

THE PARTICIPATOR

40th ANNIVERSARY



East Century Building
2000-2025



Manhattan Building
2025 - Present





FROM THE CEO

Dear NDIRF Member,

This year, we proudly celebrate 40 years of offering coverage and services to North Dakota's political subdivisions. From our first few members in 1986 to the more than 2,600 entities we serve today, the journey of the NDIRF has been shaped by strong partnerships and a shared commitment to safeguarding local government.

A great deal has changed over the past 40 years. From early advertising, capital funding, and policies, the differences are easy to see. However, one thing remains consistent: NDIRF's dedication to you, the members.

As insurance coverage became unaffordable and increasingly restrictive in the 1980s, political subdivisions across the country were closing jails, parks, and even cancelling 4th of July parades for fear of liability. With the continued population growth in our state and demands on political subdivisions, one thing is clear: NDIRF's role is more important than ever. While many risks have remained the same, it is through the benefits and partnerships that NDIRF brings to its members that we are able to address new and emerging risk trends head on.

Since its founding, the NDIRF has fulfilled its purpose by delivering stable, affordable, and reliable coverage to political subdivisions across North Dakota. This stability helps our firefighters, paramedics, police officers, teachers, member employees, and elected and appointed officials serve their communities confidently and ensure that critical services are being provided to their constituents every day.

It is an honor to show our history and look ahead to the next chapter. We will continue building a safer, stronger future through a continued focus on risk management services and working with you as partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to every member, board member, agent, and supporter, past and present, who has helped make the NDIRF what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KP'.

Keith Pic, NDIRF CEO
Keith.Pic@ndirf.com
701.224.1988



FROM THE NDIRF BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Matt Gardner
NDIRF Board Chairperson

On March 24, 1986, *Time* magazine released the cover story “Sorry, America, Your Insurance Has been Cancelled”. The article detailed the crisis of the litigious American society, the growth in sizable damage awards, and the seemingly unfathomable premium rate increases that impacted not only Americans but also local governments across the country. The article mentioned that five jails in Missouri had to temporarily close while they figured out their insurance woes. Prisoners were sent to other facilities during this time, and, in some cases, low-level offenders were released. In another example, a city in Illinois considered a 30 percent property tax increase to pay its skyrocketing liability insurance premiums. In both cases, an insurance pool was established to buffer these unrealistic rate increases and provide stable liability insurance.

North Dakota was not immune to this crisis, and local political subdivisions worked together to form NDIRF. The NDIRF was formed out of necessity as the insurance pool for local governments. What was created out of necessity 40 years ago still provides reliable coverage at stable rates today. The stability provided by NDIRF minimizes the likelihood of significant property tax increases and closure of public facilities, issues that were common in the 1980s. As the Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities and as the NDIRF Board Chairperson, I would like to personally congratulate NDIRF on its 40th anniversary, and I look forward to the next 40 plus years.

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MISSION To be *the* source of risk services for North Dakota political subdivisions.

