

## President's Message #4, February, 2022

Can you believe it is mid-February, 2022? Our year of the Turtle is over halfway done! We are moving closer to spring, and, some say, the end of this pandemic. It may be wishful thinking, but I am hoping it will be so.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Midwinter Conference a success. I am very proud of the way our Auxiliary protected our members from the virus. We wore our masks and checked our temperatures at the door. Thank you to our Guard, Sue Gregg, and Assistant Guard, Marjorie Stratton, for all your diligence! Despite our attempts to keep everyone safe, some were exposed to Covid. The Auxiliary had 3 or 4 cases that I know of. I guess we took our chances, and I hope everyone will be okay.

I would also like to thank the Conference Committee; Carroll Vetter & Judy Dawson. Also Joy Miller, and Sammy, from Aux. 379 in Yakima. They were so helpful! Joy pitched in to sell grab bags for Ellen Kotila, who was sick at the last minute. What an Angel! Did you like the turtle pond centerpieces at the Banquet? So cute! They put them together. Great job by all!

I can't begin to recognize everyone who helped, and am afraid I might miss someone, so I'll not try to list you all. However, I will thank Laurie Lukas, our National District Council Member #20 for attending as our National Representative. And it was wonderful to have Renae Fulk, National Home Trustee, visiting us from California. Shout out to Lori Nettles, Grand President of Washington, Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary. Thank you for coming and helping out as Assistant Conductress.

Finally, I am so grateful to our Color Team! They were Diane Glenn from 2995, and Lesley Sheline from 1263. These ladies really came through for us! Living on the West side, they practiced with Debbie Berleen at Renton Post, and then a little bit with Karen Flynn and our Conductress Robyn Sterrett at the Red Lion on Friday. You can imagine how nervous they were, but they all did an excellent job!

Now for a little housekeeping. . . It is time to check those Year-End Reports, found on the website – auxdeptwa.org – under each Program, and see if there's something more you or your auxiliary can do. Our Chairmen have been working hard to keep you informed. So, I hope you will work the programs, and then report all you have done. Also, remember to enter the Auxiliary donations on your Community Service Reports. Let's bring home those Department Awards for your Auxiliary. Then, as a Department, we'd like to have 100% reporting to bring home the Awards from National.

**Elections** are coming right up. I hope you have someone excited to lead your Auxiliary into the future! We must continue to work for our Veterans. Someone must throw the ball, and others must carry it. Listen to your coaches, referees, and new recruits. We all have great ideas. Someone named Tommy Douglas said,

“Courage, my friends; 'tis not too late to build a better world.”

National hopes we are all back to “in-person” meetings. We know that some cannot get out and about. Maybe someone can pick them up, or they can get in on a conference call, and still be part of the meeting. Do what you can to keep others involved. **Membership:** Have you sent out your dues notices to those who may have fallen between the cracks? Or better yet, have you given them a personal phone call? One member I know just needs a short, personal visit. They will hand me a check at the door; they just need that personal touch! So, get your Membership committee to go that extra mile, and see how your auxiliary might grow.

After Elections, be sure the Auxiliary or District Secretary turns in the **Installation Report** to the Department and National Secretaries, even if all the Officers remain the same! All elected Offices must be filled. And you must have an Installation!

Remember to elect **Delegates** for your District, State, and National Conventions at the appropriate meetings. Cindy will send out the instructions: Please follow them!

Loyally, Barbara Moore, VFWA WA Dept. Pres.