

Winter Conference is behind us, and spring is around the corner! It is always wonderful to see friends at this annual event. It was a fun and productive weekend. We learned that our governing documents are a bit unclear, and there were some great discussions on how to clean them up. A committee was formed to review the Department's Constitution and Bylaws and clarify the Department Standing Rules. This committee will make recommendations that will be presented for a vote at the Department Convention in June. It is important that as many members attend our 2024 Department Convention as possible to vote on what language should be in our governing documents. Department Convention is always fun - and the State Legion Band keeps us all going!

I am happy to report that Unit Contributions for veteran's programs had a 26% increase this year! It is always gratifying to send these checks out to programs that help our veterans in so many ways. Thank you units and unit members for sharing your time, energy, and treasure to benefit veterans and their families.

Winter Conference attendees heard me speak of my resignation at the end of the fiscal year (June 2024). My husband, Todd, and I are retiring this year and will be relocating to our home state of Nebraska in the fall. I have enjoyed my position with the Department of North Dakota and have met so many people that I might not have had the opportunity to meet if not for this position. I learned so much about the organization and the programs we support. We had two members who were endorsed for the Department Treasurer position at the Winter Conference, and I am confident that either candidate will serve our Department well. This is another reason to attend the 2024 Department Convention - to vote for and meet your Department Officers for the upcoming year!

One last thing, if you are a Unit Treasurer - be sure to complete your Annual Report and 990-N to ensure your EIN (employer identification number) is compliant as a non-profit organization! It takes about 10 minutes and \$10.00 to complete. If you did not receive an email from me through the Department Office with instructions, please let me know! I can be reached at treasurer@ndala.org or by phone. I will certainly email that information to you or snail mail it if that is what needs to happen.

Enjoy your spring! I hope your units all have some fun events coming up this spring! See you all in Bismarck in June!

Blessings,

Sonnie Otto