VALUES

- 

Service
- 

Integrity
- 

Kindness
- 

Professionalism
- 

Teamwork
- 

Trustworthiness

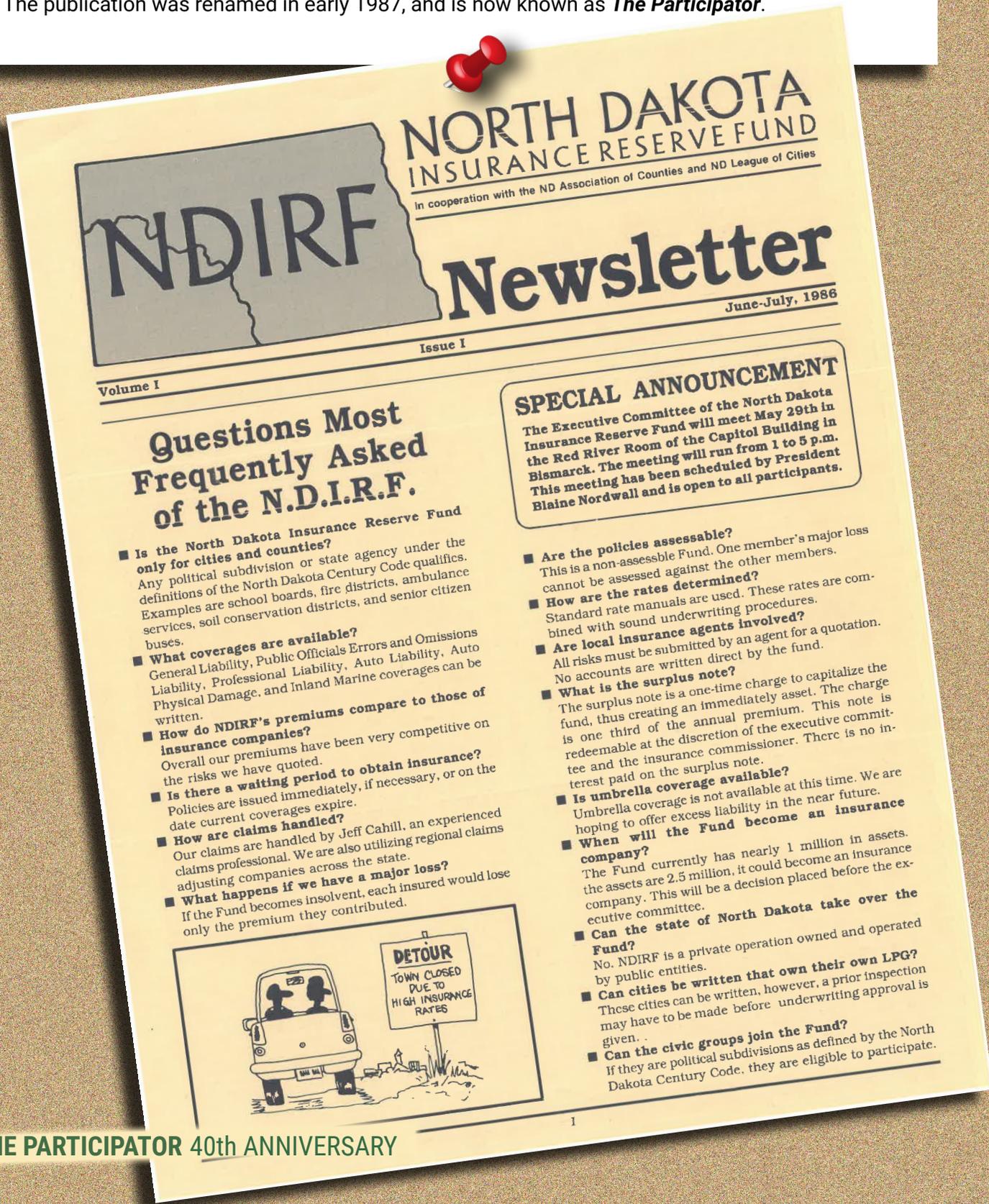
Interviews, Research, and Creative Design by
 Kori Bowen, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Cover Photo Credits: Adobe Stock, Unknown, Daylon Fox

THE NDIRF NEWSLETTER

The very first publication from the NDIRF was *The NDIRF Newsletter*, issued in the summer of 1986. The cover page featured frequently asked questions, a special announcement of a NDIRF Executive Committee meeting, and a cheeky comic poking fun at the 1980s insurance crisis.

The publication was renamed in early 1987, and is now known as *The Participator*.



NDIRF MEMBERSHIP BY THE YEARS

The NDIRF has been there for North Dakota local government for 40 years.

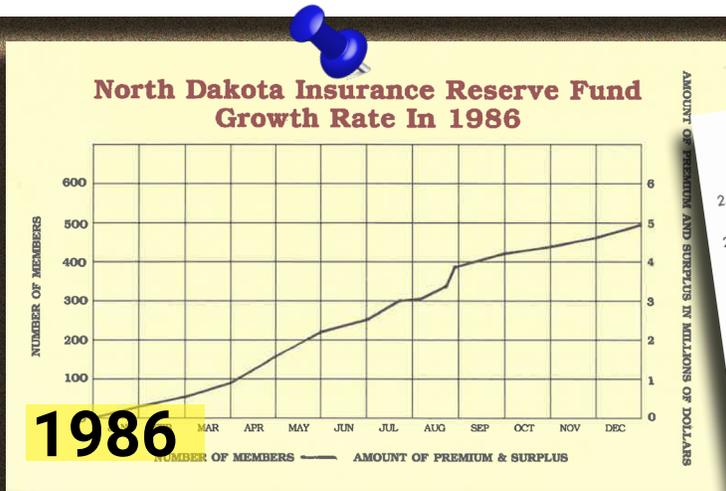
Though NDIRF did not officially launch until January 1986, Ward County became the first member in early December 1985. Before the month of December wrapped up, three more governmental entities also became members - Valley City, Mandan, and Max. After the turn of the new year, NDIRF membership began growing rapidly.

Within the first month, NDIRF membership grew to 43 governmental entities including the cities of Minot, Grand Forks, Bismarck, and Mandan. After six months of operations, NDIRF membership was up to 252 governmental entities and counting. It was projected that membership would hit 450 by the end of 1986. Ultimately, the year finished with 426 members.

Over the first couple of years, NDIRF membership continued to soar. By February 1987, NDIRF had over 530 members, including 12 of the most populated North Dakota counties. Membership more than doubled in both 1987 and 1988.

