

Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Auxiliaries Empowering Families

It's that time to think about what we are doing as a Department to communicate to our members about the need for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund – the fund that is MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS!

In August I challenged each District President to hold a District Fundraiser to help by increasing awareness and raising funds. As of November 13, 2009, this is how the Districts look:

**District 9 – 42.730%
District 1 – 4.404%
District 5 – 3.556%
District 7 – 1.991%
District 2 – 1.572%
District 11 – 1.417%
District 12 – 1.280%
District 10 – 1.150%
District 4 - .764%
District 3 - .098%**

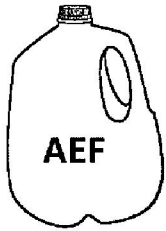
Remember, this is based on your 2010 goal. Where is your District? Are you going to let District 9, Martha Setlock – President, get ahead of you? Let's get those donations sent in! Don't let your time run out.

The AEF was established in 1969 through a bequest from the Estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small. This fund is designed to assist eligible Auxiliary members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. This is also the AEF's 40th Anniversary. Read the Plan of Action for this year's objectives for ideas and suggestions for honoring this milestone.

OBJECTIVE #1 – Increase member awareness of benefits and services of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Have you passed out the AEF brochure at your Legion and Auxiliary functions that involve Auxiliary members? Have you publicized your Unit AEF activities in your local newspaper? Do you

have any recipient stories you can share with others? Have you done a fundraiser that was successful and then shared your results with others?

OBJECTIVE #2 – Increase member and Unit donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Has your Unit designated a fundraising activity to benefit the AEF through individual donations? Is your Unit working with your District President to coordinate a District-Wide AEF Fundraiser? Has your Unit discussed and sent to Department an additional \$0.40 per



member in honor of the National AEF's 40th Anniversary? Has your Unit discussed and sent to Department a Unit donation increase of 20% over your last year donation? Have you put a "Members Helping Members" coin jar on the bar of your canteen, or passed the jar at your Unit or District meetings to help benefit AEF?

If you haven't done these things, the time is now! Let's get those District Fundraiser's scheduled. When they are scheduled, please e-mail me, Vicky Buck at LT248@aol.com and let me know when it is. I will make every effort to show up and support you. If you need AEF brochures, let me know. We need to get the word out to those who need help and to those willing to help.

With the winter months upon us, it is time to look for help for home energy assistance programs. www.liheap.ncat.org is a website that has links to each state's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If you need help for low-income families to purchase nutritious foods, try the website www.fns.usda.gov/fsp. If you look, there are many organizations in your local communities that are here to help. Seek them out and suggest them to those in need.

Remember, I am here to help. Call me, e-mail, snail mail me. Let's communicate with others about this "members helping members" program, AEF.

Vicky Buck
Department AEF Chairman
708 S. Ogden Avenue
Columbus, OH 43204
(614) 596-8540
Lt248@aol.com

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,
AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**ADOPTED
BY
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
89TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 21-27, 2009
Louisville, Kentucky**

November 18, 2009

The following is a list of the resolutions, recommendations and amendments that were adopted by the 89th annual National Convention. Many of these are meant for the National Level only, however some affect the Unit. Please review and make any appropriate changes at the Unit level where necessary. If you have additional questions please contact the undersigned or the Department Secretary.

Cyndi Underwood
National Executive Committeewomen
Cbu1982@aol.com

National Junior Activities Committee Resolution

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Patch Program promotes patriotism by educating its Junior Members while earning patches in Americanism, Poppy, VA&R, Community Service, Fitness, Leadership, Field Service, Education and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Junior Members should be challenged while completing the requirements of all patches; and

WHEREAS, Presently the age groups are:

Level 1: Ages Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Level 2: Ages Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade

Level 3: Ages Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old); and

WHEREAS, Levels 1 and 2 have such a huge age and grade gap; and

WHEREAS, Kindergarten through Third Grade are considered primary grades, and Fourth Grade through Eighth Grade are considered middle grades; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all concerned that the age and grade gap of Level 1 and Level 2 be changed to correct the age and grade gap, with Level 3 remaining the same; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21-27, 2009, that Level 1 and Level 2 be changed as follows:

Level 1: Ages Kindergarten through Third Grade

Level 2: Ages Fourth Grade through Eighth Grade

Level 3: Ages Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old)

RESOLVED, That all requirements for all Levels remain the same.

RESOLVED, That this change become effective with the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

National Magazine Content Resolution

WHEREAS, The national magazine is the only publication every member receives and they need information about our programs; and

WHEREAS, The strategic plan calls for:

- Continually ensuring American Legion Auxiliary programs are relevant and to provide incoming leadership with ideas and information to assist in programming decisions; and
- Developing volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization by investing in a variety of resources and to provide annual relevant training and resource plans to enhance the skills of the volunteer leaders at the nation, state, and unit levels; and

WHEREAS, The national magazine previously contained program Mini Plans of Work and articles from National Chairmen to encourage and help members work the Auxiliary programs in their Units; and

WHEREAS, This was valuable information and ideas for members, Unit and Department Chairmen, and a way for members to hear from Nation Chairmen; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Auxiliary in national convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 22-27, 2009, That the fall issue of the National American Legion Auxiliary magazine, will contain Mini Plans of Work (Action) of at least 450 words for each program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each subsequent issue will contain articles of a minimum 600 words regarding at least four of the programs by the National Chairmen; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution will become effective with the 2010 – 2011 administrative year.

