



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

From the Office of:

Katie Tucker
Secretary/Treasurer
Department of Ohio, Inc.

February 18, 2015

To: Unit Presidents
District Chairmen
Department Chairmen/Committee

Department Executive Committee
Hospital Representatives & Deputies
Past Department Presidents

VERY IMPORTANT MAILING!!! PLEASE OPEN AND READ THRU THIS MAILING. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS. This mailing contains valuable information regarding **Department Junior Convention & Poppy Shop** as well as, the **Unit End of Year Report Kit and Unit Data Forms**. Please share with all members:

- ✓ **Call To Department Junior Convention (white):**
 - Tentative Schedule
 - Rules and Order of Business
 - Housing Information
 - Guidelines for Junior Activities
 - Awards Information Form
 - Registration Form
 - Delegate/Alternate Certification Form
- ✓ Message from the President(blue) – *All Members*
- ✓ Public Relations (ivory) – *Public Relations Chairman*
- ✓ News in a Nutshell (buff) – *all Members*
- ✓ AEF(lilac) – *Americanism Chairman*
- ✓ Chaplain(ivory) – *all members*
- ✓ Children and Youth-How to Sheets (pink)-*C&Y Chairman*
- ✓ Education(ivory) –*Education Chairman*
- ✓ Junior Activities (white) –*Unit Jr. Activities Chairman*
- ✓ *Leadership(salmon) - all Members*
- ✓ *PPP (yellow) - Unit President*
- ✓ Poppy Program Information (grey) – *Poppy Chairman and all members*
- ✓ Poppy Shop & Little Miss Poppy Application (ivory) –*Poppy Chairman and all members*
- ✓ VA&R (white) –*VA&R Chairman*
- ✓ Toledo CBOC-*All Members*
- ✓ *UD&R (yellow)- Membership Chairman*
- ✓ **Unit Data Form-Unit Membership or Treasurer-Deadline April 1st, 2015**
- ✓ Unit Donation Form (lavender)
- ✓ Special Olympics (yellow)-*American Legion Program*
- ✓ Strategic Plan Gazette- *Update on the Strategic Plan- All Members*
- ✓ *Consolidated Summer District Convention Schedule (yellow)*
- ✓ **END OF YEAR REPORTS (green) *Unit Chairmen and President- Deadline: April 15th***
 - ✓ **Citation of Merit & Award Information**
 - ✓ **Unit Year End Impact Numbers Report-Need to report Statistics to Congress**
 - ✓ **Programs Reports**



Katie

Katie Tucker
Department Secretary/Treasurer



Juniors

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Ohio Junior Convention**

May 16, 2015

Sidney American Legion Post 217
1265 N. 4th Avenue
Sidney, Ohio 45365



The 63rd Department Junior Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio, will be held at Sidney American Legion Post 217 1265 N. 4th Ave., Sidney, Ohio on Saturday May 16th, 2014.

Honorary Department Junior President, Heather Gold will preside.



PURPOSE: To elect the 2014-2015 Honorary Department Junior President and the Honorary Department Junior Vice President; to install the newly elected Honorary Department Junior Officers and Honorary District Junior Presidents; to present awards; and to conduct any other necessary business.

Activities Include:

Friday Evening (optional)

(Dress is Casual Friday night only)

Department of Ohio Honorary Jr. President's Homecoming & Sleep Over

DJ & Karaoke

Scavenger Hunts

Pizza Party (\$5.00)

SLEEP OVER For all Juniors and Any Adults

(Attendees bring your own sleeping bag or air mattress)



Saturday

(Dresses are encouraged for the Convention)

Crafts

Program Workshop

District Pre-Convention Caucus

Installation of Honorary Department Junior Officers

&

Honorary Junior District Presidents

Registration Form due to Department HQs by May 2nd.
Cost is 6.00 per Person

See Department Website for Hyperlinks to Forms and Housing Information

www.alaohio.org

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio, Inc.
PO Box 2760
Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760
(740) 452-8245



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR CONVENTION

Sidney American Legion Post 217
1265 N. 4th Ave.
Sidney, Ohio 45365

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 15, 2015

7:00 – 10:00 pm Department of Ohio Honorary Junior President,
Heather Gold's Homecoming Party
with DJ & Karaoke –The Gold Sound.
Also Scavenger Hunts & Games
Pizza Party

Dress is casual. Sleep Over in the Post Hall. Bring your own air mattresses,
cots & sleeping Bags.

