



Greetings to each of you. It has been a busy and rewarding 3 months.

I have enjoyed attending district meetings. My first one was District 3, which was held at Sky Dancer Casino at Belcourt, the second one was District 10, at the American Legion Club, Oakes; my third one was District 7, in a meeting room at Carson, and my fourth was District 4 at the Minot Vets Club. Our District Presidents do such a wonderful job, was well attended, and always good food and camaraderie. It is always fun to be around our American Legion Family. Department Commander Dan Brown and I had our homecoming in Williston, in September. It was an enjoyable evening, great food, laughter and having an opportunity to visit with our Legion Family. A huge thank you to everyone who traveled and made our evening so special.

Membership is important to each of us. Some of the things that I have learned through National Membership, is to hold a membership drive in our communities, as a great way to gain new members. When doing a membership drive, include the American Legion as well and work together with them as a team. Getting our name out there is important. There are people who do not know we exist. The trifold membership applications which have the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary are especially useful. One can copy the trifold application from the National American Legion Auxiliary website and make copies.

At the National Convention in August 2022, it was voted to increase our dues beginning in 2024. It will be increasing \$6.00. If you are considering becoming a paid up for life member (PUFL), NOW would be a great time to do that! A copy of the application is available at: <https://www.legion-aux.org>, **member portal**, in the search box type **PUFL application**. The second page will give the **PUFL Fee Rate Chart**.

Our auxiliary members are making a difference in giving, "Giving 10 to Education" an auxiliary sponsored program in which school supplies are purchased for children to attend school. I recently learned from National that "Giving 10 to Education", may be any time all year long, not just once a year. We all know that students and teachers need supplies all year long. Another thing, which was brought to my attention, is one may also donate Kleenex, Mac-n-cheese cups, granola bars, crackers, individually wrapped snacks and juice boxes. Another suggestion from National was to remember the teachers, not only on teacher appreciation day, but throughout the year. Suggestions were, cookies, coffee, and tea packets, gift cards, just to name a few. Now is a perfect time to collaborate with your unit presidents to share information to their unit members regarding, "Giving 10 to Education." What is Giving 10 to Education? Purchasing school supplies for our children to attend school. An individual should not feel that they need to purchase all ten items themselves. Each item or items makes a difference. Our children are our future, and with our members support, we can ensure their futures continue to be bright.

I would like to thank each of you for supporting my President's Project by selling or purchasing my raffle tickets. If you are interested in purchasing any raffle tickets, you may contact your district president, they will also be available at district meetings, winter conference or by contacting me. They are \$1.00 per ticket or \$10.00 per book of ten tickets. A quick reminder that my President Project monies

are for: Western North Dakota Honor Flight, Bismarck, and the Injured Military Wildlife Project, which helps all veterans in need of meat. The meat is either elk, buffalo, or both. This comes from the Badlands located within the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora.

Our 2022-2023 National President, Vickie Koutz, is from the Department of Indiana. President Koutz's theme is: "Honor our Veterans Every Day," and her National President Project is helping, "National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival companions. She related a story of how she personally noted that those accompanying the Veterans to the National Contest sometimes could not afford to pay for a meal plan. She did not feel that it was right that the one person who is a constant in their life could not stay with them during meals. She decided to do something about that! Her project on companions is triple tiered - money for a meal plan, travel, and/or a separate hotel room if needed for non-family companions. National President Koutz is also working to raise awareness of our country's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

I ask each of you to work with your American Legion Posts, we are a team. Be kind and open to new ideas. Just remember, we are in this together. You are not alone; you have many people within the American Legion Auxiliary willing to help. Also, we have all heard, it has always been done that way. Feel free to make changes, do not feel like you cannot try something different. New ideas are welcome, if you are not sure you may reach out to me, the Department Office or a Past Department President. If I do not know the answer, I will find out and get back to you. We are here to help and are very willing to listen and help where we can. Each of our Past Department Presidents have much experience regarding our American Legion Auxiliary. There is never a dumb or a stupid question. We learn by asking. Every day that we learn something new is a great day. If you have any questions, suggestions or if I can help you in anyway, please feel free to reach out to me.

My contact information is: bmann@ndsupernet.com or I may be reached at 701-290-8801 or 701-483-5176. My mailing address is: 621 1st St W, Dickinson ND 58601-5004.

Every day is Veteran's Day,

Sandra Petermann, Department President (2022-2023)