



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2009-2010
AUXILIARY EMERGENCY
FUND
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

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REPORT DUE : May 1, 2010

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Communication Is Key
Martha Lee Thatcher
2009-2010 Department President

CHAPLAIN

2009-2010

Congratulations to you for agreeing to act as your Unit Chaplain this year. You have an awesome responsibility and will receive much joy and satisfaction from serving in this capacity. I hope that we can all work closely together to serve the Lord and help our fellow man, especially our soldiers and veterans. The Mission Statement of the National Chaplain as well as the motto of the Legion and Auxiliary is "God and Country". The theme of our Ohio President, Martha Lee Thatcher is "Communication is Key". How wonderful is it that the best way to communicate with God is through prayer. We can meet and communicate with God in that simple way. We need no computer driven articles, we need no slogans or catch words, and we need only the open honest communication with that higher power that is available to us all.

John 10:16 "I have other sheep which are not of this world"

DUTIES OF THE UNIT CHAPLAIN

As Unit Chaplain, remember that EVERY MEETING should be opened and closed with prayer. It is wonderful if you are able to use your own prayers at that time. Remember that praying to God is like having a conversation with your best friend or a loved one. Start with the blessings you receive and are grateful for, tell him what is on your heart and what your prayerful requests are. If you are uncomfortable with your own prayers, there is much help at hand. The "Chaplains' Prayer Book", "Chaplain's Handbook" and "Unit Handbook" all have prayers for every occasion. (See the CHAPLAIN'S RESOURCES page in this folder for help in obtaining these materials. There are also prayers on the "Reflections" page of the National Magazine. I will also be sending out appropriate monthly prayers in the bulk mailing. Be sure to get these from your Unit President each month.

You should **drape your Unit Charter** to honor a deceased member. This should be left in place for at least a month. There is a small ceremony in the Unit Handbook if you wish to use it. Be sure that the **Member Data Form** is mailed to Department when a member dies. Keep track of these members for the annual Memorial Service at your meeting in May. You may want to send a donation in the members name to the family or a favorite charity. You may also be asked to conduct a memorial service at the funeral home to honor the death of one of your members.

The use of **Grace Cards** is a nice tribute that can be sent to the bereaved family along with your condolences as well as your memorial gift.

In February, we celebrate the **Four Chaplains Sunday**. You may do this yourself, or in conjunction with the Legion and/or in a local Church. We honor these men who demonstrated their great love for their fellow men and sacrificed their lives so that others might live.

There are three **Department of Ohio Awards for Chaplain Notebooks**. Please read these carefully and plan to participate in this endeavor. It will be rewarding to you as well as your fellow Unit members. Ask them for their help in collecting prayers, adages, and memories that mean lot to them. Include these in your prayer notebook. It would be a wonderful surprise if you would give your Unit President a prayer book of her own. Encourage your **Juniors** to participate in this project. Please send me your thoughts and prayers for the prayer book that I will be giving to our Department President Martha Lee Thatcher in June. If your are entering your prayer book to compete for the Prayer Book Department Award or a narrative for the Ruth Adams Plaque, be sure it reaches me by May 1. 2010.

PRAYER BOOKS. I would like to continue the practice of the former Department Chaplain Sharon Miller, and encourage you to make small prayer books that we can distribute to the VA Hospitals in our areas. Maybe you can announce that as a project for one of your meetings and have them bring in their prayers and reflections. You may send them to me, or distribute them to your local VA Hospital. Be sure to mark this on your Plan of Action Report Form, Page 2, Header IX, Prayer Book Item D

I encourage you, as Chaplain, to expand the horizons of your office this year with special programs during the year. I am sure your Unit President will be glad to work with you. Perhaps you can invite a member of the Clergy to your Unit meeting. A local missionary or youth group leader might engender a program to which you can invite your Juniors as well as give you a focus of some community service. Encourage your members to send cards and letters to family of deceased veterans or members in the hospital.

Honor your “Gold Star” or even a “Blue Star” mother with a dinner and dedicate the program to that cause. There are many ways to serve the Lord and honor our veterans. If you have a different program in effect in your unit, send me a letter or an e-mail describing it so that I can share it with others.

Communication is our goal. Do you have a prayer line established in your Unit, County or in your District? Establish one so that the passing of a beloved or well known member of the Auxiliary family does not pass unknown by those who would wish to honor her. Be sure to e-mail me any prayer concerns that Department should know about.

I wish you success this year in your task as Unit Chaplain. Feel free to call or e-mail me if I can be of any assistance to you.

