

BULLETIN – JANUARY 2024



SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM, CHAIRMAN

“BUDDY”® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME

Wow! I can't believe we are halfway through the program year. Illinois has worked so hard this year, and I can't wait to see what you all accomplish in the remainder of the year. I love seeing what your Auxiliaries are doing at your Posts and in your communities for our veterans. I've received so many pictures and chairman reports this year. This is a huge improvement from last year and I've enjoyed looking at each and every one of them.

As of this writing there are several Auxiliaries that are not reported in “Buddy”® Poppy or VFW National Home as well as many that haven't made their Health and Happiness donation. Please make sure you are reported in both programs and that you have made your required donations. Thank you to all of the Auxiliaries that have completed all of these tasks!

Many of your Auxiliaries and Districts will be having Voice of Democracy banquets this month. Use these banquets as a way to get the word out to your students and their families about the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home. Come up with creative ways to decorate your tables with poppies while laying out small business cards about the National Home on the table. There are so many different ways to highlight all of our programs at these types of events.

Keep up the great work Illinois! Don't forget to look over the Department and National program awards to make sure you are qualified to compete for those awards. Unfortunately, there were no participants in any of the “Buddy”® Poppy and VFW National Home National awards last year. I hope to have some this year so make sure you are looking at them now!