North Dakota American Legion Cancels Popular Programs Amid Coronavirus Concerns

The North Dakota American Legion’s Department Executive Committee (DEC) announced several cancellations for programs that would typically begin this summer.

“It’s with great disappointment that we announce that, for the health and safety of our communities, we must cancel North Dakota Boys State, North Dakota American Legion Baseball and the North Dakota American Legion Department Convention for this year,” said Glenn Wahus, North Dakota American Legion DEC chairman.

North Dakota Boys State was scheduled for June 7-12, 2020, in Walperton, ND, and has helped young men develop leadership skills since 1938. North Dakota American Legion Baseball began in 1925. Last year, 65 teams took part, and Fargo’s Post 2 advanced to the Legion Baseball National Championship games in Shelby, N.C.

“We take pride in providing these events as part of our focus on Americanism and Children and Youth, two of four pillars of the American Legion,” said Kenneth Wiederholt, North Dakota American Legion Department Commander. “We, too, are acutely aware of the risks to our members, players, mentors, coaches and others who could become ill or even die if this virus is not contained.”

The Department Convention, which was scheduled for June 26-28, 2020, in Minot, ND, includes department re-elections and programming for the North Dakota American Legion’s roughly 12,000 members. The DEC decided to follow National Headquarters recommendation to keep all officers in place for another year. So, all of this year’s officers have been contacted and all have volunteered to serve another year.

The National Oratorical Contest, in which North Dakota state winner Sarah Smith of Fargo was set to compete for in as much as $20,000 in scholarship money, has also been canceled. The American Legion National Headquarters also has canceled Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports and National Spring Meetings.

“The decision to cancel was extremely difficult but deemed necessary, first and foremost in the interest of health and safety, and in the face of uncertainty. As Americanism Commission Richard Anderson noted, “These times are unparalleled. And while it is distressing to think of all those youth across the nation who are disappointed to learn of the cancellation of American Legion programs this year, it would be a much, much greater tragedy if even just one of those youth were to fall ill during a program.” The Americanism Commission feels this is the right thing to do.”

2020 Regional Tournaments and World Series Canceled

The American Legion’s 102nd National Convention, originally scheduled for Louisville, KY, on August 28-September 3, 2020, has been canceled due to public-health concerns, ongoing restrictions and uncertainties related to the global coronavirus-COVID-19 pandemic.

“The safety of our members and compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions and guidelines made this decision not only prudent but necessary,” American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford said. “The Commonwealth of Kentucky has taken emergency actions to prevent the spread of infections and to follow federal guidance that restrict public gatherings and urge social distancing. No one can say with any certainty when these measures will be lifted or in what manner.”

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved a resolution on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, by email to cancel the annual convention of wartime veterans and their families for the first time in history. The 2020 Sons of The American Legion National Convention is also canceled.

“Local American Legion services – such as Buddy Checks, blood drives, meal delivery and volunteer assistance – remain the top priority of the organization as we navigate these challenging waters,” Oxford said. “Countless efforts are now under way throughout the country and around the world, while many American Legion state and foreign departments are canceling or postponing their conventions and elections to protect public health in the midst of this pandemic. Normally, national convention delegates are appointed during department conventions. This year is anything but normal.”

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National Convention Canceled

The American Legion’s 102nd National Convention is now scheduled for August 27-September 2, 2021, in Phoenix, AZ. Terms of currently serving national officers, including National Commander Oxford, are extended until then, according to the resolution. Nationally appointed American Legion commission and committee chairpersons will also remain in their positions until the Fall 2021 meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The convention cancellation and extension of national officer terms are within the authority of the National Executive Committee, according to The American Legion’s Constitution and By Laws. The National Executive Committee selected Louisville, KY, as the site of the 2026 American Legion National Convention, the first available date.
Department of Labor Employment Resources

The Department of Labor Veterans’ Employment and Training Service has provided the following information regarding employment resources to assist veterans and their families during this challenging time. If you have any questions, please contact:

Marty A. Morgenstern, Director / Investigator
morgenstern.marlys@aol.dol.gov

U.S. Department of Labor
http://www.dol.gov/vets
1900 E Divide Ave
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507
Telephone (701) 328-2865

Job Service North Dakota
Job Service North Dakota has a Veterans’ Employment Team that exclusively serves Veterans. As Veterans themselves, the Team understands the many changes Veterans experience in their transition from military to civilian life. The Team is trained and ready to provide one-on-one assistance to help work through employment barriers.

The U.S. Department of Labor has resources to help workers and employers at http://www.dol.gov/careers

Expanded Unemployment Benefits Guidance

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of Americans applying for unemployment insurance. In response, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance to help states implement expanded unemployment benefits under the CARES Act.

Guidance on Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, under which states will administer an additional $600 weekly payment to eligible individuals.

CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27th. Find out how VHA is using $17.2 billion in funding, and how it will impact veterans.

Nonprofits serving veterans: The CARES act includes measures that may help you continue your important work. The National Council of Nonprofits has published an initial analysis of the law through the nonprofit lens, as well as a deep dive on the loans available to nonprofits.

COVID-19 Impact: Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights

During these challenging times, our nation’s Guardians and Reservists are answering the call to duty to protect the health and well-being of all Americans. We owe a duty to them to ensure full compliance with the employment and reemployment rights of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). VETS interprets and provides guidance on USERRA and investigates complaints filed under this law. VETS offers the following frequently asked questions and answers – please see the following websites: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets and https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/ under Quick Links on the right side.

National Labor Exchange Launches Job Resource to Support Displaced Workers during Pandemic

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and DirectEmployers Association announced the launch of NeedAJobNow.usNLx.com, a job site dedicated to providing a central location for displaced workers to access employment opportunities from U.S. corporations with immediate hiring needs due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Powered by the National Labor Exchange (NLx), the site houses jobs from vetted employers in all industries and provides an opportunity for Americans to return to work, and gain meaningful employment.

NeedAJobNow.usNLx.com contains over 400,000 job openings and continues to grow daily. While many employers are downsizing their staff, others are significantly increasing their hiring efforts due to current demands. Through this initiative, DirectEmployers and NASWA will assist in bridging the gap between job supply and demand by offering an easy way for job seekers to gain access to current open positions and the National to fill positions quickly and efficiently during these difficult times.

As part of the NLx, this resource is offered at no cost to job seekers or employers. All jobs found on NeedAJobNow.usNLx.com will be refreshed daily with current job content from employers across the country. Employers wishing to have their jobs included within the site can visit https://NeedAJobNow.usNLx.com/portal for more information.

New Tool to Help Employers Understand Mental Health Issues and Create Supportive Workplaces

Created in coordination with the Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and its Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Issues (EARN), NeedAJobNow.usNLx.com is an online gateway to background, tools, and resources for employers. It provides valuable information and guidance for employers seeking to offer a mental health-friendly workplace.

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I extend sincere wishes to you and your families for good health in these trying times. Each of us has had to rethink the way that we go about our daily business, to the point of depriving ourselves of the joy of family and friends. We just need to keep in mind that this pandemic will not last forever.

As many of you are aware, the ND Department has made the decision to follow National’s recommendation to retain all current programming and activities in place for the remaining days in the month of March and the entire month of April. I personally want to thank those officers and committee people who have chosen to assist this department in these unprecedented times.

