The 2020 Winter Conference will be hosted by Mandan’s American Legion Gilbert S. Furness Post #40 on January 24-26, 2020, to be held at the Ramkota in Bismarck. Commander Kenny Wiederholt will be presiding over the conference meetings and providing meeting support to the following affiliated organizations within the Department; The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. Pre-registration for the Legion is required for the conference this year to assist the staff and conference committees in providing the hotel facility accurate meal counts and meeting space. Please use the pre-registration form on page 16. Pre-Registration forms were sent to the Post Commander, Post Adjutant and Post Membership Chairman in the November Target date bulletin. Please complete and return the form to the Department Headquarters.

Again, this year at the Winter Conference will be the North Dakota version of the Legion College on Friday afternoon beginning at 1:30 pm. This presentation will be chaired by Past Department Commander Glenn Wahus. It will cover the Basic training course and other items about the history of the American Legion. There was an application in the November bulletin for anyone that is interested; or you can contact the Headquarters office for an application before January 9th.

Registration will begin on Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm and will continue until 7:00 pm. Make sure you view the Winter Conference Schedule in this issue on page 16 and also on the Legion website at www.ndlegion.org.

The Joint Opening Session of the Conference will be gavelled to order by Commander Wiederholt on Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

James W. “Bill” Oxford National Commander for the 2019-2020 year, will be attending our 2020 Winter Conference and will be our guest speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening. Oxford was elected as a National Commander of The American Legion during The American Legion’s 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, IN, last August. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans’ organization since 1966. Oxford’s theme as National Commander is “A Foundation for the Future,” as the organization enters its second century of service.

A native of Lenoir, NC, James is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as Department Commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer’s candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service. Bill and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandchildren, Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

Paul Dillard Leading Candidate for National Commander will also be attending the Winter Conference and will speak at the General Session on Saturday at 8:30 am. Dillard was born in Whitesboro, TX, and graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy serving from 1965 to 1969, during the Vietnam era.

Paul is a paid-up-for-life member of C.R. Simmons - C.G. Hardwicke Post 29 in Sherman, TX. He was elected to the high office of Department Commander in 2007-2008 and was elected as National Vice Commander in 2013-2014. Paul and his wife, Donna have been married for over 35 years and have two sons, William and Jonathon, one daughter-in-law Karri and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas, all are members of the American Legion Family.

The Winter Conference is a great time to learn what your American Legion is doing both on the Department and National levels, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Recognition of Highway 281 with Motorcycle Ride

The American Legion’s 100th anniversary was celebrated with an 1,875-mile motorcycle trek through the heart of the nation July 31-August 4. The ride was organized and sponsored by six American Legion state departments between the Canada and Mexico borders, the American Legion Centennial Ride had 60 scheduled stops before the rendezvous post for the final wash-up, the Ramkota, KS.

The ride traversed US Highway 281, which in 1960 was designated as the national American Legion Memorial Highway, passing through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Two 30-rider teams traveled toward each other from the international borders with Mexico and Canada. Team Vision brought one half of a centennial banner north from Pharr, TX, and Team Legacy started its journey from the International Peace Gardens at the US Canada border near Dunseith, ND. On August 4, the two halves of the banner were fastened together in a ceremony at Great Bend, KS.

The assembled banner was presented on stage to National Commander Reisad at the 101st American Legion National Convention in late August in Indianapolis, IN.
The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

By Jerry Samuelson
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 effectively 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 ND, 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 is scheduled for Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m. at which time the doors will be closed and no one will be permitted to enter. Those who have served or are serving in the military are encouraged to be part of the Winter Conference on January 25 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. The contest is served for Thursday, January 25 at the Ramkota 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 on some phase of the Constitution of the United States. The assigned topic phase must consume not less than 3 minutes or more than 5 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 contests can win up to $300 at that level. Each District awards Cash Scholarships in the amount of $300 for first, $200 for second, and $100 for third.

The winners of the district contests advance to the Eastern or Western Division contests on January 11th in Park River for the Eastern Division and January 4th in Watford City for the Western Division. Winners and runners-up of the Division contests advance to the State Finals at the Winter Conference on January 25 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 17-19, 2020. Each contestant participating in the first round will receive a $2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round but does not advance to the Final Round will receive an additional $2,000 scholarship. The national champion receives a $20,000 scholarship, 2nd place receives $17,000, and the 3rd place finisher receives $15,000 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 me at 701-770-7147, or email me at namelsonco@mc.rr.com.

You can locate the District Oratorical Schedule by clicking on the Oratorical icon on the homepage of the legion website at www.ndlegion.org.

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ACOVA REPRESENTATIVES

Every year in the spring, our Department is asked to present two names to the Governor for his review to select one individual to be appointed to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA). The ACOVA is comprised of fifteen appointed veterans, three each from the following categories of principal veteran organizations, ND Veterans of Foreign Wars, ND American Legion, ND AmVets, ND Disabled American Veterans and the ND Veterans of Foreign Wars. Within this group of fifteen, twenty-five positions are held and those who are appointed serves a three-year term. There are an additional four members on the board but are non-voting members of the Committee.

The process in the past has been accomplished by seeking out individuals to serve. A change is being implemented by asking members to apply and submit a cover letter and a short biography or resume’ to the Board prior to the Winter Conference in January. A committee has been created to review potential candidates and make a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee Board for the selection and submission of two names to the Governor. The committee meets basically four times a year, maybe more as necessary, during the legislative session. This committee works closely with the ND Veterans Coordinating Council and both are responsible for preparing and presenting bills to the legislature that would affect veterans.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Department Adjutant at the Department Headquarters for additional information. Visit with your regional Vice Commanders and DEC representatives. Most important is to put together a packet for the committee with a cover letter and a biography of yourself, military service, personal and career information. Please remember the DEC is only allowed to submit two names and the Governor selects his appointment and it will be based on your input. It is also imperative to understand that the Legion and these appointments are not political positions, so please do not include any party affiliation or political positioning. The committee meets Thursday at the Winter Conference on January 23.

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The time is flying by! As fall appears to be behind us and winter is marching in, I hope that each of us has made ready for the days ahead.

My time spent at the American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis proved to be an enjoyable and interesting experience. The highlight for me was hearing Vice-Presideent Pearce address the floor. I found him to be a very forceful and engaging speaker.

