Fargo Post 2 warm up prior to the continuation of a rain-delayed Game 11 of the 2019 American Legion World Series. Photo by Ryan Young/The American Legion

The American Legion Baseball teams received their regional championship medallions at the LeGrand Center in Shelby. These were presented by the mayor and city council of Shelby. These were presented by the mayor and city council of Shelby. The communities of Shelby, NC and Cleveland County hosted the American Legion World Series and all World Series tournament games were nationally televised on ESPNU.

The 2019 American Legion World Series kicked off with the 7th Inning Stretch Festival, annual event that attracted a record-setting 25,000 guests on August 10th. The festival kicked off with 5K run/walk to raise funds for the World Series and won the championship game against Fargo Post 2 with a score of 5-3.

North Dakota came into the World Series with a 51-6 record after beating out Minnesota Post 256 with an 8-0 victory at the Central Plains Regional Tournament. It is the fourth Post 2 team to ever make it to the World Series and the first in 27 years (1969; 1989; 1992) and one of just five appearances from the state of North Dakota.

The legacies of WWII and Korean War veterans were recognized prior to the start of Game 11 on August 18th. Post 2 played Idaho Post 56 again for the championship game on August 20th, but the skies opened up again and the game was suspended during the second inning with Post 2 leading 2-1. The game resumed the next day. This was Idaho’s 3rd straight year playing in the World Series and won the championship game against Fargo Post 2 with a score of 5-3.

North Dakota had the most players with five out of thirteen selected for the American Legion World Series All-Tournament Team. Over the course of the tournament the All-Tournament Team selection committee watched and evaluated every game played and selected players based on their performance and character on and off the field. The 2019 American Legion World Series All-Tournament Team members from North Dakota are Designated Hitter Zach Sandy, Utility Player Zach Klaver, Catcher Chandler Ibach, First Base Blake Anderson, and Pitcher Tyler Parrett.

The American Legion Department of North Dakota is proud of Fargo Post 2 on how they represented the state of North Dakota. We also want to thank the Legionnaires for supporting this Legion baseball program. These boys could not have done it without your support.

USA Military Appreciation Day was at the tournament on August 17th. Medal of Honor recipient Hal Fritz addressed the crowd and met with the teams. Post 2 won game 8 against North Carolina Post 45 with a score of 4-1.

Game 11 of the tournament was between Post 2 and an unbeaten team from Massachusetts Post 397 on August 18th and was suspended due to rain at the bottom of the 3rd inning with Post 2 leading by a score of 5-1. The game resumed the following day on August 19th. Post 2 allowed only one hit. This was the 13th one-hitter game in World Series history. Post 2 beat out Massachusetts Post 397 with a score of 9-1 and advanced to the semi-finals. This may have been Post 2’s 4th time to the World Series, but it was the first time Post 2 won two games at the World Series.

August 19th was an eventful day. Post 2 completed a suspended game in the morning and then returned in the evening to play Louisiana Post 366 in the semi-finals during game 13. Then in the bottom of the 3rd, the rain came again. The game was delayed for just under three-and-a-half hours. Post 2 won 11-4 and was headed to the championship game while making history as the first team from North Dakota to clinch first-ever title game appearance.

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Legion Act

The Congress and the White House agree to expand the definition of War Eras to include all who served since the end of World War II. The newly signed Service Act of 2019 – The LEGION ACT – honors those veterans, their spouses and descendants extending membership eligibility in The American Legion to hundreds of thousands who had previously been excluded. The LEGION ACT also extends American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is currently serving. The ACT also affects membership in the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion expanding eligibility for those groups as well.

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Fargo Post 2 Team

Colton Frey and Chandler Ibach Fargo Post 2 help pull a tarp over the field during a rain delay. Game 10 of the 2019 American Legion World Series. Photo by Chet Strange/The American Legion

Loss of A Dedicated Legionnaire

The Department of ND mourns the loss of Past Department Adjutant and Honorary Past Commander Vern Useldinger. Vern passed away on Monday, June, 24, 2019. Vern was dedicated to serving veterans and was known as “Mr. American Legion”. He began his 43-year career on the North Dakota American Legion State Headquarters staff, serving the latter 24 years as Department Adjutant prior to his retirement in 1991. In appreciation for his devoted service to the North Dakota American Legion, Vern was elected Honorary Past Department Commander at the 1981 Department Convention in Bismarck, ND. He received the North Dakota’s Department Commander Award in 1991 and the Public Relations Award in 1993. Vern served two years (1976-1978) as President of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. Vern was a 71 consecutive year Go-Getter. The Gilbert C. Grafton Post 2 in Fargo awarded Vern an Honorary Gold Life Membership.

Vern was also recognized and well respected in the National American Legion circles for his length of service, his meritorious attention for detail and his knowledge of all the facets of the American Legion activities. Vern was a man to go to for the answers, whatever the question may be.

Vern enlisted in the Navy, entering active duty after graduation. He served on an aircraft carrier at the Battle of Okinawa, in the invasion of Iwo Jima, and in Japanese waters when WWII ended. Called back to duty in 1950 during the Korean War, he served on an aviation supply ship operating along Korean coastal areas in 1951.

Throughout Vern and Barb’s 62 years of happy marriage, they cherished their time with their three children Brenda, Karen, Tom and grandchildren. Vern will be missed dearly by all those who knew him over the years and by The American Legion Department of ND.
2019 American Legion Boys State on NDSCS Campus

I want to thank each Post that sent Delegates to Boys State this year. You need to be very proud of the young men you sponsored this year.

Boys State was held June 9-14, 2019, in Wahpeton at NDSCS this year. We had 74 delegates with 5 no-shows. That compares to 1 no-show last year. The prior year we had 24 no-shows. The counselors started calling their delegates 1½ months before Boys State was to start. Also, I think the Posts did a better job of following up this year. But I do feel that the Posts need to do a better job of recruiting the young men to go to Boys State. It is up to all of us to keep this great program moving forward.

The Boys started registering on Sunday the 9th at 2:00 pm. Wahpeton Post 20 was present to help with the registration. The Boys checked into their rooms and then had their evening meal. They met in the Stern Culture Center where I had a chance to welcome them to Boys State.

On Monday, delegates started to campaign for the office they wanted to hold. This is a very exciting time for all the boys.

Tuesday was Legion Day and voting for the Boys State Governor, Lt. Governor and the Governor’s cabinet. We had a good turnout from our Legion Members again this year. I want to thank all the Legion Members that took time out of their busy schedules to be at Boys State. We judged 12 Samsung Scholarships applications and Dakotah Tahran from Valley City was selected as the winner. I want to thank Ron Mathews, Teri Bryant, Carroll Quann, Commander Glenn Wahus, Bob Knuse and Kenny Wiederholt for helping with the Samsung judging.

This year our Governor is Nikoli Schoenborn, Bottineau; Lt Governor Jacob Reineche, Bottineau; Secretary of State Gavin Sunderland, Fargo; Attorney General Ethan Haynes, Dickinson; State Treasurer Timothy Hubbert, Horace; State Auditor Jacob Shelver, Fargo; Agriculture Commissioner Adam Punton, Ayr.

Wednesday the boys start the DEM known as the Disaster Emergency Management exercise. They are given different disasters in cities, counties and in the state. I was asked to be part of this exercise and I had a great time.

Wednesday evening was the baseball game between Wahpeton and LaMoure. LaMoure won the game with a score of 8-2.

