



## **President's Message February 2023**

My journey as your Department President will be coming to an end soon. This journey has taken me across the state, and across the country several times and it has been a journey I will never forget. I did my best to represent you at all National functions from National Convention to National Café Event in Utah, to National Legislative Conference in DC, National Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners, to National Mid-Year, and at the National President Carla Martinez's Visit here in WA and soon we will be at National Convention again.

I will never forget the support of our Past Department President's. Whenever I asked questions, they gave me the information needed to make decisions for the future of our Department. Our line officers for being and doing what you do in support of our Department. My Chairman you are the most amazing people I know, juggling volunteer work, jobs and families, plus all the demands of Bulletins, Promotions and reports to your National Ambassadors you have a place in my heart. Thank you, Thank you!

To our Department Secretary Treasurer Cindy Burkey, you are definitely underappreciated. Juggling membership applications with missing pieces, Secretary of State issues for auxiliaries, IRS Issues for auxiliaries, and just being there to guide Treasurers and Trustees through audit issues as well as so very much more. Your support of me as Department President and the support you gave other Past Department President, shows your commitment to this Department and our organization, we didn't always agree, but you stood beside me or whomever was our Department President at the time. You don't let your personal feelings get in the way of doing what you do to keep this Department strong. Thanks just doesn't seem like enough.

Thank you to my Chief of Staff Elaine Taylor. You were my sounding board, always letting me bounce things off you, and together we came up with different resolutions, and were able to save a few auxiliaries that were struggling.

Thank you to all of you as members. We reached our goal of 100% in membership, and the applications keep coming in. My hats off to you, as of this message we are at 100.32 % this is with the loss of 101 members, may they rest in peace, we will maintain the watch and we will remember you at our joint memorial service in June. We have 167 New Life members; we would like to WELCOME to the Department of Washington Auxiliary.

The National President's Visit was a huge success thanks to VFW Post #2669 and its Auxiliary Members as well as several others listed here. A Special Thank you to Commander Todd Gruchalla, the Adjutant Jacob Bauer, the Quartermaster Dan Bujok, and the Club Manager Bill Biltoft, and post member Ron Swanson, for smoking or cooking our meals. Thank you District

#4 President Wendy Parfrey, Sr Vice President Lori Biltoft, Jr Vice President Fran Gruchalla, Post member Art Bonneville and Es Bonneville for all the side jobs. Another special thank you to Harley Nelson (soon to be a member) for smoking extra brisket, and Andrea Nelson (soon to be a member) for the coleslaw, and NEW auxiliary member #2669 Karen Ryers thank you for selling raffle tickets. Thank you to Wolf Squadron Sea Cadets for their service throughout dinner as well as for clean up. Mr. William Lewis, you have an amazing group of Sea Cadets. Thank you, Robbin Seeberger, for everything you did to keep it all together! I am sure there are others that I have missed, please forgive me, as it was an extremely busy night. Also, FYI, we raised a large amount of money which will go to Carla's Special Project - \$500 from dinner proceeds, \$243 from the raffle, and \$78 from the 50/50 PLUS Lori Nettles gave her winnings from the 50/50 to Carla's special project as well! This was all on top of the \$815 Auxiliaries have donated throughout the year. Thanks to all of you who participated and donated to this special cause!

District # 7 - Thank you for the lovely flowers and gifts. The cash was added to my Special Project.

I have 2 more Districts to visit. District #2 and District #3 and I look forward to my visit. I am sure that I will have a great visit, so I will say thank you in advance for the courtesies shown to me.

I will be dressed as a "Superhero" at some point in time at the Department Convention, because I lost the "VMS Challenge" but I don't feel like one. I think of all of you as my SUPERHEROES. I am so very proud of you, the members. Showing up for meetings, taking offices, and minding the Homefront and "Do it for Those Who Can't". I know you are there because you care." Banding Together for our Veterans" you continue to show what awesome people you are.

Loyal,  
Rose Green President  
Department of Washington Auxiliary