

Greetings Auxiliary Members of District 9!

It is March and spring is right around the corner! Springtime is busy and the adrenaline surges as farmers plant their crops and gardeners plant soon-to-be bountiful gardens and beautiful flowerbeds. Children begin to play outside again, while families plan graduations, weddings, reunions, and other big events. It is also a busy time for the American Legion Auxiliary! What is busy about springtime for the ALA you ask?

1. Have you talked with your high school Junior girls about Girls State? If you have not already done so, **begin your plans** now to do this. Girls State will be held June 12-17 on the UND campus in Grand Forks. Your unit's Girls State chairman should already have received detailed information from the Department Office.
2. Member 'Year-End Impact and Narrative Reports' are due to your unit president by April 1st. Prepare your reports early and **plan to submit** them on time.
3. National Poppy Day is Friday, May 27, 2022. Your unit's poppy distribution day needs proper **planning** to be successful and enjoyable for all involved. Did you place your 2022 poppy order?
4. Memorial Day programs: lining up a speaker, flag carriers, musical talents, children involvement, meal preparations, decorations, etc. require your unit to be on top of your game. Begin **planning** early.
5. Will your unit be participating in a parade this summer? Begin **planning** now!
6. Is your unit **planning** a membership drive? If not, please **plan** to do so!

The words "**plan or planning**" have been used several times in the above list of "things to do." Our district members that attended the Winter Conference in Bismarck on January 28-30 had the distinct privilege of hearing from Northwestern Division Vice President Dee Dee Buckley from MN. She shared tremendous information with us from both herself and from National President Kathy Daudistel. One phrase she used was to practice the 6 (six) P's: **Proper prior planning prevents poor performance!** This one simple sentence really stands out because is it not all about the **planning**: whether your **planned** event turns out well, that the meals get made and served without a hitch, that we work together for the benefit of our veterans, unit members, and communities?

I **challenge** each unit in District 9 to **plan** at least one event or project (two or three are better!), whether they be big or small, for this spring and summer. Take lots of pictures and relay them, along with the information, to myself at district9@ndala.org. The

information will be shared with other District 9 units in my **planned** monthly newsletter. The unit presidents, in turn, will share the information with you. It will be fun to see what each unit produces. Do not think small, think mighty! We can do this together!! Our American Legion Family is the best!

Any unit with members attending the Saturday sessions of the Winter Conference had one chance per unit to win the door prize of \$100. Unit 139 of Tioga was very well represented at the conference and won the door prize. Congratulations, Jan Herfindahl, Unit President, and members of Tioga Unit 139! We also learned that our district does not have a unit with 100% membership yet. We can do better.....let us **plan** to aim for 100% or higher in membership!

Proud to be an American Legion Auxiliary member.

Brenda Ekness
District 9 President