

District 14 Democrats elect state delegates

By Neil O. Nelson

District 14 Dem-NPL members meeting earlier this month elected its 10 delegates for the state Democrat convention March 6-8 in Bismarck.

North Dakota State Senator Jeff Boschee, Fargo, was the featured speaker at the Feb. 5, 2026, convention held at the Hometown Tavern in Harvey.

District 14 Dem-NPL chairman and vice chairman – Christie Jaeger, Esmond, and Peter Larson, Sheyenne – were two of the eight delegates elected.

Jaeger and Larson were selected to lead the District 14 party two years ago.

District 14 encompasses all or most of Benson, Burleigh, Eddy, Kidder, Pierce, Sheridan and Wells counties.

Other delegates electing to attend the state convention include Jim Ludwig, New Rockford; Norm and Maryjo Fries, Steele; Cathy and Terry Jelsing, Sheila Ostrem and Mark Nelson of Rugby, in addition to Christie Jaeger, Peter and Patti Larson. Another 10 area residents were elected to serve as alternates.

State convention

Delegates at the March 6-8 state convention at the Bismarck State College Advanced Technology Center will endorse candidates for U.S. House, attorney general, secretary of state, agriculture commissioner, tax commissioner and two candidates for the Public Service Commission.

At the 2024 convention, Democrats did not field candidates for all state offices, which are held by Republicans.

The party also will vote on Dem-NPL Party platform and resolutions.

“This convention will be about leadership rooted in hope, action over cynicism, and unity as the engine of lasting change,” North Dakota Democratic-NPL Secretary and Convention Planning Chair Kari Breker said in a statement.

District 14 event

Addressing the District 14 convention in Harvey, Sen. Boschee said he is certain rural health care will be a key issue for North Dakota voters in the upcoming state and national elections.

Cuts to Medicare are having an adverse effect on health care statewide, Boschee added.

A federal five-year \$199 million health care grant awarded North Dakota will benefit the state, Boschee said, but getting funds spent appropriately and within required timelines will be a challenge.

According to an account of the District 14 convention published in the Feb. 16, 2026, issue of the New Rockford Transcript, Boschee asked, “What happens after five years? Will plans and programs implemented be sustainable after the money is spent?”

Sheila Ostrem is the District 14 Dem-NPL secretary.

Adam Goldwyn, Fargo, is chairman of the state Dem-NPL party.



Christie Jaeger and Peter Larson were front and center at the District 14 Dem-NPL convention in Harvey.

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Notice of Death for Kitty Weckerly

Kitty Weckerly, 90, of Harvey, ND died on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the SMP St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey. Arrangements with Hertz Funeral Home, Harvey, ND.

Notice of Death for Glen G. Lelm

Glen G. Lelm, 86 of Brush Lake, ND and Mesa, AZ died on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in a Mesa, AZ hospital. Arrangements with Hertz Funeral Home, McClusky, ND.

Notice of Death for Jerry M. Leier

Jerry M. Leier, 93, of Esmond, ND passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at SMP St. Aloisius Long Term Care in Harvey, ND. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM followed by 7:00 PM Rosary and Vigil Service at the St. Boniface Catholic Church in Esmond. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM Monday, February 23, 2026 at the St. Boniface Catholic Church with Fr. Darrick Leier celebrating. Burial will be at the St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery following mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the St. Boniface Cemetery Fund: P.O. Box 206 Esmond, ND 58332 or to the Buffalo Lake Sportsman Club: P.O. Box 64 Esmond, ND 58332. Arrangements with the Nelson Funeral Home of Maddock, ND. Online condolences may be left at www.thenelsonfuneralhome.com.

Dakota Datebook cont.

Lemke said a trade agreement was the same as a treaty. Treaties were the responsibility of the Senate, not the President. He said President Roosevelt came from an industrial state, and did not have a full understanding of agriculture. He very opposed any move to extend the agreement, saying representatives from agricultural states should have a say in the matter to balance the President's support for industrial states. That meant putting the decision for the Act in the Senate, where Lemke said it belonged. However, Lemke was not successful in putting an end to the Act. Congress approved the extension.

Congress was not oblivious to problems faced by farmers, however. There was concern about farmers leaving the land, and lawmakers realized something had to be done to provide support. On February 27, 1940, the House Agricultural Committee recommended a new program to address farm tenancy. \$350 million would be raised from private investors. The funds would be loaned to farm tenants. The loans would allow tenants to become owners, hopefully stabilizing the farm situation. The federal government started granting direct loans to farmers in 1937.

William Lemke served in Congress for sixteen years. Throughout his tenure, he was a strong supporter of North Dakota farmers.

