

Greetings to each of you.

I was honored to have been asked by Districts 5, 6, 7, and 9 to attend their District Meetings, which are part of the West Region. Meetings were held in Bismarck (D5), White Shield (D6 and D9), and Hazen (D7). The camaraderie at these meetings is something very special. The District Presidents did an awesome job, and the food was so good. I had the opportunity to visit about what I learned at National Convention regarding membership as well as the Resolution for The American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the American Legion Auxiliary.

One of the things that I learned from other units across the country regards membership and the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS). Doing a search with this system will show you members who have not recently paid dues or who have 'fallen off' the roster. If you want access to this system, please contact the Department Office. Please consider contacting these past members to see if they are interested in rejoining our American Legion Auxiliary. Consider getting them involved in your unit. We want them to feel appreciated and important; not just someone who pays dues once a year.

How is your unit doing in updating your unit Constitution & Bylaws? If you need help or have questions, please reach out to Marcy Schmidt at the Department Office or the Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Diane Kraemer.

Have you contacted the American Legion Family in your unit and post in regards to submitting poems, stories, songs, prayers, or whatever you would like to see in a Department prayer book? Make it an American Legion Family project. One could do it at your post and unit meetings. Be sure to reach out to the post commander and adjutant, so they can set aside a time that will work for everyone. Together, we can accomplish anything. I am asking every American Legion Family member to please submit at least one item that touches your heart, means something to you, or even something that you just happened to read. Please feel free to submit more than one. If every American Legion Family member sends at least one, can you imagine the wonderful prayer book that we can have? It is only with your help that this can happen. I would also like to thank those that have already sent me something. They may be emailed to presidentelect@ndala.org or mailed to 621 1st St W, Dickinson ND 58601-5004.

Matthew Brew Unit 3 of Dickinson is sponsoring a silent auction to be held at the upcoming 2022 Winter Conference in Bismarck. **The 2022 Winter Conference is set for January 28-30, 2022, at Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND.** This silent auction event has been approved by our Department President, Sharon White Bear. I am requesting that all District Presidents bring at least one item for the silent auction. Donations of items for the auction by any Auxiliary member or Department officer would be most

welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Funds from the auction will be used solely to pay for host unit expenses for the 2022 Convention. Any leftover funds will be offered to the host unit of the 2023 Convention.

With the holidays among us, please remember our military and veterans. Consider sending care packages to our military, remembering all veterans on Veterans Day, and giving Christmas cards to our veterans. One thing we enjoy doing each year is taking Christmas cards to veterans in our care facilities. Let them know that they are appreciated and not forgotten. Place a poppy in the card, as poppies can be used 12 months a year. Thank you for everything each of you do for our veterans and military. Together we can make a difference.

God Bless our veterans and the U.S.A.

Sandra Petermann