

Greetings Auxiliary Ladies.

I am sure every mid-year report mentioned the pandemic of 2020 somewhere in it. Yes, North Dakota was affected as well. Memorial Day programs, summer gatherings, Veterans Day activities, and Christmas parties were canceled throughout the state, but that did not stop our units from supporting Auxiliary programs to help veterans. Veterans Day and Christmas greeting cards were sent from units to veterans in their communities. Donations of funds, quilts, move-in baskets, and personal care items were collected and donated to the VA in Fargo as well as the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. Monetary donations were made to the Veterans Cemetery at Mandan, Wreaths Across America, Service Dogs of North Dakota, and the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The 2020 Gift Shop events were affected by COVID-19 restrictions too. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota sponsors gift shops at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon and the VAMC in Fargo. This year, gift cards were purchased and distributed to the residents and patients of those facilities. It was different and a bit disappointing to not actually be in those facilities, but thanks to the volunteers who gathered and assembled the greeting cards and gifts cards, we got the job done. Thank you, North Dakota Auxiliary members. I am so proud of you for continuing to step up for our mission to support veterans, our military, and their families.

LaVonne Matthews, Department VA &R Chairman