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Dresses are appropriate for this Convention.

9:00 – 1:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 am	Doughnuts, Juice, and Milk
9:00 – 12:00 am	American Legion Auxiliary Junior Workshop & Crafts
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 --	District Pre-Conference Meetings
1:00 pm	Department Junior Conference Session Convenes



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR CONVENTION

Housing for Junior Convention

There is no Official Housing Arrangements or Bookings
You are free to make your own arrangements.
Below are the closest hotels to the Post.



Holiday Inn Express
450 Folkerth Ave.
Sidney, Ohio 45365
(937)-492-6010



Days Inn
400 Folkerth Ave.
Sidney, Ohio 45365
(800) 329-1073



Hampton Inn
1600 Hamton Ct
Sidney, Ohio 45365
(937) 419-0943



From the dining room table of
Susan Masten
President
Department of Ohio

Think Spring! We still have a month to go but at least it's in sight now.

I hope you are all having some fun working on projects, planning those that are coming up and organizing fundraisers. Why not try contacting members that you haven't seen in a while? Maybe there is something they would like to help you do.

I'd like to ask a favor. If anyone has had or will be having a fundraiser for The Battle Buddy Foundation...would you send me a note or email describing what your Unit did? And if you could send a picture or two, that would be fantastic.

Have you involved your Juniors in some of your activities? I'm sure that they would love to help and they could learn so much from you. And if you need extra help there may be some SAL members that would like to volunteer with you. In the end we all work together for the same goal.

You've had plenty of time now to check out the Department website (www.alaohio.org) since it has been upgraded. Didn't they do a great job?

Have you made sure to file your 990 when it's due?

Have you paid your bonding fee? If you aren't sure or wonder if you owe for past years you can check with your District President...she has a list.

Have you started making some of your yearly donations? The VA's and clinics can always use some assistance.

Time is getting close to elect your Unit's nominating committee. They'll start working on your slate of candidates for Unit offices, Have you thought about stepping up and running for an office? Think about it. This is the time to start asking questions if you have any. Feel free to contact the District and Department Officers with any questions you may have. This is how we develop leaders.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

DENISE CONRAD, DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN

Hello ladies, the American Legion Auxiliary has reached the half way point of our reporting year. We have had a very information packed Mid-Winter Conference and are now ready to continue the mission of “Service Not Self” for the American Legion Auxiliary.

It’s time to go over your Public Relations Plan Of Action to see what all the requirements are for each of the Public Relations Awards. See what you have done and how you have used the Public Relations program to promote your activity. Mid-year is a good time to document all that your Unit has done up to this point. It will make your end of year report much easier to complete.

I continue to need information from all Units about how their Unit promotes the American Legion Auxiliary or projects they are doing or have completed for an Auxiliary program. I highlight each month in the “Ohio News in a Nutshell” Units who send me information about how they promote the American Legion Auxiliary. Ladies, this Department Newsletter is all about YOU. So please “Ring Your Bell” and send me information about what you are doing.

Buckeye Girls State applications and interviews should be a top priority. If your Unit is unable to afford the cost to send a girl from your local school to Buckeye Girls State, reach out to the community and other organizations for donations to help defray the cost for your Unit. Many do not know about our outstanding BGS program and once they find out what we do they are excited to help support the youth in the area. This applies to all the programs. When the community understands what we do for our Veterans, our military and their families, our youth and neighbors, they are more willing to help with projects your Unit present to them. **THIS IS PUBLIC RELATIONS!**

Public relations is not always something in print, on social media or in an advertisement. Sometimes it is reaching out to the community and arming them with the knowledge of who we are, what we do and how we can help others. Then when a need arises, they will know how to contact us for our help and return the favor by helping the Unit with an Auxiliary program, project or event. Wearing your ALA emblem clothing will motivate members of the community to “Just Ask” about our great organization. Building strong Public Relations within the community builds strong Units.