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Probate No. 52-2026-PR-00002
James P Wang
PO Box 211
110 Main Street E.
Minnewaukan ND 58351
Phone: (701)473-5338
Fax: (701)473-5355
State Bar No. 04664
Attorney for Estate of James D. Fandrich
IN DISTRICT COURT, WELLS COUNTY,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of James D. Fandrich, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Kathleen Brown and Kristi Griffith, Co-Personal Representatives of the estate, at 5221 Tall Spruce Street, Brighton, CO 80601 or filed with the Court.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2026.
Kathleen Brown
Co-Personal Representative
Kristi Griffith
Co-Personal Representative
James P Wang
110 Main Street E.
Minnewaukan ND 58351
ID No. 04664
Attorney for Estate of James D. Fandrich
jamespwang@gondtc.com
First date of publication on February 21, 2026.
(February 14, 21 & 28, 2026)

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026
The February meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:00 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lautt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gesselle, Donnie Muscha, Kathy Muscha, and Daniel Stutlien.

SB (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the January Meeting. Unanimously carried. BL (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the January Special Meeting held 1/9/26. Unanimously carried.

DM (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the January Special Meeting held 1/20/26. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

BM (M), BL (S) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds. DM (M), BL (S) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried. DM (M), BM (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's and investments on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

The only correspondence received this month was the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order and a Spring Wild Turkey Proclamation issued by the State of ND, and the WC Extension Agency's Q4 newsletter.

Regarding Commission appointments, for the District Health Committee, SB (M), BM (S) to appoint Beth Huseth for a vacant seat. Unanimously carried. For the JDA Committee, BM (M), BL (S) to re-appoint Sherrie Lien, Robert Martin, Arnie Selzler, and Paula Tweeton, and to appoint Donnie Hoepfer for a vacant seat. Unanimously carried. On the HSZ Board, SB (M), DM (S) to re-appoint Becky Hagel and Brian Miller. Unanimously carried.

Commission Portfolios were discussed. In recent years, EMS was not held by any Commissioner as a portfolio. As such, Dennis Dockter agreed to take the portfolio for '26. SB (M), BM (S) to grant Dennis Dockter the EMS portfolio. Unanimously carried.

Under the Public Comments portion of the meeting, no one was signed up to address the Commission.

Jana Mogren sat with the Commission to address matters related both to Planning & Zoning and the Office of the Tax Director. The P & Z Committee has already approved OTC's request to bury lines near Concordia Church rural Hamberg and Fisher Sand &

Gravel requested a permit to crush gravel in the Johnson pit for the upcoming Hwy. 52 project. SB (M), DM (S) to approve the permits. Unanimously carried. Mogren also apprised the Commission the RRWS Project has reached out to may be submitting permits soon to continue work in southern WC. Assessor's fees for townships and cities were discussed as well as updating rural land use and valuations.

Presently, townships pay \$400/yr. and city fees vary, and rural land use is still using a 2008 guidance model.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, sat with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller briefly discussed the possibility of WC purchasing traffic counters for county roads. An estimate of \$2,800 for two full sets could get the county the equipment needed for this purpose. Keller notified the Commission gravel has been hauled and stockpiled for future use, and chips are scheduled to be hauled and piled next. Further, with the mild winter, the department has been focusing on equipment repairs. Keller discussed some furnace trouble at the Fessenden shop. The unit is 46 years old and will likely need to be replaced. Estimate to replace is just under \$4,000 installed. Lastly, Keller discussed personnel, particularly for the summer months, as well potential retirements coming in the Dept.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering met with the Commission to discuss the two successful Flex Funding projects for WC. WC was awarded Prairie Dog Grant funding for a mill & overlay on Old 52, and West Norway Township was awarded a road re-route near two bridges north and east of Fessenden that need to be removed and replaced with a single crossing. Bridge funding has not yet been secured, so there is no path to move forward yet for West Norway project, and the Old 52 project is likely a '27 project. Mayfield also shared safety funds for 2027 awarded for a curve just west of Fessenden as well as a curve south of Sykeston. This safety project should be in conjunction with the mill and overlay project.

The Commission resumed discussions on the New Rockford Canal property within WC. The Commission plans to visit with the Eddy County Commission regarding what could potentially be done by acquiring this property.

The Commission continued discussions regarding long-term planning in an ongoing effort to develop clarity regarding the financial challenges and fiscal direction of WC in the coming years.

Following input, a tentatively finalized document will be reviewed in March for approval. Regarding capital projects as a part of long term planning, SB (M), BL (S) to replace the KTL roof and tuckpoint and install gutters on the Festival Hall. Unanimously carried. The Commission anticipates completing the Festival Hall foundation work and Courthouse tuckpointing in either '27 or '28.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, February 19th, at 2:30 PM.

