

## **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Another month is in the books and the department is doing great. All the bonds have been done for a month and we are going like gangbusters on membership. I am so proud of this department this year. I think that this is the earliest that we have been at 84% in membership. Everyone is working so very hard to get their annual members paid and getting new members for the Department. I have seen a lot of members that have moved from at-large to an auxiliary and if they don't transfer at least they are converting to life members from annual dues. Keep up the good work and we will be at 100%+ in no time.

At the National Convention the Cancer Fund was discussed at the Treasurers meeting. There is quite a bit of money in the account for Cancer grants but the last couple of years we have given out more money for Cancer than what the auxiliaries have been sending in to National. So, if you could, please start sending your \$2.00/member for Cancer Aid and Research. It will really help to keep the money in that account for our members that need it.

As you know both the National President and Department Presidents have Special Projects that need monetary help. The National President's project is building a convenience store in one of the buildings in the National Home. The National Home is quite a few miles from the nearest stores, and it would be very good for them to have a little area where they can run in and get bread or milk or necessities instead of driving all the way into town for them. It will be a great asset to the National Home. Our Department President has two special projects and the first one is the Run2Remember. We have been working on this for about 2 years and we would like to increase the amount of money that we send to this great program. The other program is the National Guard Annual Ball. It's a great program and it helps our youth also. All these Special Projects please send the money through the Department Treasurer so that we can keep track of the money and know how much we sent to each program. Write the check to the Department of OR VFWA.

If you have been watching the television, the island of Maui was hit by a devastating fire, and many lives were lost. When we had the big fire on the Columbia Gorge a few years ago, Hawaii stepped in and sent money to our department to help with the damage. If you have some extra money or would like to do a project to get money for disaster relief, please send the money to me and I will send it to National and that way we can keep track of how much money we send to them. Please earmark the check "Disaster Relief." When I get some more money in, I will send it to National.

There was discussion at the last Academy about tax deductions and I hear there is still some questions about it still coming up. We can not give anyone that gives us a donation a receipt so that they can deduct their donations from their taxes. Our 501C does not allow us to do this. If someone wants to give you money for it to be deducted from their taxes, they need to send the money through the VFW Foundation and then the money comes to the Auxiliary. Please do not give out any receipts to people giving you money. The receipts need to be used when a member gives you cash for anything that they buy from you or for dues. If you have any further questions, please contact me and we will talk about it.

Hope to see many of you at the National President's visit. Carla is a great person and a dual member, and she likes to play games in the evening. So, we should have a fun time at the Coast in late August.