

I would like to start by thanking each of you for your support and belief in me as your Department President-Elect. I am looking forward to being your Department President-Elect and the difference we can all make for our American Legion Family.

Department Vice President Gloria Covert and I are sharing the responsibility of Department Membership Chairman/Committee. Membership has always been important to me. Gloria and I are here to help, so please feel free to contact either of us if you have concerns or questions.

All of us have heard that we need to grow our membership numbers. Increasing membership is imperative so that we can continue our important mission to support veterans and their families. Are we reaching out to people in our area who may be eligible? What do they know about the American Legion Auxiliary and how their membership can make a difference? I encourage everyone to carry extra applications in your vehicle or on your person. That way, when you visit with someone and you discover they are eligible, you can give them an application.

I had the honor of facilitating the meeting of District Presidents at our recent organizational event held in Fargo. The meeting was informative with much information shared by everyone in attendance. Our Department is lucky to have this great group of members leading the districts this year.

While I served as Department Chaplain, I asked for poems, stories, poetry, songs, prayers, or whatever you would like to see in a Department prayer book. There was a wonderful response, but I am asking again that American Legion Family members send in submissions. These could include inspirational items, something that touches your heart, items that are especially meaningful, or even something that you just happened to read. Please feel free to submit more than one.

Imagine what a wonderful prayer book we could compile if every American Legion Family member submitted just one item. It is only with your help that this can happen. A big 'Thank You' to those that have already sent me something. Items can be emailed to me at presidentelect@ndala.org, or mailed to me at 621 1st St W., Dickinson, ND 58601-5004.

Sandra Petermann