

Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

I want to express my thanks to members of William G. Carroll Post and Unit 26 of Minot for hosting the 2023 Winter Conference. I want to especially thank District 6 President Linda Siewert and her husband Gary for arranging the Presidents Reception on Saturday afternoon and arranging and presenting the Gold Star Mothers program held at the Commander's Banquet later that evening. Thank you Department Commander Dan Brown for your moving speech as you opened the Gold Star program. I don't believe there was a dry eye in the hall. I am proud to be a part of this great organization and was honored to meet these precious Gold Star mothers.

Now that Winter Conference is over, the calendar heats up with 2023 Spring District Meetings. As I draft this article, not all Districts have completed plans. A list of meetings can be found elsewhere in this publication and online at [www.ndala.org/district-meetings/](http://www.ndala.org/district-meetings/)

The American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State program is slated for June 11-16, 2023, at UND. If your unit has junior members who are eligible or you know local high school juniors who would love to attend Girls State, encourage them to apply. Information and applications have been sent to unit presidents as well as North Dakota high schools and can be found online at [www.ndgirlsstate.org](http://www.ndgirlsstate.org).

Gather your unit members and complete your 2022-2023 Year-End Impact Reports. Impact Reports are important because the hours and funds are compiled and submitted to the American Legion for their annual report to Congress. Reports like yours tell a story about what we do to support veterans and their families.

National Poppy Day is set for Friday, May 26, 2023. What is your unit doing to promote the Poppy Program? Do you celebrate with a 'Little Miss Poppy' contest? Perhaps you promote poppies through the 'Poppy Poster Contest.' Whatever it is you do, document it with photos and news articles. Share it on your unit's Facebook page and send the pictures and articles to the Department Office as well for inclusion in a future 'Message.'

Remember why you became an American Legion Auxiliary member. Is your 'why' personal? Support your 'why' by paying your dues and supporting the activities of your unit. Remember to wear your ALA Brand proudly.

Take care of yourself and others.

Marcy Schmidt