This year we had one delegate by the name of Logan Wyom from Rutland that broke his nose doing athletic competition with the other delegates. The Highway Patrol officer took him to the ER. Director Neil Litton met Logan at the ER with the insurance information. Chad Lystad talked to his city counselor and Logan said that the swelling went down, and his nose looked straight and that he will not have to delay any of his plans for sports or for anything else.

Thursday was Flag Day and again we had the Wahpeton Post 20 show the boys the retirement ceremony of our flag. I would encourage everyone to thank Post 20 for all they do for Boys State when we are in Wahpeton. Thursday was the last day of the DEM and in the evening was the Governors Ball.

On Friday the awards were given out. We had a number of parents and grandparents in the audience and that is such a nice thing to see. We served coffee and cookies, so I had a chance to visit with the parents and grandparents before the awards. Each one thanked The American Legion for giving their son this great opportunity.

We need to thank Gwinner School District for providing the bus service again this year. So, if you have a chance to talk to anyone from Gwinner make sure you thank them.

We will be short on income because of the low enrollment. We need to do a better job of recruiting the young men for Boys State. We have a great program and you should be very proud of it, I know I am. So, let’s get this program turned around in 2020.

With that, I want to thank Commander Glenn and the DEC for giving me this great opportunity of being the ND American Legion Boys State Executive Director.
Wiederhold - Begins Term as Department Commander

Steve Anderson, Elected as Department Commander-Elect

Delegates to the annual Department Convention in Grand Forks, ND, on June 27-30, confirmed Kenny Wiederhold as the 2019-2020 Department Commander to lead the North Dakota American Legion throughout the next year.

Department Commander Wiederhold hails from Gwinner, ND, and is a 30-year member of Lester W. Peterson Post 191. He has served as District 10 Vice-Commander, District Commander, East Region Vice Commander and East Region DEC. Kenny served in the US Air Force.

Commander Kenny Wiederhold, Cdr- Elect Steve Anderson, and Skip Nesdahl traveled to the Membership Conference in Indianapolis, IN, in early August to meet with then Leading Candidate National Commander Bill Oxford to discuss the Department’s goals. They will also be traveling throughout North Dakota this fall and next spring visiting Districts and assisting Legion Posts.

The 2019 Department Convention in Grand Forks was once again an exceptional event. We were proud to partake in the 100th Centennial Celebration and the events surrounding the celebration.

The Park River parade proved to be as much fun as I remembered from the last time. The city and its residents certainly know how to celebrate the 4th of July. I wish to express a big thank you to Mayor Dan Stensvold and the members of Post 147 for their generous hospitality. I also must say that I have a whole new respect for the National Commander Brett Reistad. He remains a true gentleman with the ability to enjoy the company of those around him. As we near the end of the 106th anniversary of the American Legion on Nov 11th, we all must remember that there are still numerous events scheduled around the state that we can participate. One such event includes the upcoming Celebration by Post 1 in Bismarck. This event will take place on Saturday, August 17th.

Lori and I have just returned from Minot where we were honored to ride on the Minot Post 26 float in the State Fair parade. I am looking forward to attending the American Legion Class A Tournament in Grand Forks and the Class B Tournament in Hazen.

The ofﬁce staff has been extremely busy preparing for the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN, on August 23-29. To think of this convention as the last one for the end of the first 100 years is truly amazing. I hope that many of you have plans to attend.

The commander’s calendar continues to see new events added each week. Should a post or community request my presence at an event, I ask that you please contact me with enough notice in advance to schedule the occasion. I will attend all events which are possible.

The DEC meeting will be held on October 19, 2019, at 1:00 pm at the Gladstone Inn at Jamestown, ND.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the members of this great Department for this chance to represent you in my travels. I consider this a great honor and I will serve with the dignity and pride of those who have served before me.

The 2019 Convention Sweepstakes drawing was held on Tuesday, June 25, at 9:00 am at the Department Headquarters ofﬁce at 405 W. Main Ave., Suite 4-A, West Fargo, ND.

Six $100 Winners:
Gerry Bergrude of Minot Post 26
Robert Miller of Sanborn Post 202
Douglas Arneson of Mandan Post 20
George Youngerman of Cando Post 79
Robert Boltz of Donnybrook Post 195
Dennis Sateren of McVille Post 135

Two $200 Winners:
David Fournier of Bismarck Post 1
David Hoerer of Sarles Post 276

One $1,000 Winner:
Dale Hatzenbuhler of Dickinson Post 3

And
One $2,000 Grand Prize Winner:
Elroy Handel of Crosby Post 75
Greetings All,

The ND American Legion Organizational Meeting was held immediately following the Department Convention in Grand Forks. Commander Kenny and his team are busy planning for next year. The new District Commanders and Vice Commanders have their hands full with membership and other issues facing the Legion. Membership goals will be discussed at length in Indianapolis next month as Department Commander Kenny, Department Adjutant Ron, Department Commander-Elect Steve Anderson and Eastern Region Vice Commander Skip Nesdahl will meet with the incoming National Commander.

The 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, IN, is only six weeks away. It will be completed by the time this is published. I hope everyone who is going has a safe and rewarding trip and enjoys their time there. It will once again be a busy time with meetings to attend. The parade may be the last for the American Legion as they are looking at the cost for future parades. The city of Indianapolis is paying for the parade this year. I think one of the most exciting things about the convention is the opening ceremony when anywhere from 3,000-5,000 people stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble in unison. It is a real source of pride.

The pre-convention NEC meeting on Monday will be informative as we will either approve or deny proposed resolutions before they are presented to the Roof. These resolutions are presented to the floor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for vote. Thursday is reserved for any unfinished business of the previous days and for the new National Commander to be installed and his remarks. On Thursday there is another NEC meeting after the convention concludes. This is when the new National Commander’s appointments are approved.

North Dakota’s Past Department Chaplain Mark Antal continues to be considered as a candidate for National Chaplain. This process takes some time, so there is no way to know when this could happen, but we will be spreading his accolades and hopefully it will take place soon.

Fall Regional Meetings are being set up with locations and dates being scheduled. District meetings are held in conjunction with these meetings and are very important for providing information to each District. These meetings are also an opportunity for the new Department Auxiliary President and the new Department commander to introduce their teams to the Legion Family. At one time in North Dakota we had 100% Post attendance at these District Meetings. Unfortunately, we haven’t seen that level of participation for many years. Let’s change that trend and get as many Posts to these meetings as possible.

As you are probably aware, I am not seeking a fourth term as NEC. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for the job, please consider putting your name in as a candidate. We are also looking for candidates for National Vice Commander. Elections will take place at our next Department Convention. If you have any questions about either of these jobs, please contact me or the office. Do not hesitate to contact me if there is any information that you need or have any questions for me, I will get back to you ASAP. My Cell number is 701-680-0567 and my e-mail is bokrausere7@gmail.com. Gail’s and my address is 3340 17th Ave S Unit 202, Fargo, ND 58103. Thank you all for your continued support of this great organization.

Department Commander Wiederholt and Auxiliary President Mirna Rohnholm’s Recognition Banquet will take place at the Gladstone Inn at Jamestown, ND, on October 19, 2019. The cost of the banquet meal is $25.00 per person. There will be a social beginning at 5:00 pm with the meal to be served at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP by October 12 if you want to attend the banquet.

Legionnaires, What a great convention that was put on by Grand Forks Post #96. Thank you for all the hard work put in to make it all come together. All the conventions seem to get better and better each time I attend one. I want to congratulate everyone on their election to office. It is going to be a great year working with all of our new leadership and being mentored by the seasoned ones.

