



North Dakota Legion News

Department of North Dakota

For God and Country

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The Message (American Legion Auxiliary) Inserted In Middle Section

Bismarck To Host 2012 Winter Conference

The 2012 Winter Conference is scheduled for February 3-5, 2012, to be held at the Bismarck, ND, Doublewood Inn. Commander Robert Krause will be presiding over the conference meetings and providing meeting support to the following affiliated organizations within our Department; The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the 40 et 8. You can view the updated Conference Schedule on the Legion website at www.ndlegion.org

American Legion National Commander Fang Wong of New York will be attending our conference. Commander Wong was elected National Commander of The American Legion on September 1, 2011, during the closing session of the 93rd National Convention in Minneapolis, MN. Born in Canton, China, Wong immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960. He attended New York City public schools and became a naturalized citizen in 1963. Wong volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1969, served 25 months in Vietnam and retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1989. Wong earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at New York Institute of Technology in 1978 and a Master's Degree in Management from Central Michigan University in 1981.

Following his retirement from the Army, Wong joined Lt. B.R. Kim Lau

Chinese Memorial Post 1291 in New York. Through his American Legion post in Chinatown, Wong helped direct relief efforts in the aftermath of 9/11. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training and Employer Outreach of the Department of Labor and served as chairman of the Special Investigation Committee for the Chinese Community Benevolent Association (NYC) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of New York, in 2005. In 2011, Wong retired from L-3 Communications, Command & Control Systems and Software (C2S2) Division in support of the Army Software Engineering Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J., after 20 years.

Wong is married to the former Barbara Lam. They have one son, Eric. Barbara is active with the American Legion Auxiliary and is a past district president for the Department of New York. Eric is a charter member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1291, Detachment of New York

National Executive Committeeman Curt Twete and his wife Judy, a Past Department Auxiliary President will again host a "First Time Attendees" session on Friday afternoon, February 3rd at 4:00 PM the first day of Winter Conference. It is included as an informational session for those attending

their first Legion Winter Conference. Curt will provide information on the program and schedule, the location of events and activities, point out people in charge, discuss Conference protocols, answer questions, and point out where to go for help or advice. Mr. Twete has a wealth of information regarding the legion and should be sought for by those attending for the first time. Past participants of this session have indicated that this "orientation" was of great help to them as they "learned their way around". If this is your first conference, be sure not to miss this great opportunity to rub elbows with experienced Legionnaires.

The Joint Opening Session of the Conference will be gaveled to order by Department Commander Robert Krause on Friday night promptly at 7 PM. Several individuals will be bringing greetings, including National Commander Fang Wong, to the Conference. All District vice-Commanders will meet with Commander-elect David Rice at 7 AM on Saturday. At 8:30 am we will have a Joint Session followed by Breakout Sessions that will begin at 9:30 followed by the Conference/Press Association Luncheon.

Department Oratorical Chairman, Ron Broderson will kick off the State High School Oratorical Contest Finals. These contests are always popular



Fang Wong
National Commander

and are strictly managed to ensure a fair and level field for the presenters, therefore they will begin "promptly" at 1:00 pm. Conference attendees are reminded to come early and choose your seat. Once this program has begun, access to this event will be restricted, minimizing any interruptions during the student's speeches. These young people are phenomenal and always provide exciting and inspirational presentations.

Winter Conference Banquet with National Commander Wong as our guest speaker will be Saturday evening beginning with the 5:30 pm social. Entertainment after the banquet will be provided by the ND American Legion Dance Band. The Winter Conference is a great time to meet old friends, make some new ones, have some fun and learn what your American Legion is doing both on the Department and National levels. The information you receive here will help you to better serve your Post and our veterans. So plan to attend! You won't be disappointed.

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COMMANDER COMMENTS



ROBERT KRAUSE
 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings All,

On August 21 just before the National Convention, I had the opportunity to attend the family community event for the 188th in Wahpeton who deployed to Kuwait, at the NDSCS field house. These brave young men and women say goodbye to their loved ones and go into the unknown and it tugs at the heartstrings of all of us who at one time did the same thing. We need to continue to support them and their families.

On August 26, Gail and I headed to Minneapolis for the National Convention. We started with a Twins Game the first night and a Vikings game the second night. Unfortunately, both teams lost. Saturday and Sunday were spent at the various committee and commission meetings where a lot of information was given to all. Sunday afternoon we had a good turnout for the parade where as always, the ND Legion Band did an excellent job keeping us in step and representing North Dakota. On Tuesday, most attended the Commander Foster's banquet and listened to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, an old but still good folk band from the 70's. Thursday brought the installation of Fang Wong of New York as National Commander which was certainly interesting with the traditional Chinese drums and dancing just before his election. Mr. Wong will be an excellent representative for Veterans during his year in office. Gail and I returned home that evening.

Dave Rice and I attended the Harwood Days parade on September 10th and passed out candy to many youngsters from the Harwood Legion float. On Sunday (9-11) at 8:30, I attended the 9-1-1 observance at the Main Avenue Bridge between Fargo and Moorhead. This was a very solemn event with the United Patriotic Bodies presenting the Colors of our Nation.

Eastern district meetings started the next day in Grafton (District 2), Tuesday at Rugby (District 3), Wednesday at New Rockford (District 4), Thursday in Ellendale (District 10) and Friday in Hope (District 1). Dave Rice and I tried golfing any time we had a chance during this trip. We found out we better not give up our day jobs. The week between meetings was busy with various meetings and also interviews with Adjutant candidates. The second week started in Minot (District 6), Tuesday at Crosby (District 9), Wednesday at Killdeer (District 8), Thursday at Cannon Ball (District 7) and Friday at Hazelton (District 5). All meetings were fairly well attended. It is always good to hear what Legionnaires are concerned about in other parts of the state. Dave and I continued our quest to become golfers and we actually did seem to

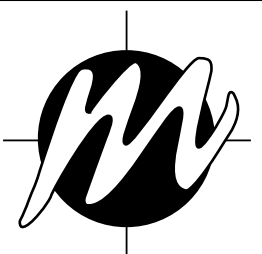
improve until I hit 4 trees on one fairway!
 On Sunday the 9th of October, I flew to Indianapolis to attend the Commanders/Adjutant's conference. There I met up with Curt Twete, Carroll Quam, Harvey Peterson and Wayne Satrom who were attending the fall meetings taking place concurrently with the conference. I returned home on the 11th and started preparing for the D.E.C. meeting on the 15th and also the recognition banquet for Betty Malkowski, Aaron McFerran and me. A good time was had by all and I want to thank Linda Juntunen, Ken Wiederholt and Mark Forster for being the MC's and providing the entertainment for the evening. I want to thank all who attended and gave such memorable and generous gifts.

The Veteran's Home in Lisbon received a donation of \$33,000 on the 28th of October from the VFW and the Veteran's Home Foundation and as a member of the Foundation Board, I attended. The money will be used for medical equipment and patient lifts. Later that day, Ken Weiderholt and I attended the annual buffalo supper in Streeter. I am amazed at the efficiency with which they can serve 1200 people in such a short time. We had the opportunity to talk with Governor Dalrymple and his wife before we ate. The food was great and I plan to attend in the future years to come.

David Johnson, our new Adjutant started on November 1st and I wish him the very best. We were without an Adjutant for five months and it's good to have someone back in the office.