Release of Known Donor Information from Previous Direct Mailings

WHEREAS, The National Organization has discontinued sharing revenue from most of the affinity programs; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization has authorization rights to the known donor list(s) from previous direct mail solicitations; and

WHEREAS, many Departments are in need of revenue and may wish to participate in direct mail solicitations to increase their income sources; and

WHEREAS, participation in direct mail solicitation would be more efficiently and economically accomplished if previous known donor lists were available; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21-27, 2009, that upon request from a Department, the National organization will authorize release

to the Department the “Department’s list” of known donors from the direct mail solicitations with any associated costs from the vendors to be born by that Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE V, SECTION 2 AMENDED TO READ:

Section 2. All Past National Presidents in good standing in the local Units shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, with all rights except the right to vote.

NATIONAL BYLAWS, ARTICLE III, SECTION 7 AMENDED TO READ:

Section 7. National Historian: It shall be the duty of the National Historian to complete the historical records of the National Organization and to make a report to the National Convention. She shall prepare a written account of the year’s activities for reference in the compilation of future National History books. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days of end of quarter for the first three quarters of the administrative year. Failure to submit reports will result in a termination of travel authorizations. The completed report is to be filed in National Headquarters, no later than December 31 following the National Convention, copy to be sent to the National President with whom she served. The Past National Historian pin will be will be presented provided the first three quarterly reports have been filed as required.

NATIONAL BYLAWS, ARTICLE V, AMENDED TO READ:

Section 4. There shall be the following Administrative Committees: Audit.

Section 5. There shall be an Audit Committee under Administrative Committees that shall consist of three members appointed annually by the National President and ratified by the NEC. The first operating year of the committee, one member will be appointed to serve a term of three (3) years or until her successor is appointed; one member will be appointed to serve a term of two (2) years or until her successor is appointed; and, one member will be appointed to serve a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, one member will be appointed annually to serve a term of three (3) years or until her successor is appointed.

The Audit Committee shall be responsible for providing oversight assistance to the National Executive Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to accounting and reporting practices, reliable systems of internal control, the corporate responsibility program, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary’s financial reporting. Audit Committee members will be financially literate and chairperson of the committee will have the necessary background to be considered an “audit committee financial expert” in matters dealing with accounting and auditing.

STANDING RULES, 1. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, SECTION 5 AMENDED TO READ:

Section 5. The candidate(s) for National President for the ensuing year, with the cooperation of the National President and National Secretary, shall plan a membership theme and program and if possible in correlation with that of The American Legion for the following year; and these plans should be presented to the Departments no later than June 1 of the same year, enabling the Departments to coordinate their membership objectives and program to those of the National Organization.

AMERICANISM

DENISE CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

A LITTLE HISTORY OF OUR FLAG: DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ The U.S. Flag is the third oldest of the National Standards of the world, older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.
- ★ The flag was first authorized by Congress June 14,1777 . This date is now observed as Flag Day throughout America.
- ★ The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present city of Rome, New York, on August 3,1777. It was first under fire three days later in the Battle of Oriskany, August 6,1777.
- ★ The flag was first carried in battle at the Brandywine, September 11,1777
- ★ The flag first flew over foreign territory Jan.28,1778, at Nassau, Bahamas, after capture by the Americans in the war for Independence.
- ★ The first salute by a foreign officer, French Admiral LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, was Feb. 13,1778.

AMERICANISM YOUTH CONFERENCE ESSAY

At Mid-Winter there will be a raffle with all proceeds to be used for the Americanism Youth Conference fund. Please be generous as this is an outstanding program for our youth.

Deadline for student essay to sponsoring Unit, Dec.1,2009

Deadline for Unit to Department Headquarters, Dec.15, 2009

Notification of winners, mid-January 2010.

BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE

Applications are due to Department

\$250.00 prior to Feb.1,2010

\$275.00 postmarked after Feb.1,2010

AMERICANISM

DENISE CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

CALLING ALL USED CELL PHONES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

As Christmas fast approaches, a common gift idea is a new cell phone for a family member. What do you do with the old cell phones? I'm sure many of you have heard of the "Cell Phone for Soldiers" program. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you the story of how this program got started.

Two young teens, Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, heard of a deployed soldier with an \$8,000.00 cell phone bill. They put their young energy together and organized raffles, garage sales, car washes and various other fund raisers until they had enough money to pay the entire phone bill for the soldier. In the process they learned they could trade in old cell phones for \$5.00 a piece in exchange for phone cards and send them to our soldiers. In the last 3 years the teens have been able to purchase 1.5 million minutes in phone cards for our soldiers. Their goal is to purchase enough minutes for soldiers to call they're families anytime and often. A major phone company has set aside \$300,000.00 for this purpose.

The goal of the Bergquist family is to raise more than \$9 million in the next five years to fund new programs such as providing video phones with prepaid service to allow soldiers abroad to see their families on a regular basis.

I will have prepaid envelopes available at Mid-Winter Convention for anyone interested in donating your used cell phones. Be sure to clear all information from the cell phone and leave the battery attached. Chargers will be accepted but are not necessary.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Empowering Women, Inspiring Communities

From the Office of:
Katie Wainwright
Secretary/Treasurer
Department of Ohio, Inc.

TO: Unit Presidents
FROM: Katie Wainwright, Department Secretary
DATE: November 18, 2009

SUBJECT: CANDIDATES FOR 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT OFFICES

A Member wishing to be an announced candidate for Department Office must complete and return this form to Department Headquarters by May 1 of the year of elections. Unit Presidents are asked to share this information and make this form available to all members upon request.

Announced Candidate for the Office of: _____

Name of Candidate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Endorsed by Unit? Yes _____ Date: _____ No _____

Endorsed by District? Yes _____ Date: _____ No _____

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

Return to Department Headquarters by **May 1, 2010:** American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 2760
Zanesville OH 43702

Please see Policy regarding Candidates for Department Office on reverse.

