

Greetings District 9 Unit members.

I want to thank the ladies who attended the Department convention held this past June. Five units from our district were represented and it was nice to have met many of you. This being my first attended Department convention, it was great to see firsthand the time and effort placed into running smooth meetings (thanks, Minot!), putting a face to many of the names that have been on Auxiliary correspondence for years, and learning more about this great organization/family that we are all a part of! The event deeply impressed me, and I encourage all to take the time to attend a convention or winter conference in your future.

At convention, the newly updated Department Constitution and Bylaws was approved. In September, the Department Office will be mailing a copy to each unit; it will assist you in updating your unit's Constitution and Bylaws. Two main items needing correction will be member eligibility requirements and also the wording of the Preamble. A copy of your newly updated Constitution and Bylaws will need to be mailed to Department Constitution Chairman Diane Kraemer.

Seeking new memberships for our units is deeply important to the growth of our organization. I cannot stress enough the importance of getting out there and asking those you see if they would like to become a member of your unit. Please don't forget about the Junior members as well...they are our future! I came across a bit of literature from the Department office encouraging us to make membership meaningful. It reads, "If we focus less on how MANY members belong and more on WHY they belong, our membership will grow". This is a wonderful organization.....let's share it with others!!

Our combined District 6 and District 9 Fall Meeting will be held in White Shield on Saturday, September 18th, with the afternoon time yet to be determined. Our newly elected Department President, Sharon White Bear, is from the White Shield unit, and their Post and Auxiliary unit will no doubt host a great day. Ladies, please make an effort to attend. Pack a car full of members and bring your suggestions and ideas along with you. We learn the most from listening to each other!

I have been reaching out to the unit presidents in our district to introduce myself, and again I stress for you to not hesitate to get in touch with me if you feel I could be of service to you or your unit in any way.

Proud to be an American Legion Auxiliary member,

Brenda Ekness
District 9 President