ENCLOSED SURVEY

As Department Officers, District Presidents, Chairman and Past Department Presidents we value the input of our members and are listening to the concerns of our Membership. One of the major concerns is the cost to attend the Department School of Instruction, Mid-Winter Conference and the Summer Convention. Another concern is the time involved to attend these meetings. In an effort to streamline these events we would like your input.

This survey was conducted at Mid-Winter Conference and is being sent to all Units. Each Unit has the opportunity to vote and express comments on the possible upcoming changes. Poll the members attending your next meeting and complete the survey with a single majority vote (comments are welcome). If there are other concerns not mentioned in the survey that you would like to see addressed, please attach a brief letter or write it on the back of the survey for future consideration. Please remember that it takes time to implement some changes as they must be in place at least 1 year in advance.

We value your input so please help us to plan our upcoming years with your suggestions in mind. This survey can be totally anonymous, your Name or Unit number on the survey is optional. However if you would like a personal response please provide the necessary contact information.

Deadline for the completed survey is **April 1, 2015**.

Please return completed survey to Denise Conrad, Department 2nd Vice President, 1108 Erie Ct., Woodville, Oh 43469.

Thank you for your participation.

MEETING SURVEY

Ladies we need your input regarding the schedule for future School of Instruction, Mid-Winter and Department Conventions. We are currently considering the possibility of streamlining our Department meetings as a way to help defray the cost to the member. It might also help those who don't have the time in their busy work/life schedule to come for an overnight conference while still providing the tools to help make the Units successful.

Please answer the following questions and provide comments if you wish. **YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE TO US!**

YES NO

- Would you be in favor of a 1 day School Of Instruction with available lodging for those who wish to stay overnight?
- Do you feel a 1 day School of Instruction could be held at a large Unit/Post home or Conference Center instead of a Hotel?

Comments: _____

- Have you ever been to a Department Installation of Officers?
- If Installation was at the close of session on Saturday at Department Convention instead of Sunday, would you choose to stay for the short Ceremony and support those you have elected? (This means the Convention would conclude on Saturday after Installation with NO session on Sunday.)

Comments: _____

Denise Conrad, Dept. 2nd Vice President 2014-15
1108 Erie Court, Woodville, Oh 43469
dconrad8@woh.rr.com 419-376-0787



OHIO NEWS IN A NUTSHELL



DENISE CONRAD, EDITOR 1108 Erie Court Woodville, Ohio 43469
dconrad8@woh.rr.com

I would like to thank all those you participated in the Mid-Winter “Ring Your Bell” contest. I did not receive entries from Membership Class I, V or VI. **The Winners of the Mid-Winter “Ring Your Bell” Contest are:**

Class II (51-100) District 4, with 285 pts.

Marion Unit 179

Class III (101-200) District 7, with 387 pts.

Russell D. Williams Unit 471

Class IV (201-400) District 9, with 222pts.

Palmer-Roberts Unit 214

The “Ring Your Bell” contest continues and all entries must be received no later than June 1, 2015 to be eligible for the 2nd half of the year. Everyone starts from 0 again allowing all Units the opportunity to participate. **Send me those articles for our Newsletter!** Ready...Set...Go!

All Units “Ring Your Bell”

In District 5, Elyria Unit 12 partnered with the Legion Post 12, Lorain County Communities That Care and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board to present a community forum at Elyria High School. The presentation was **Drug Addiction Issues in our Neighborhoods**. The Unit participated in on air Radio interviews on 2 separate radio stations, Newspaper articles, Facebook postings, church bulletins and too many flyers to count. When partnering with other community organizations the advantage is that every time the event is mentioned, all co-sponsoring organizations are also mentioned. That’s a lot of awesome Public Relations! It raises the awareness in the community about the American Legion Auxiliary and shows the diversity of its mission to help serve our youth and the community through Faith, Family and Freedom.