POLICY REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE-Paragraph 13 of 2009-2010 Department Policy

- a. Any Unit member in good standing is eligible to hold a Department Office.
- b. All candidates seeking a Department Office must submit a Letter of Intent to Department Headquarters by April 1 of the year of elections.
- c. Each District may endorse no more than one candidate for a Department Office. A letter of endorsement may be submitted to the Department Headquarters by April 1 of the year of elections to be published in the May, June, July issue of the Buckeye Messenger.
- d. A candidate seeking a District's endorsement for a Department Office may only be endorsed by a majority vote of delegates attending a District Summer Convention.
- e. A Candidate may use either a letter or flyer (not both) to announce her candidacy to the Units. The reproduction of this announcement shall be at the candidate's expense. The candidate shall send her announcement to Department Headquarters no later than April 30th for inclusion in the May Bulk Mailing to Unit Presidents.
- f. The candidate may have one poster, not to exceed 22" x 28", announcing her candidacy. This poster may have a picture of any size and may be placed at the entrance of the Convention Hall. Requests and payment for display easels must be into Department Headquarters at least two (2) weeks prior to Department Convention.
- g. All Department Officer candidates may visit each District caucus as a group.
- h. There will be no campaign material or campaigning allowed in the convention center or hall. Pages will be instructed to ask individuals to remove the material as they enter or will be asked to leave the Convention Hall.
- i. All Department Officer candidates may have a Joint Reception to be coordinated by Department Headquarters held at a time that does not conflict with any Auxiliary convention activities including the Joint Session. Light refreshments are to be provided by the candidates. Campaign materials are permissible ONLY during this time.
- j. Candidates for any office shall be nominated by a Delegate of their choosing other than the Department President, Department First Vice President, Department Second Vice President, Department Secretary/Treasurer, or the National Executive Committeewoman.
- k. The Presiding Officer will ask for further nominations prior to presenting all candidates to the delegation before the election.
- l. Each candidate may address the Department Convention for two (2) minutes when introduced.

BUCKEYE MESSENGER

Deadlines for Announced Candidates Articles

Announcements for District Presidents

February, March, April issue
Deadline – February 1, 2010

Announcements for Department Officers

May, June, July issue
Deadline – May 1, 2010



Hello again!! I can't wait to tell you what I have to share with you this time. I hope you find these helpful. The second item was something new I learned this year and I'm so glad I did.

Regarding bylaws amendments and Unit voting...

ARTICLE XIII
Amendments

(Article XIII, Section 1 – State you need a majority or a two-thirds vote to pass a change. At the end of paragraphs state how members are notified.)

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at a Unit meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular Unit meeting provided the proposed amendments have been read at a previous meeting and the entire membership has been notified of the proposal by medium of the press or Unit notice, _____ . (You decide how the Unit is notified.)

According to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition*, page 562. The above actually has an error in it according to the information on page 562. It should be "provided the proposed amendments have been read at the previous meeting".

According to the information given the above section "should always require at least that advance notice be given in a specified manner, and that the amendment be approved by a two-thirds vote."
It could read:

Section 1. These Bylaws or any part thereof, may be amended at the January meeting or at a Unit meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members voting provided the entire membership has been notified of the reading of a proposed amendment by medium of the press or Unit notice.

(Press or Unit notice... can be the calendar section of local newspaper, Post or Unit newsletter, or a Unit mailing. If you do at the January meeting, your bylaws is the notification. If it is decided it needs to be done at another Unit meeting other than January, you would need to send out notice.)

One thing I learned new at National Convention this year was when I attended the workshop on "Understanding Resolutions and Bylaws Changes". It is a good idea to put in bylaws a section as follows:

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has the authority to make technical changes for readability.

(I think I would make this Article XI, Section 2. This covers typos, misspellings, and grammatical errors. You also have to be very careful where you put commas. You don't want to change the meaning. This section will make it speed up the process when voting on changes. Without it you vote on changing all the typos and misspellings, too.)

Susan Masten, Chairman
419 Young Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324-5749
gclef419@yahoo.com
#3





AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 15-21, 2009

The 88th Annual Promotion of Education Week

Ways to involve your Unit:

- Make and display an appreciation banner
- Give apples or baked goods to the schools and include thank you notes
- Provide some snacks in the staff lounge
- Have your juniors make some "thank you" bookmarks
- Ask the mayor to sign a proclamation (included in this mailing)
- Make Certificates of Appreciation for you teachers

These are just some suggestions for you to use. Please let me know what your Unit does to Celebrate American Education Week in your communities.

The purpose of education is to provide everyone with the opportunity to learn. Education gives children the means to become productive citizens.

Chaplain's Corner

THOUGHTS FOR DECEMBER

We are doubly blessed this month in the Judeo-Christian World as we celebrate two miracles. On December 11th, Hanukkah begins. This is a celebration is called the "Festival of Lights". In 156 B,C, the Maccabees defeated the Syrians and drove them from Jerusalem and from their Temple. They wanted to consecrate the defiled Temple but could only find one days worth of pure oil for the eternal flame to perform the purification. The lit the oil and miraculously it burned for eight days. Long enough for them to press the olives for more pure olive oil. This holiday is celebrated by lighting the nine-branched Menorah candle- one each night of the eight day holiday.

The holiday celebrated in the Christian World is Christmas, the celebration on the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. This is, by tradition, celebrated on December 25th. As the angels on high rejoiced at the birth of the Savior, we, too can take this time to reflect on that miracle and what it means to us personally.

I know that there will be many activities that relate to giving to others and visiting those who are less well off then yourselves. May you feel the joy and love this Christmas and share it with those around you.