I must also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Department Executive Committee for their guidance throughout these most difficult decisions concerning numerous annual programs and activities. Once again, I feel that the DEC acted prudently in following the guidelines sent to us from National Headquarters and many of the departments across the nation. The committee also strictly adhered to the policies and recommendations brought forth by Governor Burgum and the North Dakota Department of Health. While some of these decisions required little deliberation to arrive at a logical conclusion for the good of everyone involved, others presented many difficult challenges. Please be assured that the committee considered all the information when making these decisions. Consequently, these unanimous decisions were made with the best interests of our families and those involved with the programs in mind.

We continue to deal with situations as they arise, and we have learned to adapt and make any adjustments as necessary. The office staff have been working extremely hard to keep everyone informed of the numerous changes to normal business. The fact that this department will not hold a convention in June is very distressing. This pandemic has completely changed the order of business across the entire U.S. We continue to be reminded daily that we are not acting alone in these desperate times. Most days bring news of additional suspensions and cancellations to programs in many departments.

I would be remiss if I did not share one very disturbing point of business that I have recognized in these past weeks. It is truly alarming how some educational programs can be suspended without question or concern even the slightest comment, while other program suspensions are met with ridicule and condescension. As I progressed in the North Dakota American Legion, I honestly believed that the membership worked together as a team to support each other and the department as a whole.

I recognize that no one has ever experienced this turmoil before, and we are each on unproven ground. I can only restate that every person serving on the Department Executive Committee has the best interests of your family and our veterans in mind. We will continue to serve every member with respect.

These difficult times will soon be behind us and we will find ourselves a part of history. May you find peace in family and friends. Please stay safe for yourself, as well as those around you. Remember to trust The Lord.

Thank you to all legionnaires, families and friends. A special thanks to all the active members for all you do! Being an American Legion member is not just attending meetings and filing paperwork etc. that stuff is important; but it’s not the only thing it’s much more than that. It’s the membership and support. A special thanks to our Department Adjutant Ron Matthews, who has been an outstanding asset in our efforts to serve our veterans and our communities.

I have visited several posts in the past months, and they are working hard to keep the fire burning. Please schedule to make more visits in the upcoming months and hope to see all of you.

Let’s fill our ranks! Wesley W. (Skip) Nesdahl
Central Region Vice Commander

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is for the broken hearted
Who’s loved ones became the dearly departed
Who gave their lives for what we believe
For at GOD’s right hand they shall be seated
And in your hearts how will they be treated
Our heroes are gone but not defeated
So bow your head and help me pray
That as we enjoy this MEMORIAL DAY
We will continue to follow the guidance of National and of our government to do what must be done to forge a path through this pandemic. We will come out of these trying times with new vigor to promote our programs and with the love and compassion for our fellow man.

I look forward to serving you for another year. Do take care of yourselves as each and every one of you are loved and needed by all of us. If you have any questions, visit our website at www.ndlegion.org

Dan Brown
Western Region Vice Commander
My Comrades,

It is now the end of April, and as we have been “social distancing” ourselves for the past month, a lot has happened in the last month that should be explained.

Your headquarters staff have been operating from their homes. We have continued to pick up the mail and process membership and all the other day to day operations. The Department Executive Committee have had several meetings via networking. They have made several very tough decisions in these unprecedented times.

1. The first decision was to cancel Boys State, Baseball and other youth programs.
2. The second was to cancel the Department Convention.
3. The third was to follow National’s recommendation to keep our officers in positions for another year. All but two officers have agreed to stay another term. We are still looking for vice commanders for District 4 and 5. If you know of anybody in those districts who are interested in these positions, please let me know.

Let me try to explain a few reasons why these decisions were made. They decided with these uncertain times not to let any harm come to the youth of our great state. But the youth are not the only ones that are affected by this. The people who run the programs, coaches, umpires, spectators, concession workers are also affected.

This was not an easy decision to make. But after careful deliberation and discussions, we believe these decisions to be the best one for our youth and our state.

During this uncertain time, many are left wondering about how to pay their next bill. The State of North Dakota along with other veteran’s organizations have resources available to assist.

North Dakota Hardship Assistance Grant: If a veteran or their spouse has an unmet need regarding dental/ mentoring work, optical, hearing, transportation, housing, housing deposits, or other emergency needs, they may qualify for the State Hardship Assistance Grant. If you have additional questions on whether you or a loved one may qualify for this grant, contact your local County Veterans Service Officer.

During COVID-19, many business and offices have had to adjust hours and business protocol to keep staff and visitors safe. I decided that I would take this time to address what my office has done in the wake of COVID-19.

After returning from DSO school in Washington, DC, I chose to shut my door to the public. My intent was to limit veteran contact for 14 days (per CDC guidelines) then I would reopen as normal. During that time, National VA Veteran Service Offices closed all Regional Offices to the public. This meant that my office was no longer able to assist veterans in person during this time.

My office has remained open to assisting veterans by phone or email and supporting the counties within North Dakota. Most, if not all counties, also went to limiting public contact. This created a new way of working when in our line of work public contact is very normal. We had to resort to mailing forms that needed to be signed, gathering information via phone and adapting life to work from home or limited VA contact.

Rest assured, that although processes have changed, Veteran Service Offices across the state are working their hardest to ensure all veterans are being served and that benefits are still being processed.

Veteran Service Offices During COVID-19

Veterans Service Officers have been operating as normal, except for the most recent recommendation made by National which is for officers to continue to work from home to the extent possible. This decision was made to keep staff safe.

North Dakota American Legion: Consolidated Post Reports.

If you would like to submit a report, your post can contact the Department Service Officer (located in Fargo).

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA): National American Legion has an assistance program designed to assist the minor children of eligible American Legion members. This grant may be used to assist with providing basic needs (shelter, food, utilities, etc.) or for medical expenses for that child. To apply for the American Legion TFA program, you can contact your local post or Department Service Officer (located in Fargo).

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DAV COVID-19 Relief: Disabled American Veteran’s has built a program to assist service-connected veteran’s who have lost employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This relief program is available to all veteran’s that are service connected – regardless of DAV membership. Eligible veterans are able to receive up to a onetime payment of $250. To apply, go to: https://www.dav.org/COVIDrelief/

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Greetings,

I sincerely hope that this article finds all of you and yours happy and especially healthy. These are indeed trying times for people all over the world. We have not seen an epidemic like this since the early 1900’s. We all hope and pray that this passes soon. We also pray for all those on the front lines, affected by this disaster, first responders, nurses, doctors, law enforcement and their families and any others exposed to this nasty virus. My deepest sympathy goes to all who have been affected.

Due to the severity of this pandemic, the National American Legion Leadership has made some unprecedented decisions that were very tough:

1. The National High School Oratorical contest scheduled for April 17-19 was canceled.
2. The Spring NEC and Americanism meetings scheduled for the first week in May were canceled.
3. The Samsung scholarships for this year are suspended until next year.
4. The American Legion Boys Nation scheduled for July 19-25 is canceled.

The Department of North Dakota has also suspended/postponed several activities. I will let the Department leadership inform you of these issues.

6. All American Legion Baseball Regional Tournaments are canceled.
7. The American Legion Baseball World Series scheduled for Aug 13 – 20 is canceled.
8. The 102nd American Legion Convention scheduled for Aug 28 – Sep 3 has been canceled.

The rest of the year’s activities are still scheduled, but will be looked at as they draw near, i.e. National American Legion College, Fall NEC And Committee meetings and membership conferences, etc. All National Officers, including National Appointments are to be extended by one year.

