



Hello Dear Ones,

Winter is upon us! I am so happy with the cold weather and the snow, though we have not had much yet! Many people tell me that I am the ONLY one in North Dakota who is excited and happy with our cold and snowy weather, and I hope that isn't so, but if it is, so be it. I am blessed by it, and grateful for it! I hope you are too.

I am sure that you all had wonderful Veterans Day activities, services, celebrations, dinners, and the countless things you wonderfully creative leaders planned for the Veterans in your community. I was privileged to attend the Community Veterans Event in Scranton. They prepared turkey, dressing, and gravy sandwiches, and many bars and all the trimmings. It was wonderful!!! Great job, Terry and all the Scranton ladies! And then I was privileged to attend the Turkey Shoot Veterans and Community Event in Elgin with turkey and all the trimmings, plus games for all! It was so much fun! Great job, Holly, and all the Elgin ladies, and the Legion workers as well!

I trust you are working hard to get all your members renewed, ALL of them! We need every single member we can get renewed, and every new one we can sign up! We need them to help us get our Veterans bills passed through Congress, and we need them for all the wonderful things we do for our Veterans here at home! Every single member is massively important! If you have signed up everyone you did last year, keep on working until you get every single person on your list renewed. And if you lost some who dropped off last year or the year before, please go after them. Let them know how much you miss their friendship, their contribution to your Unit, and let them know how valuable they are, and how very much they mean to our Veterans we are supporting. Remind them of the Veterans they personally represent! Never let those Veterans go unremembered and unrepresented!

Please consider signing up for ALA MIS if you have not done so already! It is the most amazing time-saving tool you could possibly have. There are many reports you can access, such as Paid Members, Unpaid Members, Membership Roster, People who dropped off last year, People who dropped off the year before, and I heard there will be a list of members you have had for a number of years. What a field white for harvest. Many will sign back up if you just ask. So, ASK, ASK, ASK. But, the biggest benefit to ALA MIS is the ability to renew your members as soon as they pay you their dues. When you have Full Access, \$20 per year, you can receive the member's dues, and immediately renew them on ALA MIS, and there is no waiting for dues to get to National! It is done!

Remember to NEVER, EVER, EVER hold members dues! Our members believe they are renewed as soon as they give us their check! If they have insurance that is dependent on their being current members, and we are holding the checks, if they should need the insurance...uh oh. Bad news! So NEVER HOLD DUES!

Winter Conference is coming up on January 24 to 26 at the Grand Oasis Hotel in Minot. PLEASE COME!!! Please bring as many of your members as you can!!! Our National President, Trish Ward, will be here to inspire us, to encourage us, to revitalize and invigorate our Units!!! She asked me to ask you to bring as many of your members as possible so she can help us get our Units off and running!!! The more excited and exciting we and our members are, the more people we can attract to our Units. People love to be part of a really fun and exciting program! Trish will help us achieve that! Besides, you will love her! She is so much fun! **THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED**

Keep up the great work as we all work together to keep our Veterans and their families in the forefront of the minds of our communities! We must never let them forget the sacrifices that were made for our freedom. So many gave so very much! And sadly, so many paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is our awesome responsibility to love them, remember them, honor them, and NEVER, EVER, EVER LET THEM BE FORGOTTEN!!!

I love you all, and hope to see you at Winter Conference! PLEASE COME!!! CARPOOL, and if you need a driver, ask a Legionnaire to drive for you. But, PLEASE COME!!! Yours for our Veterans,

LoAnn Dick, Department President (2024-2025)