

Summer 2017

Washington State President's Message

Sister, Brothers and Comrades,

We are off and running, State Convention is finished and the New Year is warming up just like summer. What a wonderful year we had under the leadership of President Marge Wright. Congratulations to her, the officers, chairmen and all Members for attaining the 'Circle of Excellence'; such a proud accomplishment. Hope we can follow in her footsteps this year. To 'my' officers and chairman and the membership, I pledge my support. Together we can continue to move this organization to new heights.

First, thanks to all for the love and support throughout my journey up the state chairs. My lovely daughter Adrienne Westmiller nominated me for this high office, my friend and Auxiliary Sister Virginia Carman rocked as my installing officer and District 2 and District 5 hosted an excellent reception. Rainier Post and Auxiliary #2289, what can I say, you're the best. Thanks to all!

There are opportunities and challenges facing us this year. Most important is tackling the new MALTA system. WE CAN DO IT! Help and encourage each other. The Post has had a similar system for years and guess what...they've survived. Remember you can still use the old fashion way and mail in your dues. Treasurer Cindy Burkey is here to help. More training will be scheduled throughout the year.

Working Together with State Commander John Bradburn, our **special project is Rainier Therapeutic Riding located in Rainier Washington**. They use therapy horses and trained staff to help with physical and emotional healing for Veterans and their families. The goal is to re-set life skills, guide broken souls back to a passion for life and build trust and relationships. This non-profit is partnered directly with the Veterans Administration and JBLM. The heroes they help struggle with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, combat injuries and life issues. Visit their website at www.rtriding.org. When you make a donation for my lovely 'Hearts in Service' pin, half of your contribution will be sent to support their program. The remainder of the pin proceeds will be donated to our Hospital Program.

There are many events and activities planned for the year. Looking forward to seeing how creative all the Auxiliaries can be with the new Family Freedom Festival. Make sure you download the toolkit from the National website. Off to New Orleans for National Convention, then see you at School of Instruction in Everett Aug 12 or mini in Yakima on Aug 26. I'll be around to visit your Districts too!

laissez les bons temps rouler (let the good times roll)

Loyally

Laurie Lukas, State President