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Once again, a group of North Dakota Legionnaires, journeyed to Washington, D.C. to attend the American Legion Washington conference. Glenn Wahus, Steve Anderson, Ken Wiederholt, Doug Wittmier, Mike Lee and I attended. We also met with our Senators and Representative and discussed several Veteran issues. The burn pit/oil field fires in Iraq and the side effects of these were the center of most of the discussions. Hopefully, this does not take as long as the agent orange issue to be recognized by the V.A. Pastor Mark Antal is still in the running for National Chaplain and could be appointed as soon as 2021. We also have endorsed Glenn Wahus for National Vice Commander. He would also take office in 2021.

You can find more information on the American Legion at www.legion.org. If you need more local information about any legion related issue, it can be found on the Department web site at www.ndlegion.org.

Gail and I wish you all the very best and I Know we will get through this together.

Do not hesitate to contact me if there is more information that you need, or have any questions for me, let me know and I will get back to you ASAP. My cell number is 701-680-0567 and my e-mail is: bbrausen711@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.

Best Wishes American Legion!
Senator Terry M. Wanzek
Paid for by Terry Wanzek
Fear Not

I’ve heard it said that the Bible says FEAR NOT 365 times. But this is leap year; 365 times isn’t quite enough, right? So, I looked it up on my computer Bible. FEAR NOT is in the Bible 382 times. BE NOT AFRAID appears 274 times and DO NOT BE AFRAID appears 285 times! That’s 861! That’s two verses every weekday and 4 on weekends! Let’s look at a few of them.

In Genesis 50:19-20 Joseph’s brothers tried to eliminate him, but he told them not to be afraid, that he would not take revenge. He said, “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.” The enemy of our souls always has a plan against us. It might take the form of divorce, a loss of a job, financial issues, or this coronavirus. But God has always known this was coming and He has had a plan for our lives.

We may never know the ways that God is working behind the scenes on our behalf. But we have to know, we have to trust that God is at work. That plan does not include God leaving us alone, it does not include us being afraid. In Numbers 21:33-34 God is telling Moses that He is doing just that. Don’t be afraid of him. I’ve already delivered him your hands. God is still on the job. He didn’t get laid off. He’s working in guiding the healthcare workers, the scientists, our government to bring an end to this. He is working in guiding the doctors, the healthcare workers, the scientists, our government to bring an end to this. We have to trust that God is at work. That plan does not include us being afraid. God is doing what a lot of us are – He is working from home. From your home.

In Exodus 20:18-20 God tells Moses not to fear, but He doesn’t tell him there is nothing to be afraid of. He tells him “Go and test the land you are to inherit.” He is testing them, and He is testing us. And God is doing what a lot of us are – He is working from home. From your home.

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Mountain Unit 227 ‘Salutes the Military’

Byersmon Sigfusson Unit 227 of Mountain participated in the Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association’s Christmas tree decorating project. The theme for 2019 was ‘Salute to the Military’. About a dozen patriotic trees were on display in Centennial Park from mid-November 2019 through early January 2020.

Marlene Simundson, Unit 227 President, was quoted as saying, “This was a fun project and unit members enjoyed the opportunity to work together”.

Pictured (l-r): Dori Heck, Gloria Steinsfjoll, Myrna Readel, Karen Kristjanson, Kathy Thorlakson, Linda Reeder and Marlene Simundson. (Photo and article submitted by Marlene Simundson)

Parley and Education Scholarships Awarded

Three North Dakota students were awarded $500 Past Presidents Parley Scholarships for the year 2020. Jacob Arnold, a student at Maddock Public Schools was awarded the prestigious Past Presidents Parley Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship.

Ashley Bauscher, a student at Keeneau Public Schools and Mya Gibbins Halverson, attending North Star High School in Cando were awarded the Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarships.

The Department of North Dakota extends our sincere congratulations to the scholarship winners and wish you the best as you pursue your dreams of working in healthcare.

Education Program Scholarships Awarded

Six students were awarded $300 Department Education Scholarships in May.

• Reagel Higa of Langdon - Langdon Area H.S.
• Madelyn House of Bismarck – Century H.S.
• Christopher Litz of Caswell – Central Cass Public H.S.
• Kecey Mischel of Bismarck – Shiloh Christian School
• Andrew Make of Langdon - Langdon Area H.S.
• Carla Sherfy of Jamestown – Jamestown H.S.

Congratulations on your accomplishments and the Auxiliary wishes you the best in your future endeavors.

The highlights of my year were traveling to Lisbon for the annual Girls State luncheon hosted by William C. Carroll Unit 26 of Minot. Thank you to everyone involved with these projects. You all did a remarkable job and I was touched and honored to be included in those events.

I want to thank my Department Chairmen. You have done a remarkable job getting information to units across the state of North Dakota. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Marcy Schmidt, our Department Secretary, who was always available to answer my questions or assist me when I needed help.

Thank you to Unit Officers and Auxiliary members across North Dakota. You are the key to our mission to support veterans, their families, and your community.

Finally, I want to say that it was my honor and privilege to serve you as your 2019-2020 Department President. Although I am disappointed that we will not be able to gather for a Department Convention this summer, the time has come to turn over the reins to my successor. I know that you will support Bey Wolf and her team as you have supported me. May God Bless all of you.

Myrna Ronholm

Foundation Grant Awarded

Whenever I have attended National Conventions or a National Leadership Conference, there is someone who tells us about the ‘Foundation’ and encourages us to apply for grants. This past year, I did just that. As chairman of the Finance Board, I know that American Legion Auxiliary units and especially our Girls State program can always use some financial assistance.

Recently, the Department of North Dakota was awarded a $1,200 grant from the National American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Mission in Action to be used to promote our North Dakota Flickertail Girls State program.

Due to our recent setback and cancellations of major events, and that your year and National levels, I have yet made the grant purchases. I am planning to acquire two table runners and a backdrop featuring the Auxiliary and Girls State logos. These items will identify the Auxiliary as the sponsor of the Girls State program. It is important to promote our brand to parents, students, and community members involved with the program.

Another item that will be purchased later is a pop-up canopy to be used during the annual Girls State event, either for an outdoor activity or for skit night.

On behalf of the Department of North Dakota and the Girls State program, I want to thank the Foundation Mission in Action for the generous grant.

Marilyn Aaboe
Past Department President (2013-2014)

So much has happened in the last couple of weeks. As you may know by now, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Departments of North Dakota took action in response to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

The following American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary events for 2020 have been canceled or suspended: Department Convention in June NF Flickertail Girls State ND Boys State ND American Legion sponsored baseball programs Boys and Girls Nation National Convention

More information regarding specific programs and events is available in other articles within this issue of ‘The Message’.

The Department and National Offices had the safety and security of all its members in mind when making these difficult decisions. Other future events are uncertain at this early point in time. Please refer to the Department website at www.ndala.org and other Department releases regarding upcoming in-person gatherings.

Until we can be together again, please stay safe and follow the recommended guidelines of your local and state agencies.

The Department of North Dakota and the Auxiliary wish you the best in your future endeavors.

2020 Department Convention Canceled

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

American Legion Auxiliary Department Office

Lt. Theodore R. Zech Unit 180 of Richardville is proud of extraordinary unit member Bernie Staunding. Bernie is a member of the unit’s Education Committee and is the driving force behind the unit’s efforts to welcome teachers and staff of the Richardtown-Taylor School District back to school for the past thirty years.

