



Department of Ohio Plan of Action



NATIONAL SECURITY

CHAIRMAN

Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch

Box 242

Jerry City, Ohio 43437

(419) 494-9408 (cell)

Email – gweniesue@yahoo.com

REPORT DUE: April 15, 2016

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

SEE BACK SIDE FOR REPORT FORM & NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

2015–2016 Department Report Form

This form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. If a Unit only completes this form and does not do a narrative, they will still receive credit as having completed a report. However, if the report shows all zero's or blank information this will not qualify as an actual report.

Please complete the following. Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit.

District # _____ Unit # _____ Membership Goal _____

Full Official Name _____

Unit President/Chairman (circle one) Name: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____ Member ID # _____

Specific Award Name (if applicable) _____

PROGRAM:

NATIONAL SECURITY

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

Answer the following Questions in your narrative and fill in the boxes at the bottom

Program Summation:

How many Blue Star and Gold Star Banners were presented?

- How many MIA families were recognized following notification of remains?
- How many service members were honored during welcome-home events?
- Did your Unit have a Blood Drive? How many pints were collected? Did anyone in your Unit take a CPR Class?

| Total Number of Volunteers | Total Number of Jr. Volunteers | Total Number of Volunteer Hours | Total Dollars Spent or Raised | Total Number of Veterans Served | Total Number of People Affected |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | \$ | | |

If you would like to be considered for a Department or National Award attach your narrative to this report form. Follow all criteria when composing your Unit Program Narratives. Criteria for ALL narratives are as follows:

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.

Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates) Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

Optional-A copy of your Unit ALA Impact Form (Only necessary if it requires it based the Plan of Action Directions)

Report Deadline: April 15, 2016

Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2016

MAIL TO DEPARTMENT NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

The National Security Program and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan--maintains and promotes a strong national defense by supporting service members and their families helps us build brand loyalty (Goal 5) among a target membership population (Goal 1) while keeping us focused on our mission.

NATIONAL SECURITY

What is this program, and why do we have it?

The National Security Program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

What can you do?

1. Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members and their families.

Ideas:

Department

- Support your Legion department and posts to raise funds for Operation Comfort Warriors to provide supplies to wounded service members.
- Assist units and members with specific idea plans outlined below.

Unit

- Support active-duty military families by matching the unit to an installation Family Readiness Group or to an individual military family in need.
- Support reserve and transitioning service members and families by matching the unit to a returning National Guard or Reserve unit or to an individual transitioning service member or family.
 - *Note:* Units may find service members and families independently or by working with the service member transition programs of the U.S. Department of Defense, the military service branches, or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, a neighbor, or another military family to which they come in contact.
- Work to identify recipients and present Blue Star and Gold Star commemorative materials to individuals and businesses.
- Greet service members and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.
- Volunteer with VA-sponsored welcome-home events to provide patriotic and morale support, offering hospitality, refreshments, or children and youth activities or making presentations on Auxiliary resources and services to family members of returning service members.
- Work with a Yellow Ribbon program office of a local military unit (Reserve or National Guard) or a state National Guard Joint Force Headquarters to show patriotic and morale support at Yellow Ribbon events, offering hospitality, refreshments, or children and youth activities or making presentations on Auxiliary resources and services to family members of returning service members.

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- Equip the post and unit home with computer hardware and software to serve as workstations for family members with deployed service members so they can communicate with them. Set regular days and hours when this service would be available.
- Work as a Legion Family to provide assistance to service members and their families directly affected by current conflicts.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center.
- Co-host or participate in a Holiday Mail for Heroes event.
- Partner with an Operation Home front chapter for assembly of service member care packages and family member support packages; provision of hospitality, refreshment, or children and youth activities at Operation Home front spouse support and welcome home events. Refer to the Operation Home front Action Guide for additional information and specific steps.
- Work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer a survivor or caregiver for specialized support. Refer to *How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors* for information and specific steps.
- Contact a USO (United Service Organizations) Center and partner with a service project that will lift the spirits of America's troops and their families. See the ALAUSO Action Guide for who to contact, how to volunteer and various activities.

