsch was elected as Party Chair for the Nationalist Party.

A heartfelt thank you to all North Dakota units, posts, and individuals who support this wonderful learning experience for our young students. Your donations, time, and energy serving as staff and volunteers for the event are truly meaningful.

God Bless America and God Bless the future leaders of the USA.

Chilly Goodman

Flickertail Girls State Director

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of North Dakota

Historian Report

2025-2026

This year has been a busy year the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota from the beginning to current time. It looks like it will be through to the 105th North Dakota Department State Convention.

It started with the election of officers at the 104th North Dakota Department State Convention. Then it progressed to the initiation of officers at the same conventions. The as usual, these officers along with the 10 District presidents, Program Chairman, and Unit officers all hit the ground running.

July had the big event of the 4th of July which held parades all around the state for which all units in the vicinity of the parade were involved. If not in a parade, units helped put up flags to honor the 4th, held picnics, fireworks, for others. Also, the International Music Camp hosts a Legion Remembrance Day in July thanking them for the donations given to them for the students. The ND State Fair Parade is held the first Saturday of the running of the State Fair and the Auxiliary and Legion are always in attendance at this parade also.

August is time for the National Convention, and the Department of North Dakota was well attended in Tampa, FL. Innovative ideas, programs, policies, and procedures were brought back to the state for all chairman, district presidents, and unit officers. The annual yearly membership drive was started.

September was giving to the schools, and many units assisted the teachers and parents by providing school supplies to the local schools.

October was spent working the programs, collecting time and reports from the members. Memberships were being collected and turned in. Fall district meetings were being held.

November was education month for which one Auxiliary unit gave treats to all employees at their local school. They also deliver meals to single veterans in their area. On Veterans Day, many units have meals for their local veterans. Some send cards. On Thanksgiving, some were given Thanksgiving food boxes for a meal to the local veterans.

December brings another holiday where veterans who have lost their lives are honored with the laying of the wreaths on many cemetery graves of veterans. One unit makes goodie trays for all veterans in their area. Gift cards have been given to veterans for meals at Christmas time.

January veterans and auxiliary members that may be shut in due to the wintry weather are remembered, called upon, and visited with and brought goodies too.

February brings on Valentines and more cards, visiting, parties to include the veterans, auxiliary members, legion families, and friends.

March brought the start of Spring District meetings. Hours are being collected and reports are being sent in. Membership is still being collected. The push is 100% in all units.

April talking to schools to get scholarships and applications in for Girls State and International Music Camp. In April, we had a first: American Legion Family Day to include the Legion, Auxiliary, Riders and Sons in York, ND, hosted by York Unit and Post. It had food, music, fellowship, awards, and requests to do it again. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

May is getting ready for graduation scholarships, poppy day, poppy posters contests, Memorial Day programs and parades, and flags in towns and cemeteries honoring the following heroes.

That brings us back to the beginning. The registration and planning of the 106th North Dakota Department State Convention. It has been a busy, eventful, wonderful, fantastic, year and we are looking forward to another one, like the last one!

Thank you.

Carrie Heinz, Department Historian

2026 Annual Report: Submitted by Carma Hanson, North Dakota Department Legislative Chairperson

This year, I had the honor of stepping into a role with the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary at the request of our Department President, Candace Berg. While I have been a lifelong member of the organization, and have been involved to some extent due to my parent's (Curt and Judy Twete) commitment to the ALA and Legion, I had not yet served in an official capacity. My passion and experience for legislative activity within my work profession, aligned well with this position President Berg asked me to assume. While North Dakota's legislature only meets every other year in odd number years, there was still work to be done in the legislative space and I was eager to step up to the plate and serve this organization as the Legislative Chairperson.



Last October, I was in Washington, DC and had the opportunity to visit with our state's lone Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak. We discussed issues important to veterans and military personnel from our state and around our great country. Congresswoman Fedorchak and I discussed an upcoming community forum she was hosting in honor of Veteran's Day, and I was honored to be able to share information on that event with the Department and district leaders.

JULIE FEDORCHAK

NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSWOMAN

Information regarding the Fedorchak Forum was shared on social media and via email, promoting the event. I also shared information on how to reach the Congresswoman and her staff for support on miltary and veteran's issues all througout the year.

