June 23, 2018

Come and share with me 2018-2019. As your Dept. President I am here to help you and to keep you healthy as Auxiliaries. I have assembled a team that can assist you in keeping up with reporting and in meeting the 2018-2019 Program Goals. I have appointed concerned and knowledgeable “Auxiliary Doctors’ who can answer your questions. In a short period of time I will appoint a team of Mentors who are available to come to you to help your Auxiliaries purr, not cough and sputter. This new twist from National is awesome. If we believe…we can do!

Here are some interesting facts about our National President Sandi Kriebel:

- The National President’s Visit to the Dept. of DE is on August 25, 2018 (Saturday) through August 27, 2018 (Monday). More info will be given when we know it.
- Her motto is Believe…We Can Do It!
- Her colors are Red, White and Blue.
- Her pin is $3.00, will be available after National Convention in July, and has the faces of Uncle Sam/Rosie the Riveter on it. Rosie the Riveter is her icon and Mascot.
- Sandi’s main focus is Getting Back to Basics in every Auxiliary. The Podium Book (new one available in October 2018 from the VFW Store) will be your new Best Friend. Every Auxiliary should have a copy. Every member should own one. Again, an awesome resource.

Here are some interesting facts about my year:

- My moto is **Boots and Paws are My Cause**
- My colors are Red, White and Blue
- My pin is FREE and will be available after the State Convention Banquet.
- Presidential Project is the K-9 Unit at Dover Air Force Base and the Warrior Dogs may be included.
- No General Orders but will communicate monthly by E-newsletters sent to each Auxiliary and posted on Dept. website. When needed, phone calls/texts, emails, Facebook will be used. Personal appearances upon request and as time allows.
- A big deal this year is having every Auxiliary pay their Health & Happiness Quota into NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS in Kansas City, MO by Dec. 1, 2018. Since I get a monthly printout from HQ on which Auxiliary has paid what amount, I can track this item very easily.
- In the June Packet are Intro Letters and First Promotionals from every Program Chairman for 2018-2019. Please read them and start reporting. Reports **must** go into some detail or they may be returned.
- Pay attention to DEADLINES! They are in place for a reason. Missing deadlines throws a monkey wrench into everyone’s work who depends on your info. Make your deadlines and everyone benefits…and that is an awesome accomplishment.
• My Chief of Staff/Extension is Dr. Michaele Russell and my Deputy Chief of Staff is Rebecca Pernol, both of whom are PDPs, knowledgeable, get things done and are team players.

The password for the year is **CHANGE**: many changes from National Headquarters; some changes from our VFW counterparts; and a few changes on the VFW Auxiliary side. Before your head explodes I want to tell you what my definition of change means for 2018-2019.

• It does not mean GOOD
• It does not mean BAD
• It does mean DIFFERENT, TRIAL and ERROR, POSSIBILITY.
• If trying something new doesn’t work, it can always be reshaped. Don’t freak out, but let’s see how the changes work. I do know that it’s easier said than done, but let’s just see how things progress.

Remember when I said that **DEADLINES** are critical? Here we go:

• If the following items aren’t done on time, an Auxiliary suspension is likely and mentoring time is given to rebuild the ailing Auxiliary.
• All Installation Reports received at National Headquarters by July 31, 2018.
• All Auxiliaries must be bonded by August 31, 2018.
• Must have submitted a Council – approved Audit and Budget by October 1, 2018 or request for an extension before that date (Dept. of DE)
• Dues must be paid by June 30 to remain a continuous member. Prior year’s dues may not be paid after July 1.
• Every Auxiliary shall hold at least ten (10) business meetings per year.
• The Auxiliary President to a Post shall, within 30 days after induction, submit to the Commander of the respective Post the last quarterly audit, membership status report, and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee.
  ➢ Such reports will be acknowledged by each respective Commander during the next regular meet of the Post over which he/she presides and may be read to the members as assembled.

There are a few brief reminders from our new Program Chairmen. Each one pertains to a new focus in each Program. Be sure to read their Promotional #1s in your Packet given to you at the June 23, 2018 COA. **They are:**

• **Americanism** – Roger Leslie – summer is a good time to participate in Flags Across America. Report it!
• **Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children** – Susan Wilkerson – Buddy Poppy Drives can happen all year long. Buy a Life Membership for a deserving Auxiliary member. Report the activities.
• **Chief of Staff/Extension** – Chief of Staff Russell – Be sure to use your toolkit, or I like to call it a “Medicine Cabinet.” Didn’t help? Call me for a Mentor.
• **Historian/Media Relations** – Tina Lucas – Got pictures of a Dept. event with the Dept. President Margo Ellers? Send me a copy for our Facebook page.
• **Hospital** – Karen Johnson – Spotlight Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Issues in your Auxiliaries. Report what happened to me.
• Legislative – Irene Alkire – Vote in any election and report the information under I Vote in Honor of a United States Veteran.

• Membership & Recruitment – Faye Caldwell – Make up a Fact Sheet or Brochure created by the Auxiliary & about the Auxiliary to give to potential or new members. Report it, and send a copy of it.

• Scholarships – Joyce Hirst – Get out the VOD/Patriot’s Pen Contest brochures to students and their families NOW. Summer is a good time to work on the contests. Please report when you have completed the task.


• Youth Activities – Greggie Abraham – Create a Contest for Students in Grades K-5 over the summer. Report it with a detailed description.

School of Instruction/COA will not take place at DSU in Dover, DE on August 11, 2018. The Dept. of DE VFW is planning a new design which we will tell you about when everything is in place. You will be notified of when and how it will take place. The VFW Auxiliary is working to make our needs met in the midst of the new changes. Look out for an email and posting about the dates and times.

Believe...we can do it.

Best wishes for an interesting year with new ways of looking at age old problems. Change can be good or bad, but it will definitely be different.

Boots and Paws are My Cause,

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