



“Let Your Light Shine”

My fellow American Legion Auxiliary members, we have just returned from Cincinnati, Ohio and our National American Legion Auxiliary Convention! This event always fills me with excitement for our organization and gives me the motivation to continue to work our mission. This is the start of a new year which gives each of us a chance to regroup and start again. As President this year, I hope we continue to grow our organization and continue to help our veterans. Our work does not stop one year and start again the next. This is an ongoing mission and each of us need to give support to one another and especially to our veterans. To do this all of your help is needed. Listening to other departments and what they are doing in their states makes me proud to be a member of this organization. It is all about our veterans and I know each of you will do what you can to move us forward helping our veterans in North Carolina.

I am asking each of you to be the best you can be and “Let Your Light Shine” for our veterans, military, their families and our communities. After all, they have given up so much for each of us and they need our support. I believe each of us can contribute something! Whether it is just paying our dues or whether working in the VA Medical Centers, or visiting our nursing facilities; we each contribute in our own way and it takes all of us!

My President’s Project this year is to collect \$20,000 in donations that will be divided equally between the four (4) VA Medical Centers for tangible items needed by our veterans. Please visit the President’s Project table at Fall Conference and help in support of our veterans.

Let’s not forget to get in that membership; this is what gives us money to work our mission.

Division meetings are coming up and I look forward to seeing you there. This is a good place to listen to all the opportunities we have to make a difference and “Let Our Lights Shine”. Please try and make these meetings. Our Fall Conference will be held in Raleigh on October 21st and 22nd. We are planning two learning events on Friday morning and early Friday afternoon. I hope you will make plans to attend. Both of these are great opportunities to visit with our Auxiliary family and to take back ideas to our own units.

Please keep our members that are having health or family issues in your prayers and remember Betsey Lee Hodges (who recently lost her mother).

For God & Country,

**Brenda Toppin
Dept. President
2016 - 2017**