In 1988, membership officially passed 1,000, making NDIRF one of the largest self-insurance pools in the entire United States. Just two years later, in 1990, membership would reach 2,000 governmental entities. In 2001, 100% of North Dakota counties were NDIRF members. Participation in the NDIRF has always been voluntary, with political subdivisions choosing membership based on the stability, coverage, and services provided. Membership continued to grow steadily over the next decade and reached 2,501 members by the end of 2003. In 2015, membership reached 2,550 which meant that 90% of eligible North Dakota governmental entities were NDIRF members.

As of 2025, NDIRF proudly provided coverage to 2,610 members.



NDIRF Membership Tops 1,000

The North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) has now reached a membership in excess of 1,000 Participants. The NDIRF is a non-assessable pooling of political subdivisions in the state which has been formed as an alternative to purchasing insurance coverages from standard companies.

The NDIRF has \$6,500,000 to meet outstanding claims of which \$1,400,000 has been reserved for known and reported claims. The NDIRF is now one of the largest self-insurance pools in the nation.

With the formation of NDIRF, the political subdivisions of North Dakota have successfully established a mechanism that will allow them freedom from the adverse effects of the cycle of the commercial insurance industry.

1988



GIVING BACK TO MEMBERS

NDIRF RETURNS 20% OF SURPLUS NOTES

The earliest members of the NDIRF financially backed the Fund. The first members paid their membership fee as well as a **Subordinated Surplus Note, equal to one-third of the first year of membership cost.** Though member contributions were made in hopes that the NDIRF would succeed, many did not expect to see a return on their initial investment. Within its first five years of operation, NDIRF was able to return some of the initial investments to members. . . **TWICE.**

In January of 1986, the NDIRF officially began operations with nearly \$1 million in assets and \$1 million in coverage limits to members. In July of 1986, contributions and surplus were up to \$3.7 million! By February of 1987, the contribution and surplus note volume climbed to over \$5 million.

By the Fall of 1990, the NDIRF had grown more than expected, accumulating \$17,686,000 in assets and \$7,628,000 in surplus. And Member Subordinated Surplus Notes were up to \$1,720,000! This success allowed for NDIRF to return money to the initial investors - the members. The NDIRF Board of Directors voted to **return 20% of paid-in surplus notes to members**, starting in 1991. The NDIRF ultimately returned \$345,000 to members.

Members could claim their Subordinated Surplus Note returns either as a credit against the 1991 member contribution or receive a cash return. The **Subordinated Surplus Note Certificate** could be found in the Fall 1990 issue of *The Participator*.

NDIRF RETURNS ANOTHER \$345,000 IN SURPLUS NOTES

By the end of 1990, NDIRF's total assets climbed to \$17,792,000 and surplus dropped to \$6,866,000.

The Fund continued to grow and, for a second year in a row, the Board of Directors voted to return another 20% of initial investment, or \$345,000, to members. The second return was issued as a credit toward membership costs in 1992.

By 1992, the NDIRF had grown to over 2,000 members and had accumulated \$21 million in assets and nearly \$9 million in surplus. Final surplus note credits to investing members began being issued in 1993 and were completed in 1995.

PARTICIPATOR

Volume VI Issue I

FALL 1990

Surplus Notes To Be Returned
Based on the studied advice of the Fund actuary, the Board of Directors voted to return 20% of the paid-in Surplus Notes beginning January 1, 1991.

1990

NDIRF NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE RESERVE FUND
Subordinated Surplus Note Certificate

The public entity to which this certificate is directed is entitled to receive, on the 1991 anniversary date of its Memorandum of Coverage, a return of 20% of its paid-in Subordinated Surplus Note. The entity may select either a credit against the amount of its 1991 premium or a cash return by checking the appropriate box below and returning this certificate to:

North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund • P.O. Box 2258 • Bismarck, ND 58502

If no preference is given, a check will be issued to the entity.

Please credit our 1991 premium charge in an amount equal to 20% of our paid-in surplus note.

Please send us a check for 20% of our surplus note.

By _____
Authorized Representative of:

Name of Public Entity _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

NORTH DAKOTA **NDIRF** **INSURANCE RESERVE FUND**

PARTICIPATOR

Another \$345,000 To Be Returned on Surplus Notes

In the beginning, every member of NDIRF was called upon to help initially capitalize the Fund. This came in the form of a Subordinated Surplus Note which each member paid into the Fund in the first year it joined. The amount of the note was equal to one-third of the members' first year contribution. Many Fund members, especially those who joined in early 1986, never expected to see these monies returned. Those early members paid in the Surplus Note hoping the Insurance Reserve Fund would succeed, but doubting that it would ever succeed to the point it has reached today. The Fund has grown financially sound beyond the expectations of almost everyone involved. In September, 1990, the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund voted to begin the return of the Subordinated Surplus Notes to our members. In 1991, the Fund returned \$345,000 on the Surplus Notes.

