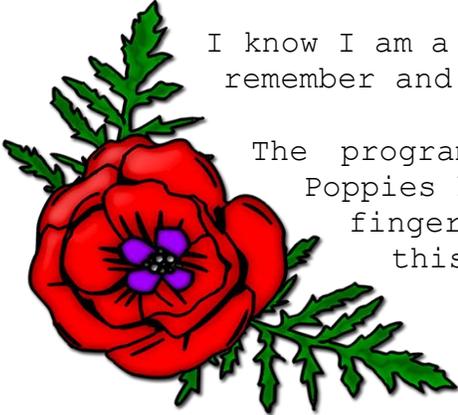


Happy "Soon to Be Spring"



I know I am a little early, however, we have had a year to remember and we need to wake up and smell a new day.

The program for our Auxiliaries creating the Buddy Poppies has been a huge success. With all hope, and fingers crossed, we will ALL will be able to do this again in July. WAY TO GO EVERYONE!!!

I understand that giving out Buddy Poppies has been difficult at best this year. Just remember that you can still take a can to work and put it on your desk with some poppies around it. Or maybe you can contact your local hospital and see if they would allow a can or two in different departments, or at the entrance for people coming in to donate and get a poppy. Try to think outside the box on how you can show your local council meeting that we are an organization that supports our veterans.

I have a few poppies in the front window of my car, and I have received several comments thanking me for showing my support. Try to have a few extra on your visor to hand out when you are at your local grocery, craft store, or even the gas station. People will respond.

Also, a great big thank you to everyone who bought Buddy Poppy Pins at Mid-Winter. We still have a few left if you missed out. They are a great item to share with our veterans in hospitals or retirement centers as well and are a fundraiser for the Department of Washington. They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. This purchase/donation can be reported on your Community Activities Report.

The displays and table toppers were great at Mid-Winter. They have been judged and awards are going out to the top three Auxiliaries. Please remember that year-end is coming up soon and displays for Convention are still going to be needed. We may have to do it via email as well, but we can do this. Remember that displays that you think might go to National will need to be sent in early. Check the website for information about that.

National Home for Children:

While attending several Auxiliary meetings and District meetings I have become aware that quite a few of our newer (5 years and younger) members are not really aware what National Home is. Or why we support it. They've all heard about it, but are just not sure where it is or what its purpose is.

I would like to challenge your National Home Chairmen to take 5 or 10 minutes during your meetings and share a little more information about this program. There is tons of information on the website to help you with this. www.vfwnationalhome.org By contacting them via the website, they will happily send you some handout information and, help line card, to share with your members and or Post home.

Don't forget that you can purchase LIFE MEMBERSHIPS for your officers or other members, to support this program. The Virtual Tour through the Tribute Parks is a short video that you can share with your members as well.

As this Organization is not funded by the Government, all of us need to show our support and give a little extra during our meetings, with an "Empty the coin purse" donation at every meeting. Along with your "Health and Happiness" checks.



If you can help or know someone that might qualify PLEASE contact the following:

info@vfwnationalhome.org

VFW National Home for Children
3573 S Waverly Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

You ALL are in my thoughts and prayers for the coming year.

Respectfully,
Yvonne Baumann
Department of Washington Chairman
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