

## From our President

*Romans 12:11-13 New International Version (NIV). 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

One year ago, we had expectations of keeping the curve low. Then the expectations moved to getting rid of the virus. And today, we deal with unmet expectations. We deal with disappointments, anger, and frustration. Disappointments because we just cannot do what we are used to doing. Anger when we must do what we never used to do. And frustration when we cannot accomplish what we wish to accomplish.

Dealing with unmet expectations may keep us from moving ahead with "*sharing with the Lord's people who are in need.*" We have to learn to manage our expectations. We must learn to cope with our situations. We may have to scale down what we have done in the past. Do the same things but in a different form? Time to be thoughtful of everyone around us.

Everything that happens is not within our control. So, we learn to accept that fact. If we used to expect 400 people for our soup supper, we may need to lower that expectation. We may need to take orders ahead of time and find a way to take the soup to the people.

In other words, learn to know what we can control. Expect that situations will arise. It is not that situations happen, because they will, it is how we react to the situations that is most important. That we can control! We control the words and the tone of the words that come from our mouths. We control the actions we take when problems happen. Our interaction with others either make the situation worse or better; it all depends on us and our actions.

Expect mistakes when you do things differently. We need to learn from those mistakes. There may be opportunities in those mistakes. Look at the event and find where those mistakes might be handled better and in different ways. Just because it was not a success the first time does not matter. It may work better at a different time of year.

The longer we do not do the job of our organization, the harder it is to start again. Movement in any form becomes easier as we start moving. Movement must be safe, and it is time to look for ways to safely help. We will have setbacks, so find ways to go over or around the roadblocks and continue to help --- help in new ways. Look for new opportunities. Those opportunities are out there, we just have to find the opportunities so we may "Look to the Future."

**Elizabeth Paes**  
**Department President**  
**Mid-Year Highlights**  
**January 15-January 17, 2021**  
**Rivers Edge Conference Center, Columbus, NE**



The Department Executive Committee (DEC) met Friday, January 15, 2021 to conduct the business of the Department. The DEC approved the appointment of the Department Secretary/Treasurer and the Finance Chairman to The American Legion Standing Building Committee to possibly relocate the Department Office. The Finance committee moved to approve investing up to \$250,000 with Harvest Planning Group of Morgan Stanley, and the motion was adopted by the DEC. The Cornhusker Girls State Budget of \$165,437.62 was approved with a delegate fee of \$400. Girls State will be virtual for the 2021 session.



Candidates announced for 2021/2022 were: Department President-Barbara Meyer, Vice-President-Vicki Ozenbaugh, Historian-Angie Foster, Chaplain-Pat Wiseman, National Executive Committeewoman-Kathy Mazur. L to r : Kathy Mazur, Barbara Meyer, Vicki Ozenbaugh, Angie Foster and Pat Wiseman).



The "Intimates Party"/ Pajama Party resulted in over 100 bags to be presented to either the VA Omaha Medical Center Women's Clinic or the Center for Survivors in Columbus, NE.



The Saturday Auxiliary session began with the Procession of 2019/2020 Centennial 100% Units. The Procession of Units was led by the 100% District 13 President, Amanda Washburn.



Special Guest was National American Legion Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp. President Nicole addressed the Auxiliary during the Saturday, January 16, 2021 Auxiliary session. The President told of her experiences since her installation in 2019. She spoke of the need to join in activities aimed toward the returning Military members.



Following the Guest Speaker, Abbi Tessendorf of the Center for Survivors in Columbus, Chairmen set up tables to answer questions of members in attendance.



The day ended with Patriotic music by the members present at the Conference led by Music Chairman, Louise Wheeler. (Pictured l to r: National President Nicole Clapp, PDP Bonnie Dumler, PDP Debra Albers and PDP Beverly Neel) Sunday began with the Worship Service led by Dr. William Jackson, Legion Chaplain. Reports by Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Legion and Auxiliary Chairmen and Children and Youth Chairmen followed the Service. The Conference ended with the Raffle prizes being drawn. The big winner? Pat Wiseman, American Legion Auxiliary member. The Conference was filled with surprises, fun, and fellowship.

### **PURPLE UP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

April is Children and Youth Month, as well as the Month of the Military Child. Since April is right around the corner, now is the time to be planning something special for the children and youth in your community. It has been a real challenge this year for all of us to do our normal activities with the pandemic taking place.

This year we need to get creative and do things a little differently, but keep in mind that it has not been easy for our children and youth, either. Let's show them that we are proud of them and do something special for them.

Since April is also the Month of the Military Child, there is one day set aside to add extra emphasis on this day. It is called Purple Up For Military Children. April 15, 2021 is the day that the American Legion Auxiliary has set aside for communities to wear purple to show their support and thank Military Children for their bravery and the sacrifices they make on the home front. This is some great information to share with your local schools and businesses.

Thank you for all you do for the Children and Youth Program.

