

2022-2023 VA&R

Juli Zajc, Chairman

Greetings North Carolina Auxiliary! I am shocked trying to believe that we are at the start of a new year and half way through the Auxiliary year. I am so looking forward to what 2023 will bring.

The dedicated members of the ALA have been busy making our Veterans have a happier holiday season. Both of our dedicated Martha's (Whitaker and Corriher) took time to deliver goodies to Salisbury and Ashville VAMCs. Both dedicated ladies are keeping the Veterans of their VAMCs taken care of until we can all get back in to visit and volunteer. Units from Hendersonville, Cherokee, Landis, and Salisbury, many others I have not seen social media from, contributed to their efforts. Hampstead helped the Fayetteville VAMC fund a van to help more Veterans. Durham VAMC has been going strong as well.

There has been a huge accomplishment this December at the Salisbury VAMC. They opened the first On-Site Custom Prosthetic facility. It will provide lower limb prosthetic devices and adjustments on-site, so the time is reduced significantly. What was a 6-8-week process could talk less then 1 week to complete.

As we look into 2023, I am excited that have been offered and accepted an invitation from our National President, Vickie Koutz, to attend Washington Conference at the end of February. I am proud that I will be representing North Carolina with the other VA&R Chairmen. I will bring back my adventures and memories to share.

Please keep the Fair Share funds coming in and I will have dollars update at Conference. I look forward to seeing all of you at Mid-Winter Conference.

One final note, as I finished writing this there was a young man that suffered a tragic event while playing a game on the national stage. Earlier in the day I watched as a different young man was pulled out of a game for an injury that will probably have a permanent affect on his life. 2022 also brought the loss of one of my loved ones very suddenly. I write this to remind you that you need to hug those you love a little more often, choose your words as you never know when it could be the last thing you say to a person and finally remember that we are part of a volunteer organization, and the cause is greater than the applause.

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

Juli Zajc