As the Cogresswoman has hosted additional Forums or constituent meetings in communities around the state, this information has been shared via social media.



ND American Legion Auxiliary

@ndamericanlegionauxiliary

62 friends • 4 mutual



Information has also been distributed to American Legion Auxiliary members about how to reach out to our entire federal delegation, both in their Washington, DC office and here in North Dakota. This was shared via social media, via the ALA newsletter and at the mid-winter conference.

Federal Congressional Offices

KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Senator for North Dakota

FARGO
306 Federal Building
657 Second Avenue N
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 232-5094

MINOT
205 Federal Building
100 First Street SW
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 837-6141

BISMARCK
328 Federal Building
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 204-0500

GRAND FORKS
114 Federal Building
102 North 8th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
(701) 402-4540

WILLISTON
123 Main Street, Suite 4217
Williston, ND 58801
(701) 441-7230

WASHINGTON, D.C.
313 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2043

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR NORTH DAKOTA
JOHN HOEVEN

Bismarck
U.S. Federal Building
220 East Rosser Ave., Rm 312
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: (701) 250-4618

Fargo
(23 Broadway North, Ste 201
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 239-5389

Grand Forks
Federal Building
102 North Fourth St., Rm 108
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Phone: (701) 746-8972

Minot
100 1st St. SW, Ste 107
Minot, ND 58701
Phone: (701) 838-0261

Watford City
204 N. Main St., #518
Watford City, ND 58854
Phone: (701) 609-2727

Washington DC
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2551

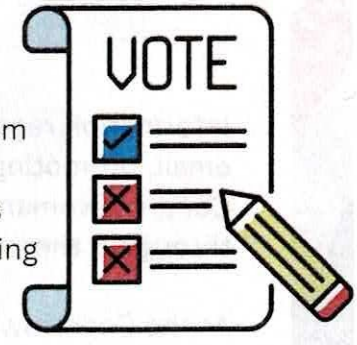
Julie Fedorchak
NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSWOMAN

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Fargo Office
3217 Fiechtner Drive
Suite B
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: (701) 353-6865
Fax: (701) 707-0711

Based on the District reports that I have received, many of our Units are reaching out to our federal delegate to encourage support for the 2026 American Legion Legislative Priorities.



While this is not a legislative year in the state of North Dakota, reminders have been provided to Districts about the importance of getting involved with recruitment of candidates for our state's legislature, visiting with them about veteran and military issues of importance, and helping get quality candiates endorsed and supported in the primary. Several of the Districts have indicated that they are helping with rides to the polls for the upcoming primary election taking place in our state.