In November, 1991, the Board of Directors of NDIRF, with approval by the Fund's actuary and North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Earl Pomerooy, voted to again return 20% of the paid in Surplus Notes. This is the second consecutive year that the 20% credit has been returned to Fund members and the amount returned this year totals \$345,000.

Last year each member was allowed to choose whether or not it wanted the sum returned in the form of a credit against its 1991 Fund contribution or as a cash return. However, this year the 20% return will be issued as a credit against the members' 1992 contribution. We will again be using the Subordinated Surplus Note Certificate to let the member know how much credit they will be receiving.

Since its inception, the Fund has grown to over 2,000 members and has accumulated \$21,000,000 in assets and nearly \$9,000,000 in surplus.

NDIRF NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE RESERVE FUND
Subordinated Surplus Note Certificate

NAME OF PUBLIC ENTITY: _____

The public entity to which this certificate is directed is entitled to receive, on the 1992 anniversary date of its Memorandum of Coverage, a return of 20% of its paid-in Subordinated Surplus Note. The entity may select either a credit against the amount of its 1992 renewal cost.

North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund
White Copy Members - Canada

1992

GIVING BACK TO MEMBERS

After the NDIRF successfully paid back members' initial investments, Conferment of Benefits began being issued in surplus years. In 1994, the NDIRF Board of Directors authorized the first Conferment of Benefits, totaling \$1 million, which was returned to members in 1995. In 1996, \$3 million was returned, followed by an unprecedented \$5 million in 1997.

The **official Conferment of Benefits program was introduced in 1996**. As of 2024, the NDIRF has returned over \$79 million in Conferment of Benefits to members.

NDIRF PARTICIPATOR 1994

A Publication for North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund Participants

July, 1994

NDIRF RETURNS \$1,000,000

Many of you may recall the phrase *membership has its privileges* being used by a national credit card company to extol the virtues of using their plastic. For members of the NDIRF, however, this phrase will have a million dollar impact in 1995.

The bylaws of the Fund provide that the board of directors may, from time to time, confer benefits to members, in accordance with the purposes of the organization. At its meeting on June 22, 1994, the NDIRF Board authorized a conferment of benefits to Fund members valued at \$1,000,000. This conferment will take place in 1995 and will be in the form of credits against the cost charged to members for the coverages provided to them by the Fund.

The formula for determining each member's share of the benefit conferred provides a proportionately larger benefit to

longer period of time, up to the past 5 years.

Total benefit to be conferred (\$1,000,000)

X

Total participation contribution made by a member during the last 5 years

Total of all members' participation contributions during the last 5 calendar years (\$36,314,226)

For the third year in a row, the NDIRF Board of Directors has approved returning a portion of the Fund's surplus to our members through a conferment of benefits. The membership received \$1 million in 1995, is receiving \$3 million this year, and will receive an unprecedented \$5 million in 1997.

1995-1997

NDIRF ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION CONFERMENT OF BENEFITS

The conferment of benefits earned by NDIRF members in 2009, to be paid out on April 1, 2010, slightly exceeds \$2.5 million (\$2,553,000). This brings the total of conferment payments across the sixteen year span of the program to over \$51.5 million. A remarkable achievement for the Fund and its membership!

NDIRF ANNOUNCES \$2.8 MILLION CONFERMENT OF BENEFITS

The conferment of benefits earned by NDIRF members in 2010, to be paid out on April 1, 2011, is nearly \$2.8 million (\$2,792,000). This brings the total of conferment payments across the seventeen-year span of the program to over \$54 million. A remarkable achievement for the Fund and its membership as we complete our first quarter-century of operations!

NDIRF ANNOUNCES \$2.1 MILLION CONFERMENT OF BENEFITS

The conferment of benefits earned by NDIRF members in 2012, to be paid out on April 1, 2013, is over \$2.1 million. This brings the total of conferment payments across the nineteen year span of the program to over \$58 million. A remarkable achievement for the Fund and its membership! ■

2009-2012

Our Conferment of Benefits program returns surplus dollars to NDIRF members. The surplus is generated from premium collected, responsibly managed funds, and annually accrued investment income. We are proud to share our board of directors declared a 2024 Conferment of Benefits and returned \$2.9 million in conferment to our members.

The Conferment of Benefits program was introduced in 1996 and has returned over \$79 million to our members.

2024



AFFORDABLE COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS

A nationwide insurance crisis in the 1980s made it nearly impossible for governmental entities to obtain affordable and reliable coverage. As traditional insurance options became increasingly unaffordable or unavailable, local governments across the country were forced to limit services or assume significant risk.

