

MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT:

Thank you all for your confidence in electing me as your Department President for the new year. The good of our organization will always be my priority moving forward. We will continue to grow our programs and department as we move forward to fill positions in the office and in our programs. We can make our Units and Department stronger if we all work together toward the same purpose of service not-self.

My theme for this year is "Faith, Family, and Freedom". Faith carries me through the trials of life. Faith is a person's decision and mine is strong. There have been many times I have had to rely on my faith that things would be even better than before. We must continue to believe that our Auxiliary members will use their faith to grow our organization stronger than ever before.

Family members are not just those of birth, but also those of choice. When I think of family, I count each of you as sisters and brothers. We must remember that we all do not think and react the same way to situations, but we must always put the best for our department first and not ourselves.

Freedom is the gift given to us by God and those that fought to keep our country and the world free. We must never forget the men and women who fought for our very freedom and for those that still fight today for freedom for all the people of the world.

Without Faith, Family, and Freedom, our country would look like many others facing doom and destruction. We are in this together, and together we will succeed.

As I look forward to this new year, it is with optimism and joy. We must decide how to approach different ideas and attitudes. I chose to look on the bright side of things, we learn and grow our department. I have stated over the last few years we must look to the future with enthusiasm and hope. The windshield of your car has a large clear view of your destination. Let us keep our hearts and eyes open like that windshield to innovative ideas and adventures, and always for the good of our department.

My President's Project this year is for the General Fund. With the rising costs all around, now is the time to grow the fund so the department will continue to operate in a responsible way. At Fall Conference, the President's Project Chairperson, Wendy Edmisten of Hendersonville Unit 077, is asking our members to provide wonderful baked goods, jellies, jams, salsas, crafts, or other items that reflect everything wonderful about North Carolina. More information will be shared in the mailings and in email distributions. Please share all information with all your members.

I am so blessed to be in this wonderful organization and with God's help I know this year will be a success. Thank you for your trust in me and your dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mary Bartlett, Department President