

## The Final Chapter

Spring is here and it is a sure sign that everything is awakening from winter's sleep. In the VFW Auxiliary year, this is the last quarter of the year. It is the Final Chapter in a year that has been filled with excitement, enthusiasm, laughter, fun and pride mixed in with heartache and some disappointment.

The blueprint and foundation for success in our department was already there. It was up to this year's Department, District and Auxiliary officers to execute the plan. To date our membership growth has been outstanding, our programs are leading the nation and our commitment to excellence is unmatched.

What we do in the final weeks will set this year's team apart from all the others. As they say in racing, now is not the time to let up on the gas. Now is the time to accelerate to the finish line.

With only weeks remaining, we have an opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of women who have been sexually assaulted and/or abused. Our Auxiliaries as well as VFW and VFW Auxiliary members have raised a tremendous amount of money that will go a long way to help put these women lives back together. I look forward to presenting that check to Michelle Zielenski of the VA at our State Convention.

As always, none of the successes this year could be done without the incredible group of officers and members. Your dedication and support are what makes the office of State President so rewarding. Sure that are blimps in the road. Too many struggles with Posts and Auxiliaries. Too many petty and trivial matters that get in the way, but all in all, when the job needs to be done, you can be counted on to make it happen.

It is springtime, so enjoy it, but in the VFW Auxiliary calendar, this is the final chapter, so make it count.

Your Department President

*Jeresa Bachand*