We are hoping to have our Fall Regional Meeting in Bottineau barring any unforeseen circumstances. Post should be in contact with the District Commanders, we should have it nailed down with details by mid-August.

I would love to come visit as many posts as possible. Once we are back from the National Convention, I will try to get a schedule together and get myself on the road for a visit if my work will allow it. If you need me to visit, please contact me. Communication with each other will make our programs run a little smoother.

I am truly looking forward to the year to come and as always, no matter what I am doing within the American Legion family, I will make myself available to assist any of you that want or need assistance. I will always give you an honest effort in all that we undertake.

Please contact me at willison@legion.org, yes I am still keeping this email so I do not have too many to check, or 701-770-6836.

Dan Brown
Western Region Vice Commander

Commander and President Recognition Banquet

Hello to all Legion Family members from the Eastern Region.

The 2019 Department Convention was a huge success. Again, it was great to see everyone who was able to attend. I would like to thank Grand Forks Post #96 Commander Bob Greene and his group of many helpers for putting on a good convention.

The Legion membership year for 2020 is upon us. Don’t wait until the last minute to pay your membership dues. I am always talking of membership, keep it in mind and be on the lookout for new members to keep the American Legion going strong.

The Fall Regional Meeting will be coming up soon so plan to attend your Regional Meeting. I would like to thank the Department Staff for all the help I receive when I call with a question.

Thank you, Legionnaires, for all you did for the Good Old USA and the Legion.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and be safe.

Perry “Skip” Nesdahl
Eastern Region Vice Commander

There is a block of 30 rooms reserved under the name “The American Legion”. The cost of the room is $70.00, plus tax ONLY for the night of October 19th. These rooms MUST be booked by October 5th or the rooms will no longer be available at that price. It is NOT the responsibility of the department personnel to make your room reservations, so please call the Gladstone Inn at 701-252-0700 to make your reservations.

Now there’s Country House, a specialized residence of style and distinction - with professional 24-hour staff providing the care your loved one deserves.

Department Commander Wiederholt and Auxiliary President Rohnholm would be grateful for your presence on this occasion.
The following is a summary of the Convention Department Executive Committee meeting held on June 27, 2019, at the Alexis Center, Grand Forks, ND. This article provides a brief summary of the meeting and does not constitute minutes of the meeting, as the minutes have not been approved by the DEC or the National Headquarters meetings. The meeting concluded with a prayer of the Pledge and Prayer. After Department Commander – Glenn Wahus was appointed as a pro-temporary DEC Chairman, review of the consent agenda, meeting agenda and previous minutes were approved. Finance Officer Wittmer reported on the financials. Committee reports were given by several chairmen. Steve Anderson (Legion Riders) reported on upcoming activities of the Riders. There will be a Highway 281 Ride to celebrate the American Legion Memorial Highway on August 1st.

Director of the Foundation Harvey Peterson resigned effective 6/30/19.

GREG ORR – CHAIRMAN

NECman Bob Krause reported of some changes at the National Headquarters. Policy manuals and Constitution and By-law changes were discussed. Adjutant Matthews reported on the closing of more Posts. LaMoure Post 19 applied for a Sons Squadron. Commanders: Elect Wiederholt currently plans on continuing with the Helmets for Heroes project for next year.

GREETINGS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA! My name is Daniel Sauerwein and I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Commander for the Detachment of North Dakota, Sons of the American Legion for the 2020 membership year and to outline a couple goals for the coming year. I look forward to working with the executive committees of both the Legion and Auxiliary in the coming year to help the entire Legion Family. The Detachment Executive Committee have some great motivated members involved and together, we can accomplish great things going into the year.

I have been a member of the SAL since 2006, first as a member of Squadron 157 in East Grand Forks, MN, where I was privileged to serve as a Squadron Commander, as well as a District Vice Commander and District Commander. It was a distinct honor to get involved with Loyd Spetz Post 1 in Bismarck and work with them to organize and charter an SAL squadron there in late 2018. One of my goals for the coming year is to increase the communication within the Detachment, including using technology, to allow squadron commanders and the Detachment Executive Committee to better spread news and provide assistance for questions squadrions may have. I will be sending out letters and emails throughout the year to the squadrons to share any news or information that is important, especially to announce upcoming meetings (Winter and Convention especially), as well as share membership information.

I want to make myself available to you all for any questions you may have or information you need on the SAL. You can email me at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com, call me at 218-791-3804, or mail me at 1619 31st St NW APT 305, Mandan, ND 58554. I look forward to serving you all and meeting as many of you as I am able in the coming months. All the best for a great membership year.

Daniel Sauerwein

Commander, Detachment of North Dakota

Sons of the American Legion

THE BISMARCK SQUADRON #1 ELECTED SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Greetings to the Department of North Dakota! My name is Wendy Klug. “We are excited to serve individuals on active duty, veterans and spouses across the country for several years. In 2019, the program coverage areas were restructured and VBOC of the Dakotas, serving North and South Dakota, began when the grant was awarded to the University of North Dakota. At the helm in Wendy Klug, program manager, with teaching, small business ownership and business advising included in her rich work history.

“We are excited to serve individuals on active duty, veterans of any era and their spouses across the states of North and South Dakota,” says Klug. “And, as an SBA program, we are connected with several other resource partners that can assist you at any step in your journey – for free!”

The VBOC’s primary focus is training workshops in the forms of Boots to Business, held on military installations and Boots to Business Reboot, held off installations. Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot both provide participants with an overview of business ownership as a career, an orientation to the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition and an introduction to available public and private sector resources.

In addition to these federally structured training events, VBOC of the Dakotas has offered shorter sessions on topics such as social media and marketing as well as providing free and confidential one-on-one advising. Clients can come to the Grand Forks office for a face-to-face meeting or conduct their sessions over the phone or via web conference. Some that live close by even opt for one of these time saving choices.

For Klug, the reward for a job well done is seeing the success of those the program assists. “We love to see our training attendees and clients succeed and start their business to reach their dreams. It’s so rewarding to serve those that have served us and give them a helping hand in this next chapter.”

VBOC of the Dakotas is managed through the Center for Business Engagement & Development a part of the UND College of Business & Public Administration. The Center also oversees the ND Small Business Development Centers and the ND Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

If you are interested in attending a training workshop, registering for a free development service or reading our client success stories, please visit the VBOC of the Dakotas website at www.UND.edu/dakotasvboc to get started.

Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Dakotas Assists Veterans with Entrepreneurship

You or someone in your household likely owns or works for a small business. With the latest census data showing 99% of businesses in this country having 500 or fewer workers, you get an idea of just how many entrepreneurs there are in America.

Whether a person is just getting started with their idea, looking to grow their business, or ready to retire and sell the company, a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) is here to help.

The mission of VBOC of the Dakotas is to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, as well as referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

The VBOC program has assisted service members, veterans and spouses across the country for several years. In 2019, the program coverage areas were restructured and VBOC of the Dakotas, serving North and South Dakota, began when the grant was awarded to the University of North Dakota. At the helm in Wendy Klug, program manager, with teaching, small business ownership and business advising included in her rich work history.

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Blue Water Navy Veterans

As many of you have probably already heard, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for Blue Water Navy Veterans who served offshore Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

Although the VA will not start processing any claims until 1/1/2020, Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans’ service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

They decided instead to throw Joseph into an empty well, where he would be left to die. Once that happened, as far as the brothers were concerned, Joseph was out of their lives forever. But God had other ideas… I love that phrase: “but God.” How many of us have stories that would have ended so differently, if it hadn’t been for God changing the outcome?

