

# BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2023



## MEMBERSHIP

**RHONDA BORKGREN**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**PAULA DEDONCKER**  
**CO-CHAIRMAN**

The Department of Illinois is doing a great job of following the Yellow Brick Road to 100% membership. As a department we are 91.40% paid. Hopefully, we are all reporting deaths as we have them. If you save your deaths till the end of the year, it makes the count for everything off. Plus, it will knock your auxiliary out of the Circle of Excellence. Dorothy and her friends are doing a great job of leading us down the yellow brick road and right into the Circle of Excellence. We still have work to do to get there.

At the council meeting I handed out the order form to get membership brochures and fact sheets from National Headquarters. I hope each of you uses this form and order both important membership tools. Put them together and carry them in your purse or car. When you meet someone who qualifies to join our great organization, give them the packet. Make sure you attach a business card, so they know how to get ahold of you. Make sure you get their contact information so you can follow up with them. Give them a week or two and then call them. Once you get them to join, your work has just begun. Make sure you invite them to meetings and mentor them once they attend. Don't forget how important it is to have recruiting events. I have seen some great recruiting booths this year. We have had them set up at high schools, town events, fish fries, fairs, VFW picnics, and even a wing fest! There is no wrong or right place to recruit members! The most important thing is to make sure we mentor and retain that member once we have them. The way to retain them is to get them involved!

For those who are already members and haven't paid their dues do we have a plan? I always send out my first dues notice in July, as soon as National reopens MALTA. I sent out a second dues notice on the first of September. After that notice goes out, I start calling. Call those members you haven't seen for a while. Ask them to come to your meeting. Remind them why they joined and how important our mission is to Veterans. Tell them how they can pay their dues on MALTA, if they want to. Let them know they can still send a check to the Treasurer, but there are other options.

Our next goal is for the Department to be 95% by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Can we, do it? I think we can. Let's get Illinois to 95% by November 30<sup>th</sup>. If we hit that goal, I will lower the December 31<sup>st</sup> goal to 98% for Districts and Auxiliaries! That means everyone would only have to be 98% to get in the drawing for a chance to spin the wheel!