

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Good afternoon to you all, here we are in early December where it is cold and wet, which is nothing new here in the Pacific Northwest. Two months have gone by since my last bulletin, and it seems like it was just yesterday. Many things have happened, but at the same time they are starting to slow down, or at least move into a different gear. I have had the opportunity to attend the Western Conference in Salt Lake City last month, where I met our new district chair for the National Home. Her name is Mary Anne Kreutz. She will be joining us at our Mid-Winter conference in Wenatchee in January. I also went and visited five more District meetings (9, 11, 5, 14 and 4), which added another 920 miles traveled around our great state.

Here are the main things I have been trying to share with those I visited with:

- Joint Special Project this year at both the National and department level, they broke ground in late October, and work has officially started.
- 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. I have asked Mary Anne to bring about 15 of them to our Mid-Winter conference. This will cover the cost of the house plus shipping. Anything left over will be directed to the National Home.
- 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 have been able to make that goal, and am now working on my second 100. I will have them for sale at Mid-Winter.
- At the Mid-Winter there will be a table/booth for the National Home, where the bank houses and pins will be available for purchase, but there will also be a fun game available for those who are interested. It's called coin-hole. I've attached a picture of the board below. There will be teams of 5 people, with a total of \$5, each person will get 4 tries to bounce a quarter off the table and into the hole. The person on the team that makes the most into the hole will win a \$5 gift card. Thank-you District 9 for helping to test out the game.
- Also, at Mid-Winter there will be the drawing for the shawl that I had made initially for Linda Bray, so far there are over 200 entries. I'm starting to put them all into a bag and was surprised at how many clips of the scissors. If you still want to be included into the drawing, you need to get your order to Department by year end.
- Finally, after the drawing I'll be announcing that there will be another drawing for another shawl that I just completed. Entries will be based upon how many times you were able to show/demonstrate how the Buddy Poppy in conjunction with another VFW Auxiliary National Program. This will include any activity you may have done since June 1, 2022. I will need to know what it is you did, and a photo showing me an example. This could be as simple as including handing out poppies and flags during a parade, or attaching a poppy to a chocolate bar with the phone numbers of our congressmen. I will accept entries until the end of May. I have attached a phot below of something similar, as the one I'm working on isn't quite finished yet, but will be available for show at Mid-Winter.

Sincerely, Christine Dougherty