Unbeknownst to the brothers, God led Joseph in a very different way of life that did indeed land him in a position of authority over them. He lived life in Egypt as the trusted servant and manager of Pharaoh’s property. He lived and dressed as an Egyptian. His brothers had it all figured out, but God, as usual, had the better plan. He did then, and He does now.

I encourage you to seek God’s heart for His direction for you personally, as a part of your community and as American Legion North Dakota. Watch for the “but God” in your life! My husband (Hutch) and I moved to North Dakota in 2011 and to Lisbon in 2016. We pastor a church there and in Forman, ND. I look forward to seeing you down the road.

My recent Bible studies have led me to the story of Joseph. Maybe you remember the coat of many colors that made him the envy of his brothers. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son and Jacob wasn’t very wise of Joseph. Maybe you remember the coat of many colors that made him the envy of his brothers. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son and Jacob wasn’t very wise of Joseph. Maybe you remember the coat of many colors that made him the envy of his brothers. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son and Jacob wasn’t very wise of Joseph. Maybe you remember the coat of many colors that made him the envy of his brothers. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son and Jacob wasn’t very wise...
Excitement was in the air on Saturday, June 22, 2019. Friends, family, neighbors, Legion and Auxiliary members from across the state of North Dakota gathered in Donnybrook to celebrate the American Legion’s 100th anniversary.

Donnybrook, a community of 60 inhabitants located 35 miles northwest of Minot, ND, hosted nearly 600 hundred visitors for this one-day celebration. There was something for everyone, including a parade, games, a water balloon throwing contest, bouncy houses for the little ones, a USO show, military memorabilia display at the Post and two community picnics. There was lots of food, visiting and laughter, and a street dance to wrap up the festivities.

The parade featured American Legion Department Commander Glenn Wahus, First Lady Tina Wahus and Auxiliary Department President Jeannie Román serving as Grand Marshals. Honorary Grand Marshals included: Jerry Munch, a 52-year member of Post 195; Wally Birkeland, a 51-year member of Post 195, and Betty Steinberger, a 71-year member of Unit 195.

Members of the Clarence McCormick Post and Unit 195 worked countless hours planning and preparing for the ‘big day’. The entire community was involved in some way with the local 4-H organization and volunteers from the Minot Air Force Base 91st Missile Wing serving lunch throughout the day and Donnybrook’s Volunteer Fire Department serving supper in Donnybrook Community Park. Nearly 500 were in the audience for the USO show and to top off the day, the band, “Too Old to Stand” based in Bottineau, ND, performed at the street dance.

Marilyn Bott, Unit 195 President and event co-chairman was quoted as saying, “The Donnybrook event was a huge success. We couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day and the crowd was awesome! I think I’ll put my feet up now and relax for awhile!”

Article and Photos submitted by Marilyn Bott, Donnybrook Unit 195 President

District/Regional Meetings

Auxiliary units will meet separately on the same dates and locations listed below following the joint opening sessions of the American Legion.

Saturday, September 7, 2019 - East Region - District 1, District 2, and District 10 to be held in Hillsboro, ND

Saturday, September 21, 2019 - District 7 and 8 will be held in Killdeer, ND

Thursday, September 26, 2019 – District 4 will be held in Jamestown ND

Friday, September 27, 2019 – District 3 will be held at Camp Grafton (near Devils Lake, ND)

Saturday, September 28, 2019 - District 6 and District 9 will be held in Bottineau, ND

World War II Veteran Anselma Clemetson Receives 65-Year Membership Honor

Anselma (Selma) Clemetson, a 65-year member of Paul Farup Unit 147 Park River, ND, received a membership certificate from Dianne Greicar in July. Selma joined the unit in 1954 and is also a member of the Legion Post.

At 97, Selma is one of the oldest living veterans in North Dakota. She served in the US Navy (WAVES) from 1943-1945, as a code girl, typing and sending out orders. Code girls took an oath to not reveal any of the orders crossing their desks for 50 years after leaving the service. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Navy Women’s Reserve Act into law on July 30, 1942, creating what was commonly known as the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), a division of the U.S. Navy created during World War II to “free up male personnel for sea duty”. Article and photo submitted by: Dianne Greicar, Membership Chairman, Paul Farup Unit 147 Park River, ND

Mother and Daughter Receive 60-Year Continuous Membership Certificates

Forman American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 presented Lois Hoistad and her daughter Debra Hoistad with 60-year membership certificates at the 2019 Memorial Day program. Debra was 2 years old when Lois signed her up as a Jr. Auxiliary member in 1959 with the Havana Auxiliary. When the Havana unit eventually disbanded, the two transferred to the Forman Auxiliary. They joined through husband and father Urban Hoistad who became a legion member in 1954. Donna Odland also received her 60-year certificate at this Memorial Day event.

Article and photo submitted by Sherry Hosford, Membership Chairman Forman Auxiliary
I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department President. I’m looking forward to the next several months and I know we’ll have a great year.

Thank you, unit officers and members of Treumann-Webb-Phelps Unit 6, of Grand Forks. Wow, what a Department Convention in June! I truly enjoyed your wonderful hospitality and commend you for your assistance with all facets of planning for such a big event.

My President’s Project (2019-2020) is to raise funds in support of veterans projects at the VA Medical Center in Fargo. I’ve purchased a beautiful poppy picture that I plan to donate to the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. Residents at the Lisbon Veterans Home have been so wonderful to assemble Auxiliary poppies for many years.

Membership remains an important program for our organization. We all need to make our goals this year. With Department membership declining, it’s important to have a member at the helm and a little help from each one of you, we will make goals! I enjoy working with membership and will help in any way I can.

I’ve already attended three parades this summer including Jamestown, Minot and Park River. I was amazed at the beautiful floats and the work that went into them and even more impressed by the numbers of people who came out to watch the parades. Many of the floats gave out candy and the youngsters in the crowd was eager to catch what they could.

I hope to see many of you on Saturday, October 19, 2019, in Jamestown for the 2019 Central North Dakota Auxiliary Gala Homecoming Dinner in honor of me and Kenny Wiederholt, American Legion Department Commander (2019-2020). More information and details will be coming soon.

By the time you read this note, I will be back from the National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana. I haven’t attended a National Convention since at least 2012 and I’m looking forward to being there with our North Dakota delegation for this exciting event.

Myrna Roholm

Meet your new Department Vice President. Growing up in White Shield, Sharon can still hear the voices of her grandparents, Mathew (Alice) White Bear Sr. and William J. ‘Bill’ (Leona) Deane Jr. as they instructed her in traditional ways and values – such as taking action to help people in need.

Sharon acquired her education from parochial, private and public schools throughout the western United States. Her passion and interest in the medical field. She started out as an ECT for Garrison Ambulance and went on to receive her National Certification of Surgical Technology from East Grand Forks Technical College. Sharon’s career started at St. Johns Hospital, then Merit Care Medical Center, in Fargo. She achieved her dream of working in cardiovascular surgical procedures. She moved to Minot, ND, in 1995 to assist in implementing a new Cardiovascular Program for Unity Medical Center. She returned to Fargo in 2000 to work at Essentia Health as a Certified Surgical Technician and First Assistant. While working, Sharon also went to school for a full time program earning a Bachelor of University Studies from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND.