Veteran's Day was busy with the usual celebrations in Fargo. It started with a parade from the Great Northern Depot to the Civic center with a flag raising ceremony and fly over at the Civic. We then move inside for the program where the Red River Concert Band played. We then move to Legion Post 2 where stew was served and the band performed again. I understand that the band moved on to several other places. I went to the VA Hospital where the AMVETS had a program. Senator Hoeven, Congressman Berg and a representative from Senator Conrad's office addressed the group. The senior choir from Park Christian High School also performed. Later that evening, Gail and I went to Walcott for their Veteran's Day Meal and I gave the address. On Sunday Gail and I traveled to my home post at Gwinner and I delivered the address at their celebration that was well attended. The Gwinner Post 191 Boy's and Girl's State attendees gave reports on their

SEE COMMANDER
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SERVICE OFFICER'S COLUMN



JIM DEREMO
DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Veterans Burial Benefits

Burial Flag

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged.

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Government Headstone or Marker

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national

cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

VA Burial Allowance

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**
- you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer, **AND**
- the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability, **OR**
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- the veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
- the veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**
- the veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**
- the veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay?

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of

the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans.

Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the Veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. More than one certificate may be provided.

Application

Eligible recipients, or someone acting

on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the Veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents.

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

Present & past National Guard members and present & past members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve forces. Length of service in the National Guard and Reserve, for enlisted personnel will be completion of at least one term of enlistment and officers who have completed at least four years of service. All military people interred in the cemetery must have received a discharge shown as: "Honorable", "Under Honorable Conditions" or "General". Undesirable, bad conduct, and any type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for burial, depending upon a determination made by the Adjutant General of North Dakota. The eligible spouse, widow, or widower of any person listed above. Normally the veteran and spouse (and other eligible dependents of the veteran) will be interred in the same gravesite or an adjoining gravesite, as appropriate.

COMMANDER — Cont. from Page 2

experiences that were very interesting and informative.

Larry Vetter, Dave Johnson, Dave Rice and I attended the North Dakota Veteran's Coordinating Council meeting in Bismarck on the 18th and I was elected President. I will do my best to insure this will be an effective group to forward legislation favoring Veterans. I am looking forward to the challenges before this group.

As of today, we are in 6th place in the nation with membership. Although this isn't terrible, it isn't good! We are behind last year by about 600 members. Regional vice Commanders and District Commanders, need to contact all posts and remind them that we gave them all a reasonable goal and they should be able to obtain the numbers assigned. I still believe we can reach 100% if we try hard enough.

We also need to find locations for spring district meetings. Tentatively the dates are the week of March 26 for the west and the

week of April 9 for the east. For all District Commanders and Vice Commanders, you need to find candidates for Vice Commanders in each of your Districts and for all Regional vice Commanders, you need to find your replacements. Time is running out and spring meetings will be here before you know it.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and please remember our troops who are protecting us every day especially during this holiday season. God bless our troops and God Bless you all.

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DOG TAGS
PATCHES

State Legion Bowling Tournament Announced

The Department Athletic committee has made a change to the Bowling Tournament this year. There will now be two weekends of tournaments at the Wonder Lanes in New Rockford instead of the Northeastern and Southeastern Regional Tournaments and there will not be a Roll-off in March. The tournaments will be on the two weekends of

February 18-19 and 25-26.

The tournament fees are now \$25.00 per event and the handicap for this year's tournament is still based on 90% of 210.

The tournament is open for members of the Sons of The American Legion and the Auxiliary and will again this year. All entrants must show their 2011 Legion,

Auxiliary or SAL membership AND an ABC or WIBC membership card or pay an unattached bowling membership fee of \$21.00 for men and women prior to bowling, as this tournament is sanctioned. The tournament will again include four-man team, doubles and single events.

Tournament action will begin two

weeks after the American Legion Winter Conference. Saturday's shifts begin at 11:00 a.m. through 5:15 p.m. and the first shift on Sunday is 10:00 a.m. with the last shift starting at 2:15 p.m.

Awards will be presented to first place winners in each division.

2012 N.D. STATE AMERICAN LEGION

BOWLING TOURNAMENTS

**WEEKENDS
ENTRIES CLOSE
FEBRUARY 26, 2012**

**February 18-19
and
February 25-26**

**NEW ROCKFORD WONDER LANES
903 CENTRAL AVE., NEW ROCKFORD, ND**

**4-MAN TEAM
DOUBLES
SINGLES**

NEW ROCKFORD WONDER LANES

1. This Tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress. All participants must be USBC members to bowl. Eligible non-members must purchase an affiliate membership card prior to bowling. (\$21.00 for men and \$21.00 for women). North Dakota Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members only. Entrants must show either a Sons of Legion membership card, Auxiliary card or Legion membership card prior to bowling.
2. Handicap will be based on 90% of 210.
3. Entrants will use their highest sanctioned average from the 2010-11 season, minimum of 21 games. If you do not have a 2010-11 sanctioned average, minimum of 21 games, you may use your sanctioned average as of January 30, 2012, minimum of 21 games. All others must bowl scratch. If your January 30, 2012 sanctioned average minimum of 21 games is 10 or more pins higher than the prior season's average, you must use average as of January 30, 2012.
4. Rule 319d will apply. Anyone who has qualified for a cash merchandise prize of \$300.00 or more in the position standings prize list in any event in a tournament including all events special feature, special prizes or donated prizes, within the last 12 month period must report their actual score, position, and amount won to the tournament manager prior to bowling for possible rerating.
5. Rule 319a-3. It shall be the bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his or her average whether originally submitted by the bowler or others. Failure to use the proper average or make a correction prior to completion of the first game of a series shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than actual average or base prize winnings on submitted average if it is higher.
6. Rule 319e will apply to all entrants.
7. ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 per event. Prize Fee \$15.00, bowling fee \$8.50 (includes ND State Sales Tax); tournament expenses \$1.50.
8. All prize fees returned 100 percent.
9. Three lines per each event. You may bowl each event twice. You can only cash in singles one time. To cash in doubles twice, you must change partners. To cash in teams twice, you must change with two different bowlers.
10. PAYOFF: One out of each four entries.
11. All Events Optional: \$3.00 per bowler. Prize ratio: 1 for 8 entries. Bowlers first appearance in each event shall count toward their "all-events" total. (Rule 315d)
12. Plaques will be awarded to first place winners in each division.

(See above article for shift times)

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



AL GAINES
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Living In The Light

Greetings fellow Veterans,

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful North Dakota fall weather and are prepared for the change of season. During the first week of November I was invited to the "Big Woods" of Minnesota for a few days of bow hunting the big elusive white tail buck which we call the Thirty Pointer! Of course, I didn't see him or any other buck with more than two points. Oh well there is always next year.

It has been about five years since I was in the "Big Woods" and my first morning while in the deer stand a pack of timber wolves started howling pretty close to my stand and I was very grateful that I was twelve feet off the ground in a tree stand. That morning I started to remember my fear as a teenager walking in the "Big Woods" in the dark.

In the "Big Woods" you have to keep an eye open for all those critters that live in the "Big Woods"! The MOUNTAIN LIONS, TIMBER WOLVES, COYOTES, MOOSE, BLACK BEARS, Wild Teenage Rutting Bucks and of course the wild eyed Norwegian Logger named Big Joe that has never been caught! They all wander the woods from time to time looking for a good meal.

