



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**Department of Ohio**

**2009-2010**  
**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY**  
**FUND**  
**PLAN OF ACTION**

**Department of Ohio Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman**

**CHAIRMAN : Vicky Buck**  
**708 South Ogden Avenue**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43204**  
**(614) 596-8540 (home/cell)**  
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**REPORT DUE : May 1, 2010**

**SEND REPORT TO : Vicky Buck**  
**708 South Ogden Avenue**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43204**



**Communication Is Key**  
Martha Lee Thatcher  
2009-2010 Department President

# AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

2009-2010

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a valuable tool that enables members to help members. Communicating to our Unit members about the benefits of the AEF, we are able to give hope to those in need. Remember – *COMMUNICATION IS KEY* – when offering our assistance.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was originally established in 1969 when Helen Colby Small left a bequest to the American Legion Auxiliary from her estate. The National Committee determined that the proceeds would be used to benefit those members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. Since that time, the fund has been maintained by donations from individual members, Units, and Departments.

The mission of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee “is to raise funds for and awareness of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, to promote knowledge about the program, to disseminate information to members about the application process and to assist members in need.”

It is the obligation of every Unit President to pass along this information to every Unit member. By working together, to promote this program we will reach all Auxiliary members who are in need of assistance. It is important to remember that our own Ohio members may benefit from the AEF. Encourage your Unit to give a monetary donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Plan fundraisers such as walk-a-thons, car washes, carnivals, dinners, white elephant sales, money jars passed at your Unit or District meetings and any kind of raffles and sales. Include your Juniors in the fundraising projects. Solicit help from other groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and schools. Advertise your fundraisers with your local newspapers and then recognize all your volunteers.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides eligible members with temporary assistance for:

1. Financial crisis; to pay for food, shelter and utilities. Funds are not available to settle existing or accumulated debts, or to help with catastrophic illnesses.
2. Food and shelter; due to weather-related emergencies and natural disasters.
3. Education training; due to life changes such as death of a spouse, divorce, or separation, necessitating the Auxiliary member to assume the role of primary source of support for her family.

Applications are available from Department Headquarters or the National web site: [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org). The applicant must have maintained membership for at least the immediate past two years and who have paid their dues for the current year (three consecutive years of membership). Send the completed Auxiliary Emergency Fund application to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio, Attention: Katie Wainwright, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, OH 43702-2760. Be sure to follow all directions and include all information requested. Requests will be denied without complete applications. Members in need may receive a maximum of \$2,400.00 and it may be disbursed as determined by the Grant Committee. Payments may also be made directly to the member, or at the discretion of the Grant Committee, to the mortgage company or utility company.

## OBJECTIVES

1. **Objective:** Increase member awareness of benefits and services of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

**Action Steps:**

- a. Make available the AEF brochure to pass out at various Legion and Auxiliary functions that involve Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.
  - b. Publicize Unit AEF activities in your local newspaper.
  - c. Share recipient stories and successful fundraising ideas with others.
2. **Objective:** Increase member and Unit donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

**Action Steps:**

- a. Designate a dinner, or other fundraising idea, to benefit the AEF through individual contributions. Work with other Units in your District to help raise funds.
- b. With this being the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as members to donate an additional \$0.40 in honor of this milestone.
- c. Increase Unit donation by 20% over the previous year to combat the rising need for help.
- d. "Members Helping Members" coin fundraiser. Encourage your Unit members to save their loose change, bring it to each meeting and deposit it in the a jar marked "AEF Fund."

## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND AWARDS

**NATIONAL CITATION PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION** – Mailed to the Unit contributing the largest donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

**LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION** – Presented to an individual contributor donating \$25.00 or more.

**CITATION AND LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION** – Presented to any Unit or individual contributing \$100.00 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

**INDIVIDUAL RIBBON RECOGNITION** – Each member contributing \$25.00 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund will be recognized at the Awareness Assembly and National Convention with a blue ribbon to be worn on her name tag.

**AEF 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY "KICKOFF" RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE** – Presented to one Unit or Department in each division contributing the largest amount by November 10, 2009. Recognition will be given at the 2010 Awareness Assembly.

**"ARDITH COOPER" PLAQUE** – This plaque will be awarded to the District President with the highest donations per capita to be given at Department Convention.

## AEF RESOURCES

[www.211.org](http://www.211.org) - Basic needs, physical and mental health resource, employment support and more.

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) - Support in preparing, preventing and responding to disasters.

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) - Disaster relief focusing on meeting the immediate disaster-related needs such as food, shelter, health and mental health services.

[www.fns.usda.gov/fsp](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp) - This program enables low-income families to purchase nutritious foods.

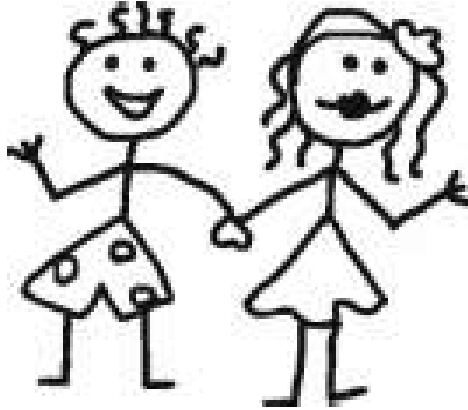
[www.fns.usda.gov/wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic) - Nutritional support and counseling, referrals to health and other social services for pregnant or postpartum women, women, infants and children up to five years old.

[www.liheap.ncat.org](http://www.liheap.ncat.org) - Links to each state's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. {LIHEAP}.

### **Year-End Reporting:**

Please send your year-end report on or before May 1, 2010, to be mailed to Department AEF Chairman, Vicky Buck, 708 S. Ogden Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204.

**Auxiliary Emergency Fund**



**Auxiliaries Empowering Families**