

YOU MATTER....

It was so great to see your smiling faces at the 2023 Winter Conference held in Minot! The conference was a lot of fun, and the food was fantastic. It was also great to hear from Legion National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus, National Chaplain Mark Antal, National Leading Candidate Daniel Seehafer, Auxiliary NW Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer, and our special guest National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz.

It is always fun to gather with members of the North Dakota American Legion Family. I always learn something new and meet someone new. I encourage everyone to attend the next Winter Conference and the 2023 Department Convention (coming up in June – in Bismarck!). I was blessed to have a “sit-down” with National Chaplain Mark Antal prior to the banquet. We talked about many different programs and about society in general and how each one of us makes a difference – WE MATTER. **YOU MATTER.**

It matters that you are involved in your units. It matters that you call and care for one another. It matters that you care for our veterans. It matters that you send cards – of gratitude, sympathy, or just a friendly “hello, I’m thinking of you today.” It matters that you come to conferences and conventions. It matters that you are involved with legislation that benefits our service members and veterans. We heard a lot about that from both Senator John Hoeven and Senator Kevin Cramer at the joint meeting on Friday evening. You matter to many people in a thousand different ways!

It matters that you send in contributions each fall for the programs that are important to your units. In January, over \$10,000 was distributed to veterans’ programs thanks to your contributions! Your District Presidents have details on where these donations were sent. Visit with them.

It matters when you complete your **2022-2023 Year-End Impact Reports** this spring! All of your volunteer time and money spent for veterans really do add up! **YOU MATTER. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

God bless you all for the work you do! Don’t lose sight of who you are and how much YOU MATTER – to your family...your friends...our veterans...and the stranger you meet and greet.

I hope to see you all at the Department Convention set for June 23-25, 2023, in Bismarck. It matters that YOU are there.

Sonnie Otto