Six weeks later, I found myself back in Indianapolis for the Commanders and Adjutants Fall Meetings. The National Headquarter people sure dispense a lot of useful information in just two short days! At the time of these meetings, the records indicated that 3,641 veterans had joined the American Legion due to the Legion Act being passed. This is great news and shows that this bill will aid and assist even more veterans and grow the membership numbers within the organization. We were also instructed in the proper preparations to welcome a national dignitary to our department.

The office staff has been extremely busy preparing for the upcoming winter conference. I feel that the agenda should offer many worthwhile classes and meetings for those in the American Legion family who wish to participate. This information is meant to be taken back home to your post and squadron and helps to assist and enable those groups at the local level. This department is very fortunate to have knowledgeable people who are willing to gather this information and lead these meetings and classes. I ask that we show them some respect and make plans to attend those which interest us and will help us be better.

Along these lines, we should also be making the final preparations for the district/regional ortential contests. Another worthy program which needs attention at this time, is the Boys/Girls State program. The initial visits to the schools should be arranged soon to instill the ideals to the students to participate and to also get the talking started.

I wish to take this opportunity to express a sincere thank you to all of those who donated to the campaigns in Jamestown. The evening was filled with fun and laughter among so many in our American Legion family. I also wish to thank those kind and generous people who donated to my projects. I am very proud and humbled to have so many wonderful friends in this great organization.

I hope to greet many of you at our Winter Conference! And remember, please bring your pop tabs with you!!
With the Department Convention over, comes the change of names in the leadership roles.

Kenny Wiederholt is the new ND American Legion Commander. His project will be the Veterans Home in Lisbon, ND and Service Dogs in Helmets. He will be using the Helmets for Heroes again this year. The Helmets for Heroes idea was intended to ask you to place these helmets out into the community and ask for donations from the communities instead of having the members dig into their pockets. If you do not have any helmets, let me know and I can get them out to you. Any help will be appreciated. If you have any money from the helmets, please send it into the Department Headquarters. If there is a company willing to become a sponsor for the Helmets for Heroes project, let them know that we will advertise in our Legion newsletter for them. During the fall meetings this year, it was overheard that the money is going into the Department’s general fund. This is not true, there is a separate line item on the books that is holding the money. This money was designed to help our programs and to help Veterans in need. If your post has a Vet in need and you need help, please let the Department know.

With the new year starting, membership is always a tough challenge. As I am writing this article our membership is #1 across the nation. Keep up the good work. Our membership goal will be 13,002. With that being said, I am asking everybody to try and sign up one new member. Remember to “JUST ASK”. Don’t forget to go back a few years and see if there are any old members who fell through the cracks and forgot to renew. If you have access to National Guard, Reserve, or Bases, please let the Veterans know we are always looking for new members. The President signed into law the “Legion Act”, which not only recognizes the 1,600 Veterans we lost during the Cold War, but it also opened up the eligibility dates to any Veterans that served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is still serving. Without members, we lose the power to lobby for stronger issues concerning our veterans.

Boys State participation was down to under 80 young men and we are also down to 211 Posts. I would like to challenge each post to sponsor at least one boy for Boys State. If you do not have a school in your town, go to the neighboring town and help that post. Wouldn’t it be great to have over 200 young men at Boys State? Another program in need of an overhaul is the Oratorical program. Please try and get more youth involved in this great program.

We are still looking for people to run for the next National Vice Commander for the year 2021. We will determine the candidate at this year’s winter conference. If you are interested, please submit your name to the Headquarters office.

There were people who stepped up and volunteered to fill the empty District Commanders and District Vice Commanders positions. District 5 still needs a Vice-Commander. If you are able, or know of somebody to volunteer for these positions, please let our office know.

On October 13-14, I attended meetings with other Department Adjutants from across the country in Indianapolis, IN. Many topics were discussed with fundraising, Corporate Sponsorships, but the main topic is how do we as an organization get back into Community Engagement and Involvement? We should always be there for our communities and for our neighbors.

Thanks to all of you for your service to God, Country and the American Legion.
Steps to Filing a VA Claim

Filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs can seem like a long, confusing process for those that are not familiar with the system. While every claim is not the same, the process behind the claim is similar. When preparing to file a claim with the VA, the first step a veteran or dependent should take is to find a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) in the area. In North Dakota, there is a VSO in every county. Veterans can contact the Fargo VA Regional Office. The representative the veteran chooses is there to assist the veteran and CVSO with the claims process. This is a free resource.

The next step in filing a VA claim is discussing the VSO what disabilities the veteran currently suffers from and how they connect to service. There are five (5) ways to connect a disability to service: direct, presumptive, aggravation, secondary, and injury caused by VA healthcare (1151).

1. Direct service connection is a disability that is directly caused by something from service—like a knee injury.
2. Presumptive service connection is a condition that is presumed to be caused from service—the most well-known being disabilities due to Agent Orange exposure like diabetes and prostate cancer.
3. Aggravation is when there is a preexisting condition that was aggravated beyond natural progression.
4. Secondary service connection happens when a service-connected condition causes an additional disability not connected to the service-connection.
5. Injury caused by VA Healthcare is when a veteran receives treatment for a condition and that condition is rendered worse.

The final type of service connection occurs when a veteran is being VA hospitalization/treatment, VA exam, or VA vocational rehabilitation. This is often the most difficult type of service connection to have to prove.

Once the claim paperwork is filled out, the representative will submit it to the VA. The VA will then establish the system within its begin and the background work on the claim. If this is the veteran’s first claim in the VA, they will verify service, request personnel records, and request service treatment records. Once the VA has verified service and that all military records are in the file, the VA will order any necessary compensation exams.

After the compensation exams are completed, the claim will be submitted to a VA employee’s work queue where they will review all the evidence of record and render a decision. The decision is then reviewed by the representative to make sure there are no procedural errors prior to the veteran being notified of the decision. The VA will send the veteran a letter with the decision. The risk for bases for the decision, as well as what appeal rights the veteran is entitled to if he or she does not agree with the decision.

As of September 2019, the average claim is running 4.17 years. While the Department of Veteran Affairs in Indiana was held up by a very busy time with all the committee meetings going on. The American Legion installed Bill Nord of North Carolina as our National Commander. In January, Commander Oxford will assist our Winter Conference in Bismarck. We will send the veteran a letter with the decision. The risk for bases for the decision, as well as what appeal rights the veteran is entitled to if he or she does not agree with the decision.

