

## OCTOBER

### DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Halloween! We had a pretty good turnout for the Fall District Meeting Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> with 15 members and 3 guests in attendance; 5 of 12 units from District 5 were represented. We were very fortunate to have the Department President, Sandra Petermann, and Department Vice President/Membership Co-Chair, LoAnn Dick, with us. Sandra addressed the dues increase in that it was voted to increase National dues by \$6 in 2024 at the National Convention in August. It was suggested that if anyone is considering a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership, to do it before the increase takes effect. Sandra also brought up that Legislation for the Legion had 9 achievements including the PACT which added benefits for military personnel that were exposed to Agent Orange or Herbicides in Vietnam. For more information go to: VA.gov. We are encouraged to wear our ALA logo when out in our communities to be seen and for branding. Members of at least three years may apply for grants for a helping hand from the ALA Emergency Fund through the Department Secretary. The National President, Vickie Koutz from Indiana, has a theme of: "Honor Our Veterans Every Day" and her President's Project is helping "National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival Companions". Sandra has continued to collect prayers, poems, lyrics, etc. from when she was a ND Department Chaplain, to complete a book in June 2023 and would appreciate more from our Units.

LoAnn talked about the ALAMIS computer system and encouraged everyone to retain and add to the membership. The Department Goal is 90% renewals by December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Department has lost 300 members in the last year for various reasons. That being said, October is Membership Month.

We are reminded of "Giving 10 to Education" as teachers and students could all use school supplies all year long. The 2022/2023 Mandatory Contributions (green) and Poppy (pink) forms are due to the Department November 1, 2022. Note that the Fidelity Bond has increased from \$6 to \$7 a year. The District 5 Membership voted to send \$100 to Quilts of Valor".

You should've all received the September Unit Mailing by now which includes more information that was mentioned at the Fall District Meeting. Diane Kraemer, Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, encourages each Unit review and revise their Constitutions and Bylaws and send them to her by December 1, 2022. The Department VA & R Chairman, LaVonne Matthews, included flyers for several programs to support. Also included were tracking forms and deadlines for Reports next spring.

A couple important dates in November are Election Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and November is Education Month. Scholarship information is being sent in October to schools and Units.

Enjoy the Fall Colors!

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