



## History of Rural Leadership North Dakota Alumni Association

### *Alumni Association*

The Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Alumni Association (AA) had its start on April 2, 2005, in Oakes, ND. The first meeting was called to order by Kurt Froelich (RLND Class I). Deb Kantrud (RLND Class I) took minutes. The first members of the RLND AA were members of RLND Class I who participated in the RLND Program from November 2003- April 2005. The second meeting of the RLND AA was scheduled for October 15, 2005, in conjunction with the RLND Class I Graduation Gala.

The RLND AA mission is to continue to prepare and develop effective leaders to strengthen North Dakota.

The RLND AA's goals include:

- Enable an environment for networking.
- Expand knowledge and education.
- Enrich relationships through professional development.
- Explore leadership in changing times.

The RLND AA plans/sponsors numerous events including:

- Planned professional development sessions for RLND alumni during the RLND Graduation Gala events and the RLND AA Legislative Social events.
- Sponsored an RLND AA Legislative Social during legislative sessions starting in 2007.
- Planned and sponsored regional networking events for RLND alumni.
- Hosted the International Leadership Alumni Conference ([ILAC](#)) in western North Dakota in 2019 for more than 50 alumni of statewide and provincewide leadership programs.

The RLND AA communicates with RLND alumni through a monthly newsletter (*RLND Alumni News*), RLND AA website <https://rlndaa.com/>, RLND AA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rlndaa>, and more.

The RLND AA Executive Board includes the RLND AA President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, Communications, and RLND Council Liaison.

The RLND AA Foundation was created in 2016 to engage supporters who are united in strengthening and enhancing leaders, communities and agriculture across the state of North Dakota.

The RLND AA established both an Endowment Fund and a Non-Endowment Fund in 2016. Interest from the Endowment Fund will be used to provide matching funds for community projects of current RLND Program participants and alumni. The Non-Endowment Fund was established to provide financial resources for professional development opportunities to RLND AA members across the state.