Once established with a VSO, the next step is choosing an organization to be the representative within the VA system. In North Dakota, we have 5 organizations to choose from: American Legion, ND Department of Veterans Affairs, AmVets, DAV, or VFW. Each of these organizations has a representative at the Fargo VA Regional Office. The representative the veteran chooses is there to assist the veteran and CVSO with the claims process. This is a free resource.

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Psalm 28:4 – “Give them (those who have wounded me) according to their deeds. And according to the wickedness of their endeavors; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve.”

My daily devotional recently led me to Psalm 28. This is a poignant verse for me as God has used it to heal my wounded heart in times past. In this passage, David cries out for God to “give them…what they deserve.” So many times, when we are injured, our human nature is such that we want to get even! But God expresses in no uncertain terms that vengeance belongs to Him. There are numerous scriptures that quote God Himself as saying “vengeance is mine.” (Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19). A part of me agrees with “give them…what they deserve,” because I can so understand David’s cry for justice! The better part of me begs God to heal those who have hurt me, regardless of their intent! 

Still another part of me can relate to Jonah’s attitude. He was so influenced by the way the Assyrians had treated the Israelites hundreds of years before he ever met the whale, that he didn’t want God to extend His mercy to them. As God heals us, we are able to pray for forgiveness and healing for those who hurt us. Occasionally, the wound may flare up like an old war wound. But we do not want to be like Jonah! When I look back at the times God has poured His mercy over my mistakes, I have no right to withhold mercy from anyone! God pours so generously, knowing full well that He never runs out. If I extend mercy, I know I will receive a refill!

Lamentations 3:22-23 “Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

Greetings from your new Department Chaplain. With great excitement, I assumed the responsibilities of the Department Chaplaincy at the convention on June 30th. I am humbled and honored to serve in this capacity! It was truly a pleasure to meet many of you for the first time in Grand Forks and I look forward to seeing you again down the road. It is always a joy for me to watch God unite people of different denominations who have the same heart to serve!

I had occasion to review the story of Joseph in my studies this week. Everyone is familiar with some aspect of the story. Maybe you remember the coat of many colors that made him the envy of his brothers. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son. Jacob wasn’t very wise in his blatant display of that favoritism. When Jacob gave Joseph his beautiful tunic, his ten older brothers were steamed. That was just one reason for their jealousy of Joseph. As he grew, he began to have dreams, and started telling his brothers what the dreams meant – that he would be placed in a position of authority over them. His interpretation did not sit well with them, even though it turned out to be true! The brothers plotted to kill Joseph but it was 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, as his dreams had predicted. But that life was in Egypt as the trusted servant and manager of Pharaoh’s property. Joseph lived life as an Egyptian, and therefore dressed as one. His brothers did not recognize him, when he offered them a “deal” in which he was able and willing to save the lives of his brothers, as well as his aging father. After Joseph revealed himself to them, he had this to say: Gen 50:20 “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” (NKJV)

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. I look forward to hearing about your stories! Please feel free to contact me at karenshutchins@hotmail.com if I can be of help.
A postcard coloring or creation contest was introduced to students K-6 at Napoleon Public Schools for the Children & Youth Program theme, “America Strong” in honor of the American Legion celebrating its 100th year and Unit 72 being chartered in Napoleon on October 17, 1919.

In 2018, art contest winner Amelia Moch created a design that was chosen to be used as a postmark. With the assistance of Postmaster Cheryl Weigel of Napoleon, the postmark was accepted by the Postal Service to be used on November 7, 2019, for the conclusion of the postcard project. Many of the students chose to send their postcards to family members or friends who were soldiers or veterans to “thank” them for their service. About 300 postcards were postmarked at the school.

The special pictorial cancellation or postmark was created for the “100th Veterans Station” Barry Hoof American Legion, Napoleon, ND 58561 on November 7, 2019, the day representatives of the Napoleon Post Office visited the school to teach and assist students about the placement of the postmark and talk about the American Legion milestone. American Legion Auxiliary members facilitating the 2019 project were Helen Braun, Peggy Welter, Viola Wolf, Marie Schnabel, Shirley Hoberg and Ann Knecht. Souvenir postcards are available by contacting Auxiliary member Ann Knecht in Napoleon.

This postcard was created by the Auxiliary to honor the Barry Hoof American Legion Post #72 chartered on October 17, 1919, and has the postmark for a souvenir.

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During the “Veterans at School Day” program Auxiliary members joined the students in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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October 14, 2019, Matthew Brew Auxiliary Unit #3, Dickinson, celebrated its Legion’s 100th birthday, which was held at the Stark County Veterans Memorial Pavilion. The Auxiliary provided the food. Unit President LoAnn Dick welcomed all those in attendance and gave a brief history of what the American Legion Auxiliary stands for and invited them to sign up their family members to the Auxiliary and the Sons. Sandra Petermann, Department Chaplain led them in prayer. Auxiliary members that helped serve were Char Watson, Cathy Logozz, Sonny Otto, LoAnn Dick and Sandra Petermann.

Kindergarten class learns about adding a postmark to a postcard, military stamps and the American Legion history.

2020 Winter Conference (Tentative Schedule)

Ramkota Inn
Bismarck, North Dakota

Friday, January 24, 2020
11:00 am - Auxiliary Finance Board Meeting
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration for Auxiliary – Mandan Unit 40
2:00 – 7:00 pm Department Executive Committee meeting
5:00 pm – No Host Dinner (Location TBD)
7:00 pm – Joint Opening Session

Saturday, January 25, 2020
7:30 am – 12:00 PM – Registration for Auxiliary
8:00 am – Auxiliary Opening Meeting – Myrna Ronholm, Dept. President
Memorial Service – Sandra Petermann, Dept. Chaplain, District Presidents
Auxiliary Workshops – Details and Presenters TBD
Parliamentary Procedure
Constitution & Bylaws
Recommendations
EIN (non-profit status)
ALA Academy

12:00 pm Press Association Luncheon
1:00 pm – High School Oratorical Contest
6:00 pm – Social
7:00 pm – Winter Conference Banquet
8:30 pm – Dance

Sunday, January 26, 2020
8:00 am – Auxiliary General Assembly
10:00 am – Joint Memorial Service
Retirement of Colors

South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary
1801 23rd Ave N, Rm 113, Fargo, ND 58102-1047
www.ndala.org • facebook.com/NorthDakotaALA

Napoleon Unit 72 Children & Youth Project at Napoleon Public School

A postcard coloring or creation contest was introduced to students K-6 at Napoleon Public Schools for the Children & Youth Program theme, “America Strong” in honor of the American Legion celebrating its 100th year and Unit 72 being chartered in Napoleon on October 17, 1919.

