

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

It has been a learning year and I have enjoyed it immensely. Meeting new members and answering questions from the units has upped my game, too.

I am proud that 38 units are at 100% or more of projected goal. Job well done to those units!

Next year, I am hopeful that our units will seriously review and revamp how they collect membership dues, so the majority of our units are at or near 100% by December 20. A member is not a member for the following year if their dues are not at the National office by the end of December. The first dues notice will be sent out from National in July 2022, so this is not an impossible goal as it is a 6-month period.

We seriously need to begin using our membership resources. The resources I am referring to are: [www.ndala.org](http://www.ndala.org) (ND Department website) and [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) (National website). We need to update email addresses for all members that have email. The National organization is beginning to utilize email addresses more frequently in order to decrease expenses for paper and postage.

American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALA MIS), the membership database located within the National website, can be utilized to update email addresses, postal mail addresses (permanent and seasonal), name changes, and magazine preferences. Units, please consider a request to the Department Office with name, email, unit # and a check for \$10 per unit member (limited to two users) for access to ALA MIS. Currently, 45 units have ALA MIS access, which accounts for only 31% of our units. I challenge all units to sign up and get that percentage up to 80% next year.

We have 8 units that have 20 or more Junior members. Kudos to these units!! I know there are many more Junior members eligible to be Auxiliary members. I encourage Units to revitalize and reach out to Junior members living in your communities. Junior members can attend your meetings and help where needed including with projects, events, and serving as tech support.

The unit membership percentage affects the District membership percentage which, in turn, affects the Department's membership percentage. So remember, your unit dues affect more than just your unit. The Department membership percentage that is on the books by July 1, 2022, will determine where the North Dakota delegation is seated at the National Convention. The higher the membership percentage the closer to the stage we could be seated.

Thank you to all the units that reach out and remain positive about maintaining their membership. Our veterans, youth, and communities appreciate your commitment and support.

Always be kind.

Gloria Covert, Department Vice President