Invocation: Dear Lord, we ask your blessings on this meeting today. Help us consider others than ourselves. Give us the use of your comfort and understanding as we meet here to conduct the business of the Auxiliary. May we work together for the betterment of our community and our organization. We thank You for all who are gathered here today. Bless them and the families represented. We especially think of our service men and women as they are absent from us and from their families at this time of year. Be with them, Lord, comfort and protect them. We ask this in Your Precious name. Amen

Benediction: Lord, send us away, today, in harmony and peace. We thank You for our officers and members who have made important decisions for our organization. Be with us as we go to our homes, may we have a safe journey. Lord, we ask that, as Auxiliary members we continue to help our veterans. Let us do what we can to make their holidays cheerful and more replete. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen

HOUSEKEEPING NOTE: Please send you member data forms with the death notices to Department in Zanesville. They need them so they can be recorded in their files and publish them in the Buckeye Messenger.

REMEMBER to send me your prayers and meditations for my prayer book for Martha Lee.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: *There is a reason a dog has so many friends, he wags his tail instead of his tongue.*



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio, Inc.

PO BOX 2760

ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43702-2760

OFFICE OF
Katie Wainwright
SECRETARY / TREASURER
PHONE (740) 452-8245
FAX (740) 452-2620
ala_katie@rroho.com

November 18, 2009

To: Unit Presidents Department Executive Committee
 District Chairmen Hospital Representatives & Deputies
 Department Chairmen Past Department Presidents

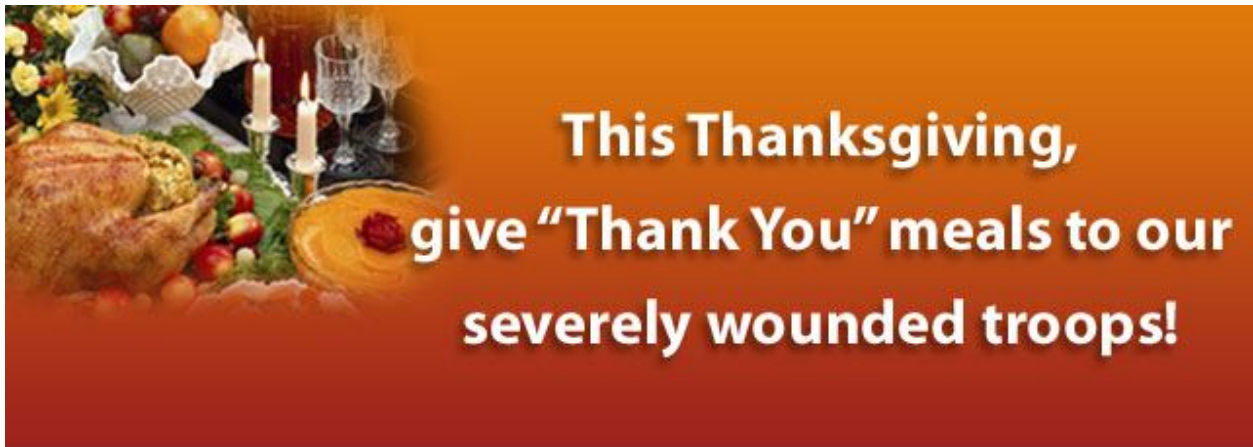
The enclosed information is to be distributed to Unit Chairmen and shared with all members.

- ✓ Mid-Winter Conference (Ivory) – *all members*
 - Mid-Winter Conference Information
 - Tentative Schedule
 - Housing Reservations and Directions
 - Leadership Workshop Registration Form
 - Luncheon Reservation Form
- ✓ Buckeye Messenger Deadlines (green) – *All members*
- ✓ Announced Candidates Form and Policy (white) – *All members*
- ✓ “Thank You” Meals (gold)–*All Members*
- ✓ Unit Bonding Information (green) – *Unit Officers*
- ✓ Americanism (yellow) – *Americanism Chairman*
- ✓ National Convention Resolutions and Amendments(white) – *Unit Presidents*
- ✓ Public Relations (ivory) – *Public Relations Chairman and all members*
- ✓ Department Digest (ivory) – *All members*
- ✓ Membership (salmon) –*Membership Chairman and all members*
- ✓ Notes from the ALA Call to Service Corps VISTA (tan) –*All Members*
- ✓ Leadership (lavender) – *Leadership Chairman*
- ✓ National Security (gray) – *National Security Chairman*
- ✓ Poppy (pink) – *Poppy Chairman*
- ✓ American Education Week (blue)–*Education Chairman*
- ✓ Children and Youth (pink) – *C&Y Chairman*
- ✓ Auxiliary Emergency Fund (lavender) – *AEF Chairman*
- ✓ Constitution and Bylaws (gray) – *C&B Chairman*
- ✓ Chaplain’s Corner (blue) – *Chaplain and All members*
- ✓ Brecksville Needs List (white) – *All Members*
- ✓ VA&R Home Service (white) – *VA&R Chairman*
- ✓ Veteran’s Creative Arts Festival (white) – *VA&R Chairman*
- ✓ UD&R (yellow) –*UD&R Chairman*

Sincerely,

Katie Wainwright
Department Secretary/Treasurer

*May your holidays be filled with peace and joy.
Merry Christmas from the Department Headquarters Staff:
Rachel, Heather, Dean, Nick and Katie.*



This Thanksgiving, give "Thank You" meals to our severely wounded troops!

Providing Emergency Aid to Severely Wounded Troops and Their Families in Crisis

Dear Patriotic American,

Have you thanked a wounded hero for your freedom lately?

If not, the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday gives you a perfect opportunity.