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2020 Winter Conference (Tentative Schedule)

Ramkota Inn
Bismarck, North Dakota
Hello Auxiliary Sisters,  
By now, you’re probably wondering where on earth did Autumn go. Or am I the only one who missed it?  
Veterans Day and the activities surrounding the events celebrating our heroes and veterans are already fond memories. There are many activities of the holiday we can be here, but don’t forget about those in your community who could use a helping hand or kind word.  
Thank you for all you are doing to keep us safe and love, has been revised, please begin to recite the new

**District 2**

Hello District 2 Members,  
We tried something different for our District meeting in September. The East region consisting of Districts 1, 2, and 10 met at the Post 4 in Hilliborough on September 7, 2019. We three district presidents worked together at this meeting to discuss our needs. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend. The 2020 Spring District 2 meeting will be held in Bismarck, ND.  
As Christmas is not far away, please remember our veterans, military families, and those in our communities who need our help. Remember to report volunteer hours and the money you donate.  
I visited a few units this past year. It’s wonderful to see “Service, Not Self” in action. Thanks for everything you do for veterans, military families and others in your communities.

Gift Shop at the Fargo VA is December 4th and Libson Veterans Home on the 5th. Winter conference is coming up January 24-26, 2020 in Bismarck, ND.  

**District 8**

Hello District 8 Auxiliary Members,  
I am LoAnn Dick, your new District 8 President. I live in Dickinson and am a member and Unit President of Matthew Brew Unit #3 in Dickinson. My husband, Howard Dick, is a Past District 8 Commander. Edward is currently working at Theodore Roosevelt Airport in Bismarck. We’ve lived in Dickinson since 2013 and are delighted to be transplanted North Dakotans. God is very good, he has made it possible for us to live here among you.  
I would like to remind you that our mission to serve our veterans is a very important mission indeed. Through our membership we bring them to the attention of Congress, and much is done in their behalf regarding legislation that makes their lives better, happen, and more fulfilled. Please remember that most of your family may be eligible to be a member of the American Legion Riders, Sons of the Legion, and for those who are motorcycle riders, the American Legion Riders. Everyone can fit in somewhere.  
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God is very good, he has made it possible for us to live here among you.
I am honored and excited to be your department education chairman for the 2019-2020 administrative year. One project I am promoting is the “Veterans in Community Schools” program which entails finding veterans and educators in your community that would be willing to present stories and experiences for local school children. If your local school is not able to host an event, consider holding it at a community center or church. Providing these opportunities helps the next generation learn about the importance of our veterans, the military and patriotism. Find out more information in upcoming unit mailings or online at ndala.org/education.

The Auxiliary also has several scholarships available through the education program. One is the Department education scholarship application, which is due to me by April 1st, 2020. Other scholarships available through the National office include: Children of Warriors, Non-Traditional, Spirit of Youth, Junior Member Loyalty, and the Samsung. The Samsung scholarship is restricted to high school juniors who attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls State or American Legion Boys State. These national applications need to reach the Department Office no later than March 15th, 2020. Unfortunately, late entries will not be considered for awards. Also, only one application from each scholarship class will be accepted from any one unit. This means that if you receive several applications to your unit for the Spirit of Youth scholarship, they need to be judged at the unit level and the winner should be sent on to Department level.

Unit members, please assist applicants with the submission process. Any incomplete submissions will not be considered for awards. These are great opportunities and there was a winner from North Dakota in 2019. Good luck and please contact me if you have questions regarding the scholarships.

Application forms are available at www.ndala.org/education and have also been mailed out to the guidance counselors of all ND schools. Please share the forms with your school and have a tea and dessert bar to thank those who work so hard to educate and inform.

Thank you for supporting the education program through the American Legion Auxiliary. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at education@ndala.org or by phone at 701-401-8776.

Shanna Delouque, Department Education Chairman

Past Presidents Parley

The two Past Presidents Parley Nurse Scholarships have been sent to all high schools and nursing programs in North Dakota and are now available on the Department website at www.ndala.org/pnp/ or under news on the homepage. Please contact your local school and ask that the students be allowed time to complete an application and submit it for review and award. If you have a junior unit member who is planning to attend a nursing program next fall, encourage her to complete an application.

In the second matter, Past President Parley dues have been set at $5.00 per member, please send your dues and a list of current past presidents in your unit to the Department Office.

Diane Kraemer, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman

Constitution and Bylaws Program

To all members of the American Legion Auxiliary:

The Department is in the process of reviewing our Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules for changes that are required due to changes made in the National Constitution and Bylaws and some changes that have been overlooked and need to be corrected. They will be discussed with the committee that has been set up and alterations will be forwarded to all units and will be brought up for discussion at Winter Conference. Final updated copies will be sent to all units for discussion and will be voted on at the Department Convention in June. Once the Department documents have been reviewed and updated, all units will be required to make changes to their own Constitution and Bylaws.

Diane Kraemer, Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program

Dear ALA members;

I hope your fall season has been enjoyable. Harvest, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Veterans Day are all days to be grateful for. However, some of our members experience serious difficulties due to natural disasters and other terrible events.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a fund to assist Auxiliary members who experience some of life’s worst disasters. Please consider donating funds to the Auxiliary Emergency Funds Program so we can continue to assist our members and communities in preparation for and in response to natural or manmade disasters.

The American Legion Auxiliary is dedicated to ensuring that America’s POW/MIA’s are honored and remembered. The American Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion members serve our veterans is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events.

Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial in bringing all of our heroes home. Thank you for your service to our military families.

Jeannie Roman, Department National Security Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary Department Sponsored INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been Your American Legion Department sponsored program for over 45 years and continues to fulfill members’ needs while being the only such program to benefit Your Department.

Our products include, but are not limited to:

• LegionCare
  (NO-COST Accidental Death)

• Expanded Accidental Death

• Hospital Help

• CancerCare

• Travel Accident

• Emergency Assistance Plus™

For more information on the products and services provided by The Legionnaire Insurance Trust, CALL: 1-800-810-3339 or visit us on the web at: www.thelit.com

2020 Winter Conference Auxiliary Pre-Registration

Pre-Registration for Winter Conference is due by January 8, 2020. Any forms/payments received after January 8, 2020 will be held for on-site registration.