Member

- Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, a neighbor, or another military family. Refer to the Action Guide for specific suggestions of the type of support military families may value.
- Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner in recognition of a service member's service.
- As a gesture of appreciation for local service members' military service, decorate your community with yellow ribbons. Encourage others to do the same.
- Members can work as a Legion Family to provide assistance to service members and their families directly affected by current conflicts.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center.

2. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.

Ideas:

Department

- If your Legion department has a job fair in conjunction with a department meeting, ensure military spouses are included (or a special track is offered for them), assist in promoting the job fair and man an information table at the job fair.
- Assist units and members with specific idea plans outlined below.

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Unit

- Support military spouse job fairs organized by The American Legion, or host one in your own community.
- Help to implement a Legion-sponsored job fair and/or co-host a Legion Family information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation-sponsored job fair.

Member

- Serve as a mentor in the career e-mentoring network operated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Military Spouse Business Alliance. Current military spouses will be virtually paired with more experienced spouses and/or corporate and career mentors for guidance and support.
- Promote military spouse job fairs in your community.
- Help man an information booth about the ALA at a job fair for military spouses.

3. Support the National Security programs of The American Legion.

Ideas:

Department

- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) courses.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Assist units in acknowledging families for whom an accounting of an MIA service member's remains has been certified. (ALA National Headquarters will notify departments of such certifications. Departments should communicate that information to the unit nearest the service member's family.)
- Assist units and members with specific idea plans outlined below.

Unit

- Have a training exercise in your post home to give training in first aid, CPR or other types of emergency skills.
- Get involved in the Citizen Corps Council to ensure citizens are prepared to respond to national disasters such as floods, hurricanes, blizzards and manmade disasters and emergencies.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) courses.
- Join with Legion posts to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, commemorated annually on the third Friday of September.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Upon department request, acknowledge families for whom an accounting of an MIA service member's remains has been certified.
- Work with Legion posts to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.
- Support future military by presenting ROTC and JROTC recognition awards.
- Invite ROTCs and JROTCs to post colors or even volunteer at unit events.

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- Coordinate with local/regional chapters or blood banks to assist with blood drives.

Member

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course.
- Write letters/emails to your state legislators supporting The American Legion Family's commitment to achieving a full accounting of POWs and MIAs from all wars.
- Help identify candidates for The American Legion's National Firefighter of the Year Award given to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his/her position and has shown a distinct pattern of National Security and professional achievement.
- Help identify local candidates for The American Legion's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award given to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of National Security coupled with professional achievement.
- Donate blood.
- Assist at a blood drive in your community.

4. The Department of Ohio's Military Family Assistance Fund: The Department of Ohio has its own National Security Program called *THE MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND* (MFAF). This fund is set up to provide financial assistance to Veterans and their families that find themselves in a financial hardship due to medical expenses, relocating, transitioning out of active duty and other various reasons. This fund is supported through Unit and member donations and goes directly to the Veteran in need. A committee of three reviews the applicant's application and determines the need and the amount to be provided. Funds are sent to the Creditor to offer assistance with items like utilities, mortgages, rent, insurance, medical bills and so on. There are a few special requirements for the MFAF Grants. Veterans and Active Duty Military families that apply must be currently on active/reserve/guard status or have ETS'd within the last **4 years**. Applicants must also be residents of Ohio and have Auxiliary Unit Assistance in completing the MFAF Grant Application. **See Brochure and Application at the end of this plan.**

