



I trust everyone has stayed safe during the crazy winter weather we continue to experience and, if you are like me, you're ready to see daffodils bloom and be reminded Spring is not too far away.

Thanks to those of you who attended our Mid-Winter Conference in February. Although so many of our members have been plagued with the flu epidemic and other illnesses, both personally and in their families, we had a reasonably good turnout and enjoyed another opportunity to be together and share news and planning of our programs. It's always great to be with our ALA sisters!

Our district meetings have already begun and will be concluded by the end of April. We find ourselves already beginning a review of what has been accomplished thus far, what more can be accomplished before year end in June, and also planning for next year's activities and leaders. The schedule of those meetings was included in January-February mailing or can be found on our web site: [alanorthcarolina.com](http://alanorthcarolina.com) under the tab "Mailings".

Every unit likely has active and contributing members who are unable or unwilling to attend conferences and conventions due to travel restrictions, scheduling challenges, financial limitations, etc. For those reasons in themselves, I ask that you strongly promote your upcoming district meeting with your Unit members. There is no better opportunity to hear what other units have planned and/or accomplished. It's an ideal time to get ideas for activities and projects for your own unit. If you have an idea for an activity which may be more than your unit can handle by itself, perhaps you can connect with another unit in your district for a joint undertaking. Some unit members are unwilling to attend night meetings, some don't want to venture far from home, others can't or don't want to give up an entire day or weekend, so District meetings are definitely suited for those members. Plus, this is an excellent time for newer members to learn more about our organization and its programs. I have a challenge for you -- let's see which unit can have the largest representation at its own district meeting -- maybe a prize will be awarded at Convention...

Plans are being finalized for our Legion Family College session to be held July 10-11 at the Village Inn Event Center in Clemmons, NC, and a registration form is included in this mailing. Please share the registration form with your Unit members soon so plans can be made for their participation. Courses will include sessions designed for newer members to learn "basics" about our organization, training sessions for unit, district and division officers, instruction on how to conduct successful meetings and ceremonies, and other topics. One of the sessions I'm most excited about will provide information to ALA members regarding VA benefits available to veterans and family members as well as the processes involved in getting help or answers when needs arise. A VA Service Officer will conduct this special session, and I'm sure it will be extremely beneficial and informative to everyone attending. And remember, although we call this Legion College, there is no testing and no pressure -- just pertinent information in a relaxed and enjoyable setting which affords greater opportunity for learning, socializing and sharing.

***And as always, I ask that you please never forget: we must ourselves remain strong and capable if we are to be in a position to serve others. THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF VETERANS NEED US!***

For God and Country,

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