

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Membership Bulletin**

**May 2019**

**Bertha (Bert) Lema**

As our fiscal year comes to an end, at Department we are preparing for Convention and the election of new officers. Before I, maybe, move on to a different position and new challenges, I have a few “thank you’s” to share:

- Thank you to all Auxiliaries who have submitted their revalidations for 2019/2020. We are still missing a few and they have been contacted by our Parliamentarian with reminders about the importance of getting them to her in a timely manner.
- Thank you to the Local Auxiliary members who ran for office or agreed to take an appointment to a position. As I review our revalidations, I see many familiar names but a few new ones, as well. For anyone hesitant to be an officer: JUST DO IT! An auxiliary is only as strong as their members and they need leaders who are willing to step up to the challenge of doing the work of keeping it active and involved. If you don’t know exactly what is required of a certain position, look it up! You can find Local Officer instructions for all positions on our website <https://www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org>. If you have questions, ask someone in your auxiliary who has held that position. And, don’t be afraid to make a mistake. We have all “been there, done that”. That’s how you learn. We need fresh ideas and energized individuals to become leaders in our organization. You could be just that person!
- Thank you to the leaders at those Local Auxiliaries who have struggled this year. You know who you are! I appreciate all that you have done to get officers in place for the coming year. Because of you, your Local Auxiliary will stay in the business of helping veterans, children and your community.
- Thank you to our Local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents. We have actually grown in total membership this year! Just a smidge; but it’s a start and the first time that our total Department membership has shown an increase since 2015! That’s with your diligence in getting members renewed timely and encouraging active recruitment.



- Lastly, thank you to our Department Officers for your willingness to serve. Whatever position you have, it is important work and I appreciate all of you. Please use your leadership skills and knowledge to train our future leaders. If we are to remain a viable organization into the future, we need ladies willing to serve at the Department level.

*In Service to Veterans and their Families.*

*Bert*

You are always encouraged to contact me to share information and/or ask any membership-related questions. If you are holding a local membership project or event, let me know. Your ideas could benefit others! If you have a membership topic that you would like me to discuss, pass it along! I can be reached by email at [lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com) or by phone at 586.214.1019.