

It is a privilege and an honor to be your new Department President and it is my responsibility to try to shape the path of the Department Auxiliary for the next year. We are striving to shape the path of your Auxiliary which often times affects your personal lives. I need your help.

My year is dedicated to my parents, Glen and Clara Wiedemer, who took us to VFW and Auxiliary functions from the time we were very young. Dad was boots on the ground in Korea and rose through the local ranks and then District ranks to Commander. Mom went through Auxiliary, District and eventually Department to Department President. It is my honor to follow in their footsteps and take the position of Department President. I hope to do them proud.

I have heard a lot of concerns about rumors and mistruths that are pulling our local, District and Department Auxiliaries apart.

Don't let politics divide us.

If you cannot substantiate a rumor, please don't repeat it.

Another concern is the cost of our meetings both in dollars and time. While I wanted to have our Fall Council Meeting during the same timeframe and place as the National President's visit this was not to be. The National President's visit will be in Pierre September 23-24-25, 2025 and we will be in Sioux Falls for Fall Council October 3-4. Our District Presidents are in the planning stage of their Auxiliary visits. This is a wonderful time for District Presidents to get to know each of the auxiliary members in their District. I wish each of them safe travels and learning experiences. More will follow on both as plans are developed.

My loyalty is to the Auxiliary and I must make decisions, that in my opinion, are the best for the Auxiliary. I am receiving input from my officers and together we hope to help bring our Department back to where it belongs.

I want to give you something from the Bylaws to think about each month.

Some Auxiliary members wonder why they are allowed to speak, make motions and vote at their local Auxiliary but not at the Department level Council of Administration. (C of A) The simple answer is only certain Auxiliary members are members of the C of A.

The question is: Who are the members of the C of A that are eligible to make motions and vote at the C of A meetings?

Answer: Per National Bylaws Section 608 on Page 49 and 50 of your new Bylaws book.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.