



I hope the holidays brought lots of happiness and special memories for each of you and that you, in turn, brought happiness to others in some manner.

If you had the opportunity to participate in any activities which align with our programs, make sure you take a moment to jot down information such as the activity, the time spent, the number of ALA members involved, any monetary costs and the number of lives you touched with your undertakings. Keep this information handy so it can be included later in the year when year-end reports are completed.

In the spirit of a New Year, let's make a *resolution* to work harder than ever to increase our presence in our communities and to make a positive impact in the lives of veterans, active military and families. January and February have numerous special dates that can be utilized in planning activities: January 19 - *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*; February 1 - *National Freedom Day*; February 3 - *Four Chaplains Day*; February 16 - *Presidents Day*; and the week of Valentines is always designated as *National Salute to Veteran Patients Week*.

With time absolutely speeding by, I must remind you of our Mid-Winter Conference scheduled at the North Raleigh Hilton on February 6-7, 2015. This year's conference is a bit earlier than normal, so we need to get the date on our calendars and soon make plans to attend. We will be welcoming and hosting a special guest, Susan Heil from Oklahoma, our National Southern Division Vice President. We certainly want a good turnout with lots of enthusiastic members on hand showing hearty support for our organization.

Enclosed in this mailing you will find the schedule for our District Meetings. Please share the date of your district meeting with unit members at your earliest opportunity so each member has the opportunity to put the date of her own district meeting on her calendar well in advance. These meetings will provide opportunities for units to report on what they have planned or have already accomplished; district meetings allow you to expand your knowledge about our Auxiliary and keep you up to date on news and activities; and you will have the opportunity to meet current and past NC leaders. There's no better opportunity, particularly for newer members, to learn about activities and opportunities right in their own back yards. We'd love to have each unit represented. This is your opportunity to share what you have been doing, or to get ideas of future projects by hearing what other units have accomplished.

As I hope you already know, I have chosen our General Fund as my President's Project this year. Our organizational structure must remain strong in order for our Department to continue to operate its office and fund the projects so near and dear to us. As a member-based organization, our finances suffer when membership lags or drops, and we must remain viable in order to continue to fund our programs and continue our service. As a reminder, any Unit or member contributing \$50 or more to the President's Project will be eligible for a drawing for a very special prize at Department Convention. My sincere thanks to all units and members who have already provided financial support toward the President's Project.

And lastly, please, never forget: we must ourselves remain strong and capable if we are to be in a position to serve others. THE NEXT GENERATION OF VETERANS NEEDS US!

For God and Country,

Janice H. MacLeod
jhm1018@aol.com
Phone 980-253-0656