Please order your Banquet Tickets through the American Legion Headquarters Office- (701) 293-3120

Friday, January 24, 2019 through Sunday, January 26, 2020

American Legion Auxiliary Department Office

800 South 3rd Street, Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone: 701.258.7700

District Unit Member Name Registration Enclosed

$10.00

$10.00

$10.00

$10.00

Total Amount Enclosed

Please send this form along with payment to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Office

1801 23rd Ave N, RM 113

Fargo, ND 58102-1047

December 2019

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North Dakota Legion News
ND Delegation to National Convention

The American Legion Auxiliary held their National Convention in Indianapolis, IN, August 23-29, 2019. North Dakota delegates attended numerous meetings and conferences and participated in the annual convention parade held on Sunday, August 25. Shown in the photo are North Dakota delegates.

ND Honors Department Commander and Department President

Saturday, October 19, 2019, members of North Dakota’s American Legion Family gathered from around the state at the Gladstone Inn in Jamestown to honor its leaders, Kenny Weiderholt, Department Commander from Gwinner, ND and Myrna Ronholm, Department President from Jamestown ND.

Front: Alicia Roman Randall, Department page

2nd row left to right: Gloria Covert, District 3 President; Jeannie Roman, Department President 2018-2019; Judy Twete, Past Northwestern Division National Vice President; Marilyn Aubol, Past Department President 2013-2014; Myrna Ronholm, Department President 2019-2020; Sandra Peterman, Department Chaplain

Back row left to right: Sharon White Bear, Department Vice President; Tammy Ryberg, NEC; Marcy Schmidt, Department Secretary; Ruth Quam, Department Alternate, Berniece Floiland, District 1 President; Sandra Smith, Department page.

In Memoriam

District 1
Linda J Bergenheier, Finley
Eleanore Brown, Hannaford
Marlene Fugleberg, Portland
Lesley J Zandonatti, Sharon

District 2
Arnola Evje-Skorheim, Adams
Elizabeth Carlson, Cavalier
Margaret C Hillis, Cavalier
Lila K Mielke, Grafton
Clarice Kuhlman, Grand Forks
Betty Schultz, Lakota

District 3
Mary L Ekberg, Langdon
Della Stevenson, Leeds

District 4
Inez Lund, Carrington

District 5
Hildegard Weisser, Ashley
Sivia Kipple, Hazleton
Karen Strand, Napoleon

District 6
Arline Hennix, Bowers
Jewel J Gustafson, Lignite
Marian Kolbo, Mohall
Linda R Dahl, Portal

District 7
Irene Olson, Almont
Evelyn J. Betterm, Glen Ullin

District 8
Margot Ecke, Beach
Evelyn E Dietz, Belfield
Charlotte Plasen, Bowman
Florentine Bohman, New England

District 9
Helen M Pederson, Grenora
Marlis Overdorf, Tioga
Deborah Bertinsson, Watford City

District 10
Mary M Gray, Hankinson
Charlotte L Anderson, Lidgerwood
Marian Johnson, Oakes

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

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Fargo-Moorhead • Grand Forks • Minot
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MONTANA-DAKOTA
Utility Co.
A division of NCU Ranchview, Inc.
In the Community to Serve
Choosing How To Use Your VA Education Benefits!

The GI Bill™ and other VA Education benefits have gone through numerous changes since their inception in the mid-1940s. Congress and the VA have sought to make changes to education benefits reflecting America's desire to keep their promise to these men and women who have borne the cost of battle. The GI Bill and other VA Education benefits have been some of the most popular benefits utilized by Veterans, Guardsmen, Reservists and their dependents over the decades since their creation. The Post 9/11 GI Bill™ has provided more incentives to veterans and their dependents to go to school or seek training than any other iteration of the GI Bills in the past. The primary reason for this is tuition. Not only do veterans and eligible dependents receive a monthly housing allowance while they are attending school or training, they also receive much of their tuition and fees paid by the VA as well. As a result, since 2008 our country has seen an explosion in veterans using their benefits to obtain a college degree or get trained in a vocational field. The success of this program is unmatched worldwide. Research indicates that having an education reduces the likelihood of unemployment and increases ones overall earning potential. Unemployment is however, still higher for veterans than for the general public. Why is this? There are other factors that come into play for service members that may make it more difficult to obtain or stay gainfully employed. Transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce is not an easy task. Compounded by the fact that many veterans carry scars both visible and invisible from their time sacrificing for our Country. This makes it easier to understand that many of these veterans may have some struggles to navigate this process once they leave military service.

Transitioning service members and veterans looking for a career change may choose to attack the problem head on by going back to school at a university or college that could give them the tools to enhance their employability. This can be a good route for many to take. For some, however, going to college may not be in cards. While many costs of school could be paid by the VA, it is still difficult for many veterans to make ends meet. They are often confronted with the choice of having to balance family, work and school all the same time. Many veterans are older and do not fit into the culture of being a traditional student on today’s college campuses. Others have children that cost more than the GI Bill alone can provide. Families obligations can make it difficult for veterans to maintain adequate study time. Not all will succeed.

For some veterans, going straight into the workforce may be a better option. That brings into the forefront an area of the GI Bill that is often the most underutilized. Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training (OJT) has been a very effective tool used by millions of Americans to learn a particular skill or craft. Many people, when they reflect about their Apprenticeships and OJT, often assume that it has to be something associated with electrical, plumbing or HVAC. While these professions do often qualify for GI Bill, they are not the only programs that meet the requirements. Many OJT programs are in government organizations such as the Social Security Administration or with the state and local police departments, among others. They could be with a local private business that has an assistant manager position. Apprenticeship and OJT programs can be at any organization from small mom and pop bakeries to large multinational corporations and everything in between. Apprenticeship and OJT is an effective program aspect of the GI Bill. Many veterans don’t even realize that they can receive VA Education benefits while they are working for their company and getting trained. They could be receiving pay from their agency and a living allowance or stipend from the VA at the same time. That’s a pretty good deal. Agencies that offer the GI Bill to their veteran employees will be able to market themselves as veteran friendly organizations.

Overall, the GI Bill and other VA Education Benefits are a great way for service members to use the entitlement that they have earned by sacrificing their time and in some cases their blood for this Nation. Please reach out to your local County Veteran Service Officers, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Legion Department Service Office or go the nearest VA and ask how you can use your VA Education Benefits to get the training that you desire. Thank you for your service.