Sharon volunteered for a variety of community events. She is a founding and first program of its kind in the United States. She continues to work across differences to serve all in the community. You can reach Sharon by phone at 701-421-2379, by e-mail at vicepresident@ndala.org, or visit her LinkedIn page.

Sharon White Bear

I hope everyone had a great summer and spent time catching up with families and friends and doing something wonderful and fun. I am sure many of you have already planned or are planning Fall District/Regional meetings. You will find information about the District/Regional meetings else in this publication. Plan now to attend the meeting in your area. This will be an opportunity to reconnect with others working the ‘mission’ of the Auxiliary, serving our veterans and their families.

A resolution to increase Auxiliary Department dues for both senior and junior members was passed at Department Convention in June. The dues increase will be effective for dues year 2021 and will be incorporated in September 2020, one year from now.

Information will be sent soon to all Unit Presidents regarding 2019-2020 Programs Action Plans, Mid-Year Reporting and Year-Ending reporting. Share the information with all unit members and remember everyone to report what they do to support veterans and their families, children and youth, education and so much more in your community. It’s important to ‘root’ your own horn. If you don’t do that, who will?

I want to remind all North Dakota units to do something special to celebrate the American Legion Auxiliary’s 100th birthday this year.

God Bless all of you!

Marcy Schmidt

I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve as your Department Chaplain again this year. I learned a lot this past year and look forward to learning even more.

It is my belief that all members should know that they are all important and we need to take advantage of the opportunity to let them know that we care and are there for them.

This is where the need of all Auxiliary members. Please contact me when you know of an Auxiliary member who you think could use some help. I am here to help and will do my utmost to reach out to them a card. This is where I need the help of all Auxiliary members. Please contact me as soon as possible when you know of a member of their families who need help. We are all one family and we need to continue to show our support to each other. You can contact me at chaplain@ ndala.org.

Father God, bless us today as we continue to sing and give praises for our American Legion Family that have given all for our freedom. As we come together, we send up praises for you and our purpose in this day. We come together as one “Mind and Body”, to celebrate and ask guidance. Let us be sure to seek you first and protect us as we follow your word today.

Amen

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no records of wrongs. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease, where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Sandra Petermann

Wow! This year has flown by too fast, but I enjoyed every moment of it. I will take away so many memories from my travels.

Although I traveled alone, I was always greeted by a friendly face whether it was Sandy Smith, our Department Membership Chairman and/or a District or Unit President. I even caught up with the American Legion vehicle on an occasion or two. I don’t mind telling you that I received my first speeding ticket. Not such a great memory after 46 years as a licensed driver, but it was just a matter of time.

I can’t express enough, my appreciation to everyone who brought t-shirts, raffle tickets, emblem badges and pins. I want to thank all those wonderful people and businesses that donated items for my President’s Project Raffle. Everyone’s generosity is greatly appreciated because 100% of proceeds are going to our veterans.

I wish only the best of luck to our new Department President, Myrna Roholm, as well as Beverly and Sharon White Bear as they prepare to take the reins of this great organization. You are awesome ladies and role models and I’m very excited for you to start your new adventures as well. Please let me know if you need any assistance. I’m just a phone call away.

I must give a big shout out to our Department Secretary, Marcy Schmidt. You will never know how much I appreciate you! I would never have made it this past year without your advice and support, especially the laughs we shared. Marcy is a wealth of information and is always available to give support and friendship and she’s a great cheerleader! Thank you, Marcy. I know you will also take good care of and support Beverly and Sharon in the upcoming year.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming year. As we come together, we send up praises for you and your purpose in this day. As we come together as one “Mind and Body”, to celebrate and ask guidance. Let us be sure to seek you first and protect us as we follow your word today.

Love and God Bless

Jeannie Roman (Department President 2018-2019)
District 7
District 7 Unit Members, I want to thank the ladies who attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention in Grand Forks in June. There were several memorable events for our 100th Anniversary which would make anyone’s heart swell with pride.

At the convention, I agreed to serve as your District President. I hope I will be able to give the position the adequate time it deserves. Let me begin by introducing myself. I am a mother of four children, grandmother of thirteen and great-grandmother of four, which includes occasional babysitting. Since Department Convention, our family was able to enjoy two family reunions as well as a variety of events since I’m also Unit President of the Vernon V. Isaacs Unit 78 of Stanton, ND. I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Knife River Indian Heritage Foundation in Stanton which is a foundation that assists the federal park in North Dakota. I lead worship in church and my husband, Vernon, and I serve as presidents of the State Square Dance Auxiliary Department Convention which will be held in Bismarck next April. We just returned from a week-long Bible camp with four of our grandchildren and to top it off, Vernon, is District 7 Commander as well as a North Dakota State Legislator from District 8. I also clerk for the Senate Appropriations Committee during legislative sessions.

If I accidentally interchange my district numbers, don’t be surprised. One of my greatest fears is that we’ll get our paperwork mixed up. Please be patient with me as I learn my new role as your District President.

I sincerely have a heart for our veterans and have always admired and respected the values and goals of the Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary. I would really like to see our work inspire young people and I hope that we can reinforce the ideals and spirit of America within them. I’m looking forward to our Fall District meetings and getting to know all of you.

Mission Delivery Training
Registration is open for Mission Training and National Juniors Meeting. To register go to: www.alaforveteran.org.

Mission Delivery Training helps members better understand our mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families. The goal is to reduce obstacles that would prevent members from getting started. As in the past, content will be built around the basics and will be held in conjunction with the National Junior Meetings.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND MISSION DELIVERY TRAINING?
Any enthused, new or newly active member who wants a deeper understanding of how to use tools the Auxiliary provides in mission delivery. Experienced individuals for informal mentoring and idea sharing.

It meant a great deal to me and Don to see all the well-wishes that I received during my recent stay in intensive care. While ‘Unit Everlasting’ might be a great place to visit, I was not quite ready to transfer my membership there just yet! It is in times like these that you really appreciate the comradeship that we enjoy among The Legion Family. I cannot adequately express how much it meant to me to hear from so many of you knowing that you had been in your thoughts and hearts and pulling for my recovery. It will be a long road to full recovery, but I am making good progress.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You All so very much!!

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Congratulations to American Legion Auxiliary’s Department of North Dakota

Members Holding Longest Continuous Membership

The Department of North Dakota wishes to recognize Eileen Joersz and Mae Ione Hande for their support of veterans’ programs through their long, continuous membership in our organization. Eileen Joersz holds the distinction of having the longest continuous membership having been signed up by her parents on September 30th, 1935, three days after her birth. Eileen is a member of the Gilbert S. Farmen Unit 40 Mandan, North Dakota. Mae Ione Hande, Past Department President (1989-1990), has been an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary since she became a junior member on September 1, 1938. Mae Ione is a member and current Unit President of the Van Jones Unit 188 Rhamme, North Dakota. CONGRATULATIONS LADIES! Thank you for your commitment and service to our veterans and their families.

Community Service Program
Most American Legion Auxiliary members participate in community service projects throughout the year. What is ‘community service’ you ask?

Community Service is a non-paying job performed by one person or a group of people for the benefit of their community.

Some of our small communities rely on community service to survive. Community service can be performed by volunteering hours, monetary donations or miles driven. A few examples of community service are helping a disabled veteran drive to an appointment, helping serve a funeral luncheon, cleaning up or planting flowers in a local park, helping walk pets for the disabled, painting and hanging down decorations for the elderly, helping put down sandbags for flood victims, donating funds to spay and neuter animals and donating food to food banks. The list goes on and on of things that are considered Community Service.