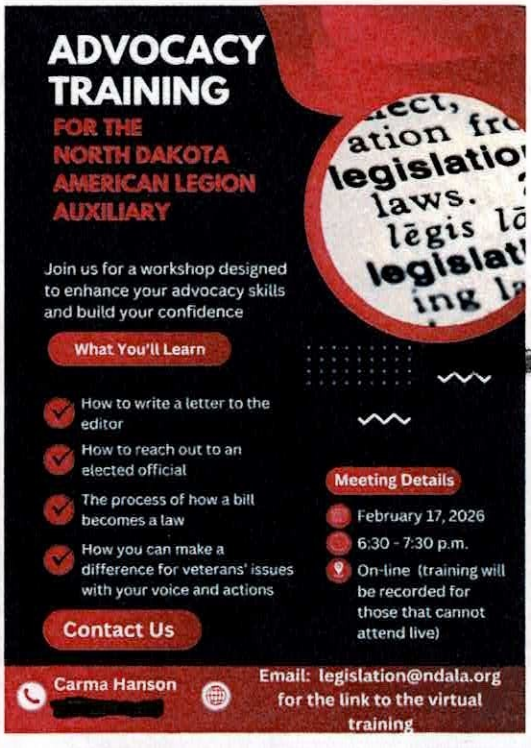


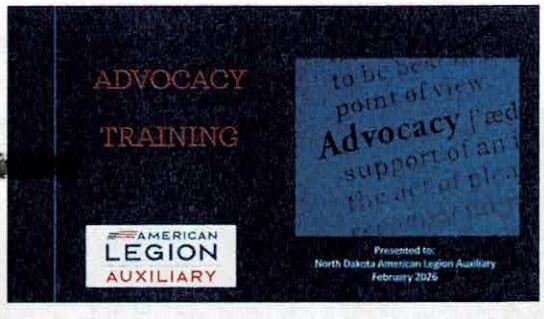
While the North Dakota state legislature is in an off year, it seemed like the opportune time to provide basic advocacty training. Over the years, I have found that many people are unaware of how impactful their voice can be, or how to begin to advocate for issue that are important to them or their organization. Therefore, I provided a virtual one-hour advocacy training for the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary membership. This training took place in February and covered topics to include:

- 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

The presentation was followed by the opportunity for participants to ask questions and was recorded so those Units not able to participate at the time it was offered, could watch it at a later date. A copy of the training can be found at this link: https://youtu.be/407pksRqb5I This link was also shared in a recent newsletter for our organization.

Additionally, I have been asked to provide this training as a session at the 2026 North Dakota Girls' State assembly.



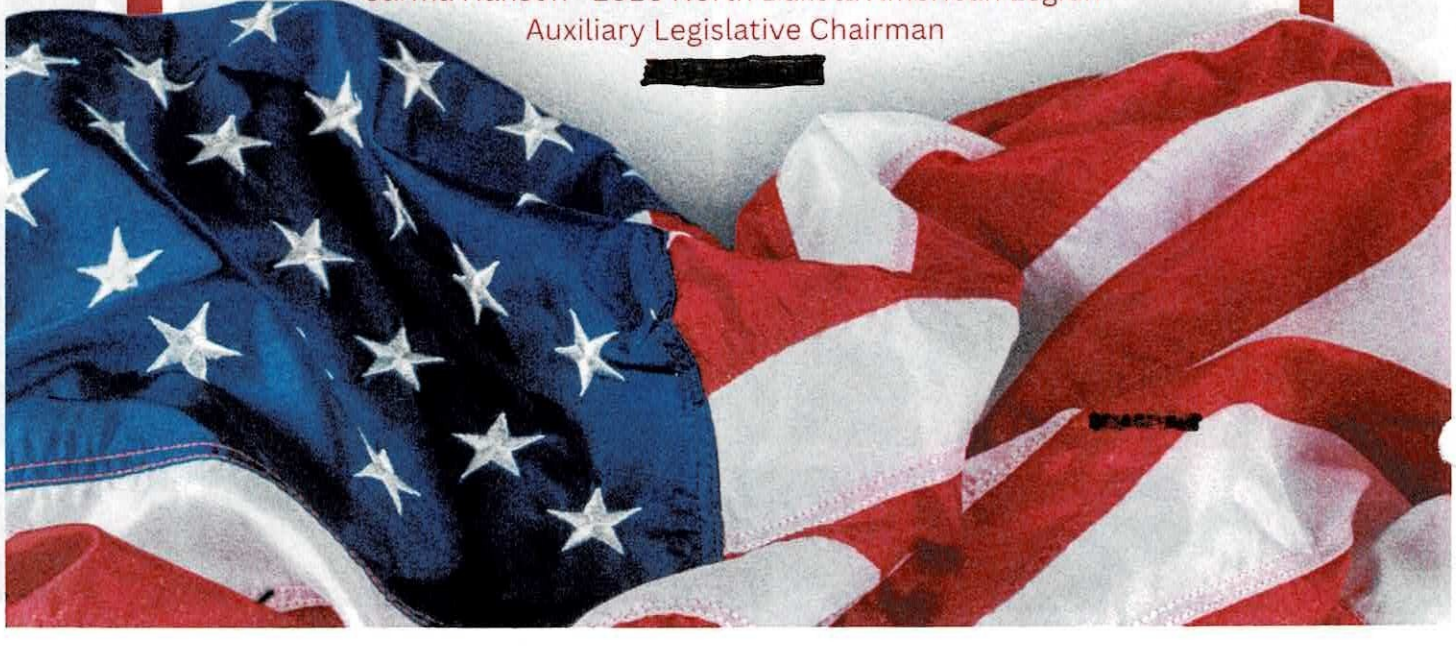


Another wonderful adventure that I was able to participate in this year, was chairing a District Convention in neighboring Minnesota. The current chair was running for re-election and was opposed. I was asked by the Minnesota Senator Minority Leader if I would fill that role as a neutral position. I graciously accepted and while at the podium and awaiting the vote count, I used some time to thank the military and veterans in the audience, and also encourage people to get out and vote, get involved with their candidate selection and fundraising, and offer support to those stepping up to serve in the many roles required in our governmental process.