Unit 12 “Ring Your Bell”

In District 8, Walker Hecox Hickle Unit 677 has a wonderful twist on a very common activity. They can be found selling concessions at the local girls softball games, allowing the parents to cheer on their children from the bleachers. Making and selling buckeye candy was a winning and tasty fundraiser. This could also be a great place to showcase the Auxiliary and how it impacts youth through scholarships and Buckeye Girls State. Oh...and don’t forget those Junior memberships!

Unit 677 “Ring Your Bell”

In District 3, General Daniel “Chappie” James Unit 776 has a newsletter sent out by the Legion family every 2 months. In the last issue the Auxiliary had 5 full pages filled to the brim with useful information. Included in this issue were letters from the officers; upcoming events; an individual description of each scholarship the Auxiliary offers, the deadline, who to contact and other scholarship resources available to service connected applicants; a synopsis of the BGS program including how delegates are chosen, the goals of the program and how it is funded; the eligibility requirements for the Auxiliary; the mission statement; and so much more. That’s Public Relations!

Unit 776 “Ring Your Bell”

In District 6, Levi Phillips Unit 85 partnered with the Granville Middle School Leaders of America Chapter and raised funds to purchase gifts for Veteran's wives and widows. They hand-make Holiday bookmarks and ornaments for each bag. Then armed with a strict budget they are set loose on a shopping spree at the local Dollar Store to purchase such items as body lotion, decks of cards, lip balm, candy, notepads, stationary and other quality gifts. After the bags are assembled, the youth help to distribute the bags to the women and engage in lively conversation about everything from the women's stories and their husband's military service to current day fashion. Nearly 140 wives and widows received gift bags through this project, and good times were had by all.

Unit 85 "Ring Your Bell"

In District 9, Palmer Roberts Unit 214 has an awesome soup night. Auxiliary members bring in various kinds of soup, cornbread and desserts. They average 15 different varieties of home-made soup. The cost for the meal is \$5.00 per person for the taste of any or all of the soups. 50/50 raffle tickets are sold during the evening and everyone enjoys the meal of hearty soups and the great company of their Legion family members. YUM-YUM! Great idea for a cold winter project.

Unit 214 "Ring Your Bell"

In District 1, Murbach-Seifert Unit 479 partners with the local Boy Scout Troop to collect and distribute school supplies for the less fortunate children in their community. Donations are sought from local businesses and the Legion family members. The young men help to collect, assemble and distribute the backpacks of supplies, learning the value of community service and pride in a job well done.

Unit 479 "Ring Your Bell"

CALENDAR

February

- 16 Presidents' Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 22-25 **Washington D.C. Conference**

March

- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 15 Bulk Mail deadline
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Spring begins
- 29 Palm Sunday

April

- 3 Good Friday
- 5 Easter
- 11 **DEC mtg.** Sandusky, Oh
- 12 **Poppy Shop - OVH** Sandusky, Oh
- 15 Bulk Mail deadline

May

- 1 Buckeye Messenger Article due
- 10 Mother's Day
- 15 Bulk Mail deadline
- 16 **Department Jr. Conference**
Post/Unit 217 Sidney, Oh
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Memorial Day

Obstacles don't have to stop

*If you run into a wall,
Don't turn around and give*

*Figure Out how to climb
Go through it,
Or work around it.*

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Pam Brenneman

Well, our year is almost over. I certainly hope that all of our units in the Department made a contribution to this worthwhile program. Remember, it's never too late to make a donation.

Congratulations to Doris Wainwright who won the 12 bottles of wine that I raffled off at the Mid-Winter Conference. And a big thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for it. Between the Fall School of Instructions and Mid-Winter we raised over \$600.00 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Listed below are the awards that can be won at Department and at National. So please, make sure your unit makes a donation today.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION

Ardith Cooper" Plaque: This plaque will be awarded to the District President with the highest donations per capita to be given at Department Convention

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION

National Citation Recognition: given to one Unit and one Department contributing the largest donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund per capita

Citation and Lapel Pin Recognition: Presented to any Unit or individual contributing \$50.00 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

And don't forget your reports are due to me by April 15th. No ifs, ands, or buts. Mail it early!

Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch

Department Chaplain

MIDWINTER PRAYER 2015

Dear Lord:

I am sorry, all of our angels and saints are busy helping others right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line. If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1.

Jesus, press 2.

Holy Spirit, press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his or hers security number, followed by the pound key.

If you get a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666.

For reservation at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the number 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

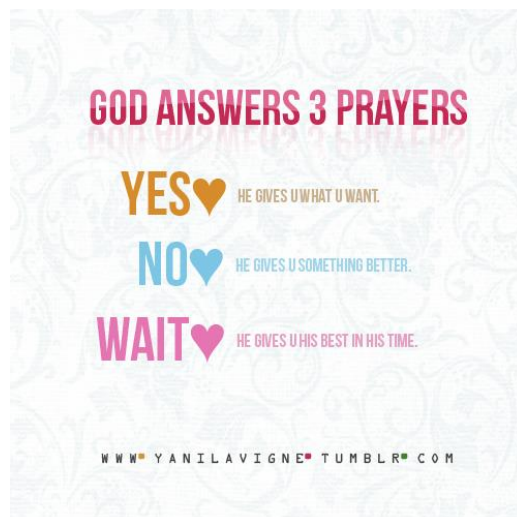
This office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 a.m.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.

Thank you, and have a good day.

Aren't we blessed that this is not the way God works?





HOW TO PROMOTE "STAR SPANGLED KIDS"

Committee:

Children & Youth

Submitted by:

Diane Duscheck, National C&Y Chairman

Contact Information for Questions:

ddianeddiane@gmail.com; Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org

Star Spangled Kids: Educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defending the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or in a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates by chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) on September 17, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
 - Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
 - Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt in the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe the role of their character in the writing and signing of the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com/?page=quiz.cfm
- U.S. Constitution skit



HOW TO CONDUCT A “KIDS OF DEPLOYED ARE HEROES 2” PROGRAM

Committee:

Children & Youth

Submitted by:

Diane Duscheck, National C&Y Chairman

Contact Information for Questions:

ddianediane@gmail.com; Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): honoring military children who may experience a separation from one or both parents, whether deploying to a war zone, having a short tour or extended TDY (temporary duty assignment).

1. Make preparations for a supply of “recognition buttons” for distribution. Buttons may be ordered through the Auxiliary (see flyer at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Children-and-Youth/>), a commercial vendor or made locally with the following content:
 - I’m a Hero 2.
 - Proud Parent of a Military Child with a picture.
 - Proud Grandparent of a Military Child with a picture.
2. Call a planning meeting: include the Legion Family, especially Junior members. Consider the following ideas to recognize military kids:
 - Make or purchase and distribute ‘I’m a Hero 2’ buttons.
 - Make or purchase and distribute ‘Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child’ with picture button.
 - Can’t afford buttons? Make or purchase and distribute stickers.
3. Decide the best location for recognition of military kids:
 - Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
 - Coordinate with Legion Family members for local community days/fairs etc.
 - Consider having an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home.
 - If your unit is in close vicinity to a military installation, contact Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for a listing of activities in which you might have a concession or table.
 - Make buttons available for ALA Girls State and The American Legion Boys State programs and Junior members.
 - Consider suggestions from Junior members for school activities and locations.

No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.



HOW TO REACH OUT TO MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Committee:

Children & Youth

Submitted by:

Diane Duscheck, National C&Y Chairman

Contact Information for Questions:

ddianeddiane@gmail.com; Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org

Some ideas for reaching out to military children and youth:

1. Sponsor a "You're My Hero" event, similar to the Hero Award, but for military children.
 - Present them with certificates and medals.
 - Be creative.
 - Ask your Junior members to participate.
 - Use your public relations tools to inform the community. Refer to the Public Relations Toolkit at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. Host a movie and popcorn night for teens or a board game night.
3. Many military kids can't afford new prom dresses. Get the community involved in collecting and distributing gently used prom dresses.
 - Ask local radio stations and newspapers to donate time and space to help advertise your initiative.
 - Get local bridal shops involved.
 - Involve your high school counselors.
 - Your unit may also want to help with transportation expense, flowers, etc.
4. Contact your local homeless shelter. Ask if there are any veterans there with children.
 - Since 1 in 5 homeless are veterans, there is a good chance they will be living in local shelters. Find out what your unit can do to help the children.
 - VA hospitals have homeless coordinators and/or directors of voluntary services. Meet with them to establish a method in which the coordinator/director will coordinate with your unit whenever a homeless veteran with children is identified. Offer to provide school supplies for the child, through the homeless coordinator or director of voluntary services.
5. Maybe the best thing you can do is get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children might be your best link to finding military children in your community. Be creative.

