

Greetings North Dakota Auxiliary Members.

It is rumbling a bit as I begin drafting this article today. We welcome the rain as the lawn appears to have gone dormant already. The park across the street has youngsters taking part in the 'great American past time', baseball. The new Auxiliary year is beginning to come into focus. Soon you will be traveling to your 2023 Fall District Meetings. More information on Fall Meetings can be found elsewhere in this issue of 'The Message'. Be sure to ask other members of your unit to attend with you. Make it a fun road trip and join your District President and welcome Gloria Covert, your new Department President for 2023-2024.

By the time you read this, The American Legion Family Department of North Dakota delegation to the 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, NC, will already be back in North Dakota.

American Legion Department Commander Clarence Carroll and Auxiliary Department President Gloria Covert are planning a combined 'homecoming event' for Saturday, October 21. It will be held in Medora and from all accounts, it sounds like quite an event is being planned. You will not want to miss it. Make plans now to attend. More information can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Start planning your unit's activities now. Let us make 2023-2024 a year to remember with your whole-hearted support for veterans, active military, their families and your communities. Be sure to wear the American Legion Auxiliary 'brand' when you are volunteering in your community. American Legion Emblem Sales is a great place to find apparel to represent the Auxiliary. Check out their website at emblem.legion.org.

Auxiliary program information such as AEF, Poppies, Community Service, Americanism, Girls State, History, VA&R, and so much more can be found not only on the national website at www.alaforveterans.org but the Department website at www.ndala.org. You can download the latest 'Unit Guidebook,' Chaplain's book, membership applications, poppies and Halloween coloring books for children's programs, and so much more.

I encourage everyone to remember to track your volunteer hours and monetary donations in preparation for Unit Reports in April 2024.

Remind yourself and fellow unit members why you became an American Legion Auxiliary member. Is your 'why' personal? Support your 'why' by paying your dues early and supporting the activities of your unit. Make 2023-2024 a great year!

Take care of yourself and others.

Marcy Schmidt