 DISTRICT 11 Newsletter

June 3, 2023

Vicky Thompson, President

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Theme: Remember, Honor & Respect our Veterans

Symbol: Flag

**JUNE –** is the start of summer although the heat has been with us for a while. May was a busy month with graduations – kindergarten, high school, college! I trust that each unit had a successful Poppy Day in May. Don’t forget that half of the proceeds are to be forwarded on to Department. Many units held Memorial Day Programs. All of the cemeteries that I visited had their Avenue of Flags on display and the cemeteries were decorated with many beautiful flowers. June is also my “last” District 11 newsletter. At the Department Convention in Kearney, your new District 11 President will be installed. Cindy is well prepared and will do a great job.

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION -** The Department Convention is only three weeks away. President Vicki is hoping that every unit can send at least one delegate. If you missed it in the Department newsletter, she is asking that each unit provide a door prize. Also, in case you missed this in the April newsletter, the 2024 membership cards will be at convention. Any member of your unit may pick up your unit’s cards. If you are planning to pick up another unit’s cards, you will need a signed permission slip. This form was included in the April newsletter. (If you need this form, I will be more than happy to send it to you). The option is still available to have your membership cards mailed to you or you can pick them up at the new office in Lincoln. The cost to mail the cards is $10.00. Several “fun” activities are planned for convention. Be sure to peruse the June Department newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP – Is still a priority.** District 11 is still holding strong in 2nd place. Department goal is 17,091. Currently, we are at 15,080 which is 88.23%.

**DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS –** Effective immediately, the mailing address for headquarters will no longer be the P.O. Box number. The address to use is 150 Northwest 40th Street, Unit B, Lincoln, NE 68528. The phone numbers for the Auxiliary will stay the same.

**UNIT OFFICER ELECTIONS –** Most units elect officers in the month of May. Be sure to submit the Unit Leadership form that was included in the January Department newsletter. If you need a copy of this form, let me know and I can send it to you. You can also find it on the website under the “Forms” tab.

**BE THE ONE DAYS –** The American Legion passed a resolution that starting June 1, 2023, and every first day of each month thereafter, American Legion Family members are encouraged to wear a “Be The One” item in support of our commitment. The commitment is to raise awareness of mental health issues among the military community. (Research indicates that between 17 and 22 veterans take their own life each day).

**UNIT IMPACT REPORTS –** Out of 35 units in our District, I received 17 reports. This information has been submitted to Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh.

**FORMER DISTRICT 11 VICE PRESIDENT – SUE GOODSON –** passed away on May 3, 2023. There will be a visitation from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the First Plymouth Congregational Church on 20th & D Streets in Lincoln on June 26th and a service at 1:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Presbyterian Church on June 27th in Alexandria.

**FLAG INFO – THE MYSTERY OF THE U.S. FLAG –** As important as the flag of the United States is to the nation, it’s amazing that no one really knows who designed it. The long-time legend about Betsy Ross is disputed by many historians. According to the legend, George Washington and two Congressmen called on Ross in May, 1776. She was a widowed upholsterer in Philadelphia, and so the story goes, she agreed to design and sew the first flag. But the story is in doubt for two reasons.

There is no verification, written record or proof that the meeting with Washington and the Congressmen actually happened, and the story was promoted years later by Ross’ grandson who claimed his grandmother told him how she made the first official U.S. flag. There is a famous painting by Charles Weisgerber showing Betsy Ross sewing a flag. The painting was made in the late 1800’s and may have been based on Ross’ grandson’s account.

But, there is more evidence that a man named Francis Hopkinson really designed the first flag. He was a Philadelphia judge who was also an artist and did design a naval flag. He went so far as to send a bill to the Continental Congress for his services for making the first U.S. flag. He asked for a “quarter cask of wine” as compensation. There’s no record that the Continental Congress gave him the wine, but they did name him as the designer of the flag in their official journals, although they noted that others were consulted on the design. So the mystery of the origin of the U.S. flag continues.

**WORDS OF WISDOM –** Be faithful to that which exists within yourself.

**DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Girls State | June 4 – 11, 2023 | Lincoln |  |
| Father’s Day | June 18, 2023 |  |  |
| Department Convention | June 22 – 25, 2023 | Kearney | Younes Conference Center South |
| National Convention | August 25 – Sept 1, 2023 | Charlotte, NC |  |

**DAYS IN JUNE TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG**

June 14, 2023 - Flag Day

June 18, 2023 - Father’s Day

District Secretary-Treasurer District Parliamentarian

Loree Hendrickson Cindy Lugan

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