

As of this writing, I do not know if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow or not, but I really do not mind winter. In addition to my duties as your Department Treasurer, I am the Finance Manager for Grafton Drug, and I have my own small bookkeeping and tax practice. So, I really do not have much of a need to be outside and can just admire the pretty snowy landscape from my home office window.

We had a wonderful Winter Conference in Mandan! It is always so fun to see old friends again, plus make new ones. We had a workshop on how to make poppies, and I could not believe how many members were eager to learn and how fast they were at assembling them. If you have never attended a Winter Conference or Department Convention, plan to come and get a first-hand look at what your Department and Units are accomplishing across our great state.

Many of our Units have completed their registration with the North Dakota Secretary of State. If you were new to registration in 2025, your Registered Agent should have received a letter reminding you to file your annual report. The deadline was February 2nd of this year, since the first was on a Sunday. If you missed the deadline, it is not too late to file. You will just pay a fee of \$15 instead of \$10.

I have also had several Units working on regaining their tax-exempt status with the IRS. It looks daunting at first, but as you go through the form, whole sections are skipped that do not pertain to a 501(c)(19) organization. Local CPA's are available to help you file, or you can go to pay.gov and submit the form yourself. Remember, if you are not tax-exempt, you need to be filing an income tax return for your Unit every year, whether or not you have taxable income.

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

Susan Degner, CPA