Of course there are other critters that will ruin your day if you get too close to them in the dark also! The Old Porcupine gives a very mean high five! The smelly skunk gives free cover up scent for all that get too close! And of course that Ruffed Grouse when stepped on in the dark will normally cause another horrible odor that needs to be attended to right away at home.

As a young strong very fast invincible teenager, I was pretty sure I could outrun anything in the "Big Woods". Besides, I always thought that none of these animals would enjoy eating a skinny boney tough little white boy like me. Now as I stood

in my deer stand listening to the Timber Wolves getting closer, I became very aware that I have matured into a very large adult that moves very slowly and I have turned into a full meal deal for a lot of the critters in the woods. Walking in the dark still gives me the creeps!

While hunting in the mornings I get a great relief when the sun comes up even after all these years. Even way back in the day when I was out in a listening post or on guard duty the sun was always a welcomed warming sight that always gave me great relief.

Have you ever noticed that when the sun comes up in morning darkness flees! It runs and hides. It is the same with Jesus! When the "Son" appears darkness always flees! Darkness and light are just not compatible. Jesus spoke these reassuring words to us in the Gospel of John: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

While I'm still in this fat old body here on earth I don't want to be a full meal deal for Satan! I have chosen to walk in the light of Jesus here on earth so I won't have to live in fear of the darkness ever again here on earth.

My prayer for you today is that you have made Jesus the light of your life and you're enjoying the joy and peace of Jesus as darkness flees from you also!

If you need a good starting point on finding the light of Jesus read the Gospel of John and let the words of Jesus penetrate in! If I can serve you in any way to find the light of Jesus and have darkness flee from you let me know! My e-mail address is:foreveryoungbranch@hotmail.com

God Bless
Chaplain Al

Military Culture Certificate Program

By Dr. Alan Fehr

I recently posed some questions to a veteran's advisory group about whether they would encourage mental health providers to receive specialized training for working with veterans.

They responded with unanimous agreement.

What about other professionals? Should physicians, attorneys, law enforcement, clergy, etc. also have specialized training for working with veterans?

Again, there was unanimous agreement. And what should that specialized training involve?

That is a more challenging question. What does it take to understand a veteran? Is it about understanding deployment and battlefield experiences? Is it about learning about the chain of command and military structure? Is it about the cultural experience of boot camp and learning military values?

Can that be learned by taking an online course or by reading a book?

The veterans group gave me some ideas, which will be very helpful.

It is noteworthy that the Rand Center for Military Health Policy Research had produced a 2008 report titled "Invisible Wounds of War," which had advocated for medical and mental health professionals

be trained in military culture, military deployment, specific therapies related to trauma, and issues relevant to veterans.

The ND National Guard with the support of UND, Dept of Human Services, MHAND, and other agencies is developing a military culture certificate program to encourage professionals to learn about the military experience.

This professional development program includes topics on military organization, deployments, clinical issues, ethics, and military families.

At our request the Center for Deployment Psych (CDP) sent trainers to Fargo and Bismarck this past summer to provide advanced training in treatment of PTSD. Based in Bethesda, MD, they train Dept of Defense behavior health providers to work with veterans and service members. CDP has made a commitment to us to continue to support our program by providing future trainings.

They also have an online training program that is currently operational.

Based on feedback from veterans and local mental health providers, the Military Culture Certificate Program seems to be an idea whose time has come. FY 2012 will see further development on the program and a need for veterans to help us get the word out to professionals in their communities.

Dr Alan Fehr is a clinical psychologist and the Director of Psychological Health for the ND National Guard. He can be contacted at alan.fehr@us.army.mil or 701-225-1050.



Dr. Alan Fehr

Have You paid Your 2012 Membership Dues?

VETTER SEEKS THE DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT FOR NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Larry Vetter

Having received the endorsement of the Larimore Ted Valerius Post 97, Larry Vetter announces he is seeking the Department endorsement for National Vice Commander. Vetter is currently the Department Executive Committee Chairman. Larry has served as Post Commander, District Vice Commander, District Commander and Regional Vice Commander, MPA Chairman, Commander Elect and Department Commander. He also serves on the National Foreign Relations Council.

Vetter is a 31-year veteran of the US Army, Army National Guard and Reserves, retiring in 1999 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. During his military career Larry did two tours in Vietnam as a combat helicopter pilot. He was awarded the Air Medal, Army Accommodation Medal, Bronze Star and The Distinguished Flying Cross.

Larry is currently employed by the US Air Force at Grand Forks Air Force Base. He works in the engineering department as a construction representative.

Larry and his wife Sandy have 6 children and 10 grandchildren.



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DAVID JOHNSON
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires, our Auxiliary Members and the Sons of The American Legion, it is with grateful appreciation to the members of the DEC whom have selected me to represent the Department as your Adjutant. It appears that previous Adjutant's have elected to name their Legion News column, using a catchy or rhythmic title. I'm not that creative in choosing a title, so I will just keep it simple and use it to present my "perspective" on the issues with which we are facing as an organization.

Now, to give you a little personal background. I was born and raised in a small town, just east of the Fargo-Moorhead area in Hawley, MN. My family roots run deep in this area, back to the early homesteading days of the Red River Valley. My Great-Grandfather was a merchant and opened a general store in Hawley, providing all the goods and services needed by the settlers of that time. My father was the third generation to operate the family business. It is this environment from which I have drawn significantly in the development of my personal character. The grocery business in a small community allows for the interaction of individuals of every aspect of life. Children, parents, neighbors and senior citizens; my favorite from these groups of people have always been our senior citizens. It was always enjoyable to converse with Albert Frisk, a man whom possessed a quick wit and incredible wisdom. He was always ready to share a tale or provide guidance to me as a youth. Albert was not my sole source of inspiration, for I also provided home grocery delivery to my Dads customers, gaining and enjoying the trust of my neighbors and families.

It is from within my youth, that I first experienced the Legion family, and the impact that our Legion Posts' have on our individual communities. Turkey Bingo in the fall and Spring Bingo for the Easter season. Legion Bingo was the center of activity during the winter months for our communities' citizens to gather and share their time together. Of course, Memorial Day was the legions' annual focal point, the parade to the cemetery for the memorial services, speeches from our local veterans of the "War to end all Wars", and the scurrying of us kids to recover the shell casings after taps and the volley of rifles to honor our nation's dead. I grew up in a community where the service to your country was more of an expectation than matter of choice. Military service ran deep and long in our family roots so my enlistment in the Navy

came as no surprise to my parents for I was the third son to step forward.

I enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1973, a time when our country was engaged in a variety of conflicts and multiple political issues. Viet Nam was still a hot bed of activity, being fought openly on the six o'clock news and the less publicized, global conflict with communism, the Cold War. This is where my service to the country started. I became an Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator flying as an aircrewmen aboard helicopters which were deployed upon Navy Destroyers and Frigates. I was trained to track Russian nuclear submarines. I served on active duty for four years, home ported out of NAS Norfolk, VA. Upon my discharge, I returned to my hometown area and affiliated with the Navy Reserves. At the conclusion of the Cold War, I was able to retire from the Navy in 1994. The Navy has been a huge part of my life's' experience; I've traveled 21 times zones in pursuit of the "Red Menace", searching both north and south of the equator for the threat of their nuclear submarines. During this time, as I was serving in the Reserves, I attended Moorhead State College and received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. It is also a time that I made a slight course change in my military career and served nearly four years in the 188th ND Army National Guard Band based here in Fargo, ND.