Recognizing an opportunity for North Dakota to take control of its own risk management, the team at Missouri River Underwriters (MRU) partnered with the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC), the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), and governmental entities from across the state to form a self-insurance pool, the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF). **The NDIRF is a not-for-profit, member-owned risk pool.** Coverage is available exclusively to North Dakota political subdivisions.

1986

Backed by member funding, the NDIRF officially begins providing Liability, Auto, and Public Assets coverage for North Dakota governmental entities in January. **Maximum coverage limits of \$1 million is offered to NDIRF members.**

1987

Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist coverage option increases to \$1 million.

1996

In 1996, the NDIRF celebrated its 10th anniversary and increased coverage limit options to \$2 million for members.

2018

The year 2018 saw a major increase in the **Limits of Liability option to \$10 million.**

2019

In 2019, the NDIRF took over the administration of two State of North Dakota governmental insurance programs, the **North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund (NDFT)** and the **State Bonding Fund.**

2016

In 2016, the NDIRF celebrated 30 years, began offering Data Breach coverage, and partnered with Lexipol to offer online training courses through LocalGovU.

2021

The NDIRF teamed up with the North Dakota South East Education Cooperative (SEEC) to help deliver Health and Ancillary coverages through NDPHIT.

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Photo by Iren Moroz

The mission to be *the* source of risk services for North Dakota political subdivisions involves providing educational resources and tools to members. Your governmental entity has access to over 1,000 online professional development and training courses for local government.

LEXIPOL

Lexipol is the platform provider for LocalGovU, NDIRF's member-exclusive, **FREE** online training resource hub. PoliceOne Academy is also a **FREE** NDIRF resource provided by Lexipol.

LOCALGOVU

LocalGovU has an extensive catalog of training courses created specifically for local government. The course library includes topics like human resource management, customer service, road maintenance, general safety, and cybersecurity.

Courses are prebuilt and include customizable bundle options. Training can be done individually or in a group setting.

Scan the QR code on this page to learn more about LocalGovU and register for **FREE!**

POLICEONE

PoliceOne is another **FREE** resource NDIRF offers through Lexipol. A condensed course bundle through PoliceOne is available. The bundle is Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board-approved, which allows law enforcement to fulfill hours required by the North Dakota POST Board every three years.

Training can be done individually or in a group setting.

Details about PoliceOne can also be found by scanning the QR code on this page.

SCAN HERE!

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to learn more about LocalGovU and PoliceOne!



 **LEXIPOL**

LocalGovU
A Lexipol Solution



New to LocalGovU? Contact NDIRFMemberServices@ndirf.com to request login credentials.

(Continued)

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Help your employees stay safe on the road with NDIRF's **FREE** online, self-paced defensive driving course (DDC).

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Training through the DDC helps:

- Meet various regulatory agency requirements
- Meet requirements to reduce driver's license points
- Reduce personal insurance rates
- Reduce auto collision/crash frequency and/or severity

To register for the DDC, email your employee list to Member Services at NDIRFMemberServices@ndirf.com. Our team will then provide employee login information and instructions.

NEW!

VECTOR SOLUTIONS

We are pleased to announce NDIRF's new partnership with Vector Solutions LMS, a nationally recognized, award-winning online training platform. This **FREE** customized training program allows K-12 school members of the NDIRF to access the K-12 Staff Training Online Course Catalog that includes Safety & Compliance, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Cybersecurity Awareness, Facilities Management and Inclusive Instruction & Interventions.

If you have any questions or want to get started with the program, reach out to NDIRF Director of Member Services, Corey Olson at Corey.Olson@ndirf.com.

HR COLLABORATIVE

The HR Collaborative is a program that aims to strengthen human resource management within local governmental entities by providing relevant and affordable training and resources. The NDIRF has led the HR Collaborative program since January 2023.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **April 22-23, 2026** for the HR Collaborative Conference in Bismarck! This conference features general sessions and various breakouts for all attendees. The theme for 2026 is **Engage 360**. Conference details can be found on the [Events page at NDIRF.com](#).

HR Collaborative membership is **FREE** to governmental entities. Members also receive discount pricing for the 2026 HR Collaborative Conference. **Scan the QR code on this page to join today!**

SCAN HERE!

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to sign up for your **FREE** membership to the HR Collaborative!



Photo by Iren Moroz

NDIRF PARTNERSHIPS

We value our long-standing partnerships with the North Dakota League of Cities, North Dakota Association of Counties, North Dakota School Boards Association, North Dakota Recreation and Park Association, and others to provide risk management training and resources for North Dakota local government entities. Our collaborative efforts help entities across our state mitigate risk, reduce losses, and keep their communities safe.