That's because thousands of troops who have been severely burned, blinded or paralyzed in Iraq or Afghanistan will be struggling to put food on the table – and they need your help.

So please **make a tax-deductible donation** to the **Thanksgiving "Thank You" meals project**, sponsored by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

Your gift will help provide these financially strapped military families with a \$60 gift card to buy groceries, or even go out to a restaurant for Thanksgiving dinner.

You can also send a special Thanksgiving **THANK YOU and GET WELL** card to a disabled serviceman or woman. A THANK YOU and GET WELL card from you can help in their healing and let them know you're thankful for the sacrifices they've made.

My name is Major General John K. Singlaub, U.S. Army (Ret.), and I'm writing to you on behalf of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. The Coalition was formed in 2004 to provide emergency financial aid to severely wounded troops and their families in crisis.

Already the Coalition's generous donors have responded with emergency financial aid to more than 11,000 requests from our disabled GIs.

In the process we have given them more than \$22 million to avoid evictions, foreclosures, utility cutoffs, car repossessions and other financial disasters; We also provide their families with food, clothing and other basics.

A Coalition survey of wounded troops indicates nearly half their spouses have quit their jobs to care for them. And thousands of spouses who were working have lost their jobs in the recession. No wonder they are having trouble putting food on the table!

A gift of \$60 can help provide Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings for one severely wounded GI and his or her family, \$120 can help feed two families, \$180 can provide dinner for three families, and so on.

And a gift of \$15, \$25 or \$35 can be combined with other donations to feed a family in need.

Your gift to the Coalition's Thanksgiving "Thank You" meals project could help a retired Marine like Christopher Murphy of Pennsylvania, who told us that after being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq, paying for "rent, food and car payments will be extremely difficult."

Or maybe even someone like Blair Didion Sr., whose photo is above. This retired Army sergeant from Texas, who suffered multiple spinal fractures from a roadside bomb in Iraq, says he sometimes relies on "food from public pantries" to help feed his family.

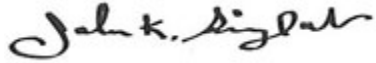
That's just not right, and I'm sure you agree.

The good news is you can let a wounded hero like Blair or Christopher know you respect and honor the painful sacrifice they've made by **helping to provide their family with meals this Thanksgiving.**

Let's face it: You and I can't heal their physical injuries or make them whole again. (No one can.)

But by helping to provide their families with a meal on Thanksgiving Day you can thank them

for the sacrifice they've made while protecting your family's freedom.
Thanks for your patriotic support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John K. Singlaub". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Major General John K. Singlaub
U.S. Army (Ret.),

P.S. As I mentioned, thousands of GIs who have been severely wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan will have trouble putting food on the table this Thanksgiving, [and they need your help](#). Your tax-deductible donation to the Thanksgiving "Thank You" meals project, sponsored by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, will help feed the family of a severely burned, blinded or paralyzed serviceman or woman who has made painful sacrifices while defending your freedom.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation’s precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I (insert name), serving as (insert title) of (insert city/state), do hereby proclaim November 15-21 as the 88th annual observance of American Education Week.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2009.

V A & R HOME SERVICE

"In 1974, a new method of reporting the number of volunteers, hours, and cost of materials and supplies was initiated to record service for the veterans by our volunteers in their own homes" This definition is found in the Guide for Volunteers.

Home Service hours are to be counted for services such as: sewing, knitting, baking, babysitting while veterans attend medical appointments or rehab sessions, cooking and shopping for materials to be used for these activities in the volunteer's **own** home. Articles and other donations for Gift Shop can be counted as Home Service Hours if they are made in the volunteer's own home.

REMEMBER that hours spent for relatives **cannot be counted as Home Service**, and hours in a Facility or Field Service hours cannot be included for credit in the Home Service Program.

VERY IMPORTANT

Each Unit is responsible for reporting their Home Service Hours, the number of volunteers and the funds for this program. The Unit Chairman then reports the information to the Department V A & R Chairman in charge of Home Service.

Please remind your members to record this information regularly. I'm sure that we have many hours and other information which is not reported. The time to begin is **NOW**.

Please review the Guide for Volunteers and share this information with your members. If I can help you with the Home Service Program, please feel free to call write, or e-mail me. I will respond as soon as possible.

Have a wonderful year.

I was wondering if you could help me. It seems that we have some Home Service Bars and Pins that go to some members but we cannot locate them. Could you please send me an updated list of your unit members who are participating in this program? Some people are deceased and are still receiving bars. I sure would appreciate all the help. You can e-mail or write me with the information. My address and phone number are in the plan of work. Thank you so much.

THE KEYS TO LEADERSHIP

L EARN

E DUCATE

A BILITY

D EDICATION

E NTHUSIASM

R ESPONSIBILITY

S INCERITY

H OPE

I NTEGRITY

P OLITENESS

Attend a Leadership
Workshop to become
an effective leader,
using the keys to
outstanding
Leadership!

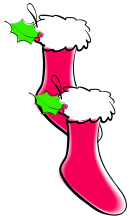


“OHIO is HOT, HOT, HOT on MEMBERSHIP”

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope your Auxiliary year is going well and I know you are all working hard to promote the programs of the American Legion family.



The “OHIO EXPRESS” is filling up with members who are all committed to our veterans, our children and our communities. However, we have a lot of vacant seats and need to fill them up to keep the train’s momentum going.