Upon graduation from college, I entered the business world as a sales agent in the real estate industry; I couldn't have chosen a worse career field during one of the toughest economic downturns of our countries history. I eventually traversed this career into the very rewarding and challenging field of Non-profit Management; I served as the Executive Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead for nearly twelve years and was able to develop the organization's membership services and expanded the identity and visibility of the Associations' members. During my tenure with this trade association, I was able to grow its self-funded health trust and created an industry related foundation.

Other recent employment carried me forward into the manufacturing arena with it being tied to my marketing and sales background. I was soon marketing and selling products on a national and international basis. A very challenging and

commodity based industry; it too suffered from the economic crunch of recent years. This slowdown has brought me full circle back to the non-profit management world of my beginnings. I have a passion for the needs and directions non-profit organizations require to be a successful and viable group within its community. If it were not for the volunteers of this country, who provide countless hours of gratuitous work and support of various causes, it would be unimaginable the burden placed on our governments to provide equal quantity of labor or services to meet the needs of individuals whom are in need of our help or support in whatever form or shape necessary.

As your Adjutant, I am here to support the mission of this organization in any way possible and I will be challenged in this regard. The American Legion has several excellent visible and worthy projects. I look forward to being a part of this Department

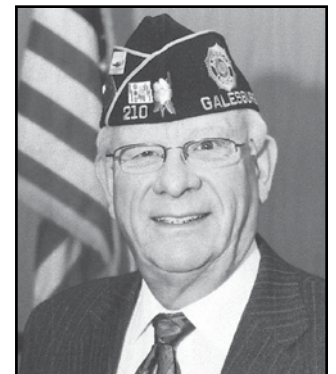
and the future it has before it.

I currently live in Moorhead, MN and have two boys, a junior and sophomore enrolled at Moorhead High School. My hobbies are quite varied. First of all is my love for music. I am an avid amateur musician, as well as being a certified musical instrument repair technician. I love to cook and tent camp.

In short, if you have any question regarding your military service or need assistance from your American Legion, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or one of our staff. Jim Deremo; Department Service Officer located at the ND VA Administrative offices, Teri Bryant; Programs/Membership Coordinator or Sarah Kim; Administrative Assistant. We are here to help you with your needs. Best regards and please step up and introduce yourself to me when I am visiting your Post or District meetings.

S.B. Aasen Post 210 is proud to endorse Wayne D. Satrom

**for National Vice
Commander**
*We are asking for your support
as Wayne seeks the
endorsement of the Department
of North Dakota*



Wayne D. Satrom

- Paid up for Life member of the American Legion
- Member of Post 210 for 41 years
- Past Post Commander
- Post Boys State Chairman
- Post Oratorical Chairman
- In charge of the Post Honor Guard
- First District Vice Commander
- First District Commander
- East Region Vice Commander
- Commander Elect
- Department Commander
- Alternate NEC
- Appointed to the National Convention Commission for the last few years
- American Legion Foundation Board from East Region
- North Dakota Veterans Foundation Board
- National Guard and Reserve Liaison

We are very proud of Wayne and would appreciate your support as he seeks the Department's endorsement for the position of National Vice Commander at the State Convention in Jamestown.

Wayne has been married to his wife Virginia for 46 years. Virginia is a Paid-Up for Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary. They have two children, a daughter, Shawn and a son, Chad. Chad farms with his dad near Galesburg. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



LARRY VETTER
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**Department of North Dakota
American Legion
Executive Committee Meeting
Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge,
Dickinson, ND
1500 hrs, June 23, 2011**

Chairman Jerry Samuelson called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm with a salute to the colors and the pledge of allegiance. Dale Roth offered the prayer.

On a MOTION by Bob Krause and SECONDED by Dave Rice to approve the agenda with the additions of the Legion van and the committee for the 5 year financial outlook was unanimously approved.

The minutes of 28 March 2011 were reviewed.

On a MOTION by Bob Krause and SECONDED by Larry Vetter the minutes were unanimously approved with the follow up for Cornerstone Bank and staff insurance tabled until the fall meeting.

George Zeller reported on the Financials.

General Fund:

- LIT check was larger than normal due to periodic bonuses.
- George Zeller does not want to approve the 3 year comparison due to 2 years are subject to audit and 1 year is approved.
- CD's are coming due in May and July and would like to keep the CD's at a 1 to 2 year maturity.
- The CD's are kept below \$250,000 per bank due to FDIC.

Programs: Boys State

- Many of the registrations came in after May 31 and should have broken even due to late donations.
- 104 boys were registered with 96 attending.
- Due to the declining attendees Boys State and Girls State may be combined.

Budget:

- Lost approximately 600 members this past year and would like to maintain

17,000 members which brought the income down \$23,000.

- Kept LIT at \$20,000 which is the average of the past years.
- Reflects a 2% raise for 2 of the employees.
- Increased Auxiliary portion for the Legion News.

On a MOTION by George Zeller and SECONDED by Robert Ludwig, the financial report was unanimously approved and subject to audit.

On a MOTION by Robert Ludwig and SECONDED by Dale Roth, to approve the budget was unanimously approved.

Old Business

The Legion van recently needed a new battery, battery cables, stabilizer bar, and tires and is starting to cost more money than it may be worth. Bidding for the van is to be published in the Legion News and the bulletin. The bids will be opened at the Winter Conference.

A committee for a 5 year plan needs to look at the financial outlook with decreasing membership/revenue and increasing expenses.

A discussion was held regarding the importance of the District Meetings and if the fall meetings need to continue.

New Business

Received on Legion College application from Dave Witkowski and Flo Glatt had expressed interest in attending.

Ginny Brazil's daughter had expressed interest in drafting a bill for the next Legislative session for veterans with PTSD to receive service dogs and would like the Legion to help sponsor it. The bill needs to be presented to the DEC and a recommendation for her to present it to the Coordinating Council was made.

Meeting was adjourned.

Second Annual Lt. Dan Weekend

**By: Jennifer Miller
Global Programs Manager**

This past September marked the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our country. In honor of fallen heroes, the Independence Fund sponsored the 2nd annual Lt. Dan Weekend in Beaufort, South Carolina. The 4-day long event is an opportunity for more than 100 severely wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan to bond in fellowship with other wounded warriors through athletic events and other recreation activities. The entertainment highlight is a performance by the Lt. Dan Band led by actor Gary Sinese, who is best known for his role as Lt. Dan in the 1994 movie Forrest Gump where he played the role of a double amputee from serving in Vietnam. Since starring in this movie, Sinese has been passionate about helping veterans.

The event took place in Beaufort, the filming location of Forrest Gump. Proceeds raised during the weekend will help the Independence Fund to provide tools, therapy and help for injured veterans. The event was made possible due to the support and dedication of many volunteer from the community of Beaufort.

