



Hello, Auxiliary sisters. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Barb Vetter, and I am proud to be your Northwestern Division National Vice President. I live in Cresbard, South Dakota, which has a population of about 75 people on any given day.

My eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary is through my father, US Army Air Force, WWII, serving in Guam, Saipan and the Tinian Islands. He will turn 96 in January. My husband, US Army, Vietnam Era and Desert Storm. My son, US Army National Guard, six years, Iraqi Freedom. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 36 years. My husband, Wayne, and I have three sons and five grandchildren, who are our pride and joy. I served as South Dakota Department President, 2012-2013. I am a retired elementary teacher, teaching for forty years. Now, I have a part-time job three days a week at a local drug store.

I want to share a few points that our National Auxiliary President, Kathy Dungon, would like all members to concentrate on during our 2018-2019 year.

National President Kathy's focus for this organization is on "women who have served" (women veterans). This is her special project. We need to learn about the issues that women veterans face and how the American Legion Auxiliary can assist with solutions. There are over two million women veterans nationwide.

Membership is vital to the Auxiliary. Without members we will not have an Auxiliary and without the Auxiliary we cannot work on our mission of serving our heroes. But remember, each member needs to feel valued and respected. Welcome new members. Be receptive to their ideas. We want our Auxiliary members to be glad that they joined this wonderful organization.

President Kathy has established a new award this year called the National Goodwill Ambassador Award. Five deserving members, one from each division, who exhibit goodwill, promote our Auxiliary ideals and volunteer their time and talent serving our veterans will be selected. Ladies, I know that the Northwestern Division has many Auxiliary members who would qualify for this award.

Last, the "National President's Award for Excellence" has changed. Instead of five unit awards and one Department award, this year there will be eleven unit President's Award for Excellence and one Department Award for Excellence in membership. Please begin getting your information ready to apply for these awards.

I care about the direction that the American Legion Auxiliary is headed and I want to help shape the future of the Northwestern Division. I am looking forward to meeting all of you when I make my visit to your department. May God bless you and may God bless America and our veterans.

Barb Vetter  
Northwestern Division National Vice President