

Greetings American Legion Family.

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over, and school is just around the corner. I hope each of you had a chance to take in some sun and relaxation. I know how busy and sometimes chaotic things can get, and sometimes we need to force ourselves to take some much-needed time off.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Linda Siewert, District 6 President, and William G. Carroll Post and Unit 26 of Minot for the invitation to attend the Minot State Fair on July 22nd. A special **'thank you'** to our driver, Paul, who escorted us in one of his convertibles and again to Linda for the beautiful signs you constructed.

In August, North Dakota students will be preparing to go back to school, which is a perfect time to introduce 'Giving 10 to Education.' What is 'Giving 10 to Education?' It is purchasing supplies for children to attend school. I recently noted that several stores have school supplies at a reasonable price. Please consider this worthwhile project, whether it be for students in need of supplies or teachers who need to stock up supplies for their classrooms. Do not forget to include your activities in mid-year and year-end reports. Our children are our future, and with your support, we can ensure their futures continue to be bright.

Beginning August 26th, the 2022 National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Department Office will be sending the 'green' mandatory contribution form and 'pink' poppy order form in early September. The deadline for both is November 1. Please be on the lookout for these forms in your unit mailing.

A question that I have heard from members is 'can poppies be used more than once a year?' The answer is 'yes.' According to our national organization, poppies can be used and distributed any time of the year. Typically, poppies are distributed near Memorial Day. Some units include

them with Christmas or birthday cards to our military and veterans. Every day is 'Poppy Day.'

The Department Office sends unit mailing packets to Unit Presidents throughout the year. If you have something that you wish to let other units know about, contact the Department Office staff to have it included.

Start planning your unit's activities early and be sure to document those activities with pictures and articles that can be shared in 'The Message.' Be sure to include Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VAR), Legislation, Americanism, Education, Children and Youth, and Poppies, which are just a few of our notable programs you can share with your communities. Remember to include membership drives at your events. Ask your neighbors, family, and friends if they are eligible to belong to the American Legion (TAL), American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) or Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and then sign them up. Membership applications and requirements can be found online at www.ndala.org and www.alaforveterans.org

I am looking to fill the Legislative Department Chairmanship. If you or someone you know would like to fill this position for 2022-2023, please call me or our Department Office staff for information.

One of my goals this year is to increase membership in each of our units. One of the ways that I believe this can be done is by hosting membership drives in our communities. Please keep in mind to include your local American Legion Post and work as a team. When an event is planned in your community, visit with the planners to see if you can set up a table or booth. Perhaps have free baked goods for new members or enter them in a drawing held at a later date. If you would like me to visit your community, please let me know. I am here to help. Also, please reach out to Past Department Presidents. They have so much to offer and can give great advice and suggestions.

My theme for 2022-2023 is 'Flying Together, United as One' and funds collected for my president's project will be donated to the Honor Flight for

Western North Dakota. Raffle tickets supporting my project are available from your District President and Department Chairmen as well as from me. My 'president's pin', featuring my theme on its face is also available for a donation to my project.

Department Commander Dan Brown and I will be having our Homecoming in Williston on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Four Points by Sheraton Williston. The phone number for the Sheraton Hotel-Williston is 701-609-5490. More information can be found elsewhere in this publication.

Be kind and open to new ideas. Every day that we learn something new is a great day. Every day is Veterans Day.

Sandra Petermann