North Dakota also had a presence at this event. Tyler Einarson, (Cpl. USMC Ret.) traveled there to volunteer with hosting attendees and helping to transport them from one location to another. Einarson is the Veterans Benefit Coordinator at Roll-A-Ramp, a North Dakota company that makes portable aluminum ramps for disability access into buildings and vehicles. He previously worked at the VA Regional Claims Office in Fargo. "I was honored to be a part of this weekend. As a disabled veteran myself, I am passionate about helping others who were more severely injured than me while in combat," says Einarson. "This is truly a great community event to help some great Americans."



PICTURED: Tyler Einarson (Cpl. USMC Ret.), Roll-A-Ramp Veterans Benefit Coordinator and Gary Sinese, Actor and Musician, most known for playing Lt. Dan in the movie Forrest Gump.

Roll-A-Ramp is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business. Under the leadership of Tom E. Kenville (Col. USAF Ret.). The company has held a contract with the VA since 2001. Qualified disabled veterans may be eligible to receive a ramp for their home through the HISA grant. The amount one may receive can vary based upon need and whether the disability is service-connected or non-service connected. Grants for vehicle adaptation are also available for veterans who suffer more severe disabilities.

More information can be found at www.rollaramp.com. Ramps come in a variety of widths and can be built to any length to meet individual accessibility needs. Einarson is available for consulting on veteran benefits and access needs.

Tyler Einarson, Cpl. USMC Ret., Roll-A-Ramp Veterans Benefit Coordinator and Lt. Dan Weekend Volunteer. Phone: 1-866-883-4722 (toll-free) or 701-277-9471
Email: sales@rollaramp.com

For Sale on Bids:

2000 Dodge Caravan
(Legion 2)
Sold as is where is
Mileage 157,000 (As of 11-30-2011)


Please submit written bids to:
American Legion Dept of ND
405 W Main Ave, Suite 4A
PO Box 5057
West Fargo, ND 58078



**Winning bid to be announced at
Winter Conference**

**Carl. E. Rogen Post #29
of Watford City Endorses**

JERRY SAMUELSON
For Alternate National Executive
Committeeman



**Jerry Samuelson
USN Ret.**

National Positions Held: VA & R Distinguished Guest Americanism Council Rehabilitation Advisory Board	Post Offices Held: Post Adjutant Post Service Officer Post Boys State Chr Post Drill Team
Department Positions Held: Chairman DEC Department Commander West Region Vice Cmdr. West Region Oratorical Chr. 9th District Cmdr. 9th District Vice Cmdr.	Professional Positions: Past President ND Assoc. Of County Veteran Service Officers Past President Arnegard Lions Club Mckenzie County School District #1 Board Member

Veterans Organizations:
American Legion
40 et 8
VFW

Posts Invited to Become Partners in Department History Project

Statewide American Legion posts are invited to join the Department History

Committee (DHC) in developing a history of the North Dakota American Legion. The document will span the 25-year period, 1995-2019.

Every post is encouraged by your Department to become a partner in this history as a way to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion in 2019 by disclosing your post's many good works over the years. This document is targeted for completion in the organization's centennial year and would supplement the Legion's First 75 Years in North Dakota (1919-1994) publication.

Veterans Memorials

Plans call for featuring a Veterans Memorial section in the history. We know of no other such documentation of community veterans memorials in North Dakota; we expect it will be an impressive array of statewide memorials honoring the sacrifices and services of all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces worldwide. With many posts yet to be surveyed, we already know that there are over a hundred veterans' memorials in our state. We ask each post having one or more veterans' memorials in the community to provide the following:

- Name of the Memorial
- Memorial's Location
- When and Who Established the Memorial
- Any Unique History of the Memorial
- A Digital Photo of the Memorial and related Plaques
- Name, Address and Telephone Number of a Point of Contact for additional information

Please provide your submission in a Microsoft Word product and send them electronically to the Department History Committee via email address: Bob.NDAL@Yahoo.com

Post Histories and Updates

Be proud of the services your post has provided that have enhanced the quality of life in your community and state! Your post likely conducted programs in some of these categories:

Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Rehabilitation, National Security as well as humanitarian and community service projects. Tell us about them in the submission of a brief history.

There were 107 posts which placed condensed histories in the 1919-1994 publication. They will draft brief histories of their activities commencing in 1995. The remaining posts, which did not enter a history in that publication, will begin their histories when the post was organized.

A post which submits a history on the early side of the below Project Work Schedule will have opportunity to send new information that updates the previous submission. When this project nears completion, a deadline date will be announced for final submission of updates.

Send electronic photos (digital or scanned) and word documents (Microsoft products) to Bob.NDAL@Yahoo.com or typed documents to Department Headquarters, PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078, Attn: DHC.

Here is the Project Work Schedule:

2011-12.....Veterans Memorials
 2012-13.....General Legion History
 2013-14.....Post Histories/Updates
 2014-15.....Veterans Memorials
 2015-16.....General Legion History
 2016-17.....Post Histories/Updates
 2017-18.....Complete Memorials and Post Histories/Updates Submissions
 2018-19.....Complete General Legion History

The above schedule was adopted to allow good latitude time-wise for posts to make digital submissions of photo(s) and related information on the veterans memorial(s) in the community (usually a one-time submission); ideal lead time for posts to research, prepare and submit their brief histories; and also enables your DHC, who are providing voluntary service on this large project, to process material submit it in the various categories and move the project ahead steadily on a work load level that is manageable in the last year.

Members of your DHC are: Co-Chairs Vern Useldinger, (701-232-1250, email: vbu2@cableone.net), Fargo, and Carl Likness, (1-701-642-2028, email: candslkness@wah.midco.net), Wahpeton; Secretary Bob Greene, also our electronic specialist, (218-230-4101, email: bob.ndal@yahoo.com), Grand Forks; Members Jim Deremo (1-701-451-4646, email: jim.deremo@va.gov) and Chet Gebert (701-232-0070), both of Fargo.

Thank you for your support and cooperation!

ND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Left to right: Eastern Division Oratorical Chairman Dave Daeley, Past 6th District Commander Oran Keith and State Detachment Commander Mike Daeley.

The new State Detachment Commander is anything but new. Mike Daeley lives in Kenmare, ND, works for Gooseneck Implement and has been involved in many veteran-assisted programs. In his younger years, he was involved in Boy Scouts and helped with Memorial Services in his grandparents' town of Sherwood, ND, and his parents' town of Maddock, ND. "I remember marching with the Legionnaires in Sherwood at the Canadian line, exchanging the flags with our neighbors to the north," says Daeley.

Mike joined the SAL in 2007 as a member of the Garrison squadron. He is eligible through both of his grandfathers and his father, all veterans of great wars and states, "I am proud to come from a Legion family. I was excited to join the SAL at age 26, but I wish I had known earlier so I could have been helping out sooner!"

Michael's grandfather Oran Keith served as District 6 Vice-Commander for two years and as Commander for another two years, as well as being West Region Vice-Commander for one year. "I am proud to say he is a Korean Veteran and I love spending time with him," Mike commented. His dad, David Daeley, was District 3 Vice-

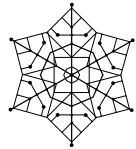
Commander and Commander for one year each. Mike's grandpa Bud Daeley has passed away but was very active and a charter member of American Legion Post 213. "It's been a real blessing to have both my dad and grandparents as veterans and Legionnaires. I have learned a lot from them: things like flag etiquette, the meaning of memorial services and why we should honor our veterans. Without them and their sacrifices, we wouldn't have the freedom we do have."