How about putting a paid up membership in the stocking of a loved one? It’s the gift that keeps on giving the whole year. You could make a New Year’s resolution of finding one new member to join your Auxiliary Unit. Have a “Bring a Friend” to a meeting night and give a prize to the member who brings the most friends. These could be potential members, or possibly they could know someone else who is a potential member. I hope you have put our membership fliers with applications at the National Guard Centers near you. The wives of these active duty soldiers are all potential members. It is so important that we keep our membership growing in order to continue our worthwhile programs. Our veterans, our children and our communities are counting on us.

Have a very blessed HOLIDAY and may all your hopes and dreams be fulfilled in the coming year.



*Linda Close,
Department 1st Vice President*





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Veterans Day is past and I know there were lost of celebrations, parades and parties planned. Did your unit have articles printed in your local papers? Be sure to send them to me to add to the Ohio Press Book. Share with other what you did, share with the public your activities. Make your articles interesting, fun and other ladies will want to join your organization.

This year's Challenge #2

1. Increase electronic communication with members by achieving a 75% increase in the number of email addresses on file with National Headquarters by opening day of the 2010 National Convention. Have you registered to receive the national enews? There is a lot of valuable information each month in this publication and it costs you nothing.

Action Steps:

- a. Promote the value of eTechnology via social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, MyVetnetwork, YouTube, etc. by providing specific examples of its successful use via bulletins or online communication. The Department of Ohio has a page on Facebook set up by the headquarter staff. Become a friend and visit the site. If you are like me, ask your children and grandchildren for assistance. They will love helping you out and you will become closer.
- b. Monthly review of the information available on the National and now Ohio Web site to help ensure relevancy and accuracy. Remember to view the www.alapoa.org for updates and information from the department chairmen.
- c. We encourage all Ohio Units to ask that their members with email sign up for and then forward the ALA eNews or Spirit of America eNews to friends and then ask them to sign up to receive these ecommunications.
- d. I encourage all Units to collect email addresses using creative ideas and incentives. Be sure to forward to me your unit ideas for how you collected the email addresses and any concerns your member have in sharing this information.

Ohio can make things happen! Ohio's Auxiliary members have always made it happen! Publicize your work; tell your community just what you do for the veterans, children and their community. Put it in writing!

Sample of the most recent Press release from National



American Legion Auxiliary News Release

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260

www.legion-aux.org

Contact: Tabitha Rhoda, (317) 569-4565; trhoda@legion-aux.org

November 10, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SERVICE NOT SELF

INDIANAPOLIS- Nov. 10, 2009, marks the 90th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), and as communities across the country celebrate the momentous occasion, the ALA's National Headquarters will be serving veterans in their office building as part of the organization's mission.

Visiting National Headquarters are 30 veterans and staff from the HVAF of Indiana Inc.'s Residential, Employment and Substance Abuse Treatment (REST) program. HVAF of Indiana Inc. provides assistance and housing to homeless veterans in Indiana, as well as counseling, education and case management.

The guests will receive lunch, fellowship and care packages. ALA's National Vice President, Carlene Ashworth of Texas, will be joining in the festivities and giving an overview about the ALA's history and service projects. Ashworth also will present 24 American flags to the HVAF of Indiana Inc. for display around their campus.

"Just as Auxiliary members who joined our organization 90 years ago, the members of today know that the young men and women returning from war are not the same as they were before leaving home to serve their country," Ashworth said. "Many of them have a difficult time reconnecting with their families and re-establishing themselves back into a 'normal' lifestyle. The homeless veteran situation in this country continues to be one of the major concerns of the American Legion Auxiliary. Current estimates tell us that about 131,000 veterans (male and female) are homeless on any given night. We must continue to reach out and let them know there is help available to assist them in reconnecting with society, and offer them hope for their future."

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership over 850,000, local ALA units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The ALA's mission to *serve veterans, their families and their communities* is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and National Headquarters.

National Security

Mary Ann Michael - Chairman

Happy 90th Birthday to The American Legion Auxiliary! You should be so Proud to be a member of such a special organization!!

With the Holidays quickly approaching us, we need to reach out to our Military personnel and their families, now more than ever. So many are away from their families, at this special time of year. Below are some ways we can make a difference!

- I spoke of National Preparedness previously, but there was recent information about being prepared for Blizzards. So please go to www.whathappensnow.com for more information to share with your units. It is great information.
- A proclamation was signed on October 31st by Our Nations President, designating November 2009 "Military Family Month".

Care packages are always needed and a way to lift the spirits of our Military especially at the Holidays. Go to USPS.com for information on how to order free boxes and holiday shipping cutoff dates. Care packages are always enjoyed by our service personnel. They love getting something from home. We like to do this as a Post family. It is also great to get churches and other civic organizations involved. You can cut costs by sending it to a non-specific military unit, but most of us want to reach out to people from our area or state. You can also send care packages to Walter Reed or other hospitals. I personally like to send the mental health items, such as puzzles and word games. These are items they would not normally buy for themselves. Use your imagination, it will be very rewarding!

Support the Troops Activities are my personal favorite. This is where you pull out all your member's talents. "America supports you" is a communication initiative dedicated to communicating citizens' support to those serving in our Armed Forces and their families. The Department of Defense Community Relations site lists over 350 non-profit groups that provide help to our service men and women. It can be as easy as sending a thank you note of support to our troops via email.

Coupon clipping can be so rewarding. Some unit members are no longer able to help with dinners etc, but this is something they can do to keep them involved. Reach out to your community; they will help too, if you just take time to ask. The coupons must be manufactures coupons, not store coupons. Coupons are good for up to 6 months after expiration, but because it takes a few weeks to send them, don't send coupons that are more than three months past expiration. Make sure to use the APO or FPO military address and its postal code to send overseas. Be sure to email a commissary before sending coupons, because some commissaries already have more than they can use. You don't want all your efforts wasted! To contact a commissary, go to www.commissaries.com/storelocator.cfm. Select a country, then a commissary. Send an email to the stores management. Keep track of what you sent and how often.