Marge Suchy  
Children and Youth Chairman

## Membership – Vision 2021

“I think there is something more important than believing: Action! The world is full of dreamers; there aren’t enough who will move ahead and begin to take concrete steps to actualize their vision.” --- W. Clement Stone

District Three is doing a fantastic job in showing us all how to take the steps to move ahead and Actualize our Vision. Currently, they lead the districts in membership at 91.85%. Nebraska has slipped to third in the nation in membership, but we are currently at 85.12% and have 41 units at 100%. Our next membership goal is to have our Department at 95% by Armed Forces Day (May 18<sup>th</sup>). Then, we will get another \$250 award to share from National.

By achieving the December 7 goal of 75%, we were able to share the \$250 award we received from National by paying for each district to have access to ALAMIS for the 2022 membership year. All of the units that obtained 75% by December 7, 2020 and helped us obtain the award were placed in a drawing held at the Mid-Year Conference. We were able to award \$25 to six of those units. Our hope is that they use the award to help meet their membership goals.

Have you made your plans for the Week of “Caring and Sharing,” April 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021? You can find the award form, sample scripts, and “2021 Week of Caring & Sharing How To” on the Web at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/> You just log on as a member, and you will find “Forms” in the top tool bar. Once you drop it down, you can find the “Application Forms-Awards-Membership”.

Stay warm!

“Work without vision is drudgery. Vision without work is dreaming. Work coupled with vision is destiny.” – Thomas S. Monson

*Kimberly Gurley*  
*Department Membership Chairman*

P.S. Don’t forget to carry your membership applications with you everywhere. You never know when you are going to need them. A couple of weeks ago, I went out with my daughters for our oldest’s birthday; and, while in Omaha, I handed out two membership applications. I could have used two more, as there were 4 veterans there.

Department Junior Meeting

Theme: "Art for the Heart...Consoling our Veterans"

Dorchester Legion Hall

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Registration 9:00 am

\$6 registration includes continental breakfast and noon meal.

District 11 Junior Meeting begins at 9:30 am

Lunch at noon

Department Junior Meeting begins at 12:45

**Due to COVID planning, your RSVP is especially important!**

Please call or text as soon as possible.

Karen Wiles (402) 484-6213

Because of 2020 cancellations, we are combining the District 11 and Department Junior meetings. Even if you are not part of Dist. 11, please join us for the morning session, too. Please bring your Junior members whether active or not for a fun and educational day!

We will diligently prepare for your visit, but don't forget to  
come prepared with your mask.

We'll have great raffle prizes, too. Help Allison finish strong with her project!



### **District 7 President**

Hello. My name is Janie Nelson, and I am District 7 President. I live near Valparaiso, Nebraska and have been a member of the Valparaiso Auxiliary Unit 371 since 1978. I have served as Unit President 3 years.

I am eligible to be a member through my husband, Clyde Nelson, who served in the Army during the Vietnam era. He was stationed in Berlin, Germany during the Berlin crisis while the wall was being built between East and West Germany.

We have been married for 57 years and have 5 grown children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson. My 2 daughters, 1 daughter-in-law, and my 2 granddaughters are all members of Unit 371 in Valparaiso.

District 7 does not have a Vice President at this time, so I am trying to work on membership, also. I have met many unit presidents and am planning to attend as many unit meetings as possible. Our units are slowly working back to having meetings due to the epidemic.

My hobbies are sewing and making and quilting quilts. I have made and donated many quilts for the Quilts of Valor and also to the Children and Youth program for raffle projects.

It is an honor to serve and honor the Veterans, and I am hoping someone will volunteer to be Vice President for this coming year.



### **District 5 President Spotlight**

My name is Terrie Haworth, and I am serving as District 5 President. I have been an American Legion Auxiliary member for 37 years. I have also been Sutherland Unit #208 President for several years now.

I am eligible to be a member through my father, Walter Jochum. He served in the Navy for 20 years during the WWII and Korean War era. My siblings and I were always raised to have the utmost respect for all veterans. My father and mother both served as Post #208 Commander and Unit #208 President for many years. As children, we spent a lot of time at the Sutherland Legion Hall helping dad set up tables, clean, serve, etc. We were, and still are, very proud of our father and his military service. My oldest brother served in the Air Force during Vietnam. All 5 of my dad's brothers were in the military, plus several of his cousins.

Our District 5 project is "Honor Our Veterans." For this project, we are collecting items for the Western Nebraska Veterans Home in Scottsbluff. We are collecting word search books, adult coloring books, colored pencils, puzzles, books to read, and small toiletries. These items will be delivered in April for the veterans to enjoy.

I have lived in Sutherland most of my life. We did travel with my dad when we were able to during his 20 years of service; several times traveling overseas. My husband, Sam, and I live in Sutherland. We have two married sons and four grandsons, all close by. We are kept busy and enjoy our time with our family.