Whether I was attending the ALA Mid-Winter Conference, participating in statewide virtual meetings or catching up with ALA members throughout the year, this has been a rewarding experience and I thank President Berg for allowing me to serve in this capacity.

This annual report is respectfully submitted by:
Carma Hanson - 2026 North Dakota American Legion
Auxiliary Legislative Chairman



North Dakota National Security Report

North Dakota is proud to have participated in a number of National Security activities. The Rolla and McVille Units each have a member who is an active duty member of the National Guard. The member from Rolla made Easter bags for deployed personnel.

DONATIONS – Scranton in District 8, and Minto in District 2 donated $200 and $100 respectively to the National Guard Foundation. Minto donated $150 to the AEF to help with natural disasters. In its way, this is part of the CERT emergency preparedness program by providing funds before they are needed. Richardton in District 8 donated $360 to Wounded Warrior, $132 to Tunnel to Towers, $315.24 to Troopathon, $126 to Shadow Warriors, and $70 to Semper K9. Wounded Warriors is an organization that treats and cares for wounded servicemembers. Tunnel to Towers pays off mortgages and builds homes for catastrophically injured or killed in action servicemembers and police officers. Troopathon is an organization that sends Care Packages out to deployed servicemembers all year long, not just on holidays as some organizations do. Shadow Warriors is a Veteran organization that flies in to very dangerous areas like Afghanistan and rescues families, and other people who have been left behind and cannot get out of these dangerous areas. Semper K9 is an organization for Service Dogs for the military, and for Veterans.

FLAG EVENTS – Our North Dakota members were involved in a number of flag-related activities.

A. District 5 participated in and provided food for a Flag Retirement Ceremony.
B. District 6 members hung flags on Main Street for Flag Day. They put articles in the paper encouraging the community to participate in celebrating Flag day. They provided cookies for Flag Day at the Senior Center.
C. District 6 hung flags on Main Street for the 4th of July. They leave the flags in place for 5 days to honor and celebrate our Independence Day.
D. District 6 - A Legion family flies the flags of all the Services in their yard for the whole week, spotlighting them so they can be flown at night.
E. District 6 – Two families held a picnic and did fireworks on the 4th for local Veterans.

F. District2 – Minto had 8 members who helped with a Flag Ceremony at their Mini Museum.
G. District 2 – The Minto Unit had members who rode in the Park River Parade. The Department Vice President rode with some of the dignitaries in the Parade. Some of the members had a float and threw candy, frozen treats, and rubber ducks to the children along the route.
H. District 3 – the Rolla Unit President participated in and carried the Unit flag in their July 4th Parade.
I. Many of the members in North Dakota fly the American Flag on all Patriotic holidays. And a great many of our members and Veterans fly our American Flag all year round.

CARE PACKAGES – District 2 – The Minto Unit sent a large Care Package to Germany for deployed servicemembers. The Package contained 189 pairs of socks, candy, flavored drink mixes, Wet Ones, and Christmas cards.

A General contacted a member asking for Care Packages for his troops. That member sent out the request, and a number of North Dakota Units stepped up and sent quite a good number of Care Packages to delight those deployed servicemembers, and bringing joy to the grateful General.

The Richardton Unit in District 8 donated $315.24 to Troopathon to send Care Packages to the troops.

The McVille Unit in District 2 heard about a National Guard Detachment deployed to the Southern Border in Laredo, TX. There were many sports opportunities they could access in their off hours, but they had no equipment to use. The Unit went to the Post which donated $500. The Unit then purchased baseballs, footballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, and other sporting equipment, using up most of the $500. They then shipped all the boxes of equipment to the National Guard Detachment in Laredo. The gift was received with great excitement and appreciation.