The Annual Township Officers Assn. Meeting will be held Friday, February 27th, at 9:30 AM at the Festival Hall.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Kidder Co. Tuesday, March 10th, at 10:00 AM. The next regular meeting of the WC Commission will be held Wednesday, March 4th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$235.00
Recorder	\$2,212.10
Sheriff	\$860.00
Misc.	\$804,038.75
On motion, the following bills were ordered paid:	
Payroll, General	\$97,412.08
Payroll, Road	\$45,076.07
Payroll, 911	\$1,351.39
GENERAL FUND	
Wells County Treasurer	\$98.66
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$142.28
Pitney Bowes	\$114.75
NDTC	\$786.01
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.21
Otter Tail	\$2,524.33
Fessenden City	\$526.30
Central City H2O+	\$318.00
Central Plains Water	\$429.39
Wells County Treasurer	\$82.35
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$484.17
MARC	\$1,424.05
Wells County Treasurer	\$438.02
Tracy's Market	\$232.33
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$17.95
Bold Enterprise LLP	\$183.50
Herald Press	\$635.46

ND Assn. of Counties	\$400.00
Central Dakota 6-County Org.	\$420.00
Advanced Business Methods	\$76.00
ND Assn. of Counties	\$3,600.00
NDTC	\$100.72
Idemia Identity & Security	\$1,428.00
NDACo Resources Group	\$264.68
Software Innovations	\$750.00
Foster County Treasurer	\$6,412.11
Eddy County Treasurer	\$3,515.83
Houchin Tax Service	\$105.00
ND Assn. of Counties	\$264.60
Daniel Stutlien	\$70.88
ND County Auditors Association	\$200.00
Daniel Stutlien	\$72.50
ND County Auditors Association	\$200.00
ND State Treasurer	\$35.00
Carrie Krause	\$232.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$674.00
ND Sheriffs & Deputies Association	\$400.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$100.00
ND State Radio	\$263.00
Timothy Mueller	\$159.17
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$130.21
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,149.01
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$80.24
Axon Enterprise Inc.	\$10,994.40
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$8,056.24
NDEMA	\$50.00
Rosas Pizza \$	150.00
Tracy's Market	\$53.96
NDTC	\$59.24
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.19
Tammy Roehrich	\$261.00
Otter Tail	\$55.31
Dakota Steedsman	\$285.65
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,292.70
Otter Tail	\$764.00s
Fessenden City	\$321.00
	\$52,356.40

HB1066	
KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$5,337.41
Maddock Construction Co.	\$65,901.75
	\$71,239.16

911	
ND State Radio	\$23,061.36
Jail & Trans.	
HACTC	\$122.57
HACTC	\$4,940.00
	\$5,062.57

Co. Agent	
Leaf	\$235.91
NDTC	\$121.43
Ciera Kotaska	\$255.20
Connie Loen	\$27.55
Otter Tail	\$52.68
ND SU-Ag Budget Office	\$7,249.99
	\$7,942.76

Social Services	
Wells County Treasurer	\$15.00
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$173.39
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$71.91
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$99.53
Alicia Lamm	\$13.78
Wells County Treasurer	\$29.55
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$49.81
Wells County Treasurer	\$13.00
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$74.49
Wells County Treasurer	\$50.15
Patriot Fuels	\$209.07
Opdahl Bio Shop	\$3,052.14
Wells County Treasurer	\$12.37
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$254.92
Becky Dockter	\$25.62
Wells County Treasurer	\$181.30
Leaf	\$312.00
4th Corporation	\$140.00
Advanced Business Methods	\$328.95
NDTC	\$714.24
Dakota Central	\$172.59
Wells County Treasurer	\$434.94
Wells County Treasurer	\$23.50
Central City H2O+	\$51.00
ITD	\$124.49
Duchscherer Supply	\$25.99
Wells County Treasurer	\$133.10
Wells County Treasurer	\$54.00
	\$6,840.83

Weed Control	
Danny Maxwell	\$107.87
Donna Rau	\$220.87
Dale Schmitz	\$327.00
Houchin Tax Service	\$580.00
	\$1,235.74

Hwy. Tax	
Harvey Oil Co.	\$2,191.00
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$5,602.37
RDO Equipment Co.	\$17,664.00
NAPA-Harvey	\$1,159.13
Patzner Truck Repair	\$1,447.02
Power Plan	\$8,296.52
Butler Machinery	\$6,837.48
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$160.38
Wells County Treasurer	\$441.41

American Welding & Gas	\$261.35
Lerner & #39;s ACE & Rental	\$300.64
Menards-Minot	\$106.80
NDTC	\$145.58
Otter Tail	\$565.27
Northern Plains Electric	\$432.68
Fessenden City	\$255.73
Harvey City	\$66.20
ND Assn. of Counties	\$396.90
	\$46,330.46
24-7	
Office of Attorney General	\$239.00
Wells County Auditor	\$214,308.28