**NORTH DAKOTA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**



**NORTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) represents the needs of county government in legislative matters and acts as a liaison between counties. Learn more at NDACo.org.

The North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) brings together school board members on matters pertaining to public schools, including their ongoing improvement. Learn more at NDSBA.org.



**NORTH DAKOTA
LEAGUE OF CITIES**



**NORTH DAKOTA
RECREATION & PARKS
ASSOCIATION**

The North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) empowers local leaders through advocacy, education, and connection. Learn more at NDLC.org.

The North Dakota Recreation & Parks Association (NDRPA) is on a mission to enhance the quality of life in North Dakota through advancing parks, recreation, and conservation. Learn more at NDRPA.com.



**NORTH DAKOTA
TOWNSHIP
OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**



LEXIPOL

The North Dakota Township Officers Association (NDTOA) provides education, resources and leadership training to North Dakota township officers. Learn more at NDTOA.com.

Lexipol is the platform provider for LocalGovU, NDIRF's member-exclusive, **FREE** online training resource hub. Learn more at Lexipol.com.



**NORTH DAKOTA
FIREFIGHTER'S
ASSOCIATION**



**NORTH DAKOTA
LOCAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association (NDFFA) promotes the safety and welfare of NDFFA members through uniform and established training standards. Learn more at Apps.ND.Gov>NDFFA>Members.

The North Dakota Local Technical Assistant Program (NDLTAP) fosters safe, efficient, environmentally sound, and cost effective North Dakota highway, road, and street systems. Learn more at NDLTAP.org.

NDIRF TEAM - THE EARLY YEARS

The NDIRF would not be the company it is today without the team that pioneered uncharted territory of a member-owned governmental risk pool in the early years. Meet some of the former employees (and current) who helped shape the NDIRF's legacy.



Nancy Reis, Administrative Services Manager (1986-2025)

When the NDIRF began in 1986, it was administered by a third-party, Missouri River Underwriters (MRU). In March of 1986, Nancy Reis was hired as a Policy Processing Supervisor. When the NDIRF began its own in-house operations in 1988, Nancy began a new position with the NDIRF as an auto underwriter and eventually became the Administrative Services Coordinator. Her strong skillset in supervising and communications made her an asset to NDIRF for 39 years and she retired as the Administrative Services Manager in January 2025.

The NDIRF quickly reached major milestones in the early years. Nancy recalls the team celebrating new members every month, striving to insure all North Dakota schools, and marking a special milestone when county membership reached 100%!

Another proud milestone for Nancy is being part of the original team that began the HR Collaborative in 2008. Similar to MRU's response to the insurance crisis with NDIRF, the HR Collaborative was formed in response to a lack of governmental HR training in North Dakota.

Nancy is proud to be part of the NDIRF's entire history. She credits the wonderful team's desire to take care of North Dakota citizens as what made her career special.



Ross Warner, Underwriting Manager (1988-2016)

In late 1985, Ross Warner accepted an opportunity with MRU to develop a program of coverages for political subdivisions. He left MRU in early 1988 after accepting an offer at the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund (NDFT). That same year, the NDIRF officially separated from MRU and Ross accepted an offer to be the NDIRF Underwriting Manager.

Ross stressed how important it was for the NDIRF to build its reserves and charge appropriate premiums in the first few years of operations. It was also important to grow technologically, build loss control programs, and create marketing that helps members understand the importance of reducing losses. The NDIRF has continued to follow these practices today.

Ross is proud of the work the NDIRF team has done to provide a top-notch product and service to our members, even in trying circumstances!



Steve Spilde, CEO (1993-2018)

Before joining the NDIRF, Steve Spilde was an active Mandan School Board President and a director of the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA). He was recommended to the NDIRF by his friend, NDSBA Executive Director and former NDIRF Board President Rich Ott. Steve served as the NDIRF's CEO from 1993-2018.

Steve knew the value the NDIRF could bring to North Dakota by offering stability to governmental entities. He wanted to make the NDIRF the obvious choice in risk management for North Dakota. "It was not a given to succeed, but I was fortunate to get the time to build confidence," he said. With the excellent work of a highly capable team, the NDIRF became a place where members, directors and staff were proud to be associated. In uncertain times, they were able to build trust with the NDIRF Board and North Dakota.

Steve thinks back fondly of the more than 25 years he spent as the NDIRF's CEO. He is grateful for the many years and professional relationships with a stable team dedicated to doing good work. And doing the right thing was great for business!

(Continued)

NDIRF TEAM - VETERAN EMPLOYEES



Jan Evans, Inside Claims Adjuster (1986 - Present)

Inside Claims Adjuster Jan Evans is the only current employee who has been here since the beginning, joining the team in late 1986. In her nearly 40 year career at the NDIRF, Jan has adjusted over 19,000 claims since 2003!