The City of Dickinson in District 8 held a Ceremony to Name a Bridge near the town to memorialize Jon P Fettig, a North Dakota National Guardsman who was deployed to Iraq and was killed in 2003. The Gold Star Fettig family was honored by District 8 Posts and Units, the community, and was represented by a large contingent of the Dickinson National Guard. The event was attended by the North Dakota Governor, Kelly Armstrong, who spoke, several State Representatives, and a number of National Guard

dignitaries, some of whom spoke as well. The Fettigs were also presented with a Quilt of Valor bringing many to tears. It was a memorable and moving Ceremony.

North Dakota participated with other organizations in a variety of ways. Many Blue Star banners, and Gold Star banners were bought and given to the Blue Star and Gold Star families. Many of the Units held Quilt of Valor Ceremonies working with the Quilt of Valor organizations in North Dakota. Many of the Units participated in Wreaths Across America either in laying wreaths or in donations. There were several Honor Flights that went from North Dakota. Many of our Veterans went on the Flights. The Units close by the airports welcomed the Veterans home. A number of our Units donated to the Honor Flight programs as well. Some of these are VA&R programs, but they are Auxiliary programs in which we participate.

Many of our Units place the POW/MIA Flags at their meetings. We did not do CERT TRAINING this year. But we did donate to AEF which helps with disasters.

I sent articles about Salute to Servicemember out in the Unit mailings. I spoke about it at District Meetings. However, I have received no nominations to date. I supplied the Wednesday Warrior link to 2 families, but I don't know if they got through.

As last year's Department President I chose Troopathon as my President's Project. Through my pin sales, I was able to raise $5,028 to send Care Packages to deployed servicemembers. It was a thrill to be able to send out so many Care Packages to so many deployed men and women to let them know how much we love, appreciate, and care about them.

This is my report of what activities and events were accomplished this year in the Department of North Dakota.

LoAnn Dick, Department National Security Chairman

2026 Scholarship Winners

Spirit of Youth Scholarship ($1000) -National Winner

- Elydie Johnson

Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship ($5000) – National Winner

- Drew Burris

Department of North Dakota Education Scholarship ($500)

- Zachary Berger - Velva
- Rowan Jess - Carrington
- Brandi Schock - McVille

Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship ($1000)

- Carrie Hoffman - Grand Forks

Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship ($500)

- Jada Bonogofsky – St. Anthony
- Mylehe Kastet - Ypsilanti
- Maya Davis - Casselton
- Callie Grage - Taylor

Poppies were distributed by American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units across North Dakota. They were featured in artwork, bookmarks, door hangers, and wreaths. They were used in Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, and they were also distributed door-to-door in local communities. Nearly 25,000 small poppies and 1,200 large poppies were distributed.

Units reached out to local schools in an effort to teach our young people about the meaning of the poppy and encouraged students to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Six first place prizes and certificates were awarded with the winning poster being sent to the Northwestern Division Poppy Chairman in May.

2026 Poppy Poster Contest winners include:

Class I	Warren Koenig - Lankin
Class II	Kinsleigh Anderson - Bowbells
Class III	Alexa Dominguez - Gackle
Class IV	Charlee Ninow - Streeter
Class V	Lyndi Homola - Jud
Class VI	Noah Kolden - Garrison

Carol Wolf

Poppy Chairman 2025-26

2026 Public Relations Report
Department of North Dakota
Marcy Schmidt, Department Public Relations Chairman

My experience serving not only as Department Secretary, but as co-editor of our department's quarterly publication 'The Message' has given me an insight into the workings of our most active units.

Since September 2025, I have received a steady stream of articles and photos from unit presidents and members-at-large throughout North Dakota. These submissions provide unit activity dates and times for the department newspaper, as well as the names of individuals shown in the photos. Because of space constraints, we cannot publish all materials received; nonetheless, the editing team incorporated as many as possible.

Units and members frequently use social media, including Facebook, to publish photos and updates and to promote upcoming events. These posts are engaging to follow and provide real-time insight into the people involved and the projects they support. Many units also share event details and publicize fundraisers using posters and images.

