

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Make your plans soon to attend the 2024 Department Convention to be held June 21-23, 2024, at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center (former Ramkota Hotel) in Bismarck. You will find the registration and banquet ticket order form and schedule for the 2024 Department Convention elsewhere in this publication.

The annual year-end reports are coming in and from the information that has been compiled, units and their members continue to be active in their communities supporting veterans and their families. Congratulations and thank you for all the work you do on behalf of veterans, children and youth, and your communities across the state of North Dakota. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization.

Thank you to Unit Membership Chairmen for your work gathering dues from your current members and new and rejoined members as well. By now, all officers and chairmen should be paid for 2024 and no unit should be experiencing a 'goose' egg.

I was invited to a poppy assembly event held in Forman on April 25. The event was coordinated by Lisbon Unit President Ginny Stendahl with the help of Amber Hazard, Administrative Assistant and 4-H Program Assistant for the NDSU Extension Service in Sargent County. The event was well attended by unit members from the Forman area. The attendees heard the story of John McCrae, author of *'In Flanders Fields'* and how American veterans service organizations came to adopt the poppy as a fundraiser to help support our veterans and their families. There was plenty of visiting and laughs as we met old and new friends, and yes, we did assemble a lot of poppies! Thank you Ginny, Amber, and Forman Auxiliary members for your participation. You made us feel welcome and we enjoyed the time spent with all of you.

I wish each of you good health, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Bismarck in June. Keep our veterans, active military, and their families in your prayers. Take care of yourself and others.

God Bless America.

Marcy Schmidt