

BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2023



MEMBERSHIP

Rhonda Borkgren and Paula DeDoncker

As we are following the yellow brick road to the Circle of Excellence, I have had many new treasurers and Presidents ask me about how to do things. If you haven't sent out your due's renewal letters, you need to do that immediately. To do that go into vfwauxiliary.org, then click MALTA. Login into Malta. If you don't have an account, it's easy to set one up. You just need to have your membership number and a password. Once in Malta, go to duties, click Treasurer, click reports, then go to Dues and Membership. The second thing is Dues renewal letter, click on it, then print dues renewal letter. After you print the letters, print mailing labels. Then get them in the mail! It's so easy and will only take a few minutes. National has made the treasurers' job so easy! Please use the resources they have for us.

The next thing I have been asked many times in the past few weeks is how to get proof of military service if their Veteran is deceased and they don't have any information. I always say to start at the county courthouse where they lived. See if they filed DD214 with the courthouse when they came home. Maybe the funeral home has it in their files. Have you looked at the obituary? The funeral home has the DD214 when they have a funeral if they have military rites. Does it say in the obituary where they served? They had to have it, for Military honors at the funeral. Ancestry.com/military records, is another place to look. The place to order a DD214 is through the National Archives.gov/veterans. If it's Navy and you know the ship they were on, you can look for the ship roster. Pay stubs, and military orders are always useful, to determine hostile fire or imminent danger pay. Service in Korea without campaign medal, can be established with other documentation. Small town newspapers are another great source. They might have an article saying someone was home on leave, or just returned from Iraq or Vietnam. Did your grandma keep all the letters your grandpa wrote to her when he was overseas? They can usually establish proof. Our Department Treasurer is always willing to help. The military gravestones are not proof of service. They were issued for the era. It doesn't mean you served in country, say Vietnam. You might not have left the country and got one for serving in the states during the Vietnam war. I hope some of this helps.

The last thing I am going to teach you how to do today is look up your membership report. Go into Malta, click on reports, then go to dues and membership. Department, Type II, click on blue box for Illinois. Check the auxiliary and district boxes. It will pop up all the districts and include all auxiliaries for each district. I want you to look at it and know what your auxiliary is doing. I included a sample of a district, so you can see what to look for. For district presidents look at the bottom of the report, it tells the district total. Then you will know how many more you need to get in drawings for awards. To everyone, if you look under Annual Continuous, you see a 0, that means NO annual dues have been paid for this year. I hope every auxiliary has sent out due notices by now. If your auxiliary has sent out due's notices, you should have some paid. I have

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heard when talking to district presidents that dues aren't due until December 31st. December 31st is the last day you can pay dues and stay in good standing. Good standing means you can apply for a cancer grant, attend meetings, and be an officer. After that day, you are no longer an active member. Our year runs from July 1st to June 30th. That's how our dues year runs. They just give people plenty of time to get them paid before they no longer accept you as a member without showing eligibility again. If you see a 0 under annual continuous for your auxiliary, please print out those dues notices and send them out. If you don't understand how to do it, just call me. I will help you. Paula will help you. Just call someone who can help you. We want to see you succeed. We want to follow that yellow brick road and get Lynn to 100%.