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org:
 - *American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide* (forthcoming)
 - How to Mobilize Community Support for those Who Serve
 - How to Welcome Home Separating Service members
 - How to Collaborate with the American Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces
 - ALA-Operation Home front Action Guide
 - ALA-USO Action Guide
 - How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
 - How to Collaborate with the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor Program
 - How to Support Hiring Events for Veterans and Military & Veteran Spouses
 - Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service: *Let Us Never Forget 2*. VA sponsors welcome-home events: www.volunteer.va.gov/Welcome_Home_Events.asp
3. Blue Star and Gold Star Banner: www.legion.org/troops/bluestar
4. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program: www.yellowribbon.mil, www.jointservicesupport.org/YRRP
5. Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors: www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort
6. Legion's Family Support Network: www.legion.org/familysupport
7. American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

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8. Operation Home front: www.operationhomefront.net
9. USO: www.uso.org
10. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS): www.taps.org
11. The American Legion's Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts:
www.legion.org/documents/pdf/talarc_disaster_preparedness.pdf
12. Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm, www.citizencorps.gov
13. POW/MIA: www.legion.org/powmia
14. Army ROTC: www.goarmy.com/rotc Army JROTC: www.usarmyjrotc.com/
Air Force ROTC: www.afrotc.com
Air Force JROTC: www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFJROTC
Naval ROTC (includes Marine Corps): www.nrotc.navy.mil
Naval JROTC: www.njrotc.navy.mil
Marine Corps JROTC: www.mcjrotc.org
Coast Guard JROTC (there is no ROTC program): No website, but there are two nationally (Miami, FL and Camden County, NC).
15. ALA National Headquarters on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Unit Award: Military Support Unit Award

Type of Award: Citation

Presented to: One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards), announced at the National Convention

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet **located in the National Plan of Action**.
- For demonstrating the most outstanding overall program serving and supporting military families, with special emphasis on helping military families on helping them through times of family member deployment and/or injury (severely wounded).
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures and newspapers articles.

Entries must be sent by the unit chairman to National Security Division chairman postmarked by June 1, 2016 or by email sent by 5pm EST on **June 1, 2016** to Central Division Chairman: Mary Dubay-922 Huntington—Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043—(586) 468-9870—rdubay1@aol.com.

Unit Award: Million Member Award

Type of Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in the National Plan.
- For the best demonstration on how working the mission of the National Security committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the unit.
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures and newspapers articles.

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DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Department Award: Civil Preparedness (CERT) Certificate

Type of Award: Certificate

Presented to: Each Unit

Materials and Guidelines:

- All units participating in civil preparedness.
- Each entry must either be a narrative report or spreadsheet of participating units, CERT training dates, the number of participants registering for the program and number of participants completing the program.
- Entries are due to National Security Chairman Gwen Schroeder-Zulch—Box 242—Jerry City, Ohio 43437 by **April 15, 2016**

Avonelle Clinger Plaque – A plaque will be presented to the Unit Chairman report with the “Best All Around National Security Program” based on the annual report. Report/Narrative form must completed and mailed to Department National Security Chairman Gwen Schroeder-Zulch-Box 242-Jerry City, Ohio 43437 by **April 15, 2016**

Phyllis Nickoson Plaque – A plaque will be presented to the District President with the highest percentage of Units reporting on National Security. This report form deadline is **April 15, 2016**.

National Security Blood Drive Special Project – This year Units are encouraged to host blood drives in their communities. The District that collects the most pints of blood will receive a special award at Department Convention. District Presidents can collect the data and turn information into Gwen Schroeder-Zulch by **April 15, 2016** or Units may include in their Narrative Report.

CPR Course Recognition – **The** District with the most members taking a CPR course will also receive special recognition and award. District Presidents may collect the data and turn information into Gwen Schroeder-Zulch by **April 15, 2016** or Units may include in their Narrative Report.

So get to work on both those items!!

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Necessary Information for Application

1. The application must be completed fully to the best of your ability.

2. Supporting documentation that is required

A. Copies of billing statements

B. Estimates for repairs or replacements

C. Estimates for food, clothing, expenses.

3. A statement in your own words explaining the need for financial assistance, not to exceed 250 words.

Veteran:

You must produce one of the following...