Before becoming a Claims Adjuster, Jan moved from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Los Angeles, California to pursue a modeling career. But shortly after her move, she began working with her friend at an insurance company. She temporarily went back to Sioux Falls before finding her way to the NDIRF in Bismarck.

Upon joining the NDIRF, Jan initially performed secretarial work for the NDIRF's Underwriting department. Back then, telephone messages were handwritten on pink slips and documents were created with typewriters - Jan loved using typewriters for addressing envelopes!

Jan has experienced **EVERY** aspect of the growth and evolution of the NDIRF - from its humble beginnings to becoming *the* source of risk services for North Dakota political subdivisions. She was also part of the NDIRF's moves from Downtown Bismarck, to the Century location in 2000, and most recently to the Manhattan Building in 2025.

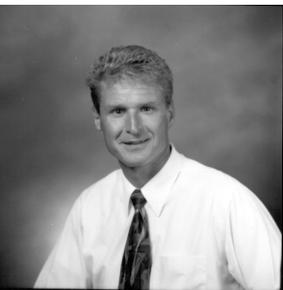
What has kept Jan at NDIRF for 40 years is the people. She is grateful for the caring, kind people she has had the pleasure to work with. Teamwork and the relationships she built with members have made the NDIRF the great company she has enjoyed working for all this time.



Brenda Flesness, BA & IM Underwriter (1988 - Present)

Bismarck native Brenda Flesness joined the NDIRF in September 1988. With layoffs happening at her prior company, Brenda decided to look for her next career opportunity. She was not aware of the NDIRF before applying, but knew her banking and finance background could make her an asset - and it did! Brenda has now been at the NDIRF for over 37 years and will retire in early 2026!

Brenda's career shift proved to be a positive move - she found a stable company with a great atmosphere. She even worked for former NDIRF Underwriting Manager Ross Warner until he retired after 28 years. Ross was a knowledgeable and understanding manager to Brenda. FUN FACT: Brenda was Ross' first and only hire!



Vance Krebs, CIO (2000 - Present)

Shortly after the world did not end, Vance Krebs joined NDIRF in April 2000. With his experience as a Programmer/System Analyst and his fluency on the AS400 computer system, he was a shoo-in to become the NDIRF's first full-time Information Technology (IT) person. Today, Vance is NDIRF's Chief Information Officer (CIO)!

In nearly 26 years, Vance has seen significant change at the NDIRF. He has been instrumental in the NDIRF's technological evolution. In his time here, Vance:

- Converted the NDIRF's software, systems, and physical technology to Cloud storage
- Replaced personal computers (PCs) with laptops
- Is currently navigating the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a company practice

Vance has really enjoyed his time working at the NDIRF. He likes to work with a great team and the diverse challenges his work brings. He looks forward to the NDIRF's continued evolution as a company. *(Continued)*

NDIRF TEAM - CURRENT SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Get to know the current Senior Leadership team that is leading the team at NDIRF today and into the future!



Keith Pic
CEO
(2012 - Present)

Chief Executive Officer Keith Pic joined the NDIRF in 2012, serving as an Outside Claims Adjuster. He was promoted in 2018 to Assistant Director of Claims and later, in 2021, he was promoted to Director of Claims. He was appointed in July 2024 to CEO by the NDIRF's Board of Directors.



Dani Krause
COO/General Counsel
(2025 - Present)

Chief Operating Officer / General Counsel Dani Krause joined the NDIRF in 2025. She has over 13 years of legal experience, including nearly eight years as in-house counsel, specializing in litigation and employment law.



Nora Frueh
CFO
(2015 - Present)

Chief Financial Officer Nora Frueh joined the NDIRF in 2015, overseeing the organization's finance department.



Corey Olson
Director of Member Services
(2018 - Present)

Director of Member Services Corey Olson joined the NDIRF in 2018, serving as the Member Services Manager and overseeing the NDIRF's member outreach and risk management education and training programs.



Jordan Wahl
Director of Underwriting
(2021 - Present)

Director of Underwriting Jordan Wahl joined the NDIRF in 2021, bringing nearly 12 years of claims experience. He was promoted to Assistant Director of Underwriting in July of 2024 and Director of Underwriting in June of 2025.



Tony Burbach
Director of Claims
(2024 - Present)

Director of Claims Tony Burbach joined the NDIRF in August 2024, bringing with him over 33 years of insurance industry experience.