As a third generation officer in the American Legion family, Mike is excited and nervous to do his job to the best of his ability, with respect for his veteran family and the veterans of North Dakota. He looks forward to 2012 and plans to use the wisdom and experiences from his grandpa and father to help him in his upcoming challenges. "I think you have to seek council in an office as Commander so that you can make the best decisions possible," Daeley commented. He is looking forward to bringing new ideas to this office, and is excited to see the SAL of North Dakota grow! He welcomes any words of advice and any ideas to help him out.

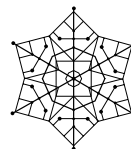
**Have You Paid Your 2012
Membership Dues?**

**2012 Winter Conference
February 3, 4 & 5**

Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, ND — 701-258-7000
Make Your Room Reservations Soon!



**ND Dept. of The American Legion
Tentative Winter Conference Schedule
Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, ND - 701-258-7000**



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012

7:00 am Early Arrival Social – Executive Suite 106

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

11:00 am DEC Meeting – Executive Suite 114 – Lunch at Executive Suite 106

11:00 am Auxiliary Budget Meeting – Judicial Room

1:00 pm Registration (until 7:00 pm)

1:30 pm Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting – Judicial Room

2:00 pm Boys State Executive Board Meeting – Senate Room

3:00 pm Regional Vice and District Commanders Meeting – Executive Suite 114

3:00 pm NDAL Foundation Meeting – Chamber Room

4:00 pm First-time Winter Conference Attendees – Suite 106

4:00 pm Committee Meetings: VA&R – Executive Suite 206

Guard and Liaison Committee - Board Room

5:00 pm Auxiliary No Host Dinner – Dakota Grill Restaurant

7:00 pm Call to Order – Department Commander Robert Krause

Advance Colors – Department Sergeant-at-Arms Leon Hiltner

National Anthem –

Pledge of Allegiance – Auxiliary President Betty Malkowski

Invocation – Department Chaplain Al Gaines

Address of Welcome – Bismarck Mayor – John Warford

1st Vice Commander – Steve Schilling

Unit President – Jane Noehre

Greetings from National Commander Fang Wong

Greetings from Other Dignitaries in Attendance

8:30 pm NDAL Foundation Reception – Executive Suite 106

9:00 pm Dance – Music by the State Band Jam Group – Assembly Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

7:00 am District vice-Commanders meet with Dave Rice – Executive Suite 114

7:45 am Registration (until 1:00 pm) – Doublewood Inn Lobby

8:30 am Legion/Auxiliary General Session – Heritage Ballroom

History Committee Update by Bob Greene

ND Adjutant General David Sprynczynatyk

ND Veteran's Home Update by Susanna Schlecht, Marketing Coordinator

VA & R Update by Jim Deremo

Auxiliary Update and Introductions by President Betty Malkowski

State of the Department Address by Commander Robert Krause

9:30 am Auxiliary Workshop – Judicial Room

9:30 am Breakout Sessions

Post Adjutants/Membership Chairmen – Heritage Ballroom

Post Service Officers - DSO James Deremo – Executive Suite 114

Oratorical Program Committee Meeting – Board Room

11:00 am Winter Conference/Press Association Luncheon – Senate and Chamber

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST FINALS – Heritage Ballroom

12:30 pm Boys State Executive Director – Allen Ruzicka

Athletic Chairman – Kenneth Vatne

International Music Camp – Joe Alme

1:00 pm Call to Order - Oratorical Chairman, Ron Broderson, Watford City

(No one will be admitted to the room after the doors are closed)

- Prepared orations by four state finalists

- Contest continues with Assigned Topic Presentations

- Contest Judging

- Contest Awards presentation by Ron Broderson and Robert Krause

4:00 pm Reception for Department President Betty Malkowski – Judicial Room

4:00 pm Committee Meetings:

Americanism/C&Y Committee – Board Room

4:00 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting – Senate and Chamber Rooms

Grand Chef de Gare Aaron McFerran

WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET – Heritage Ballroom

5:30 pm Social Hour

6:30 pm Conference Banquet (Guest speaker National Commander Fang Wong)

8:30 pm Winter Conference Ball (Music by American Legion State Dance Band) – Assembly Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

7:30 am ND American Legion Press Association Breakfast Meeting – Dakota Grill

7:30 am Auxiliary Breakfast – Judicial Room

8:00 am Auxiliary Meeting – Judicial Room

8:00 am Athletic Committee Meeting – Board Room

8:00 am Delegate Selection Committee – Executive 206

8:30 am SAL Meeting – Governors Rooms

10:00 am Joint Memorial Service – Heritage Ballroom

Closing - Department Commander Robert Krause

Retirement of Colors



Hosted by
**LLOYD SPETZ
POST AND UNIT 1**



Local Posts in the News

Your local Post can be featured on this page in future issues by sending photographs and short stories to: North Dakota Legion News, P.O. Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078. All photos must be originals and cannot be clipped from local newspapers. Stories from local newspapers can only be reprinted with the written permission of the editor.



PICTURED L TO R: Roger Sandvig American Legion Post #221 Commander, Robert Bartholomay, Marie Boeder-Bartholomay, Curtis Black and Veterans Home Resident Council President Larry Hertwig.

Thanks to the Percy G. Carter American Legion Post #221 of Sheldon, the residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home have yet another reason to celebrate. Marie Boeder-Bartholomay, NDVH resident had mentioned to the Sheldon Legion that the Veterans Home was in need of Christmas decorations for the light poles surrounding the Veterans Home. Post #221 held a Veterans Day Pancake and Sausage breakfast with the proceeds going to the North Dakota Veterans Home Christmas decoration fund. Roger Sandvig, Post #221 Commander was pleasantly surprised by the generosity of fellow Legionnaires and community members. The free-will offering collected at the pancake breakfast amounted to \$720. Post #221 Commander Roger Sandvig presented the check to Marie and fellow residents at the North Dakota Veterans Home on Tuesday, November 15.

Susie Schlecht
Marketing Coordinator, NDVH

David Rolfson for Western Region Vice Commander



David Rolfson

Carl E. Rogen Post #29 of Watford City is proud to endorse David Rolfson to seek the position of Western Region Vice Commander. David is a member of the Watford City Post #29 and has served as Post Commander, 9th District Vice-Commander and 9th District Commander and is currently the Post Chaplain and a life-time member of the VFW.

David and his wife Jan, farm and ranch in McKenzie County. David has served in various farm and community organizations including the western ND District Council (ELCA), Area Council on Drug Abuse and Alcoholism (United Way), County Chairman-Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and is currently President of the Lutheran Church he attends.



YOUR NEC REPORT



CURTIS TWETE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

A fellow Veterans close friend and WW II Veteran called the other day and asked me to be sure to make Legionnaires aware of the upcoming Endorsement Season for Political Candidates. As you may know there is a person seeking the Endorsement to run for Congress who made a sustained effort to destroy The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs in the last North Dakota Legislative Session. Even getting a number of colleagues to vote for the Bill to fix a problem that didn't exist.

With the Super Committee failing to address the National Debt and the Congress that created it unable to fix it; our military is facing drastic reductions which will have an impact on National Defense and our people serving in the military. You can be sure the veterans of this nation will be impacted greatly. This will affect recruiting, retention and readiness at a time much of the world is in turmoil. As veterans we are aware of the impact of draw downs and peace dividends. If the public is unaware of history you can count on history repeating itself, ask a WWII or a Korean vet.