Traditional local newspapers—once common in diners and grocery stores—are becoming increasingly rare in North Dakota. Units that still work with local papers often submit articles and photos highlighting American Legion Family events in their communities. They also share these items with me, as Public Relations Chairman, and with our Department President for posting on our Facebook page. It is rewarding to see how many local stories continue to appear.

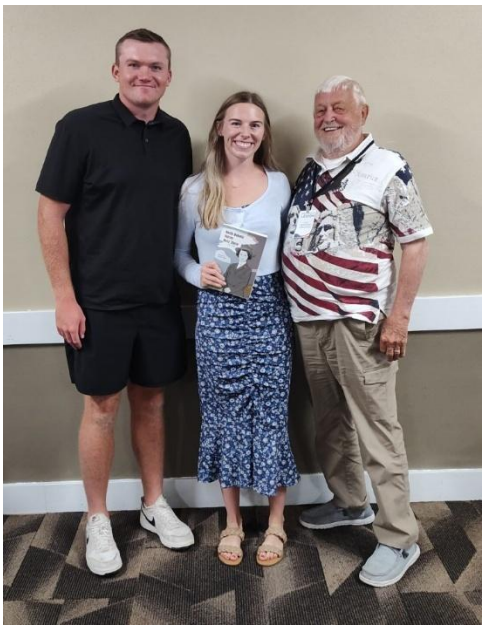
In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to forget the value of community and simple gatherings for camaraderie. The shared articles and photos make it clear that age is no barrier. People of all ages come together to share meals, play bingo, conduct flag-burning ceremonies, distribute poppies, march in parades, and support Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, along with school-related community events.

I am so proud of the Auxiliary members who take the time to document unit activities through notes and photographs and to author these wonderful short articles. It is encouraging to know that the American Legion Auxiliary is recognized as an organization and continues to remain relevant in North Dakota.

2026 Public Relations Report - Department of North Dakota



Carol Wolf, Dept VA&R Chair, presents check to VAMC-Fargo Volunteer Services for the ***2025 Creative Arts Festival***



Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship Winner

Mallory Kvilvang, of Northwood, ND was awarded one of four 2025 Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarships. Mallory is currently studying in the Nurse Practitioners Program at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. She is pictured here with her husband Christian Kvilvang and her grandfather Curt Twete, Past Department Commander of McVille, ND.



2025 Unit Member of the Year – Lynn Helm

American Legion Auxiliary James Roberts Unit 124 McClusky, North Dakota nominated Lynn for her work on behalf of her unit and veterans.



2025 Flickertail Girls State Governor

Photo: Left to Right – Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary, Susan Degner, Department Treasurer, Rose Laning, Department Chaplain, Victoria Babingui, Minou Babingui, 2025 ND Girls State Governor, LoAnn Dick, Department President, and Sandra Smith, Department Vice President, Candace Berg, Department President-Elect.



American Legion Auxiliary Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 Wahpeton, ND
Americanism in the Schools

Ruth Quam, President of ALA Hafner-Miller-Ross Unit 20 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.



Celebrating Recruit 10

Photo: Marquita Novak, Unit 147 President, Park River, North Dakota is presented a certificate for her efforts to "Recruit 10" members by Department President, Candace Berg.



Children and Youth
"Care Bears and Puppies:

Photo: Left to Right:
Judy Twete, NEC, and
Director of Nursing, Jennifer
Rustin

Curt and I returned home from Winter Conference after enjoying time with friends and learning the latest information during our legion and auxiliary sessions and bringing numerous "Care Animals" (stuffed puppies and bears) back with us. Three large shipments of these specially labeled stuffed animals were delivered to Nelson County Health System Hospital and the McVille Ambulance Service office. Director of Nursing, Jennifer Rustin, gladly received the animals, to be stored until needed.

These little "Care Animals" are presented by emergency response personnel to young patients who may be experiencing fear or trauma during a hospital visit or another emergency. The bears each wear a specially designed t-shirt with The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Son's of the American Legion, and Legion Riders names and logos imprinted on them.

"Care Animals" are provided free of charge to hospitals and first responders by the American Legion Family Children and Youth Programs. American Legion Auxiliary Ole Semling Unit 135 McVille, ND proudly donated $500 to defray the cost of the bears and puppies.

