

Greetings to our District 9 Members.

Spring will be a welcome sight this year and we are eager to enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures that are sure to be here before long. With spring comes a busy time for our American Legion Family:

Year-End Reports are due to your Unit President by April 1st. Please reach out to your Unit President, me, or our Department website www.ndala.org/reporting/ if you have questions concerning reporting.

ND American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State is scheduled for June 11-16 at UND. If you haven't started talking with the Junior girls in your high school, please take action now. This week is an invaluable experience that should be enjoyed by all interested. Many girls who attend Girls State say upon returning home that Girls State was one of the best weeks of their lives!

Poppy Day is May 26th. Let us get out and distribute poppies and bring awareness to our communities about the meaning of Poppy Day and what the poppy flower stands for. The ALA **Poppy Poster** program is an ideal way for our students to share their artistic abilities and put extra thought into why we observe Memorial Day. It truly is a learning experience.

Holding a **Memorial Day** program or ceremony is a reverent way to honor our Fallen who are truly the heroes. We will always be indebted to them for their ultimate price paid for us: our freedom. Our District 9 **Spring District Meeting will be Saturday, April 22nd in Tioga**. More details will be sent to units at a later date. Thank you to the Tioga Post and Unit for agreeing to host – we look forward to attending our meeting in your fine city!

As always, it has been and is, both an honor and a privilege to serve you as District 9 President and I would like to say thank you to all who have helped and encouraged me along the way. Our own Past Department President Marlys Aubol from New Town has been an invaluable source of information, offering support and guidance all along the way! My term as District President is coming to an end, and we will be in need of a replacement. I know many women in our District's units that would be ideal for this position. "Will it be you?" Say yes! I cannot believe how rewarding and fun these past two years have been. I have met countless men and women in our American Legion Family that are top-notch great people and have been a pleasure to get to know. Go for it! Shoot for the stars!

We will be seeing each other in Tioga on April 22nd, and I look forward to seeing each one of you! Bring with you any ideas, concerns, pictures, or information that you would like to share with all in our District. "We learn from each other!"

For God and Country,
Brenda Ekness
District 9 President