The person seeking the endorsement for Congress ignored the input from Veteran's Organizations and failed to inform the leadership of those organizations of the plan to hog house the bill as the first order of business at the bill hearing. This made all testimony prepared

for the hearing irrelevant and the time off to present it wasted while not changing the intent of the bill.

Get involved in your local district and take the time to be a delegate to the endorsing convention because we will have a big enough battle in Congress without that kind of representation from North Dakota. How you vote is your business but the issue cannot be ignored when we need folks in Washington who will respect the input of those who have served. We've been blessed with the ear of the people representing us in Washington, let's not give that away. To those serving in Washington, THANK YOU.

With Thanksgiving leftovers gone and the Christmas season coming upon us, I hope this finds each of you prepared for this Blessed time of the year. My regards to each and every member and those near and dear to you. I trust we all wish the best to the newest member of our staff in West Fargo, David Johnson, Department Adjutant and to the long serving staff members who have carried us through while we were without someone in that position. SEASONS GREETINGS!

Gwinner Office Sends Care Packages to Deployed Veteran Employees

Doosan/Bobcat Co. in Gwinner commemorated Veterans' Day with the veteran employees both at home and abroad. The deployed veteran employees will each receive a gift package (pictured at right) from Doosan/Bobcat Co. All other veteran employees were offered a free meal in the cafeteria, regardless of the shift hours they work. In addition, any veteran employee who belongs to a veteran's service organization and wished to take part in a Veterans' Day honor guard ceremony or a related activity was allowed the necessary time away from work with pay. The veteran employees who chose to take advantage of this worthy opportunity are very grateful.

Four of the employees are a part of the same National Guard unit: the 188th Engineer Company. They were deployed in August 2011 for a year of duty in Kuwait. Bryan Slaba, who is a member of the 200th Engineering Company for the South Dakota



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: **Kenny Wiederholt, Welder and American Legion Dept. Executive Committeeman Member -East Region and Janna Diggs, Human Resources Generalist at the Gwinner Office.**

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

By Ron Broderson
Department Chairman

The National High School Oratorical Contest was developed to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among our youth. Other objectives include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship. Another significant purpose of the program is to assist students in helping to pay the high cost of a college education. William Kitchen, a Past Department Commander of Missouri, is credited with originating the contest in the mid 1930's and the first national contests were held in 1938.

The contest has gone through some changes since its conception with an eligibility change a few years ago and a format change for the National Finals. The contest used to be open only to high school students in grades 9 thru 12 under 20 years of age who were citizens of the United States but has now been extended to include "lawful permanent residents".

The format for the National Contest was streamlined by bringing all Department Winners into Indianapolis for a three round competition at a common site. Student eliminated in the first round stay and become part of the audience. This change greatly reduced the cost of the program for travel of contestants and chaperones. It also gave potential returning contestants an opportunity to see the kinds of improvements to help them in future contests.

The state finals are now conducted as part of the annual American Legion Winter Conference as one of the main events.

The contest is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at the Doublewood in Bismarck and will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. at which time the doors will be closed and no one will be permitted to enter.

All Legion and Auxiliary Members attending the Winter Conference are encouraged to be part of the audience to witness some of the best high school orators express their knowledge of our Constitution.

The contest still contains a prepared oration phase and an assigned topic phase. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and be from 8 to 10

minutes in length. The oration must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States. The assigned topic phase must consume not less than 3 minutes or more than 4 minutes for delivery of an assigned topic related to the U.S. Constitution.

Competition begins at the District level and this year eligibility has been expanded to allow for more participation. District contestants can win up to \$300 at that level. Beginning back in 1998, each District now awards Savings Bond Scholarships in the amount of \$300 for first, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third. All prizes will be paid for out of the Chuck Schroeder Memorial Oratorical Contest Fund, administered by the North Dakota American Legion Foundation.

The winners of the district contests advance to the Eastern or Western Division contests on January 14th in Carrington and also January 14th in Watford City, respectively. Winners and runners-up of the Division contests advance to the State Finals at the Winter Conference on February 4th in Bismarck. Scholarship awards are provided at each level of competition totaling about \$1,500 at the state level.

The state winner advances to the national round of competition in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 13-15. Each contestant participating in the first round will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Each first winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the Final Round will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The national champion receives an \$18,000 scholarship, 2nd place receives \$16,000, and the 3rd place finisher receives \$14,000 scholarship.

Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend the various contests to show support to the students that take time and effort to enter this fine program. Individuals interested in learning more about the Oratorical Contest program should contact their local American Legion Post or call or write to me, Ron Broderson, Department Chairman, 12142 23rd St. NW, Watford City, ND 58854, phone 842-2005. You can find the District Oratorical Schedule on the legion website at www.ndlegion.org under Americanism/Children and Youth.

National guard was sent to Afghanistan in May 2011 for a year.

Currently Deployed Employees: Kevin Iverson, Material Handler, Zachary

Laddusaw, Material Handler, Cameron Qualley, Welder, James Tindall, Product Cell Leader and Bryan Slaba, Assembler.



POST EVERLASTING

The following North Dakota Legionnaires have been reported by their respective posts to have died and been transferred to the Post Everlasting. "Because of them, our lives are free; Because of them, our nation lives; Because of them, the world is blessed."



