



As we enter a season of thankfulness and giving, I want to send out my sincere thanks to each and every Auxiliary member who is lighting the way for our Veterans and their families. When assuming the role of Department President, I asked that each of us shine a beacon of light for our veterans, for our community and for our fellow Auxiliary members.

Traveling throughout the state of Illinois, you have shown me ways you are doing just that! You have organized picnics where our Auxiliary and Post members share time with each other. You communicate, share successes and enjoy being together. VAVS Reps proudly spend time with veterans and meet their needs in VA facilities. In your District meetings there is a sense of camaraderie that comes through, even as members consider the ideas of others and do what is best for our Organization. The support you are providing for our Programs ensures our veterans are not forgotten. Through our scholarship and Youth Programs you confirm patriotism lives in the hearts of our youth. Veterans are celebrated and thanked in community events where our Auxiliary members are front and center with planning the events and spending hours manning booths and guaranteeing activities go off without a hitch. You march in parades in honor of our veterans and spend hours cooking meals for fund-raising or just to say thank you to military families.

Our focus on attracting new members and retaining current members has been amazing! Positive results like we are seeing do not happen without dedication and a strong focus on making sure our Auxiliary grows and flourishes so that we have new generations to continue to shine our light. I am looking forward to continuing my travels and seeing even more of the wonderful support and dedication you provide for each other and our veterans.

It's hard to believe the Holiday Season is upon us! My wish for all of you is joyous times with your family and friends, and that you are safe and secure knowing that brave men and women are watching over us and ensuring we never lose the freedoms earned for us. God Bless You All!

*Billie Guthals*