A. Order of Separation

B. VA Printout which includes discharge status

C. Other Official proof that clearly indicates dates of active duty and character of discharge.

Active Duty Personnel

You must provide the following...

A. Deployment Orders

B. Official letter from commanding officer detailing duty assignment.

For more information or an application please contact:

American Legion Auxiliary Unit # _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Ohio

PO Box 2760

Zanesville, Ohio 43702

Phone: 740-452-8245

Fax: 740-452-2620



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Military Family

Assistance

Fund



MISSION:

Providing Funds to Assist

Military Service

Members and their

Families

A program instituted by the Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary to help Veterans, Active Duty Service

Members and their Families

Department of Ohio Plan of Action



What is the Military Family Assistance Fund?

It's a new program developed and introduced by the American Legion Auxiliary to come to direct aid of our veterans and their families.

The program offers financial assistance for eligible veterans and their families. There is money available to assist in covering the costs of maintaining basic family needs such as the costs of shelter, food, utilities, and health expenses. Helping to keep a stable home environment. Funding can include, but is not limited to, family living expenses including rent, mortgage payment and utility bills; medical expenses; childcare for working parents; insurance premiums, and assist with necessary home repairs.

It is not necessary to be a member of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary to apply. Assistance is in the form of a grant and doesn't have to be paid back. We only ask that you "pay it forward" and someday do a good deed for another.

Who is eligible?

Ohio residents who are...

Active Duty Military Personnel, Veterans who have been honorably or medically discharged within the last four years, Reservists or National Guard personnel who have been deployed within the last four years, and Spouses of eligible applicants. Eligibility is not dependent on American Legion or Auxiliary membership

Grants...

Grants are issued to alleviate cost of living expenses including food, shelter, utilities, clothing, home owners insurance premiums, home repair, providing handicapped facilities in the home, repair or replacement of major appliance, Reconnect utilities, and prevent eviction or foreclosure. To alleviate the cost of current medical expenses, or to assist in payment of outstanding medical bills. The grants also provide assistance in finding transportation for going to work, provides assistance for child care if the custodial parent must find employment.

Each application will be considered and based on the family's needs.

Grants are payable up to \$1000.00 Grant recipients may have their requested bills partially or fully paid.

Awards are paid directly to the creditors. No funds shall be paid directly to the grant recipients.

How are moneys for these grants available?

The largest financial contributor to this fund are the local and state American Legion Auxiliary members who make donations through their local Unit in order to help individuals in their community.

Fund raisers are conducted at the local Units and state events in order to increase the fund, thus increasing its giving capacity.

The American Legion Auxiliary partners with Corporate Organizations that want to give back to Ohio's Veterans.

If you would like to make a donation to the ALA Military Family Assistance Fund please contact the Department of Ohio, ALA



How to get started...

Applicants must contact an Auxiliary Unit in their local community to receive an application or can contact the Department Headquarters and one will be sent. Once the Veteran or Service Member or Service Member's Family has completed the application and provided all necessary documentation then it must be sent to the local Unit for a review. The Unit is to review the applicant's information and backup documentation. Once everything is provided the Unit is responsible for sending it to the Department Headquarters for approval. The Applicant and the Unit will be notified of the assistance rewarded.

If the Applicant is unaware of a local Unit in their community the Department Headquarters will assist in finding a sponsoring Unit and point of contact to assist in the grant application process.

The Military Family Assistance Fund focuses on the needs of our military personnel, young veterans, and their families, a demographic that the American Legion Family must appeal to and be active with to have a sustainable organization. It is through programs such as this that the American Legion Auxiliary can expand its services in our communities. We encourage those that participate as well as grant recipients to have a strong focus on "Paying it forward".



American Legion Auxiliary...helping not only the Veteran but their entire family.