Hope you paid attention because it is time for a pop quiz! Now that you have learned a little about the NDIRF, put your knowledge to the test. **Answers can be found on the back cover of this magazine.**

1. As a response to the 1980s insurance crisis, the NDIRF was formed to provide affordable coverage for:

- A. North Dakota Political Subdivisions
- B. Anyone in North Dakota
- C. Non-Governmental North Dakota Entities

2. What year did the NDIRF begin operations?

- A. 1985
- B. 1986
- C. 1987

3. Which associations co-founded the NDIRF with MRU?

- A. NDLC
- B. NDACo
- C. Both NDLC and NDACo

4. Which governmental entity was the FIRST member of the NDIRF?

- A. Valley City
- B. Ward County
- C. Mandan

5. What is the NDIRF's Mission?

- A. For North Dakota Local Government.
- B. To be *the* source of risk services for North Dakota political subdivisions.
- C. Protecting the Public Trust.

6. What type of organization is the NDIRF?

- A. North Dakota State Agency
- B. Insurance Company
- C. Not-for-Profit, Member-Owned Risk Pool

7. What is the original name of the publication now known as *The Participant*?

- A. *The Participant*
- B. *The Communicator*
- C. *The NDIRF Newsletter*

8. What year did the the NDIRF pass 1,000 members?

- A. 1988
- B. 1989
- C. 1993

9. How many times did the NDIRF return \$345,000 in Subordinated Surplus Notes?

- A. Once
- B. Twice
- C. Three Times

10. On June 22, 1994, the NDIRF Board authorized a Conferment of Benefits to members valued at:

- A. \$1 Million
- B. \$270,000
- C. \$700,000

11. In 1997, an unprecedented amount for the Conferment of Benefits was paid. How much did the NDIRF give back to members?

- A. \$2.5 million
- B. \$3.5 million
- C. \$5 million

12. In 2001, 100% of which North Dakota governmental entities became NDIRF members?

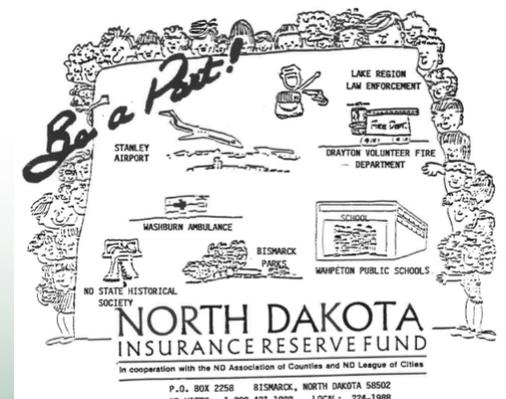
- A. Cities
- B. Townships
- C. Counties

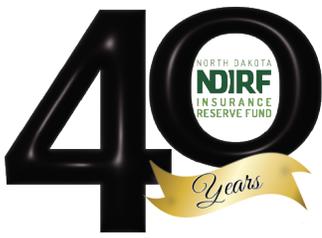
13. What does the NDIRF administer for the State of North Dakota?

- A. Fire & Tornado Fund
- B. Bonding Fund
- C. Both the Fire & Tornado Fund and the Bonding Fund

14. As of 2025, the NDIRF has how many members?

- A. 2,610
- B. 2,501
- C. 2,000





NORTH DAKOTA
INSURANCE
RESERVE FUND
PO BOX 2258
BISMARCK, ND 58502

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
BISMARCK ND
PERMIT NO 256



2025 NDIRF
Membership
Breakdown

2,610 Members	107,101 Students	253 Counselors
365 Nurses	438 Social Workers	1,259 Police Vehicles
1,911 Fire Vehicles	252 Ambulances	1,850 School Buses
262 Garbage Trucks	2,200 Law Enforcement & Corrections Officers	512 Large Equipment/ Machinery at \$250k value or more



2025 NDFT
Breakdown

11,214 Buildings
\$26,579,321,695 Total Insured Value



NORTH DAKOTA
State Fire and Tornado Fund
Administered by the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund

NDIRF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Birst, Bismarck | Lyle Bopp, Forman | Matt Gardner, Bismarck | Darcie Huwe, Wahpeton
Tyler Jacobson, Valley City | Burdell Johnson, Tuttle | Sonya Larson, Steele | Scott Ouradnik, Amidon
Chris West, Grafton



- A. North Dakota Political Subdivisions (P. 7)
- B. 1986 (P. 1)
- C. Both NDLC and NDACo (P. 7)
- B. Ward County (P. 4)
- B. To be **the** source of risk services for North Dakota political subdivisions. (P. 2)
- C. Member-Owned Government Risk Pool (P. 7)
- C. The NDIRF Newsletter (P. 3)
- A. 1988 (P. 4)
- B. Twice (P. 5)
- A. \$1 Million (P. 6)
- C. \$5 Million (P. 6)
- C. Counties (P. 4)
- C. Both the Fire & Tornado Fund and the Bonding Fund (P. 7)
- A. 2,610 (P. 4)