No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.

Juniors



**WOULD LIKE Assistance to Help
DEPARTMENT of OHIO JUNIOR PRESIDENT-
HEATHER GOLD'S SPECIAL PROJECT
“Hospitalized Children” Knap-Sack GIFTS**



Fill a KNAPSACK for Hospitalized Children

*Crayons - colored pencils - coloring books -
notebooks*

*Dolls - Action Figures - hand held games,
hand-sanitizer, Sm. Flashlight & batteries. puzzles
and of course the Knapsaks*

We are asking ALL Department, Junior & Senior Auxiliary Units, to assist with the Donation of items, or money to buy these items; and we will put the bags together at the Department of Ohio Junior Convention to be held May 15, 2015 and then delivered to your local Hospitals. Donations may be sent to Department earmarked: Heather Gold Special Project

**This is in conjunction with the
Josh & Friends Project—I'll Be Okay.**

Thank You

ENGAGE YOUR MIND ENCOURAGE WIN A PRIZE



STEPS TO LEADERSHIP KNOWLEDGE

SEND TEST INFORMATION TO: pamelabates9@gmail.com or Pam Bates; 2122 Willow Run Circle; Enon OH 45323 by April 15, 2015.

1. Take the National Leadership Course
 - a. <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Members/Leadership/>
 - b. scroll to "*Senior Auxiliary Basics Course – Our History & Legacy*"
 - c. Read the slide show and script
 - d. take the course test
 - e. submit the test to your Department Leadership Chairman

2. Take the Ohio On-Line Leadership Course
 - a. <http://www.alaohio.org/Programs/#leadership>
 - b. Scroll to "*A Journey to Becoming a Successful and Knowledgeable Member*"
 - c. Read the slide show and script
 - d. Take the course test
 - e. Submit the test to your Department Leadership Chairman

3. HOW TO WIN
 - a. MUST take both tests & pass = one ticket entry
 - b. SHARE the information & test with others = one ticket entry for each person you shared with that take both tests & pass
(the person must indicate that you provided the information)

WINNER to be drawn at Department Convention during the Leadership Pre-Convention Meeting.

NOTE: If you choose to take both or only one course, you will receive a card indicating you completed the Department and/or the National course.

**PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY
KAREN PEEL – CHAIRMAN
2216 25th STREET SW
AKRON, OH 44314-2202
(330) 848-1001 - HOME
(330) 962-0738 - CELL
Karen.peel@svindustries.com**

I hope that you are all having a successful year! You still have time to meet your goals! Please remember that your reports are due to me by April 15, 2015.

Other deadlines:

- Salute to Servicewomen Award – May 1, 2015
- Unit Member of the Year Award – April 15, 2015

I received this from my friend Shirley Legg and I wanted to share it.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we the Past Presidents associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the prestige of our Units; To maintain honor and dignity;

To foster and perpetuate interest and concern for the future of our Units;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our association throughout the past years;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Unit, Department and the National organization;

To combat the lack of interest of members in both the classes and the masses;

To right past mistakes; To promote peace and goodwill among all;

To safeguard and transmit to those who follow us the principles of dedication, serenity, and hard work;

To participate in and contribute to whatever task the Post may ask of us;

Consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to our Unit.

If you have any questions – please let me know!

Stay warm! Spring is on the way!!!!

POPPY



Just a reminder to get your Miss/Master Poppy applications to me before the deadline of April 3, 2015.

