

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you are all looking forward to the holidays. I have two (2) important messages for this month.

December is the month of giving. I want to remind each Auxiliary that the money we raise during Buddy Poppy Drives, spaghetti feeds, raffles and other fundraisers does not belong to the Auxiliary. The money belongs to the veterans, active-duty military, and their families. For Auxiliaries that have large balances, we are not doing enough for our veterans. There is no rainy day that we need to save for. There are programs and projects that we should be donating our money to. It is time to look at our Standing Rules, and yearly obligations. Just because we have always donated \$25, doesn't mean we only donate \$25. Yes, I realize we have expenses, and some of us have buildings that have expenses, however, if you have raised money before you can do it again. Please, please, please disburse your money to those it was raised for. Scholarships, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Continuing Education Scholarships, Patriotic Art, 3D Art Contest, President and Commander's Special Project, National President, and National Commander's Special Project.

The next message is for membership. As I write this article the Department of Oregon is currently at 93.17% which means we only need 309 more members. Please talk to your annual members and convince them to pay their dues before December 31, 2023. Let's check that box as done so we can do so much more in the new year without worrying about membership.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanaka or Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year. Let's continue to work together for our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

Loyally,

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