

Dear Auxiliary Members,

I am excited to talk to you about what is going on in the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary! We have held all our Fall District Meetings, and it was such a joy to get to meet so many of you! You are all looking so well, and it was fun watching you getting to interact with each other, and sharing things going on in your different Units. That is such a wonderful place to get new ideas, solutions to things you are facing, and getting to meet new people, and make new friends, plus getting to see friends you haven't seen for a while. These are very special times!

Winter Conference is hot on our heels! It is coming on January 24 – 26 in Minot at the Grand Oasis Hotel. Our National President, Trish Ward, will be with us to share her vision, ideas, and solutions for our Units. It is her greatest desire to help us to revitalize our Units, our Districts, and our Department. She is from Kansas, and has seen in Kansas many of the same issues with which we are dealing in North Dakota. Things like small rural towns with few people to recruit, Units which were told to close down due to Covid, and now are struggling to get restarted, members who were once very involved, but now don't seem to want to come out to meetings or help with activities, and on and on. She believes these are issues that are common to much of the country, but she wants to reinvigorate us, inspire us, and set us on a joyful upward path that will help us support, inspire, and be of service to our precious, dearly loved Veterans. So, PLEASE COME TO WINTER CONFERENCE!!!! Bring as many of your members as you can possibly pack in your cars!!!! If you need someone to drive you, perhaps one of the Legionnaires will be willing to drive for you!!! Just ask them!!!! PLEASE COME!!

MEMBERSHIP is one of our MOST IMPORTANT issues! We love our members and don't want to lose a single one of them! Often we forget to get the dues paid, so a kind reminder often helps. Maybe have a membership table set up at your meeting so it is a very visual reminder! Ask them if they have renewed. Send a reminder card. Have a Membership party where you share fun, goodies, and collect Membership dues! Make it fun to renew your membership! As of the 30th of October, the Department of North Dakota is at 43.08% Membership renewal. In the Northwestern Region of 7 states: Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado,, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming we are in 6th place between South Dakota and Wyoming. Wouldn't you love to see us much further up in the list? So would I!!! Membership in North Dakota looks like this: Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 are all above 51.05%, while Districts 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are all in the 30th percentile. Come on Western North Dakota and Fargo area, LET'S CATCH UP, and maybe could you pass the Bismarck area and Eastern North Dakota in Membership? Let's try!!! Let's make it a fun competition!!!!

I'm not sure if I have really told you what my President's Project is. My Project is TROOPATHON. It was called Move America Forward, but a few months ago they changed the name to TROOPATHON to make the purpose more clear. TROOPATHON is a company that sends Care Packages to our deployed troops all through the year. The packages used to go out on holidays and Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but now they go out year round. Our deployed military are out in far places in very hard conditions, and often feel alone, forgotten. The Care Packages are loaded with personal care items, treats, nuts, books, puzzles, whatever they can send to make a soldier, airman, sailor, corpsman, guardsman feel loved and remembered. My goal is for us to be able to send out as many packages to as many of our deployed military men and women as we possibly can. My pin is an eagle, and my theme is Our Veterans, Our Heroes,

Our Freedom. Whatever money comes in from the sale of my pins and for my President's Project will go to send packages to our troops. I thank all of you who have bought my pin and hope that beautiful little eagle will bring you joy as you wear it!

I love you ALL, and can't wait to see you at Winter Conference!

For our beloved Veterans and our precious deployed,

LoAnn Dick