Bismarck - Post #1		Johnson, Jerald D.	08/25/2011	Hatton - Post #70		Kadmas, Garty L.	09/21/2011
Tekippe, George	08/26/2011	Jones, J. David	09/28/2011	Gustafson, Cliff	not reported	Reisenauer, Frank	09/23/2011
Voegele, Milton	08/15/2011	Kabanuk, Aerthur R.	11/17/2011	Holt, Byron	not reported	Park River - Post #147	
Fargo - Post #2		Palda, Robert	07/17/2011	Von Ruden, Robert L.	not reported	Alkofer, Raymond E.	10/03/2011
Dunford, Thomas	not reported	Pitner, Danny	09/19/2011	Crosby - Post #75		Hjelmstad, Milton P.	10/02/2011
Hadland, Oliver	not reported	Slavick, Layman C.	11/22/2011	Hanson, Erwin M.	10/07/2011	Seboe, Vernon	09/23/2011
Johnson, Virgil	not reported	Sonnenberg, Paul	05/09/2010	Cando - Post #79		Page - Post #154	
Napper, Donald	not reported	Swartout, Karl	10/24/2011	Parker, Richard L.	not reported	Holden, Miles W.	09/21/2011
Olwin, Robert	not reported	Watford City - Post #29		Hankinson - Post #88		Granville - Post #155	
Olson, Walter	06/11/2011	Breiland, Orlin	not reported	Pankow, Rudolph F.	not reported	Frey, Allen E.	not reported
Peterson, Marvin	not reported	Westlund, Oscar	not reported	Stack, Eugene	not reported	Sharon - Post #169	
Sateren, Roger	not reported	Towner - Post #34		Northwood - Post #92		Thompson, Richard	not reported
Scott, Douglas	not reported	Schiele, Ivan	not reported	Bay, Roy E.	07/15/2011	Bowdon - Post #175	
Dickinson - Post #3		Oakes - Post #36		Larimore - Post #97		Hoff, Alvin	not reported
Burkle, Kornard	not reported	Brady, Earl	09/27/2011	Bakke, Jerome	10/17/2011	Strand, Alvin O.	not reported
Keller, George	not reported	Skjefte, Alton	10/29/2011	Hebert, Paul	09/11/2011	Milton - Post #179	
Kelly, Fabian E.	not reported	Velva - Post #39		Langdon - Post #98		Davidson, Gerald E.	not reported
Thomas, Joe	not reported	Irwin, Dale J.	not reported	Kram, Joe J.	not reported	Einarson, William	not reported
Uhler, Albert	not reported	Muus, John R.	not reported	Witzel, Clifford	not reported	Lieberg, Donald L.	not reported
Volesky, Charles	not reported	Mandan - Post #40		Hebron - Post #100		Richardton - Post #180	
Wald, Francis J.	not reported	Reisenauer, William P. Jr.	not reported	Ervin Mutschelknaus	not reported	Messer, Frank	10/23/2011
Whelan, Darwin	not reported	Grafton - Post #41		Fairmount - Post #106		Messer, Norbert	04/23/2011
Hillsboro - Post #4		Biri, Andy	09/05/2011	Polifka, Tom	11/04/2011	Columbus - Post #183	
Svaleson, Merton	11/13/2011	Birk, Thomas	07/08/2011	Wildrose - Post #110		Soderquist, John	not reported
Grand Forks - Post #6		Dipple, Halward	10/24/2011	Larson, Perry	not reported	Hazen - Post #189	
Bostrom, Donald E.	09/08/2011	Dusek, Benedict J.	11/19/2011	Willow City - Post #112		Burke, Robert A.	not reported
Washburn - Post #12		Evens, Morris	07/15/2011	Danielson, Gary R.	not reported	Rolette - Post #194	
Carr, Clayton	08/09/2011	Oihus, Arthur	09/10/2011	Hannaford - Post #113		Boucher, Vernon	06/06/2011
Finley - Post #13		Schwartz, Eugene	11/22/2011	Michaelson, John E.	not reported	Gable, Wayne	10/25/2011
Anderson, Richard L.	08/16/2011	Tessin, James G.	08/29/2011	Hettinger - Post #115		Minto - Post #201	
Kvamme, Vernon K.	10/21/2011	Bottineau - Post #42		Clement, Joseph L.	09/21/2011	Byzewski, Adam	09/23/2011
Sorlien, Nordeen	08/30/2011	Gangl, Walter	not reported	Koltjes, Gerarld J.	09/19/2011	Tappen - Post #212	
Jamestown - Post #14		Sather, Arthur	not reported	Seifert, Martin	09/05/2011	Adams, Eugene J.	10/13/2011
Bassett, Richard	10/26/2011	Carson - Post #45		Thompson, Roger	03/10/2011	Sherwood - Post #213	
Cebula, Robert	10/08/2011	Cofer, Gordon	08/29/2011	Grenora - Post #116		Trout, Aaron	not reported
Gaedtke, Anthony	not reported	Fischer, Frank	08/08/2011	Thunshelle, Haaken A	not reported	Rolla - Post #235	
Gardner, John	09/25/2011	Johnson, Howard	08/29/2011	Kindred - Post #117		Mattson, Delmer	not reported
Nitschke, Lawrence	08/23/2011	Killdeer - Post #46		Otterson, Walter	not reported	Adams - Post #237	
Siebert, Carl	10/09/2011	Braun, James	not reported	Roe, James	not reported	Jasmer, Lester	09/08/2011
Wenaas, Donald	09/11/2011	Bowman - Post #48		Spelhaus, Ilert	not reported	Neché Post #242	
Casselton - Post #15		Davis, Harold	08/23/2011	Plaza - Post #119		Cook, L. W.	not reported
Habiger, Ralph	not reported	Patterson, Virgil D.	09/25/2011	Thunshelle, Haakon	08/01/2011	Belcourt - Post #262	
Hope - Post #18		Peterson, Dean	09/20/2011	Maddock - Post #123		Champagnes, Willard J.	not reported
Gray, John M.	not reported	Garrison - Post #49		Sabbe, Conley	not reported	Regent - Post #273	
Mitzel, Daniel W.	not reported	Jamtgaard, L. J.	not reported	Turtle Lake - Post #133		Hoffer, Elmer	10/17/2011
LaMoire - Post #19		Mohall - Post #52		Westerlund, John	not reported	Schatz, Rueben W	not reported
Klein, Albert	08/31/2011	Allen, Winston	not reported	White, William	08/31/2011	Sarles - Post #276	
Wahpeton - Post #20		Trutna, Sam	not reported	Stanley - Post #134		Barker, Gerald R.	not reported
Hudson, Cyril	10/31/2011	Kulm - Post #57		Le Rohl, Harlow	not reported	Forbes - Post #277	
Pfister, Jack	09/29/2011	Land, Randy	not reported	McVile - Post #135		Klipfel, Oscar	not reported
Lakota - Post #21		Valley City - Post #60		Pederson, Elmer	10/28/2011	Riverdale - Post #281	
McErlane, Charles	not reported	Brock, Robert G.	not reported	Ellendale - Post #137		Jesser, Rodney	08/22/2011
Sloan, Donald	not reported	Fiegen, Richard L.	not reported	Hagen, Larry	08/14/2011	Johnson, Burnell B.	11/10/2011
Rugby - Post #23		Grenz, Walter	10/25/2011	Scherman, Walter J.	07/18/2011	Kottsick, Walter	11/19/2011
Kuhnhenh, Daryl G.	not reported	Priebe, Earl F.	11/08/2011	Tioga - Post #139		Harwood - Post #297	
Minot - Post #26		Brocket - Post #61		Wolla, Ernest G.	10/27/2011	Hogy, Elmer	07/29/2011
Bjork, Delwin	10/16/2011	Honkola, Albert R.	not reported	Solen - Post #142		Manvel - Post #299	
Burner, Eugene J.	11/06/2011	Walhalla - Post #62		Schmidt, Jerry	not reported	Amundson, Donald G.	09/06/2011
Charlebois, Louis J.	02/07/2010	Dalzell, Clifford L.	not reported	Cooperstown - Post #143		Byzewski, Adam J.	09/23/2011
Dipong, Richard J.	10/31/2009	Flasher - Post #69		Flaagen, Jarvis	11/08/2011	Saumur, William	10/15/2011
Eklund, Waine	09/27/2011	Grosz, Blasé	09/19/2011	Belfield - Post #144		Schmidt, Virginia	10/11/2011
Hogboom, D.	02/14/2011	Kuhn, Raymond	09/20/2011	Hibl, Albert W.	08/24/2011		

2011 National Convention Highlights



NORTH DAKOTA Legion State Band



RETIRING MEMBERS Kermit Rosendahl and Drum Major Ev Rollie celebrating their final appearance after decades of service to the ND State Legion Band.



COMMANDER KRAUSE on the convention floor.



NORTH DAKOTA Color Guard



MARK ANTAL, Eastern Region Vice Commander and Commander Vetter presents a check from the ND Legion Riders to National Commander Foster for the Scholarship Fund.



NORTH DAKOTA Delegation



LEADING CANDIDATE National Commander Fang Wong congratulates WWII veteran and state band member Kermit Rosendahl for his many years of service to the band.