

Greetings from your District 7 President.

Winter Conference is over, and although the weather was not the best, it was a successful event.

We were fortunate to have National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz visit the Department of North Dakota. She seems to be a very laid-back person and I enjoyed her talk about her project to raise funds to assist those who accompany veterans to the Creative Arts Festival. Our very own Marlene Boyer, Northwestern Division National Vice President, also had an inspiring report and made me very proud to say she is from North Dakota. Department President Sandra Petermann did an excellent job running the meetings and keeping everything on track.

We learned about the future of our Department publication, "The Message." A committee of five was organized to study alternative ways to communicate with our members. After much work and research, the committee recommended we maintain our current publication and continue to collaborate with the American Legion on this important source of information.

There were reminders to District Presidents and units from various Department Officers and Chairmen. Some of those reminders are included in the following paragraphs.

Units – start the process of reviewing and revising your Unit Constitution and Bylaws. If you don't know how to start or have lost your operating document, please contact Diane Kraemer, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman.

Twenty-six units have not yet submitted 2023 Poppy Orders or Required Contributions. Contact the Department Office to see if your unit is on the list. If your unit has not completed and submitted these forms to the Department Office, please do so as soon as possible.

Paying dues online is the wave of the future. Many members already pay dues online and this is reported quarterly to their units. Units can also sign up for ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System) and pay their member's dues online. This will save a step for unit membership chairmen and unit treasurers as well as the Department Office. Check it out by contacting the Department Office for more details.

Branding, as you know, is important when you are volunteering in your community. The American Legion Auxiliary has new branding, and it is available on jackets, sweaters, and other items through Legion Emblem Sales. Check out the new logo online or in the Emblem Sales catalog.

Mission Training, an important tool in learning about the ALA, is typically held in the fall. I encourage each of you to attend an event when it becomes available again.

Next up on the schedule are 2023 Spring District Meetings. Mark your calendar for the Spring District 7 Meeting on Saturday, March 18, at the Mandan Eagles Club, 1400 Collins Avenue. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and the meeting will be held at 1:30 PM.

That's all for now. See you in Mandan!

Lualice Stockert

District 7 President