Chris Kratschvil, Director
State Approving Agency
ND Dept of Veterans Affairs
ckratschvil@nd.gov
701-298-4667
Growing Strong Hitting Targets and Serving Communities

SAL Detachment Commander, Daniel Sauerwein
Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota!

As V A&R Chairman, I have believed all along as a
Veterans Affairs (VA&R) does, but what does it say that WE do in North Dakota at the local
level. The Department VSO (Veterans Service Officer) Summer Kristiansen, is very busy processing claims that Veterans from around the state who ask for help with at the VA. Along with the Department VSO there is the NDDVA (North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs) and the CVSO (County Veterans Service Officers) to help Veterans receive the benefits they are due.

As VA&R Chairman, I have believed all along as a Department we need to be active in our state, engaging in Veteran activities which there are a few Posts in our Department we need to be active in our state, engaging
CVSO (County Veterans Service Officers) to help Veterans.

With the membership year in full swing, there are two
With the membership year in full swing, there are two major goals the ND Legion must focus on: increasing membership and providing representation at a national level. To achieve these goals, Posts and Squadrons invite the general public into their homes or another location if you don’t have your own Post to help with local Veterans Day ceremonies. If you want to have your Squadron’s activities noted, please let us know what you are doing by emailing us at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com. One idea that was presented at the Mid-West Regional call-in was a Children and Youth play day where Posts and Squadrons invite the general public into their Post home or another location if you don’t have your own building.

As I’ve traveled across the state for different meetings, it
As I’ve traveled across the state for different meetings, it amazes me at how many people do not know what VA&R is. It is the 1st Pillar of the 4 Pillars of The American Legion.

The American Legion has for nearly 90 years acted
The American Legion has for nearly 90 years acted as the nation’s leading advocate for proper health care, economic opportunities, and legal benefits for U.S. military veterans. The Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930 and an ardent supporter of its elevation to cabinet status when it became the Veterans Administration in 1930 and an ardent supporter of its elevation to cabinet status when it became the Veterans Administration in 1930 and an ardent supporter of its elevation to cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1938. The relationship of its elevation to cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1938. The relationship

It is a complex and vital part of the organization’s mission, particularly now, as a new generation of wartime veterans enters the civilian and VA world.

It is easy to copy and paste what the VA&R does, but what does it say that WE do in North Dakota at the local level. The Department VSO (Veterans Service Officer) Summer Kristiansen, is very busy processing claims that Veterans from around the state who ask for help with at the VA. Along with the Department VSO there is the NDDVA (North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs) and the CVSO (County Veterans Service Officers) to help Veterans receive the benefits they are due.

As VA&R Chairman, I have believed all along as a Department we need to be active in our state, engaging in Veteran activities which there are a few Posts in our Department that do a good job at achieving. We have statewide fundraising efforts that I am working on to propose to the Department VA&R Committee.

I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!

Boys State

Boys State will once again be held in Wahpeton at NDSOSC on June 7-12, 2020. We are looking forward to a great year. Boys State is one of our great programs sponsored by The American Legion. Our enrollment has been going down in the last few years, so we need everyone to step up and start visiting with the young men that have completed their junior year.

Remember, these young men are the future of North Dakota and the United States. Visit the schools, talk to people when you are at church and hang the Boys State flyers in your local business places. Go to the local business and ask if they would like to sponsor a delegate or contribute money to the program. If you have a Post that has gaming, please use your gaming to support this great program of ours. When you are out talking to people about Boys State, tell them our program is about City, County and State Government.

Students who apply for ND Boys State prior to the priority deadline (typically the last Friday of April) are eligible for one of three scholarships sponsored by North Dakota Boys State Inc. At the end of the week, three scholarships ($250, $150, and $100) are presented to three randomly selected recipients. Scholarships are awarded for the student’s first fall semester. Scholarships are only eligible at North Dakota colleges and universities. Samsung American Legion Scholarship: The Samsung Corporation awards numerous scholarships to students who attend Boys and Girls state. For information regarding eligibility and application information, please visit http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung. Deadline for submission is one at ND Boys State registration on Sunday June 7th.

Please, help with this great program!!!

Wayne D. Satrom
Executive Director
Local Posts in the News

Helmet for Heroes Raises Money for ND American Legion

Leaders at Hope’s Jefferson-Stinke American Legion Post 18 are hoping when people notice little plastic green Army helmet piggy banks at locations throughout town, they’ll take a moment to make a donation to Helmets for Heroes. “When you see these Helmets for Heroes, remember, you bet your change does help a vet,” said Post 18 Adjutant Dennis Kubischta.

The helmets are located at the Hope Legion Post, Mic’s Grocery and Dakota Heritage Bank. Change is certain welcome; so is paper money of any denomination. The program doesn’t raise funds for the local post, but rather the donations go toward the statewide American Legion. “We wouldn’t have our post if it weren’t for the state organization,” Kubischta said.

Helmets for Heroes supports American Legion youth programs, including Boys State, High School Oratorical Contest and Legion Baseball. The focus, Kubischta said, is on promoting the four pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth.

“There are no overhead or administrative costs taken out and you can be assured the largest American veterans organization, the American Legion, that every penny you give will go directly to help the veterans and their families in North Dakota,” he said.

In the past year, the Helmets for Heroes program has raised more than $15,000 across the state with around $150 coming from the Hope piggy banks. Over the past few decades, North Dakota’s American Legion membership has declined from the high-water mark of 35,000 to about 13,000. Because most of the programs are funded through membership dues, the organization needs to find creative ways to balance its books.

“They’re trying to be proactive with how we’re going to get the money with declining membership to maintain the critical programs that we have,” Kubischta said. “I think it’s a pretty neat idea, because when everybody sees a helmet, they’ll automatically think of veterans.”

Steele County Press
By Bryce Haugen

Quilts of Valor

The Red River Quilters, Quilts of Valor Foundation group awarded quilts to seven veterans during the Mandan American Legion Post 40 meeting on September 4, 2019.

From left to right: Vernon Huber, Donald Goebel, William Huschka, Matt Hatzenbuhler, Christ Hatzenbuhler, and in front row: Anthony Beckler.

Vernon Huber (90) was Prisoner of War in Korea from May 1952 to September 1953. Donald Goebel served during the Korean & Vietnam wars. William Huschka served in Vietnam. Anthony Beckler served in Vietnam; earning 2 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts, receiving several pieces of shrapnel in his legs and skull and bullet wounds to his wrist.