In September 2019, Bernie began her 29th year as a bus driver for the school district. She loves her job and the children on her route, but the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting shutdown of so many services, including school attendance, has changed how Bernie does her job.

Instead of picking up and driving students to and from school each day, she drives the daily route alone to drop off lesson assignments and meals to the homes of shut-in students. After completing the required daily disinfection of the entire bus interior, Bernie collects school-related items including meals and assignments and delivers them to the students’ homes.

Bernie will be happy to see the COVID-19 shutdown come to a halt so she can enjoy interacting with her bus route student riders again.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota congratulates and thanks Bernie for her dedication to her ‘children’ and the community depending on her. You are doing a wonderful job.

Article and photo submitted by Fran Hauck, Unit 180 President

Department President

Richardson
Unit 180 Honors
Bernie Staunding

Myrna Ronholm

Pictures are Brent Bautz, Superintendent of the Taylor Richardson School District (left) and Bernie Staunding, Unit Education Committee Chairman.
Greetings to North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

In April of this year, the North Dakota Auxiliary’s Department Executive Committee made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 Boys State, all ND American Legion baseball programs, and the 2020 Department Convention. Soon following, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota also made the decision to suspend 2020 ND American Legion’s Youth Scholarship program. The National organizations have since canceled not only the 2020 Boys and Girls Nation programs but the National Convention in Louisville as well.

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Department Convention, many Department Officers, District Presidents, and Department Chairmen will remain in their respective offices and/or program chairmanships unless they are unable or unwilling to continue in that capacity. If they choose not to continue, the officer or chairman must submit her resignation in writing to the Department Office no later than June 1, 2020. For units to maintain continuity, it is recommended that unit officers and chairmen retain their current positions through the 2020-2021 administrative year as well.

This coronavirus crisis may be a blessing in disguise. Hello everyone. Well, I think one of my friends summed up everything from the last couple months: a word: strange. I know my world and yours has certainly changed in the last few weeks, as I am sure many of yours have as well. Although these times have altered many things for us, we continue to prevail and see bright sides. The National organizations are all working hard in our behalf and calling the American Legion Auxiliary. Our work may take on different formats such as making masks or having meetings by conference call; however, there is still some wonderful news out there for the education program.

I had the honor of reading through over 50 scholarship applications for both the National and Department scholarship programs. Wow! What a great class of students out there who have such wonderful ideas and enthusiasm. They have amazing spirit, intensity, and will succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders within our schools. It was difficult to pick winners as all the candidates were outstanding. The Education scholarship winners are listed in a separate article in this publication. The four students selected as Department candidates for the National scholarships are: Alison Freier of Glyndon, MN; Children of Warriors National President’s Scholarship; Kimberly Asp of Cando, ND; Non-Traditional Student Scholarship; Elizabeth Nolan of Hazen, ND; Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, and Hayley Carlson of Devils Lake, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members. Each of these applications was sent on to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Winners are expected to be announced sometime in late May. All candidates were sponsored by a North Dakota Auxiliary member.

Many units sent in education reports through District Presidents. Some unit’s sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications. A few units continue to send reports to the Department. Other units donate funds to local colleges, universities, and high school foundations. Several units also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs.

Herbert C. Gardner Unit, Unit 2 of Fargo, has graciously assisted me with the archiving and preservation of valuable and historic Auxiliary documents. This really has been a project. Oh, how things have changed over the years.

I encourage all units to continue to preserve your Unit histories and meeting minutes, which should be kept forever. If you want to display some special records from your Unit’s past, please prepare it and bring it with you to the 2021 Department Convention.

The American Legion Auxiliary’s 100th Birthday Celebration has been put on hold until we meet at our 2021 Department Convention. The celebration planning committee will continue to meet occasionally until that time.

Thank you for everything you do for our veterans, their families, and your communities.

Marcy Schmidt

The committee that worked with me to update our Constitution and Bylaws has worked hard and we presented this information at the 2020 Winter Conference in Bismarck.

In the meantime, we have made several revisions. Now, we also must add to our Standing Rules a rule to cover the issues we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and how to handle this kind of situation should something like it happen in the future. Each unit will receive a copy of the revised Department Constitution and Bylaws in the mail soon. Please take some time to review it and be prepared to vote on it at the 2021 Department Convention. The unapproved revisions will also be published on the Department website (www.ndala.org/constitution-bylaws) for the convenience of unit members who will perhaps form your unit’s committee and/or convention delegation in 2021.

We will be voting on all the changes at the Department Convention in 2021. Once the Department’s Constitution is approved, all North Dakota units will be required to change their Units Constitution and Bylaws. Diane Kraemer

Department Chairman

This is and will be a very different year for the American Legion Auxiliary on all levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting all sectors of our communities and regions of our Nation.

Although the future may look different, all Unit Officers are being asked to review your Unit’s Constitution and Bylaws document. Some areas that will need to be reviewed include but are not limited and then presented at a unit meeting for approval are the Preamble, membership eligibility dates, membership eligibility, and unit dues changes.

District Presidents, please review your District financial reports and mail your 2019-2020 financial report to both the Department Office and the Finance Board Chairman. Your District’s financial report can be voted on at the next scheduled District meeting, but please send it in now.

Are you still in a virtual lockdown due to the pandemic? Do you have a computer? Make it a point to check out the ALA Academy classes available on the National website (www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Academy/). Take one or several classes that are new to your organization.

While you practice social distancing for at least the foreseeable future, make it a point to stay in touch with your unit members by phone, mailed note, email, Facebook or wave from your porch or backyard.

Are there any other ideas for those procrastinators and pack rats. Now is a great time to sort through your stored stuff and clean out what you do not use or need. Make four piles: Keep, Throw, Give, Donate.

Remember, we are the American Legion Family. We are anyone and everyone. We are of every color and faith. We are a community that helps each other; and we commit ourselves to “Service Not Self”.

Tammy Ryberg

We miss God’s instructions. Slow down, relax, do not look to the finish line, but turn your gazing to God. “Dear God, thank you for being my God of peace. Help me to slow down, relax, and be patient. I know that you are watching, and all things happen in your time not mine. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand delay and slackness; but according to His own times He will come. "For the Lord is not delayed, as some suppose, but of patience; waiting for you, that you may be saved. Therefore, come to the Lord quickly, for He is coming quickly.”

Sandra Petermann

American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota

You are the best! You are loved! You are AWESOME!

Past Presidents Parley Program

Past Presidents Parley is still looking for units that have not sent in your dues or donations for the year. We have received twelve applications for the Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship and eight applications for the Grace Holmes, MD Nursing Scholarship. The committee eliminated four applications because they were not completed properly.

Department Secretary

Carol Wolf, a veteran member of Gilbert C. Grant Post 1 in Fargo, has graciously assisted me with the archiving and preservation of valuable and historic Auxiliary documents. This really has been a project. Oh, how things have changed over the years.

I encourage all units to continue to preserve your Unit histories and meeting minutes, which should be kept forever. If you want to display some special records from your Unit’s past, please prepare it and bring it with you to the 2021 Department Convention.

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Thank you for everything you do for our veterans, their families, and your communities.