Remember to keep track of your Community Service hours, miles driven, and funds donated each month. If you belong to other organizations, you may count those volunteer hours too! Unit members Community Service hours should be reported to your Unit’s Community Service Chairman. They are then reported to your Unit President who in turn reports to your District President. When performing Community Service, remember to proudly wear your American Legion Auxiliary pins, earrings, hats and t-shirts.

If you have any questions about Community Service, feel free to call me at 701-340-6452 or simply drop me a note at:
Colleen Hauf, Department Community Service Chairman
1124 1st St NW, Minot, ND 58703
Email: communityservice@ndala.org
Colleen Hauf
Department Community Service Chairman

Memberhip Program
North Dakota Auxiliary Sisters, At Department Convention in June, I discovered that the North Dakota American Legion has nearly 14,000 members while the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary has 9,000 members. This doesn’t seem right somehow because we are the wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of American Legion and military veterans. Therefore, we have four times the field of flowers to pick from.

We’ve concentrated on being the flowers and buds in the field, but it seems we’ve missed quite a few flowers out there. Look around and find the blossoms hiding in plain sight. Maybe the Legionnaire you see has someone you don’t know or have forgotten about, or maybe she is standing right in front of you.

Perhaps a member of your Post isn’t living in your community, but that doesn’t mean you can’t try to contact them about their family members. Most people like to hear about their hometown and old friends and family connections, so a friendly letter might just make the difference. Ask a Post or Unit member to see if they know of anyone who fits that description. I admit it doesn’t always work, but nothing works if you don’t try.

I have a few spent flowers in my garden, but the garden is still in bloom and I keep adding new flowers. Remember, if that veteran is living somewhere else, their family might be on someone’s radar for planting their garden. We need to sign up all those family members in the American Legion Auxiliary, but personally I’d like our North Dakota numbers to go higher.

Let’s all work hard on membership this year and see if we can be the early birds and get new members signed-up. Wishing all of you good gardening for members!
2019-2020 Department Officers, and District Presidents

President
Myma Ronholm ..... H: 701-252-0000 ..... president@ndala.org

President-Elect
Beverly Wolff......... H: 701-872-5306 presidentelect@ndala.org

Vice President
Sharon White Bear . H: 701-421-2379 vicepresident@ndala.org

Secretary
Marcy J. Schmidt... 0: H: 701-253-5992 ..... secretary@ndala.org

Treasurer
Annette Zeller....... H: 701-822-3004 ..... treasurer@ndala.org

Parliamentarian
Diane Kraemer....... H: 701-772-1830 parliamentarian@ndala.org

Historian
Andrea Neshem .... C: 701-340-4865 ..... historian@ndala.org

Chaplain
Sandra Petermann: H: 701-484-5176 ..... chaplain@ndala.org

NEC National Executive Committeewoman
Tammy Ryberg....... H: 701-377-2813 ..... nec@ndala.org

Alternate NEC
Jeannie Roman...... C: 701-340-0702 ..... necalternate@ndala.org

District Presidents

District 1
Berniece Froiland... C: 701-297-3335 ..... district1@ndala.org

District 2
Kathleen Tuma...... H: 701-343-2925 ..... district2@ndala.org

District 3
Gloria Covert....... H: 701-299-9447 ..... district3@ndala.org

District 4
Joan Lasher......... H: 701-363-2770 ..... district4@ndala.org

District 5
Charlotte Heiser..... H: 701-734-6268 ..... district5@ndala.org

District 6
Alicia Roman...... C: 701-578-4978 ..... district6@ndala.org

District 7
Rose Lanning....... H: 701-355-0364 ..... district7@ndala.org

District 8
LoAnn Dick......... H: 714-334-4788 ..... district8@ndala.org

District 9
Dawn Wilber........ C: 701-509-1858 ..... district9@ndala.org

District 10
Cara Rikke......... C: 701-640-5266 ..... district10@ndala.org

A full list that includes mailing addresses has been sent out to units, is available from the Department Office, or may be downloaded at http://ndala.org/contact-information/

In Memoriam

DISTRICT 1
Genevieve Korismo,Fargo
Leona K. Leupaldt,Fargo
Gloria A. Pechtel,Fargo
Carole H. Jackson,Harwood
Eldora Kinnischtzke (SLM),Bismarck
Genevieve F. Robinson (SLM),Bismarck
Dorothy Rath (SLM),Turtle Lake
Doris M. Martin (SLM),Washburn

DISTRICT 6
Lillian Dekrey,Valva

DISTRICT 7
Elda A. Baich,Hazen
Lana K. Bernhardt,Mandan

DISTRICT 8
Emilia Illich (SLM),New England
Dorothy M. Tollefson (SLM),Regent
Eleanor Zent (SLM),Richardton

DISTRICT 9
Ardel Ingwalson (VIM),Crosby
Gertrude Johnson (SLM),Crosby

DISTRICT 10
Edith Malpert,Rutland
Yeidade Williams,Wahpeton
Arline Krause,Wyndmere

We regret any errors or omissions. Please notify the Department Office of any errors so they may be corrected.

Department Convention Past Department Presidents. Seated front row (L-R): Minnie Flynn, MaryAnn Gehroh, Barb Vetter (Northwestern Division National Vice President), LuAnne Blockert, Diane Kraemer, Standing back row (L-R): Bev Wolff, Ginny Brazill, Gigi Moore, Jeannie Roman, Judy Twette, Charlotte Lassonde, Marlys Aubel, Mavis Goodroad and Tammy Ryberg.


Important Dates and Upcoming Events

September 2, 2019 Labor Day
September 11, 2019 Patriot Day
September 17, 2019 Citizenship Day
September 27, 2019 Native American Day
October 19, 2019 Homecoming for Department President Myma Ronholm and Department Commander Kenny Wiederhof-Jamestown
October 31, 2019 Halloween
November 11, 2019 Veterans Day
November 18-22, 2019 National Education Week
November 28, 2019 Thanksgiving Day
December 7, 2019 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 25, 2019 Christmas Day
December 31, 2019 New Year’s Eve
January 1, 2020 New Year’s Day
January 24-26, 2020 Winter Conference-Bismarck, ND

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GET LOCAL. GET NOW. BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

