

It is nice to feel the warmth of sunshine and hear the birds again. The robins arrived in Fargo in masses a couple of weeks ago and I don't think I have ever seen that many at once.

I want to give a big thank you to host units and posts of the 2022 Spring District Meetings for your excellent hospitality and genuine welcome. Your support and hard work are appreciated by all who attend.

It was nice to see so many turn out for the National President's visit to White Shield and Minot. Thank you to Sharon White Bear, Department President, members of Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Post and Unit 253 of White Shield, and the community of White Shield for your warm hospitality.

I want to also thank Linda Siewert, President of William G. Carroll Unit 26 for being our boots on the ground and coordinating not only the Minot Auxiliary event but also a tour of the Minot Air Force Base. Thank you, Linda, you are force of nature!

Membership is humming right along. As I write this note, the Department of North Dakota is sitting close to 90% of projected goal. Oh my, we are so close. Let us all push that number to 100% before the 2022 Department Convention which will be held in Dickinson on June 24-26, 2022. More information on the upcoming Convention can be found elsewhere in this publication and at www.ndala.org/2022-department-convention/.

As I write this article, the Department's Americanism, Education, Leadership, National Security, Poppy, and Past Presidents Parley Chairmen are working to finalize winners of the various contests, scholarships, and "unit members and servicemembers of the year." Thank you, Auxiliary members, for reaching out to your young members and children in your communities. If one of those winners is a young person from your community, give them a shout out and wish them the best in their future endeavors. I know the committees reviewing the applications had a tough time deciding the results because every one of those applicants is a wonderful example of our future leaders.

For God and Country.

Marcy Schmidt