Operation Toasty Toes originally provided homemade knitted and crochet slippers to our Armed Forces overseas. It has now expanded to include, dickeys, headbands, helmets, watch caps and wristlets. If you have knitters in your unit, you are ahead of the game. If you do not, you can make a financial donation for shipping and yarn. Go to www.operationtoastytoes.org/support.html for patterns and where to donate.

Neck coolers and knit caps are also welcomed by our troops overseas. They need to be green camo, desert camo, tan, or military green. You can make them or purchase them.

The Comfort Quilt Program is one of our Unit's favorite programs. These quilts are provided to families of all soldiers lost overseas in Operation Iraqi Freedom, regardless of which branch of service they served. The goal is to provide a Comfort Quilt to the primary next of kin of each of these fallen heroes. They need squares (of specific size), material or money. Our unit provided over 100 quilt squares this past year, and over 70 the year before. One of our members cut and prepared all of the squares and then had children, veterans, and ALA members write on each one. Be sure to follow the instructions completely. It is an extremely fun and rewarding effort! Go to <http://marinecomfortquilts.us/>.

The POW/MIA program and its meaning are so touching and emotional. If you have never watched a ceremony you will never understand fully. No matter how many times I watch it, I cry. It is why we are a part of this organization. We should all have the chair back cover displayed at every meeting, to remind us of the ones still missing. Their families are still looking and thinking of them, and so should we! The yearly adoption fee is only \$60.00, and all units that can, should donate. Go to pow-miafamilies.org. Take time to write to Congress about helping to find our missing! If you have a special event or fundraiser make sure you include this ceremony. There won't be a dry eye in the audience! It will let them all know why we are there raising money for whatever program you are featuring.

Take time to learn about the Blue and Gold Star banners. It is important that we recognize the family members left behind. They can also be donated to businesses where our service members work. They are easily ordered through Emblem sales. Work with your Post family to provide these. The hardest part of this is finding out the names of our active duty military members. You will hear me say this time and again! Because of the confidentiality, you need to be in constant contact with your family readiness group, Veterans Service Officer, and especially your community. They may not be able to give you actual names but they will help spread the word for you. You have to show them you are dedicated to their efforts! Sometimes you have to let them distribute them for you! The confidentiality is important but it can be a struggle on our part! Please don't let it deter you! We are a strong and persistent group! The hardest part of being a good Unit chairman is gaining the confidence and contacts to make this program a success! But it is worth it, and once you make those contacts, they start contacting you!

*Please take time to make sure your Units recognize the sacrifices of our military families during the holiday season and every day of the year! They will TRULY appreciate it! Just taking the time to send a thank you card, coupons, care package, or a Blue or Gold Star Banner will make THEIR day as well as YOURS! Have a wonderful Holiday Season with your family and YOUR AL Family!

POPPY

Remember the Poppy order deadline is December 31st to qualify for Citation of Merit. Poppy season is well under way – hopefully your Unit has submitted their poppy order for the year. I am certain that your Unit thought about increasing the number of Poppies you ordered or will order before December 31st. One of our Department goals is to have an overall 25% increase in Poppy distribution. If we all give it our best, we can achieve this goal. If we achieve this goal we will be helping many more veterans and will have made many more people aware of our beautiful poppy and the story it tells. **Distributing the poppy and telling its story is a privilege that we as Auxiliary members have – we know how much these designated funds can do to help our veterans. One dollar can purchase travel sized toiletries; five dollars can purchase three pairs of socks for a hospitalized veteran; ten dollars can provide transportation for a veteran to a VA hospital; and twenty-five dollars can purchase a new outfit for a job interview.**

For our Youth: Have you contacted your local schools to tell them about the Poppy Poster Contest? Is your Little Miss Poppy working on her scrapbook and her plans to attend Poppy Shop? Do your Junior members know they can submit an entry in the Junior Poppy Corsage Contest this year????

Mid Winter Poppy Activities: Time to start thinking about your Mid Winter Poppy Corsage and Centerpiece. Just a reminder – remove all the white tags. Corsages must be small enough to fit into a 4” x 4” corsage box. Your centerpieces will be judged and used at the Mid Winter luncheon. The arrangements must be 75% poppies excluding the base or vase. The centerpieces will be used on round tables. This project gives every unit an opportunity to get a crafty/creative member who might not be very active involved and recognized. Please remember to mark each entry with the creator’s name, Unit name and number and Department of Ohio. Winning entries will go on to the National Awareness Assembly and remaining corsages will be presented to delegates at Buckeye Girls State.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. As we gather to celebrate our blessings, let us not forget the blessing of freedom and take time to remember the sacrifices of our veterans. Please share our beautiful memorial flower so that all will **remember**.

Mary Lee Mercier
614-777-1596
Mmoh6140@aol

UNIT DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION

Karen Kaczmarek, Chairman

This bulk mailing I would like to address the American Legion Auxiliary Membership Application Form. I would like every unit membership chairman to take a real close look at this form. Let's take a look at it part by part.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

The applicant must fill out her name, address, phone numbers and e-mail if she so desires. As the Unit membership chairman, we are asking that you fill in whether they are a senior or a junior and your unit number and location. Have the applicant sign the application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

This is where eligibility for membership is important. They ask for the eligible Veteran they are coming through and his ID number (this would be his membership number with the American Legion) it then asks for the name and post number and city and state he belongs to(doesn't have to be a member in Ohio, can be any American Legion Post).

