



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Department of North Carolina



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It does not seem possible that it is almost October. I am so disappointed that we are not able to have a Fall Conference. I miss seeing everyone. Zoom is not the same as being able to spend time with you in person. I wish we could all relax with coffee on the Hilton's couches. However, I am thankful for Zoom; it has allowed us to conduct our District Meetings. I enjoy hearing how you and your units are continuing to work our mission. I am very proud that we did not allow COVID 19 to stop us from working our mission. You have found creative ways to serve during the last 6 months. We have distributed meals and school supplies, we held car washes and even a baby shower using the drive through method. Many units are just now beginning to hold in-person meetings. Please remember to stay safe.

September has been a busy month for the Auxiliary, Patriot Day on 9/11, POW Recognition Day on September 18, and Gold Star Mother's Day on Sunday September 27. October will be busy as well; lets prepare for a new way of doing Halloween for our kids and neighborhoods. I would like to wish an incredibly happy Birthday to Doris Ray. She will turn 97 on October 20th. She was Department President 1972-73.

National has provided us with some great learning opportunities. I encourage you to check out the free virtual training opportunities through the ALA Academy and the webinars that National is offering. I participated in the VA Voluntary Services and the Mission Delivery webinars that were offered in September and found them highly informative. The webinars provide opportunities for you to ask questions and share information. One of the ideas that was shared from the Mission Delivery Webinar was a Ding Dong Dash. You simply leave a gift on a veteran doorstep or ALA sister's doorstep and ring the bell and run. What a great and fun way to let them know you are thinking of them. But the 2 most important things that I took away from the webinar was 1: "We must shift from membership focus to volunteer engagement." What this means is that if we are going to gain new and younger members, then we must create the excitement for volunteerism and service. If we create that excitement and desire to serve, then we will gain new members. 2: We must change to meet the need of a changing veteran's population. I have heard this for a few years now. Younger veterans are more family focused. We must meet these needs if we are going to grow stronger. These events have been advertised through Facebook. To see times and register for these free webinars go to the following links: : <https://cvent.me/BNONPL?RefId=Facebook> for Mission Delivery or the Webinar on Voluntary Services <https://cvent.me/MQRQRX?RefId=Facebook> For courses offered through the ALA Academy go to alaforveterans.org

Please visit our website at alanorthcarolina.com. Julie Hogan is doing a fantastic job in keeping it current. Also check out our chairman's videos at www.Youtube.com NC Auxiliary Chairman.

For God and Country,
ALA Proud,
Julie