



Comrades,

Greetings! This being the end of the calendar year, it is fitting that we end it with articles from all your Department Officers. Although this hasn't happened since we sent out newsletters (many moons ago) it's some member's only way of keeping up with what our Department is doing. I tried to find some great, interesting information that would leave you on the edge of your seat wanting to read the Judge Advocate's article, but really couldn't come up with anything that you don't already know; update your bylaws to take out the word "Ladies" in reference to the Auxiliary; update them within 5 years (to include your house and club if you have a canteen); ensure all your officers are eligible and duly elected; and play nice..... we're all volunteers.

For some reason, that last thing seems to be the most challenging! Remember, Comrades, that this organization can't survive without everyone. The more we antagonize, degrade and fight with each other, the more we look like an organization that the younger troops don't want to join. We need to focus on what our mission statement says and DO IT, instead of finding fault with others. In this climate of harassment throughout the Nation from actors all the way to Washington DC, you've got to ensure your treatment of others reflects what our organization should stand on; equality of all!

I'm not going to use this article to "bust out" a Post or District (I've talked with them individually) about their bylaws expiring and/or their need to follow them; as I believe the articles from your Department line officers should be helpful. What I will do, however, is I'll try to motivate you to focus on those we help. Know that when you do Poppy drives and use that relief money to help those in need; it means something! Know that when you do toy drives, or food drives, you are directly helping your community! Refocus on calling Comrades that haven't paid their annual membership, because maybe they're in need and just don't know how to ask for it. Wear that cap with your Post number on it with pride as you've done something that less

than 1% of Americans have not done; represented this great Nation in another land. Everyone else that wears that cap is your Brother or Sister in arms. Treat them all with respect, dignity, and equality and we'll all be surprised with what our Department can accomplish!

May 2018 bring a year of focus, happiness and togetherness. If there is anything you need help with (in regard to the VFW - my plate is full of chores at home so I can't mow your lawn!) I'd be happy to help! Just give me a call!!

Yours in Comradeship!  
Traci Williams  
State Judge Advocate