

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

My first order of business is to give a high five to our Spring District Meeting Legion and Auxiliary hosts. We attended nine District meetings throughout the state. District 1 was held in West Fargo at the Vet's Club with the Fargo unit and post as hosts. District 2 was held in Larimore with the Larimore post and unit as hosts. District 10 was held in Ellendale with the post and unit serving as hosts. District 3 was held in Rolette with the Rolette post and unit as the host. District 6 was held in Kenmare with the Kenmare post and Donnybrook unit as hosts. District 9 was held in Ray with the Ray post and the Tioga unit as the hosts. District 4 was held in Jamestown with the Jamestown post and the Medina unit as hosts. District 7 and 8 was held in Richardton with the post and unit as hosts. District 5 was held in Hazelton with the Hazelton post and unit as the hosts. Thank you District posts and units for your generous hospitality and the meals you served. Small town hospitality was on full and wonderful display in each of these North Dakota communities.

Leadership is the backbone of our organization. Without knowledgeable and competent leadership, our organization does not progress. We cannot survive on "that is the way we have always done it." Change is constant, and we need to embrace new technology and change whether we like it or not.

I have heard that many older members do not use technology. That may be true and to make sure units and members receive information, the Department distributes materials on paper. In addition, unit mailings and other information is sent via email and Constant Contact as well as being available online at www.ndala.org. Invite your Junior members to assist with new technology and perhaps even teach your Senior members. There are other resources that can help as well. Seek those resources out.

The National office changes their policies at times. Is your unit up to date on these changes? Review information sent from the Department or online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Leadership involves mentors. Are you a good mentor? Characteristics of a good mentor are patience, kindness, and having the ability to answer questions without judgment or criticism. Be positive, listen, and hear what your member's concerns are. A good mentor does not assume you know; they ask if you know. Find a good mentor if you are interested in a leadership position.

I hope all units took the opportunity to report on all the good work and events you were involved with this year. I am looking forward to reading all those narratives submitted by our impressive North Dakota units.

I cordially invite each of you to attend the 2024 Department Convention in Bismarck June 21-23. Remember your "WHY" as we end our Auxiliary year and continue to work on our mission to support veterans, military and their families.

Always be kind.

Gloria Covert