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To All My Officers, Chairwomen, Brothers and Sisters:

I am very honored and humbled to be your 2020-2021 President. I am very confident that with **your** help we will have an amazing year. We share a common goal - we are all very passionate about helping our veterans and their families. We can accomplish great things when we work together as a team. Yes, we need to keep our membership numbers up – that is important, but so are all the other programs we do.

We have gotten off to a rocky start with the COVID-19 virus complicating things, making planning any kind of face-to-face meetings very difficult. Technology is great, but it can't compare to all of us being in the same room talking, laughing and brainstorming. That is why our first meeting will be held outdoors at the pavilion at VFW Post 8075 in Prospect. We will be practicing social-distancing so bring your bag lunch, mask, gloves, hand sanitizer, and a lawn chair. Water will be provided.

My symbol is a patriotic heart. My colors are red, white and blue. My slogan is "God Bless Our Veterans...Forever In Our Hearts." My special project is "Quilts of Valor Foundation", which honors veterans with beautiful handmade quilts. There are three chapters in Connecticut – Clinton, Norwich and Tolland.

I struggled with a lot of different project ideas until I saw an article in my local newspaper about Sherry Wozniak (a dual member) from Post and Auxiliary 5446 in Plainfield and 11 other veterans being honored with a breakfast and a ceremony where each veteran was enveloped in one of their quilts. Our donations will make it easier for them to purchase the materials needed to honor even more veterans with **our** love.

Incoming National President Sandra Onstwedder's Special Project is *Stars, Stripes and Support: Combating Food Insecurity Among Our Nation's Military Service Personnel and Their Families*. Her slogan is *Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans*. For more information go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), type *NBC Investigates Military Hunger* in the search bar and watch the video or you can watch it on MALTA.

Again, thank you for all you do for each other and especially for our veterans.

Loyally,

Maureen

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