Marcy Schmidt

Constitution and Bylaws Program

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We will be voting on all the changes at the Department Convention in 2021. Once the Department’s Constitution is approved, all North Dakota units will be required to change their Units Constitution and Bylaws. Diane Kraemer

Department Chairman

Past Presidents Parley Program

Two Women of the Year applications and one Salute to Women Application have been received. The committee will review those applications and select the winners by May 20. Winners will be contacted and the names will be announced on the Department website.

Diane Kraemer

Department Chairman

North Dakota Legion News

You are the best! You are loved! You are AWESOME!
Greetings District 4 Auxiliary members.

Thank you for your wonderful cards and messages you sent during my recent illness. I am improving every day. I also want to thank Diane Kramer and Marcy Schmidt who graciously took over my Department Chairmanships for Constitution and Bylaws and Legislation. Your support is appreciated, and you did a wonderful job.

Constitution revisions were a big task and thank you for handling that as a committee. The results are timely and very much needed.

Sincerely,

Ginny Brazil
Past Department President (2010-2011)
Greetings to you from the ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board.

Normally, I would be writing to you and telling everyone about the upcoming session for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 ND ALA Flickertail Girls State session has been indefinitely suspended. Notice that I did not use the term canceled. Here is why we chose that wording. By indefinitely suspending something, it will not be happening at this time but could still happen in the future, although we do know the reality is the program will not host until 2021. To state canceled means something is done, communications cease, the discussion ends, and the event will not occur at any time in any format. We do not want the discussion about our program to stop for the year because our mission is not done, nor are our communications about our program. There have been some inquiries by email from girls that are interested in the program as well as some applications that came in prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Those application fees were not deposited and will be returned asap to the units. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has canceled the 2020 ALA Girls Nation program in Washington, D.C. In addition to that information, the American Legion National Headquarters has stated that the 2020 Samsung American Legion Scholarships have been suspended due to the amount of AL Boys State and ALA Girls State programs that will not be in session this year.

Here’s what we are doing to continue to support ND ALA Flickertail Girls State: Girls that would have been eligible for the 2020 session will continue to be eligible for the 2021 ND ALA Girls State session. This means that the 2021 session will have girls attending that have completed their senior year. ALA National Headquarters gave each Department and Girls State program guidance suggesting that they consult their respective program Constitution and Bylaws regarding accepting seniors in the program next year. At this time, there is no statement in our ND Girls State Constitution and Bylaws that would prohibit having senior girls attend.

What we want to do for the summer and fall of 2020 is take the names of girls that are interested and continue to reach out to them. We are looking at sending monthly emails, possibly including a short video clip from ND ALA Girls State counselors, to keep them excited about the program as well as giving them more information on what to expect. What we need from units is to keep sending in names of girls that would be interested in ND ALA Girls State, including the upcoming juniors. It’s never too early to promote the program. This is an extension of recruitment efforts and by no means a replacement for the 2020 session. The ND ALA Girls State board believes that by using this platform we can get girls excited about 2021, and in turn, they can help us find more young women that would like to be involved. The ND ALA Girls State board has requested approval for 2021 session dates of June 13th-18th from the ND ALA Department Executive Committee. As we are not certain when the next DEE meeting will be held, we appreciate your understanding that we are unable to confirm dates at this time and consider them pending approval and not set in stone. The ND ALA Flickertail Girls State Board will continue their communications with the ALA DEC and ALA National Headquarters on any changing needs.

As always, we appreciate any feedback that you may have. We hope that this finds you all safe and well. Thank you for your support!

ND ALA Girls State Board
Respectfully submitted,
Dana Thoreson, Chairman

Any additional questions? Please contact Dana Thoreson at 701-720-5612 or email at ndgirlsstate@gmail.com

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### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program

Members reported 12,376 hours assisting and serving veterans and veterans’ families. Around $53,300 was spent, and 6,500 veterans and families were reached. Units reported helping their Legion Posts with holiday celebrations, parades, bingo, programs, and memorial celebrations this year. Meals were served for various activities, including Memorial Day programs and Veterans Day programs. Cards and gifts were given, either to the veterans personally or sent to nursing homes, the Veterans Home in Lisbon, and the VA Medical Center in Fargo. Units donated items to Veterans Closets at the offices of county Veteran Service Officers. These items are in turn given to the veterans in need of paper goods, personal hygiene items, hats, and gloves.

Reports sent in also mentioned the following projects: sewing quilts, making children’s busy bags and wheelchair bags, putting together move-in baskets for the homeless veterans transitioning into permanent housing, game nights, ice cream socials, bake sales, memorial dedications, and motorcycle runs.

LaVonne Matthews, Department Chairman

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### Dates to Remember in 2020

- **June 20**: Memorial Day
- **June 21**: Father’s Day and National Selfie Day
- **June 26**: Take Your Dog to Work Day (Sit, down, stay! Give ‘em a treat)
- **June 28**: Paul Bunyan Day (Someone felt bad for Paul Bunyan)
- **June 30**: Meteor Day (What a great way to end June!)

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### In Memoriam

| District 1 | Rita Halland, Buffalo | Joyce Strehlow, Casselton |
| District 2 | Theresa Dahlgren, “SLM”, Adams | Debra S Johnson, Edinburg |
| District 3 | Lena Nelson, “SLM”, Bismarck | Anna Hunt, Rolla |
| District 4 | Delores Muller, Gackle |
| District 5 | Katie Haug, Fredonia |
| District 6 | Marion Swenson, Bowbells |
| District 7 | Loretta Moore, “SLM”, White Shield |
| District 8 | Bonnie M Stockwell, Beach |
| District 9 | Jeffry Tischl, Mert |
| District 10 | Caroline E Germann, Rhamne |

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### Flickrtail Girls State Program

June is Dairy Month and National Accordion Awareness Month. I am not sure these should be in the same month!

- **June 4**: Hug Your Cat Day
- **June 6**: D-Day, World War II
- **June 14**: Flag Day
- **June 18**: Game Fishing Day, International Picnic Day, and National Spleurge Day (How on earth did these three come together?)
- **June 20**: National Bald Eagle Day
- **June 21**: Father’s Day and National Selfie Day (Wow, what an idea?)
- **June 28**: Paul Bunyan Day (Someone felt bad for Paul Bunyan)
- **June 30**: Meteor Day (What a great way to end June!)

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Poster and photo by Americanism Chairman Holly Eslinger

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Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 of Rolla sponsored a fundraiser on Valentine’s Day featuring a steak fry and all the fixings at the American Legion Post Cabin. Pictured (f-r): Grace Azure-James, Sandra Smith, Gloria Court, Janice Sappington, Cheryl Gustafson, Jaime Wichtor, and Elaine Lange. Photo submitted by Gloria Court, District 3 President

Jeanette Anderson quoted on April 5th, “Just sent a box to Unit 29, Watford City”.

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Celebrating the Class of 2020! Abby Johnson, a member of the Sumnigal Unit 153 of Minot, is sporting a unique shirt, a gift from Grandmother Judy Twete. Abby is currently a senior in high school and is having fun despite the pandemic. Photo submitted by Judy Twete, Past Division President (2001-2002) and Past NW Division Vice President.

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Key: HLM - Honorary Unit Member; SLM - State Legion Member; VIM - Veterans' Immediate Member; M - Member; F - Future; P - Past; C - Chairman
Dear Post Commanders,

The American Legion Pole of Hauckstrom has cancelled 2020 Boys Nation and the 2020 National Baseball Tournament and will not hold the 2020 Boys Nation due to COVID-19. The Department Executive Committee (DEC) removed the CDC guidelines and noted to the DEC Department of Health for information regarding the health and safety of all participants in the 2020 Boys Nation and American Legion baseball programs. The DEC decided to cancel the 2020 Department Convention, Boys and Girls baseball programs.