Vernon Huber (90) served in military who passed away 2 years ago at age 97: Matt Hatzenbuhler (93) served 1942-1945. Donald Goebel served during WWII and Korea; earning 2 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts, 1942-1946 during WWII.

By Jim Wills, Streeter Post Historian

Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of Melvin E. Bruder Post #265 in Streeter and Lena-Schlenker Post #295 in Alfred were supper guests at Mayer-Morlock Post #250 in Gackle on Veteran’s Day. The Auxiliary provided a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and served close to 100 people.

Post Commander Dean Entzminger gave the Welcome and Post Chaplain Donald Metz gave the Invocation and Benediction and the Junior Auxiliary lit the Memory Candle.

A special patriotic medley was performed by Jessie Kleingartner on the bass clarinet and was accompanied on the piano by Music Teacher Corinne Muller.

Randy Entzminger gave a speech entitled “Celebrating 100 Years” of the American Legion and Auxiliary and was illustrated with photos and stories about the veterans of the Gackle and Streeter area.

The National Anthem and “God Bless America” were sung by the group, accompanied on the piano by Julie Metz.

Coffee, cake and ice cream were served after the meeting.

The American Legion Membership Application

The state of Ohio presented a resolution to change the words of the preamble to recognize all wars not just WWI and WWII. It is now proper to amend the preamble to recognize all of the millions of United States military veterans from these many other wars and conflicts since the great wars of World War I and World War II that are not being currently recognized within the preamble. This change will take effect immediately.

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Amendment to the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

By Bryce Haugen

The Red River Quilters, Quilts of Valor Foundation group awarded quilts to seven veterans during the Mandan American Legion Post 40 meeting on September 4, 2019.

From left to right: Vernon Huber, Donald Goebel, William Huschka, Matt Hatzenbuhler, Christ Hatzenbuhler, and in front row: Anthony Beckler.

Vernon Huber (90) was Prisoner of War in Korea from May 1952 to September 1953. Donald Goebel served during the Korean & Vietnam wars. William Huschka served in Vietnam. Anthony Beckler served in Vietnam; earning 2 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts, receiving several pieces of shrapnel in his legs and skull and bullet wounds to his wrist.

Vernon Huber (90) served in military who passed away 2 years ago at age 97: Matt Hatzenbuhler (93) served 1942-1945. Donald Goebel served during WWII and Korea; earning 2 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts, 1942-1946 during WWII.

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The National Anthem and “God Bless America” were sung by the group, accompanied on the piano by Julie Metz.

Coffee, cake and ice cream were served after the meeting.
Greetings from District 1,

December 2019

Greeted by: Brad Bush 1st District Cmdr

Dear Members,

December is a time of reflection and gratitude. It's a time to remember and honor those who have served and are still serving to keep our nation great and safe. It's also a time to celebrate the holidays with loved ones.

In the District 1, we have a traveling trophy that has been to several Posts in our District. As I write this, it is currently in Rolla. At the summer convention, Langdon was the winner of half of the pot of money. It was a lot of time and effort into their speeches. If any Post feels like they can't hear the program, they should let the Chairman know. If you just complain, you are a destroyer. But if you help, you are a helper. If you just continue to help, you will continue to grow in the Legion and become a better leader.

Greetings from District 2,

On Saturday, September 7, we met in Hillsboro for our Fall District/ Regional meeting. This includes Districts 3, 4, and 5. It is always a good time to meet with our members and discuss the needs of our community. With the change in the dates for eligibility in the membership year, we will be holding our meetings earlier in the year. We will also be holding our membership meetings in September so that we can get our membership up to date.

Greetings from District 3,

Where has the time gone. We had our fall meeting at Camp Grafton at the end of September. What a great time! The bison meatballs with mashed potatoes was an especially good meal. Lake put on a great evening. Lots of ideas and information was passed along. Some of the notes of interest should be shared with other members. The few that are lagging behind are, but a few members shy of their goal. But keep in mind that our goal increases each year. The American Legion is a very important organization that helps veterans and their families.

Greetings from District 4,

It's that time of year to once again congratulate everyone in District 4. All posts have either met or exceeded the 100% goal or I am certain we will have met our membership goals by November 13th. Kudos to all! The effort that all officers and members have been putting in to increase both Post and District membership should not go unnoticed. That being said, I would like to present two views of how to help or kill our organization.

How to help or kill your organization:

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave the meeting before it is over.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.
4. Never have anything to say at the meeting – wait until you get home.
5. When at the meeting, vote to do everything, then vote against it.
6. The next day, find fault with the officers and other members.
7. Never accept an office, it is much easier to criticize than to do things.
8. Be sure to sit in the back so you can talk things over with another member, nobody will notice even if they can't hear the program.
9. Get all the organization will give but give nothing in return.
10. If asked to help, always say you are too busy and don't have time.
11. Never ask anyone to join the organization.
12. Never read anything pertaining to the organization, you might find it difficult to get involved.
13. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or money to the committee. Let the Chairman do it all.
14. Don't do any more for you than you have to when others willingly and uselfully use their ability to help, and sometimes it can be a struggle to get them involved. But keep working at it.

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 in Rolla. At the summer convention, Langdon was the winner of half of the pot of money. It 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 Bryce and myself be your leadership again for one more year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for your time and God Bless You and God Bless the USA.

Thank you for electing me once again. Congratulations to Lucinda Bloydar from Post 37 in Williston for being elected as our 9th District Vice Commander. Lucinda and I are looking forward to serving the 9th District. We plan to travel around the District to visit with everyone.

I encourage everyone to try to increase our membership. Hopefully we can recruit the younger veterans in the area to become involved. I'm looking forward to meeting some of or members meeting to lead them by example. It is very important to not forget about our current members and keep them in the loop.

Brett Reistad, American Legion National Commander, will be awarding the national commander “Membership Excellence: Team 100” incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains 100 Post members. This is a way for your Legion Family member who renews their membership during the holidays to once again. Congratulations to Lucinda Bloydar from Post 37 in Williston for being elected as our 9th District Vice Commander. Lucinda and I are looking forward to serving the 9th District. We plan to travel around the District to visit with everyone.

Greetings from District 9,

First of all, I want to say that I am honored to serve as the 9th District Commander. Thank you for electing me once again. Congratulations to Lucinda Bloydar from Post 37 in Williston for being elected as our 9th District Commander. Lucinda and I are looking forward to serving the 9th District. We plan to travel around the District to visit with everyone.