Attest: Daniel W. Stutlien
Wells County Auditor
(February 21, 2026)

CITY OF FESSENDEN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026
7:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
PRESENT: Mayor Donna Young; Aldermen Joel Bartz, Vince Harshbarger, Jeffrey Johnson, Karl Mogren, Brian Schimelfenig, Ron Widiger; Auditor Paula Tweton.
GUESTS: Anne Ehni, Aaron Opdahl
Meeting was called to order by Mayor Young at 7 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Karl Mogren moved to approve agenda; Ron Widiger seconded.
Agenda was approved on voice vote, all voting aye.

Unfinished Business: The City does not require a bond from Double M Sanitation. Copy of original contract was provided to the City; auditor will remove the bonding requirement and return all data to Brad Wolbert of Double-M Sanitation.

New Business: Due to vacancy in city works employee position, City needs to advertise for a new candidate. Responsibilities, salary, and benefits will need to be discussed. City also has vacancy in the water billing position. Jeff Johnson stated that we needed to advertise for both positions. Ad needs to be placed in the local newspaper as well as NorthSCAN ND Statewide Classified Advertising Network). Suggestion was made to put signs up around town at City Hall, thrift store, grocery store, post office, and Cenex.

Mayor Young has been checking water readings with readings from usage of 27,500,000 to 32,400,000 per day and intake from Rural Water of 29,000 to 31,000 per day. Brian Schimelfenig reported that 75,000 gallons of water had leaked out the pool. Issue

was whether there was damage to the cover. Alderman Widiger offered to help.

Pay for city works employee. This would include hours, days worked, whether or not they had employees under them, and less work in winter could balance this out. City needs to reset policies.

Regarding Jeff Roehrich's exit and monies owed to him, Alderman Bartz inquired if resigning affected that. Questions raised were long or if City was required to pay and if so how long to pay for retirement and health benefits. Unused vacation and sick leave were also discussed. Auditor will look into this further.

Currently, retirement is \$983.92 monthly and health insurance is \$983.92 monthly. Federal rules discussed none of which affect Fessenden.

Regarding the wages for public works employee, figures of \$25 to \$30 were raised. Cost of single insurance policy versus family policy if desirable candidate had a family was raised as well as competitive wages and benefits. In terms of interview questions, Bartz suggested asking candidate for past salary/wages information. Ad hoc committee will interview candidate; no quorum necessary for information. Moved by Widiger and seconded by Alderman Harsh-

barger to appoint an ad hoc committee of Widiger, Johnson, Bartz, and Young to be involved in the recruitment process. Motion carried on voice vote. Ad will be placed in Herald Press and statewide.

Regarding water billing position, Mayor stated that her daughter, Stephanie McNaughton, was technically proficient and interested in the job. Schimelfenig informed the Council that he had talked to someone who had been willing to do the job at least temporarily and subsequently during the meeting contacted this person on his cell phone and reported to the group that this person was willing to take on the responsibility. When question who "this person" was, Schimelfenig replied "Tammy". Harshbarger moved to select one of the 2 candidates; second by Schimelfenig; on roll call vote 2 ayes and 4 no votes. Motion carried on roll call vote. Schimelfenig moved to hire Tammy Roehrich temporarily; on roll call vote, 2 nays and 4 ayes.

Motion carried on roll call vote. Ads for both jobs will be listed separately. Moved to adjourn by Harshbarger, seconded by Widiger. Motion carried on voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
(February 21, 2026)

Attorneys at Law

NYHUS
LAW FIRM

Christopher Nyhus
Nathan Stittleburg
Colton Martin

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Harvey has the following lots for sale:

- 401 Burke Ave
Block 6, Lot 12 - Mills Addition
Minimum Bid \$1500
- 508 Burke Ave
Block 8, Lot 3 - Mills Addition
Minimum Bid \$1500
- 116 6th Street
Block 3, East half of Lot 7 & 8 - Hanchetts Addition
Minimum Bid \$1500
- 212 Clark Ave
Block 2 Lot 1 - City Replat
Minimum Bid \$1
- 512 Adams Ave
Block 4, Lot 4 - Hanchetts Addition
Minimum Bid \$1500

The lots will be sold as is. If interested, please submit a written bid to the City Auditor at 120 8th Street W, Harvey, ND 58341 by 12 noon on March 10, 2026. The bids will be opened at the City Council Meeting on March 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm. In the event of a tie each bidder will be given the chance to increase their bid. The City of Harvey reserves the right to reject any or all bids. If any questions, please call Karen at 701-324-2000.