The decision to cancel the youth programs was an extremely difficult decision. These programs have a long time and much work is put in to the youth and the programs are a very important aspect of the American Legion.

The International Peace Garden will be playing solo all summer this year. The International Music Camp Board of Directors and leadership have decided to postpone the 65th Season of the International Music Camp to the summer of 2021. This action is based upon public health recommendations regarding the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in public and food service settings, uncertainty regarding domestic and international travel, and US/Canadian border restrictions.

Campers currently registered for any programs or events have been contacted via telephone regarding options for carrying any payments forward to registration for the 2021 season, making a donation, or receiving a refund in accordance to IMC's cancellation policy. “The health and safety of our campers is our top priority,” said Camp Director Christine Baumann. “This was a difficult decision to make, but we believe that it is the best one for the people we serve.” Since making the decision on April 6, 2020, several other summer camps, festivals, and large group gatherings across the state and region have been postponed or delayed.

The 65th Anniversary Season of the International Music Camp will now run June 20-August 3, 2021 and our Old-Time Fiddle Weekend will be June 10-12, 2021. In the meantime, Camp Directors Tim and Christine Baumann say they will be busy in different ways. “Our focus has shifted from delivering a high-quality product in-person to providing positive connections to the camp experience in remote ways while still ensuring that IMC can operate in the summer of 2021.” Summer camp operations make up over 90% of the International Music Camp's annual income and this decision has a major financial impact on the organization. For questions about programming or donations, please contact the International Music Camp office at 701-838-8472.
Tryings Times and Pressing Onward

Greetings again to the Department of North Dakota!

Despite the closures and cancellations that have come from the Coronavirus pandemic, the best of the American Legion is continuing strong work. The membership report as of May has us at 716 members, or about 82% towards our goal of 870. Keep up the awesome work in recruiting new members and renewing existing members.

Obvious as you are all likely aware, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Legion’s Department Executive Committee decided to cancel Department Convention, scheduled for June 26-27, Minot, as well as the Legion baseball season, and numerous other activities. National Headquarters made the decision to cancel National Convention in Louisville and number of other activities. Memorial Day activities are up in the air depending on your community’s decision. These are indeed trying times, but this does not mean our work stops.

The Department Executive Committee decided with the cancellation of the Convention and in keeping with how National is handling the situation, that the current Department officers for the Legion will remain in their positions for the 2020-2021 year as well. Correspondence with the State Officers and National is handling the situation, that the current Department officers for the Legion will remain in their positions for the 2020-2021 year as well. Correspondence with the State Officers and National is handling the situation.

The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy; Of both the classes and the masses; To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a sound percent Americanism; To preserve the memory of incidents of Our associations in the All Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation To the community, state and nation; To promote the general welfare of All; Of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on earth; 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.

The Constitution of the United States

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation

To the community, state and nation;

To promote the general welfare of All;

Of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and good will on earth;

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.

Beware of Scams

During these uncertain times, scammers have been busy thinking of new ways to scam the public. From calls, emails, and even fake stimulus checks. We want to make sure you are aware of some of the top scams and what you can do if you think you have been scammed.

- Robocalls – HANGUP! The IRS or Medicare will not call you regarding any issues. Do not give out any personal information on a phone call.

- Door to Door Sales – Some scammers are knocking on doors dressed in lumber outfits and hatchet gear selling fake at-home testing kits. The Center for Disease Control is not going around knocking on doors.

- Emails – While this is a new scam, scammers are sending emails posing as health officials. They are hoping you will open a link and download malware to your computer or provide false health and personal information.

- Scammers can be scammed: 2020 is the year to contact your local government if you have personally lost money. You can contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4375 to report a scam and report identity theft. If the scam involved Social Security, you can report that by calling 800-269-0271.

- If you gave out any of your banking information, contact your bank to let them know. They may suggest changing your account number(s) and/or debit/credit card number.

- Let others know about the scam you heard. An important way to stop the spread of scammers is to educate as many people as possible with the tactics that they use so others do not fall for it.

A picture of SAFETY

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Well, as we all are getting used to this pandemic situation and trying to figure out just what the new normal is going to be with all the isolation we are dealing with, I thought you might like to know just what all we have done this past year.

All this information is from the National headquarters Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson who sent this out to allow everyone to see all the work the Posts have done this past year.

American Legion Baseball: 54,225 youth formed 3,415 teams this past year. 602,000 viewers watched the American Legion World Series on ESPN with over 1.26 million social media impressions in July & August.

Boys State: 17,471 participants in 50 Boys State programs

Junior Shooting Sports: 1,359 individual athletes took part in postal rounds competitions an increase of 7 additional competitors from last year with 184 shooting clubs entered the national postal round competition: this is an increase of 3 from the previous year.

Scouting & The American Legion: 3,430 youth were recognized by The American Legion for achieving their Eagle Scout award in the Boy Scouts of America. 152 were recognized for their achievement in Venturing, Sea Scout or Explorers program. 154 were recognized for their achievement of their National Gold Award in the Girls Scouts of the USA. A total of 2,385 Scout units were chartered by the Legion Family (an increase of 39) units from the previous year for a total of 57,988 young people & 21,649 adult leaders.

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement: 21 American Legion Departments have established Youth Cadet Law Enforcement programs with 6,790 youth involved, this is an increase of 5,536 from the previous year.

Youth Education: $1,028,643* dollars were raised during National Commander Brett Reistad’s Legacy Run year from 1 Oct 2018 - 30 Sept 2019. 264 students were awarded a total of $1,585,124* in academic scholarships at national level. 19 CPR showed 24,699 students from throughout the nation were presented an American Legion School Award Medal; an increase of 229 for last year.

Flag CPR showed that there were 4,475 Flag Day activities an increase of 156 from the previous year. 49,584 people have subscribed to the American Legion Flag half-staff notification alert service.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF): A total of $ 619,457* was received in CWF donations; this is an increase of $57,404* from the previous year. Of the 2019 grand total, $427,315* was contributed by the Sons of the American Legion; this is an increase of $99,721 from the previous year. In 2019 the CWF Board of Directors awarded $1,561,282* in grants. These were awarded to 22 non-profit organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional & spiritual needs of children & youth, 7 to 2,767 minor children of 1,539 U.S Coast Guard service members during the longest federal shutdown in our nation’s history.

American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF): $654,326* was received in donations an increase of $221,201* from last year. A total of 3,277 minor children of 1,777 veterans throughout 44 states received $1,141,903* in non-repayable cash grant assistance at the national level. Within those grand totals 2,767 minor children of 1,539 U.S Coast Guard service members who received nearly $1 million * in cash grants during the longest federal government shutdown in our nation’s history.

Resolution to Support Glenn Wahus for National Vice Commander

Whereas Glenn Wahus has served The American Legion Department of North Dakota in many capacities over the years including serving as The Department Commander in the 2016 – 2019 membership year;

Whereas he provided outstanding service to his Community, State and Nation and he is asking to continue this service;

Whereas during the Winter Conference meeting held in Bismarck, ND on 24 - 26 Jan 2020 candidates were asked to declare their willingness to serve as a National Legion Commander and Glenn was the only person that declared their willingness to serve;

Whereas the Winter Conference participants then voted unanimously to endorse Glenn Wahus for the position of National Vice Commander of The American Legion;


Whereas the resolution committee has now been charged by the Department of North Dakota Executive Committee and Department Commander Kenneth Wendel to draft a document to formalize actions taken at Winter Conference and officially endorse Glenn Wahus to serve as a National Vice Commander at some time in the future as determined by the National Organization.

