



May 2025

Hello my fellow Auxiliary members,

It is amazing how quickly our flowers and trees are beginning to grow up and blossom out! So early, too! It is wonderful, and I hope we don't have a freeze to destroy all the beauty that is already preparing to show itself!!! But, whatever God gives us, I know we will enjoy!!

We are in May, and our Auxiliary year is nearly over. Incredible, isn't it? The Membership goal for North Dakota is 7,300 paid members. We have, as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6,308. We are striving toward our goal for this month of 95%. We are at 86.41%. Which means that we are 627 paid members short of 95%. Many of our Units are at, or very close to 100% paid membership. I am so proud of you!! Thank you for working so hard to get all your members dues paid!!!

Would you please go over and beyond your amazing efforts and look at last year's membership rolls and see if there are members who DIDN'T GET THEIR DUES PAID last year, and haven't this year either. If there are members who you find who didn't sign back up, would you please get your Unit to contact them and let them know how much you miss them and want them to be part of your Unit again!!!!

I talked to one of the National Legion Past Commanders from Minnesota who told me that a study had been done a number of years ago regarding Membership, and why members didn't renew. He said the result of that very costly study was..."Nobody welcomed me. I never felt like I belonged, or that they cared if I was a member. They wanted my dues, but didn't care about me." Please let that never be true of any Unit in North Dakota. So, please, go out and find them, and bring them in!!!! Because you love them, and miss them, and WANT THEM BACK!!!! Let's LOVE all our members back into our fellowship and back into our Units!!!!

Thank you to everyone who takes up my challenge to bring our members back!!! I AM GRATEFUL!!! Ellendale is at 162.86%, Hunter is at 140%, New Town is at 134.04%, Forest River is at 129.63%, and New Rockford is at 123.08%. Let's see how many of our Units can totally blow our %age completely out of the water, and fly WAY PAST our 100%. I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!!! I BELIEVE IN YOU!!!!

How wonderful it would be to be able to talk to our National President when she is here in Grand Forks for Girls State and present her with a North Dakota membership count that meets and exceeds the 95% goal! She changed the Membership Goals for us all so they would be more achievable. Now let's show her that we can and did live up to her challenge to us!!!

And in regards to Trish Ward, our National President. Please place your value on her where it should be. Trish is the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for the entire country! She is our NUMBER ONE, OUR TOP LEADER!!!! She has visited every state in the Union, and all the other countries where we have the ALA!!! The one and only state she is missing is North Dakota. She finally was able to free up 3 days in June to attend Girls State in North Dakota, completing her goal to visit every single state. Having Winter Conference cancelled and robbed us of the BLESSING, and the JOY of getting to sit and learn from her, laugh with her, and be inspired by her. However, we are HOPING to get to enjoy her on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Girls State.

The Girls State Director has worked on setting up our ability to eat with the Girls Staters, then meet in one of

the dining halls on the University of North Dakota campus to visit with Trish so that we can be taught by her, and blessed by her. This is the information I have received from the Girls State Committee for the planned dinner meeting with Trish Ward, National President and as many of our North Dakota auxiliary members who can make it to the event.

### **Dinner with Trish Ward, National President**

- **Tuesday, June 10, 2025**
- **5:00 PM**
- **Wilkerson Hall - Wilkerson Commons Service Center - University of North Dakota Campus**
- **3450 University Avenue, Grand Forks**
- **Parking is available at the Chester Fritz Auditorium across the street from Wilkerson Hall.**
- **Please contact me at (714) 334-4798 no later than June 7, 2025, so I can let the Girls State Committee/Staff know how many auxiliary members to expect.**

WHAT A BLESSING IT WILL BE FOR EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US!!!! So, please gather as many of you as you possibly can to come to this AWESOME opportunity! It will bless you, and it will bless your Unit!! I am looking forward to hearing from many of you and seeing you in Grand Forks on June 10!!

Remember that the Department Convention will be held June 27-29, 2025 in Fargo, at the Ramada by Wyndham, 3333 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Plan to attend and bring as many members as you can and join your fellow ALA members!!! WE WANT AND NEED YOU THERE!!!

Yours for our precious Veterans,

*Loann Dick*, Department President (2024-2025)