You, as Chaplain, are a very important member of your Unit. In essence, you have the first word (invocation) and the last word (benediction) in a meeting. You can set the mood for the meeting with a prayer for unity of spirit and of purpose. If there is rancor or discord displayed at a meeting, close with a prayer of forgiveness, healing and love. Keep in mind the overall purpose of the Auxiliary- benefit of the Veterans- not the aggrandizement of the individual member. Use your influence wisely and for the Lord.

I wish you success this year in your task as Unit Chaplain. God bless you as you serve the Lord and your Unit. Feel free to call or e-mail me if I can be of any assistance to you.

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you.” Luke 6: 36 37

CHAPLAIN OBJECTIVES

The Unit Chaplain is an integral part of each Unit meeting. Incorporation of the invocation and benediction should be an accepted part of the protocol of each meeting. These objectives have been developed to insure the full use and effectiveness of the Chaplain's office.

1. **OBJECTIVE** – To have 10 more Units participate in Four Chaplain Sunday Service.

Action Steps:

- a. Increase participation of Auxiliary Units in Four Chaplains Service.
- b. Education of Unit Chaplains re: *Four Chaplains Services* in Chaplain's Handbook as well as Prayer Book.
- c. Communicate with Unit Chaplains via Bulk Mailing.

2. **OBJECTIVE** – Grace Cards to be used as a memorial card for all deceased members.

Action Steps:

- a. Educate Unit Chaplains on use of Grace Cards.
- b. Encourage Use of Grace Cards as fitting memorial for deceased member.
- c. Encourage Memorial donation to be accompanied by Grace Card.
- d. Ensure that Chaplains document use of Grace Cards.

3. **OBJECTIVE** – Unit Chaplains realize a Prayer Book enriches the spiritual life of the Unit, and that five more prayer books are received per district than last year.

Action Steps:

- a. Encourage Chaplain to purchase a Notebook to be used as a prayer book. (first step)
- b. Build up Chaplain's enthusiasm for project by involving members of Unit in compiling prayers and memorial sayings. Make collecting prayers and memorial sayings part of every Unit meeting.
- c. Use Bulk mailing to build up interest in competing for 2 Senior Prayer book prizes.
- d. Have Unit Chaplain involve Juniors in entering their own Prayer Book for an award.
- e. Have Chaplains involve members of Unit in building and distributing small prayer books in nursing homes and VA facilities.
- f. Encourage members to bring in meaningful prayers for Department President's Prayer Book.

CHAPLAIN AWARDS (DEPARTMENT)

THE RUTH ADAMS PLAQUE

RULES:

1. Entries must be submitted in narrative form either typed, computer generated, or neatly hand written or hand printed on 8-1/2 X 11 papers and bound in a soft cover or folder. The narrative must be double-spaced and not to exceed 1,000 words.
2. Cover page must include:
 - a. Name and number of Unit
 - b. District number
 - c. Name and address of Unit Chaplain
 - d. Word count
3. Subject of narrative: "Best Year Round Chaplain Report"
4. Entries must be postmarked on or before May 1, 2010

Note: The Award will be presented at the Department Convention in June 2010

JUNIOR BOOK OF PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS

RULES:

1. The book may be 4: X 6" or 8-1/2 X 11".
2. The Cover must show the emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary. The cover should not be elaborate.
3. Contents may be typed, computer generated, hand printed or handwritten. The writing or printing must be neat and legible. Illustrations may be used.
4. The first page must show the following:
 - a. Unit name, number, address and Junior Unit Membership.
 - b. Name of person preparing the book.
 - c. Name of the Unit Junior President.
 - d. District number.
5. Section I – Prayer:
 - a. Prayers may be published prayers or original prayers. (Original prayers are encouraged).
 - b. List author, if known.
6. Section II – Devotional Thoughts:
 - a. They may be verses, poems or quotations. List name of author if known.
 - b. They may be favorite Scripture passage. List source of passage.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

Contents - 50%
Arrangement - 20%
Neatness - 10%
Originality - 20%

AWARDS:

A certificate will be given to each Junior submitting a Book of Prayers. First, second and third place awards will all be presented at the Department Junior Convention.

1st Place: Junior Prayer Book will be presented to the American Legion Auxiliary Department President

2nd Place: Junior Prayer Book will be given to the Department Junior Chairman.

3rd Place: Junior Prayer Book will be given to the Department Junior Activities Chairman.

DEADLINE: Junior Prayer Books must reach the Department Chaplain by March 31, 2010

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