

January 27, 2019

Hello Ladies of District One!

For starters, I want to say **THANK YOU for the purse donations** for our project. I don't have a number for District one, but it's safe to say hundreds of purses were delivered on behalf of our district, and were all so appreciated! Sandy Gessler of Norfolk, "Ms. Senior Nebraska" and a contestant in the Ms. Senior America pageant, herself a former homeless veteran, just cried and cried when she saw the hallway loaded with purses. "What I wouldn't have given for one of these!" she said. Well done, ladies. I have included a press release for you to provide for your local radio or paper, that you can modify with your own information, to share the news. For the paper, add photos of your members with the purses or presenting them to a local organization. Be sure to include this in your report on publicity.

**Speaking of reports:** we learned at Midyear Conference in Norfolk that for every purse you filled you can report \$25 each and 3 hours of volunteer hours. This information is to be sent to Diana Langer, Community Service Chair, PO Box 282 Osceola NE 68651 or [lajidi@yahoo.com](mailto:lajidi@yahoo.com). Nebraska is sure to win a major national award for this project and you all need to be proud!

**IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE PLEASE READ THIS ASAP!!!** I just learned that our Veterans in Hot Springs will be having a Valentine's party on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup>**. We promised Karol Lochman, our VA rep, that we would have Valentine cookies for her party. Sadly I have to work that day, so I am pleading with any District One ladies to see if you could go. At the very least, if you could get some cookies gathered and delivered before then, it would be ever so helpful. If I cannot come up with a ride for the cookies, I will deliver what I can gather early. Karol said they are using prior donations to provide meat/cheese trays and drinks, so cookies are all they need. (Coffee, too, if you have extra). Please get the word out and let me know ASAP. Many ladies appeared to be busy during the District One Tour so we were 200 dozen short, so this is a chance to make up that count. Be sure to keep communicating with each other so we can be sure to make their day with fresh Valentine's Day cookies. I'm making my tried and true heart shaped frosted sugar cookies, but be creative! Cookies with maraschino cherries, pink divinity, anything that suits your fancy and can travel. Remember gallon sized Ziploc freezer bags work best. I will also be delivering purses too small for our project along with a few other items from my unit.

**Girls State** is rapidly approaching. By now you should have received the envelope for your unit. Please get in touch with your school ASAP to see if you can go in and visit with the Junior class girls, usually for a Social Studies or History class, to encourage them to try out. Try to include last years' Girls Stater to come tell them how it works, and a press release to your radio or paper prior would help get the word to parents to help encourage them. The main reasons a unit doesn't send a girls stater includes 1) *No one was interested* (did you do a good job of informing the school? Have a former girls stater talk to them? Talk to another unit and sponsor a girl who is interested.) 2) *We don't have the money* (there are businesses and other civic groups willing to help). 3) *Our members are older and not very active*. (It only takes one dedicated member to

organize the day.) Last year, our little unit didn't have any boys for Boys State so the Legion sponsored another girl. There is always a way.

Oh, and you may have had the **District One Girls State Orientation** date April 21. That is Easter! Oops. The orientation date is now Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. I will be sending a letter to your chosen girl(s) after they are selected with this information.

**District One Convention is March 29-30** at the Post Home on main street Valentine. The ladies will walk over to Our Savior Lutheran Church, just a few doors down, for our meeting after the joint session. I am enclosing the information, including where to send your list of deceased members, publicity books and prayer books before the convention. If you need more information r/t these, check your ABC book. I have to almost daily. Please consider coming to this convention! We'll have a lot of laughter, learning and fellowship.

**The District One Convention Auction** is an annual fund-raiser for the district. It can be a lot of fun and quite fruitful with the right amount of items. This year, to save auction time, **I am requesting each unit to donate a theme basket for the auction.** It could advertise your community – for instance, we have a winery in our unit and a wonderful vinegar making company, so we may look into these items for a basket, maybe with cheese, crackers and a candle. Start now and you won't have to 'make do' for auction items. (Like I've had to do so many times...☹). A theme basket would reduce the number of small-ticket items that can plug up an auction.

In the past, our district would request **poppy corsages** for the convention. Our Department President Beverly decided for Midyear to save time and money that each person just wore a corsage of their own from past meetings. This makes sense to me. You are certainly welcome to bring corsages if you enjoy making them and/or have extra, but this is one of those traditions that kind of fade away in the interest of focusing on our Veterans. Let me know if you have thoughts on this. Please try and make a poppy centerpiece for convention. Your ABC book has the rules.

**Membership** – Dues are slowing. I am just as guilty. I waited until January to post a note in my private family Facebook page to make sure my sisters get their dues in! When you think of the Auxiliary, try to put membership at the top of your agenda. Numbers count.

**ALA 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** is next year. Be thinking about ways to promote this event as you will never see it again. Parade floats, Junior fashion shows depicting the dress of each war period, a kids' reenactment of the North Platte Canteen are all good ideas that were presented at MidYear.

**Speaking of MidYear .....** **THANK YOU** to the brave souls who tackled Hwy 20 ice to make it to the meetings. Eva and I snuck down after I got off work Thursday night. We had an icy fog but the roads seemed clear, so we thought we'd got lucky. When we stopped in Neligh for coffee, I almost didn't get my door open for the ice! For those who came, I hope you learned a lot and made some new friends. It took me several years of attendance before I couldn't wait to return to see my friends. We are a bunch of like-minded volunteers who share a lot of laughs, a few tears and a great deal of education; truly an organization that matters. Please consider getting involved. *Hope to see you March 29-30 in Valentine!!!*

