



THE DIAMONDS OF FIRST DISTRICT

First District Newsletter.

It has been a long time since the last newsletter was sent. Too many things are going on and that is no excuse. I hope that everyone had a good summer and was able to do lots of things. I guess I will start with The American legion family Department of Wisconsin Convention. It was held in Rothchild. I learned a lot especially that you can be a party of the past president parley. If you have been or currently are a President, you can be a member. The cost is 7 dollars this helps to give scholarships. This was very interesting to me, as I did not know a lot about this and was surprised that this is the group that gives the scholarships to the ones wanting to go into nursing. They must apply like all the other scholarships. It is something I think we all should be a part of it to have a say in this.

Then it was time to get ready for the Nationals which were held in Charlotte North Carolina. It was fun to see and hear from all the states. They talked about adapting to some of the new things that had been discussed our causes. Such as you only need to have 5 members to be able to be a unit or stay as a unit. Kind of different from what we must work with from other times. We will adapt and move forward. The New National President Lisa Williamson is from Alaska. We wish you the best for the next year. It will be a good one, I am sure. She is in support of Wreaths Across American, that is wonderful. Honoring Veterans who gave us what we have and giving them the respect they deserve. So, in doing this it means the world to me to help with this. I know that a lot of people do not like this, and it is ok. I hope that the people that do will continue to support this great program.

Then back from that and had to start getting things ready for the First District Fall Conference. I have to say something quick. To all the Units that hosted the conferences you all did an amazing job with decoration and food and just made the places look fabulous. The Units that have held a conference during this time are Unit 209, Pink round up Rodeo, Unit 171, Queen for a day Unit 450 music. I would like to say thank you. I am very grateful to you all for the outstanding job that you did for these. I am so very proud of all our great members that do their best. We have many programs that you and your units work on and to see how much you all do is truly a great thing. I know that we cannot do them all, but we sure give it our best. The ones that your units do are very impressive keep up the great work. It can be daunting to call your members and talk about membership. Ask yourself this what made you want to be a member of the unit? Why did you join. I will be sending out a survey in a few days. Please be watching for it. This brings me to the next thing. I spoke about this at our fall conference. Volunteers, what makes people want to take part in things or in the unit. I joined because my son was going into the Marines, my

grandfather served in WWII. I am paying it forward. In that I want to help our Veteran's and their families.

I am asking all unit Presidents to send me what is going on in their Unit. It would be nice to have.

Then we could put this in the newsletter and let everyone know what you are doing and maybe everyone could go to the event. This is what it is all about being there for each other. Supporting each other, in any way we can, this District is the best and I know that we can do anything. When we put our heads together, we can do magic.

Now?

What is a volunteer.

Volunteers: What makes a good volunteer, making them feel like they belong. Working together for the same goal makes people feel like they are valued. Sharing ideas If a new volunteer has come to a meeting of some kind like today, then we need to make sure we talk to them and get to know them. Listen to them and make sure they are heard. If you have volunteers that help at all or most all events, make sure to do something special for them. You give them a certificate" boring "the same thing does not work. We must start thinking outside the box. Let's break the box and do things that shine light on our members. Here are just a few things. Movie ticket, a gift card someplace for food or someplace they like. This is just an example of what you and your unit could do. It can be whatever you think is right for your Unit volunteers.

Set up an event to recognize these volunteers and let them know that what they have done is of great value. Such as your posts birthday dinners. If we do not value our members that is when we lose them, and it is important to listen to all your members and look at it from their point of view and maybe it would work or maybe not but at least you tried something different rather the same old thing. Don't get me wrong, some of the old things have a proven track record of working. We still need to move forward and by collaborating with everyone we all benefit from it. I know that together we can make things better for our Veteran's. After all they are the ones who made sure we were free.

So, if you want to make a difference then we need to be the difference listen and collaborate with our Volunteers and help make them feel like they belong to our organization.

Volunteers are a vital part of this organization and all organizations.

Let's celebrate all the new members that have just joined and welcome them.

We can not to forget all the regular members (did not want to say older Members)

We need to celebrate them as well they have been helping and doing these program and events, so we must recognize them, they are just as important as our new members. When we work together, we can do anything and then some.

What is a volunteer?

What is a volunteer- they are kind-caring-encouraging and make you feel welcomed and valued. We need to remember what it was like when we first joined. We can do this by making a difference.

Please remember we cannot do this all by ourselves, it takes a team and yes lots of work. In the end it is all worth it.

At our fall conference we had the pleasure of having 5 special guest speakers.

The American legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin President Maggie Geiger.

The American legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary First Vice Sue Hembrook.

The American legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin Department Parliamentarian Teresa Isensee.

The American Legion First District Commander Nathan Bond

The American Legion S.A.L Commander Randy Timms.

They all talked about volunteers and how important they all are.

That is a good thing to want our members to feel valued and welcomed. Without them we do not function. So, when talking to someone either about renewing their membership or getting someone knew just remember that they do not know all the things that we may know from being a part of this great organization. We need to talk to them to let them know that they are valued. That they can be heard and not looked down upon for asking a question? We need to treat everyone like we would like to be treated. With kindness and compassion. Thank you.

I hope that everyone that was there at the conference enjoyed it. We did our business and then had a little bit of fun. We played a game where you were giving a song and had to take ALA words and put them in the song and then sing it. I was really impressed at how everyone did a great job and made it fun. I am looking forward to the spring conference to be held May 4th at Unit 209 in Orfordville, we are going to have some more fun. I hope to see you there. Keep watching emails for more information.

I know that I say this a lot. I am very proud of every one of you for keeping on shining.

Your First District President.

Zondra Morris

P.S.

I am really hoping that we have a lot of people at the Spring conference. I know it is a little way away but please come and have some fun, maybe even learn a little and have good food. Would very much love to see more of the wonderful people of this District, which is the best.

We are called Diamonds for a reason; we shine above the rest.

I am going to ask that each of you our wonderful Diamonds takes just a few minutes to reach out and call a member that you may not have heard from in a while make sure they are ok and see if they need anything. We all need to know that we are important.

We are right now in the process of getting a Unit back up and running. It has been a little of a challenge, but it is on the move. More to come in the next letter.

If I have repeated myself, I guess that some things are worth repeating.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege to go to many Units. You all do wonderful things in your Units and in your communities. You make this District proud, and I know I am very proud of all of you.

You have made my two years as District President a great experience, Thank you.

Make sure to send someone to the conference, it is going to be fun.