**Mona Shipley
632 S Elizabeth Street
Lima, OH 45804**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on April 12, 2015 in Sandusky, OH for our Poppy Shop Open House & Tours. Our special guest/speaker will be Central Division National Vice President, Laura Mosby, from Missouri.

I am hoping that everyone is surviving the cold and snow, staying warm & healthy. All Poppy deadlines are April 15, 2015 except the applications for Miss/Master Poppy at Poppy Shop (above) and

The Shelley Riggs Plaque – “Best All-Around Poppy Program” – This plaque will be awarded to the Unit submitting a SCRAPBOOK based on the “Best All-Around Poppy Program” emphasizing the Plan of Action criteria. The plaque will be presented on the Department of Ohio convention floor.

1. This SCRAPBOOK must be 8 1/2”x11” with cover page that includes: Unit name and number, address, District number, Creator’s name and date. It should contain photos, articles, newspaper clippings and a 250 word essay on how your Unit promoted “our” Poppy.
2. ALL SCRAPBOOKS will be returned at Department Convention or given to the District President for its safe return.

3. Delivered, (*this means in the Chairman’s hands*), by **May 31, 2015.**

I had cataract surgery on both of my eyes and I want to take this time to thank all that sent prayers and well wishes and to also let you know that I have lots of pictures from the Poppy Usage Contest at Mid-Winter and will have them in my next article for the Buckeye Messenger. I apologize for the delay, but I haven’t been able to see anything for quite some time. Please take the time to Remember our Veterans.



**Poppy Shop
Open House
Ohio Veterans Home
Sandusky, Ohio
Sunday, April 12, 2015**

The Poppy Shop Open House is open to all American Legion family members and friends including The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and to all 40&8 and 8&40 members, families and friends. You may tour the Poppy Shop where Veterans fabricate Ohio's Poppies.

The Miss, Master, Mrs. and Mr. Poppy participants will parade in their poppy attire during the program. Please complete the application and return to Mona Shipley by Deadline of April **3, 2015**.

Registration will open at 8:30 am, tours begin at 9:00 and the Poppy Program will begin at 10:30 am. Come join the fun as we honor our veterans.

Hotel accommodations may be made through the Comfort INN

5909 Milan Rd

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

For Reservations

419-621-0200

Use Group Name: American Legion Auxiliary

Double Queens for \$75.00 per night plus tax

POPPY SHOP OPEN HOUSE APPLICATION

For

Miss Poppy, Master Poppy, Mr. & Mrs. Poppy



POPPY SHOP OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2015
Ohio Veterans' Home – Sandusky



This application must be completed and mailed to:

Mona Shipley, Department Poppy Chairman
632 S Elizabeth Street
Lima, OH 45804

DEADLINE
April 3, 2015

► Please remember that Poppy attire is to be worn by all participants ◀

Name: _____

Sponsoring Unit, Post, SAL: _____

School, grade & age: _____
(if participant is a child)

Parents: _____
(if participant is a child)

Hobbies, extracurricular activities, sports or accomplishments:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. It helps in preparation of the program and ensures that each participant receives proper recognition.

Department of Ohio VA&R Mid Year Report - 2014

Our Department President, Department Hospital Director and myself completed a hospital tour of VA facilities within the State of Ohio. We toured Dayton, Cincinnati, Chillicothe, Columbus, Cleveland and the Ohio Veterans' Home. We found all to be in excellent order and were assured that wait times and falsification of information did not exist in any of them!. We met many wonderful staff members, veterans and Auxiliary volunteers. We were amazed with the technology and state-of-the-art Equipment found in each location.

Volunteers at the Columbus VA Outpatient clinic gave the following financial report (10/1/13-9/30/14): Opening balance: #246.08, total credits \$3665.00, total debits \$2764.14; ending balance \$1195.76. Auxiliary volunteers at this facility are very active and offer many different types of activities and refreshments throughout the year.

Chillicothe VA Hospital: From the 7th District, Units 62m471m 633 and 757 participated at various birthday parties at the facility. Unit 757 attended 3 coffee hours and served food during the recent Veterans' Day parade as well as the coffee hour during the Veterans' Day program; expenses = \$362.80.

