



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2010-2011
EDUCATION
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio Education Chairman

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High on Patriotism
Linda Close
2010-2011 Department President

EDUCATION

2010-2011

Congratulations and special thanks to the Unit members who have agreed to be your Education Chairmen for the 2010-2011 Auxiliary year. Our Department President Linda Close's special project, Supporting Military Families, fits nicely with this year's education program. This year, we will be focused on supporting military children, whether it be through making scholarship opportunities available, or through educating administrators on the particular challenges military families face. Take the time to locate these families in your communities and find out how we can support them.

Mission Statement: To promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion, and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

As Auxiliary members we believe that a solid educational foundation is the cornerstone of American freedom. Our Auxiliary's Educational programs should promote quality education for every child and support students in their desire to continue their education beyond high school. We should work actively with educators and local schools to develop and maintain an educational system that serves the needs of all children at every level.

1. **OBJECTIVE** – Focus attention on educational and scholarship opportunities for military children, whether their parents are active duty or reserve.

Action Steps:

- a. Give 10 to education program: Units contribute supplies to classrooms in their communities. Priority can be given to schools serving military children or military Family Support Groups to provide Give 10 items military families in your area.
 - b. Participate in the United Through Reading program (www.Unitedthroughreading.org)
 - c. Share Department and National scholarship opportunities with military members in your communities.
2. **OBJECTIVE** – Educate school administrators about the mental health issues facing children of our military.
Action Steps:
 - a. Provide local teachers, administrators, and Board of Education Officials with information about the particular challenges military children face during deployment. (http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9488/index1.html)
 - b. Offer to connect teachers and administrators with mental health resources where they can refer military children.
 3. **OBJECTIVE** – Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at your local school.
Action Steps:

- a. Collaborate with your American Legion counterparts in this effort.
 - b. Provide information about the challenges faced by military families (particularly the children) to teachers so they can prepare classes for this topic.
4. **OBJECTIVE** – Support local schools and teachers by participating in American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week, and supporting Literacy Programs.
- Action Steps:**
- a. Participate in American Education Week during November 14 – 20, 2010 (<http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm>).
 - b. Participate in Teacher Appreciation Week during May 2 – 6, 2011 (http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp).
 - c. Contact local schools and community organizations for volunteer opportunities in local literacy programs.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1. National President's Scholarship “Educating Children of Warriors” - The National President's scholarships are awarded to children of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion. One \$2,500 scholarship, one \$2,000 scholarship, and one \$1,500 in scholarship money will be awarded in each division. Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$30,000 to further their higher education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.
2. The Non-Traditional Student - There will be five scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000 awarded in the each administrative year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which application is made.
3. Spirit of Youth - One Junior member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000 per year for four years (total \$4,000). The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, currently hold a membership card, and continue to maintain her membership throughout the four-year scholarship period.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Department President's Scholarship – The American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio awards one scholarship of \$1,500 and one scholarship of \$1,000 annually for a student preparing to enter his or her freshman year of college. The applicant must be a veteran or a direct descendent of an honorably discharged veteran.

2. Continuing Education Grant – The Department of Ohio has established a fund to help meet the needs of upperclassmen. Fifteen \$200 grants are distributed on the basis of need and as the applications are received throughout the year until the funds are depleted.
3. Past President's Parley – Nurse's Scholarship – The American Legion Department of Ohio, Past Presidents Parley has created this program to assist student pursuing a degree in the nursing field. The applicant must be a veteran or a direct descendent of an honorably discharged veteran.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1. The SAMSUNG Scholarship is available to direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who are also participants in the Girls State program.
2. The Girl Scout Achievement Award Scholarship is offered through the Americanism program and available to Girl Scouts who have achieved their Gold Award, participates in her religious institution, and must have received the appropriate religious emblem, Cadet or Senior Scout level.
3. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Awards are available to Boy Scouts who have achieved their Eagle Scout Award. The National winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up each are awarded \$2,500 scholarships.
4. National Constitutional Speech Scholarships are available to finalists in the American Legion National Constitutional Speech Contest. Awards range from \$18,000 first place to \$1,500 for participating in the first round of the National contest.
5. American Legion Baseball Scholarships are available to participants in the baseball program.
6. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is available to children of active duty U.S. military, Guard, and Reserve personnel who were federalized and died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

EDUCATION AWARDS

DEPARTMENT

AGNES MERRITT PLAQUE – This plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman with the Most Outstanding Overall Education Program. Award entry must be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page must have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name and number, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's annual report form must accompany the narrative. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Entry must be submitted by May 1, 2011 to Department Chairman, Amanda Peel, 391 Mathews Rd. Boardman, OH 44512.

BETTY ROBASKIEWICZ PLAQUE – This plaque will be presented to the Unit contributing the largest monetary donation to the Department of Ohio Education Fund. Donations are to be sent to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760, earmarked Education Fund.

NATIONAL

MOST OUTSTANDING AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK PROGRAM – A citation plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding American Education Week program. Award entry must be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page must have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's report form must accompany narrative. Do not include any pictures, clippings, etc. Entry must be submitted by May 1, 2011 to Department Chairman, Amanda Peel, 391 Mathews Rd. Boardman, OH 44512.

MOST OUTSTANDING LITERACY PROGRAM – A citation plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding literacy program. Award entry must be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page must have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's report form must accompany the narrative. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Entry must be submitted by May 1, 2011 to Department Chairman, Amanda Peel, 391 Mathews Rd. Boardman, OH 44512.

MOST OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – A citation plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding scholarship program. Award entry must be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page must have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's report form must accompany the narrative. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Entry must be submitted by May 1, 2011 to Department Chairman, Amanda Peel, 391 Mathews Rd. Boardman, OH 44512.

MOST OUTSTANDING VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM – A citation plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program. Award entry must be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page must have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's report form must accompany the narrative. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Entry must be submitted by May 1, 2011 to Department Chairman, Amanda Peel, 391 Mathews Rd. Boardman, OH 44512.

GIVE 10 TO EDUCATION – A citation will be awarded to every Unit participating in the "*Give 10 to Education*" program.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

- All National Auxiliary Scholarship applications are available at www.legion-aux.org.
- Samsung Scholarship applications are available at www.legion.org.
- Contact American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales online for educational products at www.emblem.legion.org/
- Educational resources are available at no cost by contacting the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of the American Legion or visiting their website at www.legion.org/
- The American Legion's comprehensive national scholarship resource, *Need A Lift?* Is available at <http://www.legion.org/mygibill/needalift>.
- For more information on the United Through Reading Program, visit their website at www.unitedthroughreading.org
- For more information on the mental health issues faced by military children during deployment, read a fact sheet at http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9488/index1.html
- For more information on American Education Week, visit the American Education Association's website at <http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm>
- For more information on Teacher Appreciation week, visit the PTA's website at http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp
- For any questions, clarifications, etc. contact your Department Education Chairman, Amanda Peel, via email at alpeel@kent.edu or by phone at (330) 962-0802.

Best of luck and let's start get started! Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward to working with you and being "High on Patriotism" all year long!

Do not be overwhelmed! One person cannot do it all, but working together as a unit and an American Legion Family, you can succeed with a great Education Program.