

Dear Sisters,
August 2019

What a wonderful convention held for the first time in Atlanta, Georgia. I want to thank all who contributed so much to its success. I am honored to have been chosen as your National President and look forward to working with our organization. I have been attending the National Convention for the last 10 years, my first convention being in Maine. It's a great way to meet people from all over our country and I am excited to begin visiting departments/tents and detached tents. Please email me asap with your Department Convention and/or meeting dates and locations.

I would like to thank my installing officers and my husband for being at my installation as National President. As I said at the convention, I also wanted to thank my parents (up in Heaven), Glenn and Grace Messersmith, for bringing me up in a home that valued education and especially history. My father often told stories of my great grandfather George Messersmith who served with the 22nd PA Cavalry, fighting mostly in Virginia at the end of the war. This leads me to one of my goals this year. I would like to increase our knowledge of our own organization through information on our web site and develop ways we can increase our presence in the schools and other organizations. History seems to be taking a back seat at times, and while teachers are loaded down with things they must teach, perhaps we can fill a void by offering extra programs. I know that one of my most rewarding experiences as a librarian occurred when a mother asked what book I had read to her six-grade daughter who never wanted to read anything. She said her daughter couldn't stop talking about the book. I told her it was *Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco, a story about two young boys in the Union Army during the Civil War. I have trouble reading it without crying at the end. A fantastic book. There are many good books out there that we can share with the youth of today. The young are the ones that can potentially become DUVCW members in the future. In keeping with the education theme, this year we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of getting the Women's Right to Vote. The 19th Amendment passed Congress on June 4, 1919 and was ratified on August 18, 1920. I encourage you to plan some type of program dealing with this important milestone in American History.



I would like to continue to increase our efforts to build membership. When conversing with people I am most often asked, "What does your organization do?" Be prepared to tell them of your activities. People are so busy with other activities and if they become involved, they want to make a difference. I listened to the Historian and other reports at the convention and **YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

Finally, continue to support our military and veterans. These people often put their lives on the line for us. I presented a quilt to a Korean War veteran a few years ago (I've done 3 so far), and when I told him it was for him, he said "What, this is for me?" And then he got tears in his eyes. He started to apologize for tearing up, and I said no need to apologize, he deserved the quilt. You never know what impact you may make on others with a little bit of kindness.

In closing, I am inviting each of you to our 130th National Convention in Springfield, Illinois, July 22-26, 2020. We will be staying at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Springfield. Also, the Department of Illinois will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary! Please plan on joining us for an awesome time in Illinois!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Sandra K. Millin, Ed.D.
National President