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Ladies

Finally, sunshine! January sure has been snowy and gloomy. Hopefully things will start getting better, and you're all dug out.

We have several items that need attention this month. As has been mentioned in past newsletters, all units need to send Department an updated **Unit Constitution and Bylaws**. Some things you need to pay attention to if you have them listed in your constitution and bylaws are: Unit meeting days and times, the amount of dues for Seniors and Juniors, and the number of members necessary for a quorum. Make sure these items are up-to-date. Some units haven't sent in an updated constitution in several years yet alone in the new millennia, so please see that it gets done for 2010.

Don't forget the \$2 increase in Department dues. Take this into consideration when you submit your "**Unit Data Form**." Unit Presidents should receive a copy of the form in a mailing from Department. You can also find the form (as well as other forms you may need) on the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary website, www.nebraskalegionaux.net. The **DUE DATE** is **March 1, 2010!**

Department would like all units to push at getting all their **memberships** in during the month of February. National will not be processing memberships starting in March since they are having new software installed to handle the processing of them. Department will keep processing memberships after February, but your membership will not be sent or registered at National until their program is up and running and staff has been trained – there was no definite timeline given. Right now Nebraska is sitting near the top on membership nationally, and it would be great to keep it there. Not having membership processed at National will have an effect on that, so please try to get as many in this month as is humanly possible. Membership chairmen get your fellow members to help out. Take pride in your membership, and let's get them in.

Girls State application directions were sent from Department. On the application the applicant is to fill out the top, the unit fills out the next section, and the school fills out the end. The pledge and the parent waiver will be sent out with each candidate's packet. **Girls State selections and enrollment fees must be in to Department by March 1st.**

The theme for the **Americanism Essay Contest** is "What is My Patriotic Role as a U.S. Citizen." You will find a copy of the cover sheet the students should use in this mailing. The title should appear at the top of their essay and not on the cover page. The winning Unit essays must be sent to the Americanism Chairman, Beverly Neel, 57580 847th Road, Wayne, NE 68787 by **April 1st**.

District Convention is in a couple short weeks, Saturday, February 13. Several Department Officers and Chairmen have been invited to share information with us. Please make it one of your priorities to make the trip to Arlington. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with the meeting convening at 9:00 a.m. There are still openings for judging competitions, and not all Post Everlastings have been sent in.

We are trying to get our District History Book up-to-date – actually restarted. The original history book is missing, and we have only been able to find copies the four years of history from 1999 to 2002. Would all Unit Presidents please send a brief typewritten or handwritten history for this past year – from last District Convention in February 2009 to the present. You may keep it simple. Use regular 8 ½ x 11 paper with 1” margins on all sides. Include your unit name, number and town; list of unit officers; and a monthly synopsis of your unit activities. You may bring your unit history to District Convention or send it to our District Historian, Marlene Ingram at 906 S Jefferson, Papillion, NE 68046, or to me at the address in the letterhead.

Also in this mailing are the rules for the District competitions of History Book, Public Relations Book (a.k.a. Publicity Book), Prayer Book, and Poppy Centerpiece. Please follow these directions for any of the competitions you choose to enter. The winning entry at District will be entered in the Department competition at Department Convention in June.

Hope to see you all at Convention!

For God and Country

Kathy Mazur
District 8 President
American Legion Auxiliary