RESOLVED, first to these unrepresented states having failed for the last time the 102nd annual convention of The American Legion Department of North Dakota to endorse this committee acting under authority of the ND Department Executive Committee and the Department Commander to vote to formalize actions taken at Winter Conference and formally recognize Glenn Wahus as North Dakota choice to serve as a National Vice Commander at some time in the future as determined by the National Organization.

Motion: By: [Signatures]

Resolving this resolution received a unanimous yes vote via email and phone on 5 May 21 from all committee members and is hereby adopted.

Moved: [Signatures]

Seconded: [Signatures]
Greetings from District 1,

Have you had enough changes to last you a while, maybe enough to last you the rest of your life? The country’s current health situation has thrown most things into turmoil, including Memorial Day observances.

My home Legion Post 297 in Harwood has made the same difficult decision that I’m sure other Posts have to cancel or significantly change their Memorial Day ceremonies. I would like to point out though, while the ceremonies may be canceled, the honoring of veterans goes on. Post 297 will be adorning our cemetery as if the ceremony was happening and we are encouraging veterans goes on. Post 297 will be adorning our cemetery of the Posts that are lagging behind. I know it is tough for those that may be more comfortable staying inside, it only takes a minute or two to replay a favorite memory of a veteran in your mind and offer up a quiet “Thank You” at the end of it. Faith tells me that they will hear you.

We will be back next year. Meanwhile, it will be different this year, but no less meaningful.

Greetings from District 2,

A lot has happened since we last met at the Winter Conference in Palm Springs. Too bad it may have to do with shutdowns and other things because of the coronavirus. We had our District Meetings all canceled and at the National level the Oratorical Contest was also canceled. At this time, no one knows what anything will be like to start up again.

Sounds like officers from the Post, District, State and even National level, will stay the same for one more year. The Second District was leading in membership as of my last report for 2019. I have now called some of the Posts that are lagging behind. I know it is tough for some to make target with the non-renewals and replacing the passing of members.

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and we can get over all of this and can get back to normal lives and be able to have contact with each other.

Again, to all Stay Safe.

Greetings from District 3,

While we are still unable to travel, how life changes before you know it. After winter conference Bryce and I were working on the Spring District meeting agenda. We will be working on this Bryce, coordinating with the Leeds post and their community business. Who would have thought we would be living in a time like this as the American Legion was beginning, they too had a harder time and surviving as we are now. Let us all be patient and remember our membership goal with only one month remaining. It’s now or never. Let us all do our part. We’re not actually expecting any either. I have been attempting to visit more of the 7th Posts, but that is being affected also. I would like to request a quiet note should any post schedule a meeting and I’ll try to attend. My email address is vlanning@biszdoc.net.

Another item of interest is we are still in need for a 5th District Vice Commander. If you are interested, give me a call or send me an email or some communication so we can get you set up. Due to the virus, I will continue to be the 5th District commander and I’ll gladly and proudly do my best to work with our membership and help you. The last thing I want to say is what I started with, please everyone stay safe! Let’s stay Legion Strong and with what conditions are normal let’s become a bigger and better American Legion.

Greetings from District 4,

District 4, like many areas, has been very impacted by the virus with coronavirus cutting into almost all activities. Greetings from District 4 & 5 Spring Meeting that was to be on April 4 at Center, ND, was canceled and from my post. In addition the North Dakota Annual Convention has also been canceled. Most regularly scheduled meetings are also being postponed until the isolation recommendations are lifted or at least reduced.

Regarding the elections, my vice-commander, George Reichenberg, and I have volunteered to continue in our present positions for another year as the membership agrees. So far, no objections to that idea have surfaced. We’re not actually expecting any either. I have been attempting to visit more of the 7th Posts, but that is being affected also. I would like to request a quiet note should any post schedule a meeting and I’ll try to attend. My email address is vlanning@biszdoc.net. Another item of interest is the 4th District Virtual Membership goal that is our membership goal with only one month remaining. It’s now or never. Let us all do our part. We’re not actually expecting any either. I have been attempting to visit more of the 7th Posts, but that is being affected also. I would like to request a quiet note should any post schedule a meeting and I’ll try to attend. My email address is vlanning@biszdoc.net.

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Greetings from District 5,

I hope each and every one is staying safe during this coronavirus pandemic. It’s certainly altered everyone’s lives for so far this year. I go to the North Dakota American Legion website on a regular basis to check on what is being done in the Posts and unfortunately the list of events and meetings continue.

Schollying though the American Legion Dispatch publication, it has a few ideas on occupying one’s time during our stay at home period. Things like taking the Basic Training course or doing the Buddy check. Checking on veterans is a great way to ensure the safety and welfare for them and their families and who knows, if they aren’t an American Legionnaire they just may become one. I’ve referenced a few things here that require a computer with internet access. If you don’t have one either, give me a call or contact your post or any local volunteer that should be able to help you for the items I referenced.

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Greetings from District 6,

Veteran Lasting 7th District Cmdr

Greetings from District 7,

District 7, like many areas, has been very impacted by the virus with coronavirus cutting into almost all activities. Greetings from District 7 & 8 Spring Meeting that was to be on April 4 at Center, ND, was canceled and from my post. In addition the North Dakota Annual Convention has also been canceled. Most regularly scheduled meetings are also being postponed until the isolation recommendations are lifted or at least reduced.

Regarding the elections, my vice-commander, George Reichenberg, and I have volunteered to continue in our present positions for another year as the membership agrees. So far, no objections to that idea have surfaced. We’re not actually expecting any either. I have been attempting to visit more of the 7th Posts, but that is being affected also. I would like to request a quiet note should any post schedule a meeting and I’ll try to attend. My email address is vlanning@biszdoc.net. Another item of interest is the 4th District Virtual Membership goal that is our membership goal with only one month remaining. It’s now or never. Let us all do our part. We’re not actually expecting any either. I have been attempting to visit more of the 7th Posts, but that is being affected also. I would like to request a quiet note should any post schedule a meeting and I’ll try to attend. My email address is vlanning@biszdoc.net.

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Greetings from District 8,

May God Bless You and Keep You safe during these trying times.

Please, everyone, during this time of a health emergency, please follow all CDC, Federal and State recommendations.

I understand that many are even in worse health due to the rate of new infections is slowing down. If any of you or your family Members are sick or even not feeling well, please let someone know and we will try to get you help in some form or help we can. I will not beat everyone over their head about this, but the ones that do not follow the rules will not be able to continue to serve our community. We all need to cooperate and remember any service that we have provided so it can be continued.

Greetings from District 9,

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as the 1st Vice Commander for the American Legion North Dakota District 9, to all those that are active and participating in the activities that the American Legion offers. You are truly the backbone of our organization.

Greetings from District 10,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 11,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 12,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 13,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 14,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 15,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 16,

For God and Country!

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Greetings from District 18,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 19,

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For God and Country!

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Greetings from District 32,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 33,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 34,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 35,

For God and Country!