Greetings from District 8,

As a Post Adjutant sometime in the past it was signed into law by President Trump on July 30th. Now is the time to increase our membership now being eligible for the Legion since there are not any cutoff dates.

Greetings from District 7,

December 2019

Greeted by: Vernon Lanning 7th District Cmdr

Dear Members,

December is a time of reflection and gratitude. It's a time to remember and honor those who have served and are still serving to keep our nation great and safe. It's also a time to celebrate the holidays with loved ones.

Greetings from District 6,

As of this writing (11/8), District 10 is looking for new Officers and the Membership front. As a District we are first in the Department with 77.55% of our 2020 goal attained and most of our Posts are within the target range. The few that are lagging behind are, but a few members shy of their goal. But keep in mind that our goal increases each year. The American Legion is a very important organization that helps veterans and their families.

Greetings from District 5,

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 in Rolla. At the summer convention, Langdon was the winner of half of the pot of money. It 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 Bryce and myself be your leadership again for one more year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for your time and God Bless You and God Bless the USA.

Thank you for electing me once again. Congratulations to Lucinda Bloydar from Post 37 in Williston for being elected as our 9th District Vice Commander. Lucinda and I are looking forward to serving the 9th District. We plan to travel around the District to visit with everyone.

I encourage everyone to try to increase our membership. Hopefully we can recruit the younger veterans in the area to become involved. I'm looking forward to meeting some of our members meeting to lead them by example. It is very important to not forget about our current members and keep them in the loop.

Greetings from District 4,

Greetings from District 3,

Greetings from District 2,

Greetings from District 1,

Greetings from District 10,

Greetings from District 9,

Greetings from District 8,

Greetings from District 7,

Greetings from District 6,

Greetings from District 5,

Greetings from District 4,

Greetings from District 3,

Greetings from District 2,

Greetings from District 1,

Greetings from District 10,

Greetings from District 9,

Greetings from District 8,

Greetings from District 7,

Greetings from District 6,

Greetings from District 5,

Greetings from District 4,

Greetings from District 3,

Greetings from District 2,

Greetings from District 1,

Greetings from District 10,

Greetings from District 9,

Greetings from District 8,

Greetings from District 7,

Greetings from District 6,

Greetings from District 5,

Greetings from District 4,

Greetings from District 3,

Greetings from District 2,

Greetings from District 1,

Greetings from District 10,

Greetings from District 9,

Greetings from District 8,

Greetings from District 7,

Greetings from District 6,

Greetings from District 5,

Greetings from District 4,

Greetings from District 3,

Greetings from District 2,

Greetings from District 1,
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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paulson, Robert</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olson, Willard</td>
<td>08/25/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bach, Warren</td>
<td>08/29/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klidleer</td>
<td>09/03/2019</td>
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<td>Connolly, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinka, Theodore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowman</td>
<td>09/09/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owen, Louis</td>
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<td>Mohall</td>
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<td>Robillard, Archie</td>
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<td>Henricks, Jerome</td>
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<td>Kolosakken, Ployer</td>
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<td>Pederson, Joseph</td>
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<td>Ashley</td>
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<td>Crackle, Alvin</td>
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<td>Kenmare</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England</td>
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<td>Roth, Jackie</td>
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<td>Crosby</td>
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<td>Olin, Harold</td>
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<td>Gaukler, John</td>
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<td>Sayer, Edward</td>
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<td>Alexander</td>
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<td>Anderson, Gilman</td>
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<td>Franklin, Lawrence</td>
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<td>Weyburn City</td>
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<td>Syvertson, Robert</td>
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<td>Fossness, Norman</td>
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<td>Hettinger</td>
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<td>Whitmer, Alvin</td>
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<td>Smith, Gordon</td>
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<td>Guilkisson, Dennis</td>
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<td>Olson, Kenneth</td>
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<td>Petryszyn, Lea</td>
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<td>Rice, Joseph</td>
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<td>Axton, Clifford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breding, Roger</td>
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<tr>
<td>McVille</td>
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<td>Howe, Arthur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glendenberger, Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olson, Curtis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falk, Alan</td>
<td>09/09/2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Winter Conference Schedule

**Bismarck Ramkota • Room Rate is $109**

**January 24-26, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| **Thursday, January 23, 2020** | 4:00 pm ACOV A Interviews  
7:00 pm Americanism/CY Committee |
| **Friday, January 24, 2020**     | 8:00 am DEC Meeting  
1:30 pm Legion College  
2:00 pm Registration (until 7:00 pm)  
2:00 pm Foundation  
3:00 pm DSO Office Hours (until 5:00 pm)  
3:30 pm Boys State Committee Meeting  
4:30 pm 40 et 8 Grand Cheminot Meeting  
5:30 pm First Time Attendees  
7:00 pm Joint Opening Session |
| **Saturday, January 25, 2020**    | 7:00 am Oratorical Committee Meeting  
8:00 am Registration (until Noon)  
8:30 am Legion Session  
10:00 am DSO Office Hours (until noon)  
10:00 am Staff Office Hours for Membership Questions  
**Saturday, January 25 Cont.**   |
| **Sunday, January 26, 2020**     | 7:30 am Dist and Regional Officers Meet with Cmdr  
8:00 am SAL Meeting  
8:30 am National Guard and Reserve  
8:30 am VA&R Committee Meeting  
9:30 am Regional Meetings  
10:30 am Legion Session  
11:00 am Joint Memorial Service |

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**2020 Winter Conference Registration**

Please note the price of the banquet tickets increases by $5 after January 10, 2020. A limited number of tickets are available at the registration desk on a first come first serve basis. Pre-registration forms will not be accepted after January 10th and you will be required to register at the Winter Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post/Squadron Location</th>
<th>Post/Squad #</th>
<th>District #</th>
<th>Total Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Winter Conference Legion/SAL Registration Fee:** $25

**Banquet Menu Options**
- London Broil
- Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Pork Chop

**Banquet Menu Options**
- London Broil
- Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Pork Chop

**Total Amount Enclosed:** $____

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Fargo ND 58102  
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701.239.9643 FAX  
[www.tlstroh.com](http://www.tlstroh.com)

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**Free Admission**

with this coupon • 1 per customer

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**Free Bomb Shot**

with this coupon • 1 per customer

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**American Legion Department of ND**

**2020 Winter Conference Registration**

January 24-26, 2020 at the Bismarck Ramkota

Please mail the registration form and payment to:

ND American Legion  
405 West Main Ave Suite 4-A  
West Fargo, ND 58078

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WITH SWEEPSTAKES