It asks if the Veteran is deceased or living. **WHY** you may ask? The reason being this Veteran must be a member of the American Legion in order for your applicant to become a member. **NOW** in the case if the Veteran is deceased then your applicant may be come a member if she brings to the unit the correct papers (DD214 or Discharge Papers) for verification.

Now the question has been asked what must be done to insure the unit that this applicant is indeed eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. **NOTICE** on the application it gives the eligibility dates for when the Veteran served his country then it asks for your relationship to the Veteran. Step relatives are eligible also. Self means if the applicant is a Veteran, she can also be an Auxiliary member.

NOTICE it also asks for a **POST OFFICER MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION** and his signature. This is where the applicant must produce the Veterans DD214 (which are his discharge papers or for our WWII Veterans it would just be known as discharge papers).

The next question is why do we have to have a Post Officers signature on the application. The answer is because these Veterans know how to read those papers and can tell you if that Veteran is covered under the eligibility dates and whether his discharge is honorable, medical or dishonorable. We above all must remember our membership into this great organization is solely based on the Veteran.

Once this application is filled out and the eligibility verified then you as unit membership chairman brings the application to your membership. Remember the Unit is the sole judge over their membership. Once this all is done the application must be sent to Department Headquarters along with dues of \$13.00.

I hope this helps you who are the Unit Membership Chairman and remember we are here to help you!

NOTE: Always make a copy of that application for your files.

VETERAN'S CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL DONATIONS FOR 2009-2010

The National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival will be held in 2010 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. This year The American Legion Auxiliary has pledged \$150,000 for this fantastic program for the veterans. But we cannot do it alone. We need the help of all Auxiliary members to make this milestone happen.

This year at the Awareness Assembly in Washington DC, the VA&R Divisional Chairman have a challenge to make this goal happen. National President Rita Navarette will be having a parade of checks for VCAF. We are asking Departments to hold monies for VCAF until the Awareness Assembly.

No task is too small nor is the task too hard to handle. Please include the VCAF in your donations this year to continue with this program and put the smile on the veteran's face when they receive their gold medal.

- **DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOUR UNIT DONATES TWENTY CENTS PER MEMBER AND THIS HAPPENS NATIONWIDE WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN**
- **DID YOU KNOW IF YOU ONLY HOLD A BAKE SALE OR SMALL CRAFT SHOW AND DONATE TO VCAF WE CANMAKE IT HAPPEN**
- **DID YOU KNOW THAT THE UNITS CAN HOST A SCRAPBOOK NIGHT AND RAFFLE OFF THE SCRAPBOOKS AND DONATE MINIES TO VCAF**
- **AND DID YOU KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO HAS MADE THE GOLD HAPPEN BEFORE AND I AM SURE PRESIDENT MARTHA LEE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT HAPPEN IN HER YEAR**

The Veterans Creative Arts Festival is co-sponsored each year by the Help Hospitalized Veterans and the veterans look forward to the many workshops, sightseeing events, trips to the art museum and meals each year. The competition is very competitive but the end is worthwhile.

I am sure with the help of the Department of Ohio American Legion Family we can help with this milestone goal. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gwen Schroeder-Zulch at 419-494-9408 or email at gweniesue@yahoo.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is the celebration and grand finale stage and art show which are the culmination of talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for veterans treated in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national health care system.

VA medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their recreation therapy programs. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis.

Veteran's Creative Arts Festival

It was an exciting time in October when we attended the National Creative Arts Festival in San Antonio, Texas. Cosponsored by Help Hospitalized Veterans, this celebration was the cultivation of the Gold Medal winners from the various VA Hospitals. It was both a joyful and awesome experience to be able to sit and listen to the various workshops, activities and attend the final celebration. And even more special was it is shared on Facebook.

But our job is not done—now comes the most important part and that is to raise monies for this memorable Veteran's event. The VA&R Divisional Chairman have a challenge before them and it is to raise \$30,000 from each division. They feel confident that they can do it. Challenges and awards are in the process as I write this memo.

At the Awareness Assembly to be held in Washington DC we will have a parade of checks from the Departments to assist in achieving the goal of \$150,000.00. This figure can be accomplished with the help of the American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion

Fund raisers for this program can be executed on all levels whether it is Unit, Department, or Divisional. Here are some ideas. Hopefully, that the Departments can also share ideas with the VA&R Committee as to how they raised their funds.

- Hold a breakfast, lunch or dinner in your post home.
- Car washes, bake sales, craft shows
- Have a scrapbook night at your local post and raffle off the scrapbooks to the public
- The American Legion Family love basket raffles whether they be sport themes, movie themes, beauty themes, etc. Raffle off the baskets and the proceeds go to VCAF

- If you have a VA Hospital in your area invite the veterans to your Post Home and share with them the VCAF information and include the activities director.
- Have an auction and the proceeds go to VCAF. Develop great auction ideas such as artwork, craft items, and maybe celebrity items
- If each auxiliary member contributes 10 cents per member, we will meet that goal

There are no bad ideas,. Perhaps the Department VA&R Chairman could hold their own challenges in their Department and encourage the units to create their own fund raising events.

No task is too big or small, but we are asking for the help of all the American Legion Family to make this happen. We need to “energize” ourselves and “reconnect” to the programs that are so vital to the veterans as this is the main purpose of our organization.

Just a reminder to be sure and check out the National Creative Arts Festival Facebook page. Day by day activities were placed on this page for all to view. As you reflect through the various photographs, imagine the smile on the face of a veteran as they see their picture, imagine the smile on the face of a veteran as you interact with them throughout the week and imagine the smile on the face of a veteran as they create the Grand Finale Celebration. Smiles are priceless, warm hugs are priceless, the stories of their completion are priceless and the VETERANS are priceless.