Greetings from District 36,

For God and Country!
POST EVERLASTING

The following North Dakota Legionnaires have been reported by their respective posts to have died and been transferred to the Post Everlasting.

“Because of them, our lives are free; Because of them, our nation lives; Because of them, the world is blessed.”

Wahpeton – Post #20

Barlow, Thomas .................................09/15/2019
Necher, Dwayne .................................02/28/2020

Fargo – Post #2

Meyer, Madonna ................................02/17/2020

Bismarck – Post #3

Day, Robert ...............................Unknown DOD

Mandan – Post #40

Hinke, Joan ......................................02/14/2020

Grafton – Post #41

Borchardt, Jim ..................................02/21/2020

Minot – Post #5

Chmura, David ................................02/20/2020

Hood River – Post #11

Hill, Vernon ......................................02/15/2020

High River – Post #10

Hill, James .................................Unknown DOD

Bismarck – Post #3

Peterson, Ralph ................................02/19/2020

Minot – Post #5

Hinck, Mel ......................................02/18/2020

Cintho, Ray .....................................02/17/2020


Local Posts in the News

Veteran’s Blessing Bag Mission serves area Veterans

By Mattie Richardson-Schmitz, Ransom County Gazette (revised)

What comes to your mind when you think of community support? For Deb Hausauer, Avon Independent Sales Representative and Jim Paulus, Marine Corps Veteran, it means a “Veterans Blessing Bag Mission,” which is now scheduled to be an annual event.

The two have partnered together to create this mission to help support Veterans who have done so much for our country. With this vision, Hausauer contacted Paulus to discuss ideas and together the “Veteran Blessing Bags” were created.

Jim Paulus from Denhoff, ND, served in the Marine Corps from 1972-1974. He is a Veteran Service Officer of Sheridan County, Adjutant of the Legion Post 56 of Goodrich and the coordinator for the Highly Rural Transportation in seven counties. The blessing bags are filled with personal care items, including shampoo/conditioner, hand lotion, deodorant, foot cream, soap on a rope, shower gel and slippers.

Next, the donation boxes were created and placed in many communities where funds were collected throughout the year. Letters were sent to different businesses as well asking for their support.

Many different groups and organizations came together to help make this mission possible. Hausauer, Paulus, and another friend, Butch Konschak (who is also a Veteran and has served in Vietnam), came to the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon to distribute these bags on Tuesday, November 12th, one day after Veterans Day.

If you are a business that would like to support the 2020 Blessing Bag drive, or would like to volunteer or support the mission, please reach out to Deb Hausauer at 701-426-7254 or Jim Paulus at 701-341-4018. You can also reach Deb via email at: meruvonen@westriv.com

What a year 2019 has been. We celebrated our 100 years as an Organization and as a Post. We kicked off the year with a pancake breakfast to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. And off, in May, the Wolford School asked us to do a Flag Disposal program for them. We were honored to do so as we knew this would be one of the last activities held at their school as they were closing at the end of the year.

The American Legion Riders held our annual Day potluck and Raffle. This took place on August 1, 2019. Of riders do a Legacy Ride on the American Legion, the Legion Riders had two groups the night capped off with a street dance performed Fireman’s rib dinner. He was quite impressed with the Veterans along with a tour of the Memorial Building able to sit and watch the parade as the cards went by. He thoroughly enjoyed walking the block and then being downtown businesses stared the day off with their crazy

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Legion Post Honors WWII Veteran on 105th Birthday

Written By: GF Herald Pamela D. Knudson | Apr 21, 2020

Lt. Col. Sam Sachs, a WWII veteran and Grand Forks native who lives in Lakewood, Calif., celebrates his 105th birthday Sunday, April 26. His birthday celebration plans were disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, but local American Legion Post 6 is honor him for exemplary service to the nation.

The coronavirus pandemic has quashed the birthday plans of this Lakewood, Calif., veteran, so instead of having a party, “Sam would at least love to hear from friends, neighbors and relatives,” with a best wishes card, said Denise Almer, his granddaughter and chairwoman for the American Legion Post 6.

Almer and other Legionnaires are encouraging people in the area to flood Sachs’ mailbox with birthday wishes. Cards should be addressed to: Lt. Col. Sam Sachs, c/o/Mom and Dad’s Manor House, 4340 Congesta Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713.

On Sunday, Sachs will be celebrating “105 years of one fantastic life adventure,” said Almer. Last June on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of France, Sachs was awarded the French Legion of Honor, one of France’s highest honors.

Sachs was a member of a 325th Glider Infantry Regiment that was part of the invasion of Normandy, France, in June 1944. Following the war, he attended the University of Southern California and taught at several junior and high schools and in adult education centers in Los Angeles.

After graduation from college, he traveled to California and worked in business administration and became a member of the American Legion.

He was born in Grand Forks on April 26, 1915, Sachs was the oldest of three children. He joined the ROTC program in 1931 while a student at Grand Forks Central High School, and the local American Legion Post is honor him for exemplary service to the nation.

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After graduating from college, he traveled to California where he joined the ROTC program in 1931 and later joined a Central High School band that where he graduated in 1932. He enrolled at UND, earning a business administration degree in 1936.

Later, Sachs was part of a group that liberated prisoners from the beaches of Normandy, France, on D-Day, Almer wrote in an article for the Legion website.

“Those guys were pretty much on their own,” Almer said. “Their was a ‘very dangerous’ mission. The glider infantry regiment ‘was known, either affectionately or grudgingly, as ‘Flying Coffins,’” he said.

“Theirs was a ‘very dangerous’ mission. The glider infantry regiment ‘was known, either affectionately or grudgingly, as ‘Flying Coffins,’” he said.

The gliders which were attached laid flat, or broke apart. The bulldozer and infantry in the area to flood Sachs’ mailbox with birthday wishes. Cards should be addressed to: Lt. Col. Sam Sachs, c/o/Mom and Dad’s Manor House, 4340 Congesta Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713.

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“He was not like it used to be. Population is way down compared to what it used to be,” Estenson shared.

Located in the center, the monument currently has over 500 names of veterans already engraved with more yet to be added. The black granite also contains the names of over 160 Auxiliary members. Many of the woman’s names are junior members of the organization.

“What can we do to help? That was the question asked to me by one of our members (Alex Balazs) of the Cando American Legion. He had a great idea to help. He suggested offering free delivery services to those unable to go out or for those who are choosing to stay at home during these trying times. We had no problem finding volunteers to assist with deliveries within the American Legion Family. We have offered the services to the following businesses Cando Grocery, Cozy Café and Gibb’s Grill. If there are any other businesses that wish to have some help with delivery, contact the American Legion here in Cando.

The Four Pillars of the American Legion are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. This endeavor of helping our community could fall under any of the four categories as we have delivered meals to Veterans and their families and all citizens of the community. We have stepped up once again to serve America to do our part to keep America safe. We felt this is one way we could give back to the community during these trying times. We are fortunate to have active members in our Post to assist with projects such as this. As I write this article, 20 deliveries have been made.

The American Legion Post 26 in Minot, ND, has been providing Military Honors for the veteran and the Family’s. It is a new road to go down with the very few that are implementing.

At the post, we haven’t turned down any honors, we even had to step up and cover a branch of the military that wouldn’t send anyone come up to do the flag fold presenting. So, the post stepped in and did the Honor of Folding and presenting the flag, etc. They are very proud to be there to give the fellow veteran the last right that they signed up for while doing their important missions while serving this great country we live in.