



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of North Carolina



PRESIDENT

President: Julie Smith

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Message from President Julie Smith



It is hard to believe that it has been almost 2 years since I wrote my first newsletter to you as your Department President. I started that year by telling you that it was going to be a great and exciting year as we celebrated our 100th Anniversary and boy did we celebrate. I enjoyed all my visits to your units to help honor our century of service. I am thankful for your personal support and encouragement. I am humbled and proud of your support and dedication to our veterans and their needs. Last year you raised over \$23,000 for the PTSD units at the 4 VAMCs in NC. This year even during the Pandemic we have raised over \$5,000. It is a great blessing to see my Auxiliary family embody our motto of “service over self.” When we celebrate Jill’s installation as President, I will be able to look back and remember how proud I am that my Auxiliary family successfully worked our mission.

When COVID-19 changed our world, I did not know what to expect. We have lost many dear Legion Family members and my heart aches. I lost close friends from my Post, and I have mourned the loss of Auxiliary family and Legionaries from around the state. Through our loss and tough times, the ALA found ways to continue working our mission, “Service over Self.” You continued to serve our veterans, active military members, and their families, as well as our children and youth, and our communities. Covid didn’t stop us from celebrating or holding meetings as we all learned a wonderful new piece of technology called Zoom. If 2019-2020 was about celebrating, 2020-2021 was about finding empowerment. I am so proud of you as individuals and units; your accomplishments are great.

Many of you have spent time this year reading, studying, and taking ALA Academy course to learn about our organization. You have found that information and knowledge is power. You have found your voice and the power of the vote. I pray that our current and future leaders help you speak up when you believe things are not right. I also hope we continue to be open, transparent, and informative. Learning about our organization and how it operates is the best way to keep us alive. My theme is “Celebrating Our Past, Serving Today, Inspiring Our Future.” I believe we have accomplished this. You are inspiring a new group of ALA members who will lead us into the future. We cannot survive with just new membership; we need active participants to continue succeeding. I pray that we continue with humble hearts and that we all work to empower our new and young members.

I have enjoyed my years in the ALA working a mission that is greater than myself. I have made many wonderful friends throughout the state and nation. I believe this is a wonderful organization with many wonderful volunteers. I am honored to have worked alongside you. I hope we can remain lifelong friends.

For God and Country,
ALA Proud and Strong,

Julie