

## **A Message from the NW Division Membership Chairman**

Ladies here is more information, thoughts and ideas to help unit members get excited about increasing their unit membership. Renewing members, bringing back members that have dropped out and recruiting new members to our great organization of volunteering for our veterans, service members and their families.

Lets get excited, enthusiastic and bring in the members. Mentor them and watch them blossom as they get involved in our units as they find out who we are, what we do and why.

Have you gone to [www.ALAforVeterans.org/membership?](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/membership?)

If not please do so. There you will find so much more information than I can email out to you. Not only on membership but all areas of our programs.

Read the 5 year plan and you can print out pages 65-80 for the 2020 membership year. Lots of information to help you and your Department reach goals in membership.

Most of my message is what I hope you get to the units as it is on the unit level we want to reach.

Here is a tool that often gets forgotten about in getting members to pay their dues early. To be able to use the benefits of membership, to hold office, chairmanships and other privileges as a member they need to be "a member in good standing". Now what does that mean? A member who is current with annual dues is a member in good standing. A member failing to pay her annual dues by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year will be delinquent and will be suspended from all membership privileges until her dues are paid. (This means that now is the time to pay their 2020 membership dues. If they are not paid by January 31, 2020 they are no longer a member and cannot hold office, use benefits of any kind until their dues are paid").

At a meeting from time to time remind members of the value of being a volunteer, be it at a VA Hospital, Veterans Home, veterans in a nursing home, assistant living facility or in the community. Our veterans and their families can use our volunteering at stand downs, mentor military children, help the homeless veteran. Some people are not as comfortable talking with others as others are, so there is any number of things that they can do to help. Bake and or cook foods that someone else can deliver to a veteran or his family, help prepare for an activity or event are a couple of ideas that will help to make a member feel they are part of the unit and are appreciated for what they can do.

An important part of keeping members is to compliment and thank them for their part. Sometimes this makes the difference of if they stay a member or not. Not all members like meetings, but are willing to do so many other things to take part. They are an important part of our organization and we need them the same as we need the ones that go to the meetings.

At meetings and/or through your newsletters ask for new ideas and be open to them. Remember to treat others the way you want to be treated.

I know that some of this is "old hat" to many, but our newer members and members that are getting back involved in some way can use the refresher of hearing this. How about putting this in your monthly newsletter, or send it out through the Unit Mailing from Department.

Having units reaching goals early is exciting as it means their members are excited to increasing their membership giving them more volunteers serving our veterans, military and their families. Keep your members in the know about issues concerning our veterans, military and their families so they can contact their elected official.

Thank you for serving as your Department Membership Chairman. Make it enjoyable for members and it will be enjoyable for. Am looking forward to hearing about the new members, renewals and the ones you have helped bring back to our organization reaching goals and all-time highs.

Shirley Frederick, Chairman  
NW Division Membership