



## *American Legion Auxiliary*

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### **FINANCE**

Jan/Feb 2018

When I spoke at Fall Conference I stressed the need for a budget, using our money and our talents wisely, and of the need to try to keep a reserve for when we might need it. It is important to make up a budget each year and you may have to make changes as the year proceeds. On the Department level our budgeting has often been in the "red" but we have known that we budgeted higher in some areas so we hadn't worried. Now it is time for us to worry. Interest rates are not what they used to be but more troublesome is the fact that our membership is not growing as we would like to see. It is time for a dues increase.

The Finance Committee will have a resolution at the Department Convention asking for an increase of \$3.00 per senior member and \$1.25 per junior member to become effective in the 2020 year. Our organization needs the added income. Research has shown that our organization is one of the cheapest in which to hold membership. Do not panic and say no one will want to join us. Instead keep asking for new members and tell them of our great programs and projects. Take one of them to help out at a fun night or party at a Veterans Home or at one of the VA Medical Centers. Invite them to your Unit meeting when you ask your Girls State citizen to tell of her experience. Ask them to join you in a patriotic program at a school. They will soon understand the value and quality of our programs.

A dues increase will allow us to be able to continue to offer quality programs and projects. And you need to start now to work that increase through your Unit and into your budget in the coming years.

Beverly Otterness  
Department Finance Chairman