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American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Ohio



Military Family Assistance Fund Grant Application

Please type or print responses in black ink.

| I. APPLICANT INFORMATION | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Last Name | First | M.I. | Birth Date |
| Street Address | | Apartment/Unit # | |
| City | State | ZIP | |
| Home Phone | | Cell Phone | |
| E-mail Address | | | |
| Relationship to Veteran | | | |
| II. SERVICE MEMBER/VETERAN INFORMATION | | | |
| Last Name | First | M.I. | Birth Date |
| Street Address | | Apartment/Unit # | |
| City | State | ZIP | |
| Home Phone | | Cell Phone | |
| E-mail Address | | | |
| Branch of Service | | Rank (at Discharge or Present) | |
| Active Duty Dates | From | To | Discharge Date |
| III. DEPENDENT INFORMATION | | | |
| <i>Please list the names of all dependents living in the service member or veteran's home.</i> | | | |
| Full Name | Relationship to Veteran | | |
| Birth Date | Relationship to Applicant | | |
| Full Name | Relationship to Veteran | | |
| Birth Date | Relationship to Applicant | | |
| Full Name | Relationship to Veteran | | |
| Birth Date | Relationship to Applicant | | |
| Full Name | Relationship to Veteran | | |
| Birth Date | Relationship to Applicant | | |

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| IV. MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT | |
|---|----------------|
| What is the applicant's employment status? <input type="checkbox"/> FT <input type="checkbox"/> PT <input type="checkbox"/> Laid-Off <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |
| What is the veteran's employment status? <input type="checkbox"/> FT <input type="checkbox"/> PT <input type="checkbox"/> Laid-Off <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |
| Place of Employment | Job Title |
| Dates of Employment | Monthly Income |

| V. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME | |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>List your additional monthly income not related to your salary. Please attach documentation of household wages, benefits, or assistance.</i> | |
| Unemployment Insurance | Food Stamps |
| VA Pension/Compensation | WIC |
| Public Assistance | Workman's Compensation |
| Social Security Benefits | Alimony/Child Support |
| Other (Please Specify) | |
| | |

| VI. MONTHLY EXPENSES | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Home (Mortgage Payment or Rent) | Telephone |
| Electricity | Child Care |
| Natural Gas/Propane/Oil | Medication |
| Water/Sewage | Toiletries |
| Food | Insurance |
| Other (Please Specify) | |

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| |
|---------------------------|
| IX. RECOMMENDATION |
|---------------------------|

Please include a typed or printed letter from a supervisor, clergy member, teacher, or other mentor which recommends you for a grant. Do not include letters from family members. Letters can be written here or attached to the application.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Printed name | Title |
| Daytime Phone | Email Address |
| Signature | Date |

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X. DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE

I authorize the American Legion Auxiliary to verify the information provided on this form for the purpose of investigating the application for a Military Family Assistance Grant.

I understand membership in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion is not required for Military Family Assistance Grants.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information may result in disqualification from assistance.

Name of Applicant
(Please Print)

Applicant's
Signature

Date

Please include copies of the following forms and billing statements:

- DD214 or proof of active duty military service (**please note* Service Member must be currently serving or discharged within the past 4 years to be applicable**)
- Monthly Household Income Statements
- Copies of the bills or expenses for which you are requesting assistance
- If possible, blank payment stubs or slips to accompany copies of the bills

I. LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT REVIEW

The local Auxiliary Unit is responsible for assisting in the completion of the application and ensuring the applicant meets all requirements of the grant. Once the applicant has been assisted and application reviewed, the reviewer and officer of the Unit must sign off on the application. Upon completion forward all documentation to the Department of Ohio for approval.

Auxiliary Unit Name

Contact #:

Aux. Unit
Representative/Reviewer

Contact Information:

Reviewers Signature

Date

Unit Officer Signature

Date

When the Applicant completed this form and the Unit has reviewed, please include all required paperwork and mail it to

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Ohio
PO Box 2760
Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760

If you have any questions, please call (740) 452-8245.

Thank you for your service to America.