PARKER CENTER COFFEE SHOP
21 First Avenue S.E., Minot, ND
(701) 852-0561
OPEN 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Congratulations to Jonah Lietz of the Casselton American Legion Baseball Team. Jonah is the North Dakota recipient of the 2019 American Legion baseball scholarship. Jonah’s application has been forwarded to National Headquarters for consideration for The American Legion All-Academic Team scholarship, sponsored by Diamond Sports – the official baseball for American Legion Baseball tournaments. Eight players, one from each Region, will be selected to receive an additional $2,500 scholarship. A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional $5,000 scholarship.
On the night of October 19, 1944, Ensign George Kenneth Krause, 22, and Ensign Merle Preston Crash”, October 17, 2014
The Norwich Bulletin, “Veterans Group Plans 70th Anniversary Tribute to Pilots killed In Preston Crash”, October 17, 2014
Checklist email: NDCares@nd.gov with name used for registration.
A. Try this Free S.A.V.E. Training.
The Valley’s Link To The Nation
1-800-273-8255
WWW.VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET
Fargo, ND
Free Admission
with this coupon • 1 per customer
Free Bomb Shot
with this coupon • 1 per customer
Proud to Support
Our Veterans
Bottineau, ND, on September 28, 2019 with registration at 10:00 am and meeting starting at 11:00 am.
The Regional meetings in the East and West will begin with the Regional gathering first. After the Regional gathering is over, the Districts will break out and have their own District meetings and conduct their own District business. Various Department Officers will be on the agenda to bring Legislarians up to date on their programs. Each District Commander and/or “Host Post” will be mailing out additional information to the posts within their respective districts.
Sources:
U.S. Navy accident report dated October 19, 1944.
U.S. Navy accident report dated October 12, 1944.
Rho Island Department of Health death certificates
The Norwich Bulletin, “Veterans Group Plans 70th Anniversary Tribute to Pilots killed In Preston Crash”, October 17, 2014
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NEW ENGLAND AVIATION HISTORY
"75th Anniversary Memorial Program"
On the night of October 19, 1944, Ensign Longnecker and Ensign Krause were killed in a training crash over Norwich, Connecticut.
The Norwich Area Veterans Council is conducting a 75th Memorial Program at: Preston Connecticut Public Library, 289 Rte 2, Preston, CT on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019 at 1pm (Rain or Shine).
All are invited to join us in remembering those young men who gave their lives for THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DURING WWII.
"50th Anniversary Memorial Program"
2019 Fall Regional/District Meetings
The 2019 Fall Regional/District Meetings for the American Legion and Auxiliary will be-conducted August 17, September 7, September 21, September 26, 27 and 28th. District 5 meeting will be held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration in Bismarck, ND, on August 17, 2019, starting at 12:00 pm.
East Region Districts 1, 2, & 10 meetings will be held in Hillsboro, ND, on September 7, 2019 at 10:00 am.
West Region Districts 7 & 8 meetings will be held in Killdeer, ND, on September 21, 2019 at 9:00 am, MST.
District 4 meeting will be held in Jamestown, ND, on September 26, 2019, with a social at 5:00 pm and a dinner at 6:00 pm with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. There will be an election of officers since there isn’t a District Commander nor a District Vice Commander.
District 3 meeting will be held at Camp Grafton in Devils Lake, ND, on September 27, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
Beck-Sherven-Foreman American Legion Post 290
Main Street, New Town, ND
(701) 627-4409
Open to the Public
Legion meetings, 2nd Thursday monthly
Always welcoming new members
Beer • Cocktails • Food • Bingo • Music
Fun Times • Good People
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www.bellerudtransport.com
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Bullard Transportation
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(701) 273-1000
Locomotive
Tornado • Brave
www.bullardtransport.com
"The Heart Of North Dakota"
American Legion Post 290
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www.bellerudtransport.com
"The Valley's Link To The Nation"
Don Herrly (Center) is shown receiving a certificate commemorating his 45-years of continuous membership in American Legion Post 100 in Hebron, ND by Department Commander Glenn Wahus (Right) from Watford City, ND. Glenn served as the ND Department Commander for the 1993-1994 75th Anniversary Year of The American Legion. Herrly served as the 1993-1994 Department Commander which was the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion.

Pictured left is Curtis O. Twete of McVille, ND, who served as the National Vice Commander of The American Legion during the 1993-1994 75th Anniversary of The American Legion. Curt served as North Dakota Department Commander in 1990-1991 and Herrly served as the 7th District Commander that year under Commander Twete. Picture taken at the 101st Department Convention held in Grand Forks, ND. Herrly represented Hebron as a delegate to the 1990 Department Convention which coincidentally was also held in Grand Forks. Herrly has not missed a Department Convention since his first convention in 1990 and has served as a delegate representing Post 100 in Hebron every year since 1990.

The tie Herrly is wearing was purchased by the (late) Past Department Commander Gus Draeb from Hebron who served as Department Commander in 1963-1964. It was presented to Herrly as a gift from Post 100 at the conclusion of his term as Department Commander.

The cake donated by Katie Dewald, Streeter Auxiliary Unit member Delmer Davis. Not pictured is 50-year award recipient Joseph Dekaria

The Legion and Auxiliary members of the Melvin E. Bender American Legion Post 265 of Streeter conducted a very successful Memorial Day program on May 27, 2019. The cemetery service was canceled because of muddy ground and inclement weather, but the roll call of the dead consisting of 170 names took place during the indoor program.

Past Commander Doug Wittmier gave the welcome and introduced the speaker. Central Vice Commander Steve Anderson gave an impressive memorial address. Others who spoke were Auxiliary Unit President Deb Zillmer and Unit member Denise Wittmier.

Young Anizye Grode sang the Woody Guthrie classic, “This Land is Your Land” and the stirring patriotic song, “You’re a Grand Old Flag”, accompanied on the piano by her grandmother Lois Ruff. Anizye also led the singing of the National Anthem.

A flag-folding demonstration and explanation was conducted by Kathy Dewald, Mark Dockter and ElRay Fercho. Deb Zillmer later led the POW/MIA empty chair remembrance ceremony.

The program concluded with the playing of Taps by Glenna Hartje. A free lunch was served following the program.

Ancient Fochos were accompanied by singing of patriotic songs by two of the Auxiliary Unit members, Dee M. DeNita and Delmer Davis. Not pictured is 50-year award recipient Joseph Dekaria.

The cake donated by Katie Dewald, Streeter Auxiliary member Delmer Davis.

Written by Jim Wills, Streeter Post Historian

On May 15, 2019, history was in the making at Turtle Lake-Mercer School. The first ever ND American Legion Riders scholarships were presented to Morgan Reiser and is attending Dakota College in Bottineau, ND, to study nursing. Hailee Presser will be attending Bismarck State College and study graphic design & communications. Each student will receive a $500 Scholarship from the Legion Riders with the help from the American Legion Foundation and a matching $500 from Carl Rogen Post 29 in Watford City. The awards were presented by Ron Tolman of Minot Post 26 and Gerald Puetz District 10 Post 20 Chapters.

2020 officers. From the back left is Post 14 Sergeant at Arms Paul Munson, 1st Vice Commander Mike Mansavage, Finance Officer Clifford Herrick, and front left to right is Commander Delmar Davis, 1st Vice Commander Glen Johnson and District 4 Legionnaire Roger Parsons.
Greetings from District 1, September 2019

Hello everyone. My name is Ben Bush and I am the new 1st District Commander for the North Dakota American Legion. My home Post is Post 297 in Harwood, ND, and I am excited to step into the role of District Commander.

A couple weeks ago we held our first department convention in Grand Forks, where we celebrated 101 years of the American Legion. It was a big success and if you were able to attend the convention, I hope you left as refresheed and invigorated as I did.

Several topics were discussed at the convention, but in my mind our focus needs to be on membership. Our future depends on membership and participation from younger veterans. The American Legion is very good at telling the story of our accomplishments, but we can’t make it sound like the work is done. Each generation needs to try to pave the path for those that follow, just as our predecessors did for us.

So yes, keep the membership numbers up but encourage attendance of meetings as well. Give new meeting goers a year or two to learn the ropes before nominating them to an office. When I talk to people, that is one of the first things that I encourage attendance as well. Give new Post members a chance to get involved.

When I meet with the veterans, I encourage them to try to get new members to sign up two new members that day. I would like to say thank you to all those who have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, there are 7 posts that have been to several Posts in our District.

Thank you for your time, talent and treasure each of you put in for the good of the Legion Family. May God bless each of you, the American Legion and our United States.

