



## ”Let Your Light Shine”

**Welcome 2017!** With a new year comes a chance to start over or reflect on the past year and re-evaluate things that are important to us. What will we as members in the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of North Carolina do? That is certainly the question at hand. Will we continue to let our lights shine for our veterans, military and their families; for our communities; for our schools and for all our programs that are so near and dear to us? Will we grow our membership in our units or will we sit back and do very little or nothing?

This morning in church our pastor talked to us about renewing our commitment and reminded us to look around at the many ways which we can be of service by serving others. This not only reminded me of my own spiritual growth challenges but it also reminded me of our organization and how we seemed to have lost some of our enthusiasm and how we may need to renew our commitment to our mission and to each other by our service to others.

The facts are that members are not renewing their membership or not paying their dues in a timely manner. If you hold any office in your local unit or in our department; your dues should have already been paid. The facts are that these monies help us run our department and work our mission. I can hear someone saying, “my dues won’t make that much difference, I am just one person.” I am here to tell you that **We need Each of YOU and YOU do make a difference!** I cannot stress that enough.

We continue to ask for donations to the President’s Project. Our goal is \$20,000 to be split equally between the four VA Medical Centers across our state for projects within the centers. If your unit can give to this worthwhile cause, please do so. We currently have about \$4,000 in donations and on behalf of our veterans we thank you for that. Please also remember to pay your Fair Share (\$2 per member as of June 30<sup>th</sup>).

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, I hope you can make plans to attend. There will be a training session on Friday and I will be meeting with the Division and District Presidents along with the Chairmen in the President’s Suite Friday afternoon as we did at Fall Conference. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

I do want to thank those of you that have and are working so hard in supporting our mission. Your love and support shows because you are letting your lights shine across North Carolina!

District Meetings will be coming up soon; make sure your unit is represented and let us know what you are doing or if you need help.

In 2017 I hope we will come together as a family and work our mission for those that have given up so much for each of us. Let’s make a difference by letting our lights shine !

For God & Country,

*Brenda Toppin*, President

American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of N.C.

