

By the time you receive this, National Convention in Tampa will be over and we head straight into Labor Day weekend. Fall is not my favorite season, but I know that many people love it. I consider it a race against time to get everything cleaned up, cleared out, and buttoned up for the winter months and snow ahead.

Fall means that most units will resume their monthly meetings. Your unit should receive the green required contribution and Poppy Order forms in early September. We ask that those be returned to the Department Office no later than November 1st. Contributions received on time are sent to their respective programs in December. Contributions that are received at a later date are not forwarded to the designated program until June. I urge you to complete the form at your October meetings and get it sent in so that these programs can receive their funding before the beginning of 2026.

I have been working diligently with our units regarding tax-exempt status with the IRS, as well as registering as a non-profit operating in the State of North Dakota. These are completely independent requirements. It is quite simple and straightforward to register with the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. I have done this many times, and am only a text, phone call, or email away to assist your unit. The IRS is a trickier matter. If you have lost your tax-exempt status, you will need to reapply to regain it, and it is a \$600 fee. Otherwise, your unit is required to file an annual tax return, even if you have no income. Please contact a local CPA to help you navigate this requirement. Several units have been successful in regaining their tax-exempt status. Make sure to keep this status by filing your 990-N every year! If you are unsure of whether or not your unit is compliant, check with me and I will look it up for you.

In this season of generosity, I want to thank each one of you for the great things you do for our veterans in North Dakota. Many of you work hard on projects within your units and Districts across the state. Our veterans surely appreciate it.

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