

Hello North Dakota Auxiliary Members,

How glad I am to get to talk to you today! I SOOO missed getting to be with you, to see you, to talk to you at Winter Conference!!!! What a weird eventuality to have to cancel our meeting due to plumbing and heating at the hotel. But, God is in control. He will help us to recover our time together in other ways.

So, what is coming up that we need to work on? NUMBER ONE: MEMBERSHIP!!!! We NEED to get our Membership dues all paid!!! Membership is our lifeblood!!!! Without members, our Units, our Districts, our Department die. Our goals this year were not set as high as other years. Because of that, some of the Units have hit, or gotten close to, their goals, and then stopped there. PLEASE KEEP ON WORKING!!! Go after those members that you haven't gotten renewed yet! Go after the hard ones to access, or hard ones to get to renew! WE NEED THEM ALL!!!! Their eligibility Veteran still wants to know that they are part of the ALA. And if they have passed on, the remembrance of their service is still TOTALLY VALUABLE to the Veteran's family, to the Unit, to the Department, to National, AND TO AMERICA!!!! WE MUST NOT FORGET THEM, OR LET THEIR SERVICE BE FORGOTTEN!!!!

Every Department is striving to achieve the Auxiliary Medallion Award, the foremost part of which is the achievement of 85% Achieved Membership by March 15. We are 272 members short of our goal. We are at 76.79%. We are just over 9% short of our goal. But, if every Unit, and every member of our Auxiliary work together and get every member of your Unit to get their dues paid, we could achieve an award that North Dakota has never achieved before. Let's all work hard to make that happen. I know when we put our minds and hearts together, WE CAN DO ANYTHING!!! Let's show the entire country what North Dakota ALA members are made of. We are strong, capable people who can attempt and achieve great things!!!! I KNOW WE CAN!!!! This is not a competition. It is for each Department to receive the honor of having achieved a massive honor, and being recognized nationally for it.

Our Education Chairman, Peggy Moran has sent out all the information on scholarships that are coming up in the next few days. Some of them are:

The JUNIOR LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP has been changed to the MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP. This scholarship is for members who were Junior members and have maintained their membership over the years. It is for seniors in high school who are going to college. This one is time sensitive, as the application has to be to the Unit by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Unit has to get it to National by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The CHILDREN OF WARRIORS SCHOLARSHIP for anyone who is the descendant of a Veteran.

The CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION has been changed to the CHILD WELLBEING FOUNDATION by the American Legion because they believe the name is more suited to what they actually do for children.

April is CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH when we work to honor and bless the children and youth in our Units and communities. April 15<sup>th</sup> is Purple Up Day to honor the children of our military families. So, wear purple that day as a remembrance and honor, and do creative activities with the children around you.

I talked with our Northwest Division Chairman, Deb Albers, and she told me that in Nebraska they do March Birthday Parties to honor the Veterans in the Legion because March is the Legion Birthday month. They have parties involving the Legion and Auxiliary where they just have a fun time of food and fellowship to celebrate. And some of the older and maybe smaller Units have Soup Dinner for the Veterans where the Unit members prepare soup, crackers, and cookies which they deliver to the homes of the veterans, visit with them for a while,

then go back to the Unit and have soup and fellowship together before finishing the night. WHAT A GREAT SET OF IDEAS!!!!!! Perhaps this is something we could do in our Units in North Dakota!!! Great for our Veterans! And a great way for us to bless our Veterans.

Remember that it is always time to be remembering and recording the time and activities we do to honor our Veterans, our Youth, and our Communities. It is SO VERY IMPORTANT!!!! It is the time, donations, and activities that we do that cause Congress to listen to us when we ask them to do something for our Veterans. So, please don't devalue your service, your efforts, your hours, and your donations!!!! They are VALUABLE AND CRUCIAL!!!!

Remember to pay the Secretary of State the \$10 to keep your Non-Profit status up to date! It is VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Well, my dear ones, I will see you at the Spring District Meetings that the Legion and the Auxiliary will be holding in the months of March and April! Please be sure to attend the one in your District!!!! Then I will get to see you there!

I love you all,

LoAnn Dick