George Petersen
8th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 2, July 3rd in Park River

Greetings to everyone at the Department Convention in Grand Forks. I attended with my Post, 71 in Park River. National Commander Brett Reistad was in attendance for the meet and greet. Only July 4th Park River had a large parade which has been a tradition for many years for the new Department Commander to attend. The Legion had an amazing presence in the parade. We were well attended by local Legionnaires. Also, in attendance was Department Commander-Elect Steve Anderson, Department Commander Kenny Wiederhol, NEC Bob Krause, me as your District Commander and best of all the National Commander Kenny Wiederholt, NEC Bob Krause, me as your District Commander and best of all the National Commander Kenny Wiederholt, NEC Bob Krause, me as your District Commander and best of all the National Commander Brett Reistad.

It is time to start on membership again, so please start sending memberships into the Department Headquarters Office.

I am proud to announce Troy Estvold as our 2nd District Vice Commander. As always if any Post has any questions, please contact me.

Greetings from District 3, July 3rd in Park River

It’s already mid-July and where has the time gone? Bryce and I are looking forward to getting a chance to see what your post is doing. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. We are looking forward to going to that. I’m sure some of your other posts will be having events so let us know. If we can, we will try and make it.

Speaking of fun... Our post in Cando had the honor and privilege of having the National Commander Brett Reistad come and visit us on July 6, 2019, during our parade. We were celebrating our 100th Anniversary of our post with a parade along with a street dance. We were able to sign up two new members that day. I would like to say thank you to all the Legionnaires and Auxiliary who showed up and got a chance to visit.

Now that the Department Convention is over, it is now time to get busy and plan for our Fall District meeting. As some of you may know, we have a traveling trophy that has been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, it is currently at Post 24 in Devils Lake. At the Department Convention, I hope to award this trophy to the post that accumulated the highest number of points which was over $400 for their post. I’m looking forward to another year of visiting other posts and getting the trophy back.

In closing, I would like to thank you for letting District Vice Commander Bryce Crosby and myself be your leadership again for one more year. We look forward to seeing you.

Paul Duky
2nd District Cmdr

Greetings from District 4, October 27th in JR Gardens

Greetings to all of our members of the American Legion. My home Post is Post 1 in Minot, ND. I am excited to be your Post Commander this year. I have been a member of the American Legion for over 30 years and have served in several different positions.

I would also like to challenge present members by offering a Department Membership Challenge to all Posts. I would like to see each Post sign up a new member this year. Also, please get your renewals turned in. Thanks for belonging to a great organization.

Greetings from District 8, October 27th in JR Gardens

It is that time of year to say “thank you” for electing me to once again represent you as your District Commander. I hope to verify the trust you have placed in me. My goal for this year is to keep up the fantastic work that everyone in the 8th District have been doing to make us one of the top Districts in the state. Membership, Activities, Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans. I know it is hard and difficult work, but I hope the satisfaction of knowing that you did your best to help children, veterans and the Legion Family will make all the effort worth it at the end of the day. I thank you. We all thank you.

This year I am going to ask the 7th District Commander if he will join me in having a combined 7th and 8th District Fall and Spring District Meetings. I would like for all the Posts in 8th District to send me their ideas on which meeting, fall or spring, the 8th District should host and where the meeting should be held. If there are any Posts that would like to host a District Meeting, please contact me. Full District meetings are held in September.

Again, thank you for your time, talent and treasure each of you put in for the good of the Legion Family. May God bless each of you, the American Legion and our United States.

District 10, October 27th in JR Gardens

Greetings from District 10, First of all, let me say that I am honored and privileged to once again serve as the 10th District Commander. I look forward to once again going around the District and seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I want to congratulate Bill Carroll from Post 19, in LaMoure for stepping up and being elected as our 10th District Vice Commander. Together, we look forward to serving the 10th District in the coming year.

Now that autumn is upon us, the majority of the Posts that took the summer off are now back up and running. I can’t emphasize enough the importance of getting your Membership Drive going right away. By all means, turn in your membership renewals ASAP. It doesn’t do anybody any good to sit on the paperwork. If I can help in any way, please contact me.

This year’s Department Convention in Grand Forks was a continuing celebration of the American Legion’s 100th anniversary. It was nice to see the members who were able to attend. I hope those in attendance had as good a time as I did.

At the Eastern Region Caucus, it was decided that our Fall District Meeting will be conducted as a Regional Meeting along with Districts 1 and 2. The date and location have not been set as of this writing. This is something new that is being tried out and I believe it deserves to be given a fair opportunity to succeed. I was fortunate to attend the Central Region Meeting in the Spring, and quite enjoyed it. I strongly encourage everyone to make every effort to attend. The feedback that the Department receives from these events helps to determine how to improve the meetings in the future.

I hope we have a safe and bountiful harvest and once again, I look forward to meeting with as many of you as I can in the coming months. For God and Country.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you so very much!!

It meant a great deal to me and Don to see all of the well wishes that I received during my recent stay in intensive care. While Unit everlasting might be a great place to visit, I was not ready to quit and transfer my membership there just yet. It is in times like these that you really appreciate the camaraderie that we enjoy among The Legion Family, and I cannot adequately express how much it meant to me to hear from so many of you knowing that you had me in your thoughts and hearts and pulling for my recovery. It will be a long road to full recovery but I am making good progress.

Don Herrly

Greetings from District 1, November 6-10, 2019: Branson Tour

Choice of ten different shows

World War II Tour

12-day tour departing June 2, 2020

• France: Paris city tour and three days in Normandy, Pointe du Hoc, cemeteries, villages, Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, & more
• Belgium: Battle of the Bulge area
• Germany: Nurenberg, Dachau Concentration Camp, Hitler’s Eagle Nest & more.

Get a Real Taste of Europe as you visit GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, LIECHTENSTEIN, MONACO, ITALY, and SPAIN

Tour includes Oberammergau, Germany’s world famous PASSION PLAY! A cast of 2000 villagers present the Passion of Christ every ten years... since 1634. A not-to-be-missed event!

12 day tour — departs September 11, 2020

This tour is filling up fast. Call today! Price includes international airfare, luxury motor coach transportation, great hotels, all admissions, excellent guides, many meals and more!

Get 30% on Tour for Veterans

LOWEST PRICE ANYWHERE

$100 off Tour for Veterans

November 6-10, 2019: Branson Tour

Choice of ten different shows

July 2, 2020: Russian River Cruise

Volga River cruise

from Moscow to St. Petersburg

5 STAR TOURS EVERYONE WELCOME

Contact Vi Ranney, tour designer

605-665-3596 or viranney@vyn.midco.net

LOWEST PRICE ANYWHERE
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."

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[Image and text内容]
On August 1, 2019, American Legion Riders from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas travelled from the borders of Canada and Mexico to the town of Great Bend, Kansas in celebration of the “American Legion Memorial Highway”.

This Ride was broken down into two groups, one group, “Team Legacy”, starting at the Canadian border just north of Dunseith and heading south. The other group, “Team Vision”, starting at the Mexican border and heading north. Each group had banners for all the posts to sign along the way. The North Dakota group started at the Canadian border. They stopped at 10 Posts that were located on highway 281. The posts/cities we stopped at were Dunseith, Belcourt, Rolla, Cando, Minnewaukan, New Rockford, Carrington, Jamestown, Edgeley, and Ellendale. On August 2, the North Dakota group handed off the banners to the contingent from South Dakota. The North group was led by National Vice Commander Jim Wallace. He brought a few riders from Michigan with him. We also had riders from Virginia, Nebraska, and South Dakota. With the groups meeting in Great Bend, Kansas, a ceremony was held combining the two banners from each team. The banners will be presented to the National Commander during the National Convention.