



As we start this year with a new regime let us remember that it is a new beginning for all of us. Kind words, a pleasant attitude, and a forgiving nature will go a long way. The past is behind us, and we need to leave it there and move forward.

Our Mission Statement states, "It is the mission of the American Auxiliary to support the American Legion..." and we need to do just that. They also have a new regime, starting a new year with new beginnings and we need to give Dee every opportunity to have a successful year. Commander Dee deserves our support and respect and as the ALA, we will give it to her. We will do our best to support her projects.

I will do my best to support our Projects, your Districts, and your Units. You need to do your best to support the Department Officers, Chairpersons, and our Projects.

The National Membership Chair is going to be pushing our Department Membership Chairperson, Cathy Keever, who will be pushing all of you to bring a new member and work on retaining existing members. Do your Best!!!

My main project is to supply the Ronald Mc Donald House Charities Cart located at the St. Lukes Hospital in Twin Falls. When children get serious sick in this area of Idaho they are sent to Boise to the Children's Hospital. There is a Ronald Mc Donald there for the convenience of the family of that child. When a child is sick enough to be hospitalized but not enough to be transferred, they are admitted to ST. Luke's Twin Falls where there is no offering of anything for the families. Together with RMHC we came up with the idea of a cart. On this cart there are toys, puzzles, books, snacks, drinks, supplies like cups, stir sticks, hot cups sleeves, lids and so much more. The problem is we must depend on Boise to get our supplies and we don't always get what we need. During my term as District Four President, I made it my project to keep that cart stocked. I am carrying that Project over to my term as Department President. If your District or Unit chooses to support my project you can bring your items to the District Meetings, Mid-Winter, or Department Convention.

You can call me and I will arranged to have them picked up. Snacks must be individually wrapped. Keep in mind that snacks, creamer, candies, all edible snacks and drinks a shelf life and as a hospital once the date is reached the items must be thrown out. If you choose to send money, please make your checks out to the American Legion Auxiliary and on the memo line write President's Project, and mail it to Department Treasurer Kristal Tighe.

When you are shopping for items, and even if you are doing other projects whether it be for the ALA or the Legion, please keep track of your time, mileage, and how many people were involved and cost. If you write it down as you go it will be easier to track for your end of the year reports.

Please submit the cost, mileage, and time spent each time you turn in items for the President's Project. I also must keep track for my end-of-the year report.

Another suggestion is when you receive a request for something from Secretary Joann or Treasurer Kristal, please don't wait! Get the information they need to them **immediately!!!** That way you have it out of the way, they have the information they need and everyone is happy. Please do this for me. This goes for paying dues as well. Even though the due date is December 31st, that means Kristal must have everything to have to go the National by that date. You need to get your members to pay by September or October and get it turned into Kristal so she has time to organize the data and get it turned in on time.

Your packets that Joann will send to you have a lot of information in them pertaining to due dates, reports, etc. Please take the time to look and read through the materials and then share this with your Units. I cannot stress this enough!

There are a lot of changes but if we all work together, as the saying goes "Many hands make light work," we can have a successful and enjoyable year.

I will be available if you need to reach me. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message. You can also text or email me. I look forward to working with you and seeing you at District Meetings, Mid-Winter Conference, and Department Convention.

Kathy Barrow

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