

Buddy Poppy & National Home Bulletin #2

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The past couple of months have gone by fast, and I have to say it's been a blast so far. Since the beginning of August I've had the opportunity to attend both School of Instructions (East and West), visited 4 District meetings (17, 1, 15, 7), and enjoyed the opportunity to help getting ready to hand out hundreds of poppies during the Leavenworth Fall Leaf Festival. That's 938 miles just to get to attend these events, and then the trip home.

Some of the main things I have tried to cover are the following:

- National Home name change from National Home for Children to just National Home
- Joint Special Project this year at both the National and department level is to make improvements at the National Home to include a small convience store, floors inside the Welcome Center, improvements to their postal area, as well as make the sidewalk and entry ADA compliant
- This year National Home has a new house to collect donations. The they are slightly larger, but the opening at the top is larger, so there shouldn't be a struggle to insert bills into the house like the old ones. The new houses are \$10 each.
- We have some pins that are for sale \$5 each, and the proceeds go to Washington house out at National Home for their maintenance and up keep. My goal is to sell at least 100 on the Auxiliary side, and I know that my chairman on the Comrades side is also working towards that goal so we are hoping to be able to generate at least \$1,000 directly toward Washington house.
- We are encouraging all Posts and Auxiliaries, when they make their donations to National Home, to send them via Department. The reason for this is that every May the Sr Vice Commander and Sr Vice President visit the National Home, and there is a parade where all the departments line up and hand over a check. For the past several years the Department of Washington has been one of the leaders in handing over the largest checks. You will still get recognized by National Home of your donation.
- Handed out applications to become a National Home Life Member, and encouraged everyone who is currently a life member to have voted for our trustee representing Washington Nicki Benjamin for the next 6 years. If you are a Life Member, and didn't receive your ballot, please check with National Home as your email may be out of date. Voting is now closed, and we are waiting to hear the results later this month.
- I have also handed out the "Buddy" Poppy & National Home Award for Auxiliaries No 1 and No 2, the rules for the 2024 "Buddy" Poppy display, and bulletins on what they offer and who is eligible.
- Encourage both Posts and Auxiliaries to off both the traditional Buddy Poppy as well as the new Tin version, when they become available.

The next couple of months, things don't look to be slowing down in the least. There are another 5 Districts (9, 5, 11, 14 and 4) by the end of the year, plus a trip to Salt Lake City for Western Conference in November. I will also be trying to pull together items for a table at Mid-Winter in January so if there are items you are interested in please let me know and I'll see what I can do for you.

Sincerely, Christine Dougherty

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