Article submitted by: Judy Twete, President Unit 135



Morlock Mayer Unit 250
Gackle, ND
Celebrating 50 years
Membership



Vickie McPherson



Steve Bateman

Quilt of Valor Presented to Steve Bateman, Army Veteran

On a cold, mid-December night in McVille, I was able to make a very touching presentation to a McVille Dakota Prairie High School graduate and an Army Veteran, Steve Batemen. His mother Vickie McPherson, an Army veteran herself, asked about the possibility that Steve might be presented with a special Quilt of Valor created by the Home Bound Quilters serving the Nelson and Ramsey County areas.

Steve was surprised to see my husband, Curt and I arrive, and it was fun to visit and catch up on his life. When I asked if he knew about the Quilts of Valor Program, he said he did, and I shared the story from the organization's perspective. Then I brought out the quilt, and Steve's face turned pale as tears ran down his cheeks. He sat down in his chair and covered his face. It was an emotional time for both him and me. I draped the quilt over his shoulders and photos were taken with Steve and his mom, Vickie McPherson. These emotional presentations are one reason, why I feel so blessed to have been asked by the Home Bound Quilters to present quilts to veterans.

Congratulations to a fine young man and Army veteran from McVille.

Judy Twete, Unit 135 President



North Dakota Boys Stater, Bridger Rivinius Speaks at Veterans Day Program

Veterans Day in Gackle, ND

The American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units of Gackle, Streeter, Fredonia, and Kulm co-hosted a Veterans Day community event at the Gackle Legion Hall on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. The event included a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. A program followed the meal. Approximately one hundred people attended the event.

Gackle Legion Post #250 Commander Jon Metz welcomed everyone to the event and led the attendees in the "Pledge of Allegiance." Guest speakers were Bridger Rivinius who talked about his time at Legion Boys State this past June and Randy Entzminger who gave a presentation on "Basic Training…The Adventure Begins." Gackle-Streeter school student Myles Martin played "Yankee Doodle Boy" on the alto sax. 2025 State Poppy Poster winners Jenna Homola, Courtney Remboldt, and Emma Heller were recognized. As veterans were leaving the event, they received a homemade card designed by Gackle-Streeter elementary school students.

Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to all our Veterans!
Elaine Ackerman, Unit 250 President



Walker Bags and Neck Pillows assembled and donated to the VAMC - Fargo, ND by member of Richard Nelson Unit 297 Harwood, ND



Mayer Morlock Unit 250
Gackle
Veterans Day Celebration



Holiday Fund Raiser
Grand Forks Unit 6



Veterans Day Observed in Pekin, ND

American Legion Posts and Units, including Aneta, McVille, Pekin and Tolna, observed Veterans Day in Pekin, ND 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 McVille Posts, was prepared and served by the famous Danny Bakken from Cooperstown. Those in attendance enjoyed the dinner, the music, the speaker, and 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 shines with the 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. Pekin's Commander, Doug Messner, announced that David Foering is a 50-year Legion member and a certificate will be presented to him when he is in the area. McVille' 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 ALA Department Legislative Chair and is involved with "Safe Kids Car Seat Checkups" in Grand Forks, while Dawn is employed as an elementary teacher in Devils Lake.

Judy Twete, Unit 135 President



North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department President Attends McVille Library Celebration

North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary Department President Candace Berg attended the 14th Anniversary Celebration of the McVille Community Library on July 17, 2025. Many auxiliary members were also in attendance to show their support and enjoy the festivities.

The celebration featured a special performance by Teddy Roosevelt repriser Adam Lindquist, who entertained the crowd with a lively and educational portrayal of the 26th President.

The American Legion Post 135 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135 work with the McVille Community Library in supporting their community. Donations received from the Legion and the Auxiliary are much appreciated by the library and community.



Celebrating 75-year Member

The American Legion Auxiliary Carl Rogen Unit 29 Watford City, ND celebrated the 99th birthday of Lucille Broderson, a 75-year auxiliary member. Lucille is pictured with Sharon Leiseth, Unit Secretary and Jill Carstens, Unit President.