The 8th District reported they have been busy helping our Veterans in many ways: participated in Veterans' Day programs and parades within their communities and area schools. One Unit released white Doves at the end of their parade and ceremony which really added a special touch. Units have helped prepare and serve meals at our Posts. Many have prepared Christmas packages, special treats and held parties at their Post and VA facilities. Estimated expenditures = \$2,100

The 11th District reported doing birthday parties at the Chillicothe VA and Units making donations to various VA facilities throughout the State. Estimated expenditures = \$1,000. Many Units held Veteran's Day parades, ceremonies and meals.

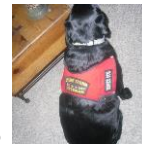
Units throughout the great State of Ohio have been busy: attending the School of Instruction in September, 2014, planning and holding Veteran's Day parades and programs, performing *Service to Our Veterans* (field and home service) and holding holiday parties in their local Posts as well as nearby VA facilities.

I am most proud to Chair the VA&R program for 2014-15 and am equally proud of all the Auxiliary members that are so dedicated and give of themselves each and every day in support of our Veterans.

For God and Country,
Carole Sowards, Ohio VA&R Chairman



SERVICE FOR VETERANS



Greetings to all the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio. I hope this finds all of you; Healthy, getting healthy, and staying as warm as possible.

As I sit here tonight looking around my living room, I think about the changes that have become this room. We took a gas fireplace out (wish it was still in) We insulated to keep the cold out and warm in, added a ceiling fan, and painted instead of wall paper which was popular when I first moved into this home 38 years ago.

As my living room has taken a new face lift in the past years, so has our program. Just a reminder that EVERYTHING you do for a veteran now counts for hours in which you can receive your bars.

We are not Home Service, or Field Service, but a new face, a new name; Service for Vets.

Remember that those hours are due to me by April 15, 2015 this year. Remember you still receive credit for the hours you serve for the veterans. Keep track of everything you did for them this year, and send your totals to your VA&R chairman and remind her to get your hours into the district chairman and they in return send them in to me.

I hope to give out lots of bars and pins this year.

Until June, God Bless, keep serving and helping your veterans, and keep them in your prayers every night before going to bed.

VA&R
2nd chairman,

Pat Miller
400 May Ave.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-928-4448

UNIT DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION
Karen Kaczmarek – Chairman

ATTENTION ALL UNITS

Do you have a member that goes that extra mile? Does she help with anything the Unit asks her to do? Does she help mentor new members and does she help the other members of the Unit? **DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE LIKE THAT?**

Why not submit her for “**MENTOR OF THE YEAR**” All you have to do is write a narrative telling me what all she has done.

A plaque will be awarded to the “Mentor of the Year” who is selected by the Department Unit Development & Revitalization Chairman. The **UNIT** must submit a narrative of no more than 1000 words describing the mentor’s activities in working with the unit.

The cover sheet must include the Unit’s name and number, the city it is located in, the District the Unit is in and the mentor’s name, unit and number. The narrative is due to this Chairman by **April 15, 2015**. I would like to have as many as possible, each year is getting better!

Please remember all reports are due to me by **April 15, 2015**. **Citations will be given to the District President who has the most units reporting and who promoted the UD&R program in her district.**

Good luck with reporting this year and remember to make a difference and send those reports in.



UNIT DATA FORM - - DIRECT BILLING

MANDTORY!!! MUST BE COMPLETED WITH OR WITHOUT CHANGES

(Please type or print using blue or black ink. Total Dues amount should be the total amount paid by each member and will be reflected on the Renewal notice.)

“I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the 2016 Membership Renewal Notices mailed to each senior member of our Unit by our National organization. The name and address below will be printed on each Membership Renewal Notice designating where members are to mail their dues.”

“It is also understood that any change in the amount of dues made after April 1st, 2015 will not be reflected in 2016 Membership Renewal Notice.”

Unit # _____ District # _____

2016 Senior Member Unit Dues

Unit Portion	\$ _____
Department Portion	\$8.00
National Portion	\$9.00

Total Senior Member Unit Dues: \$ _____ (renewal notice)

2016 Junior Member Unit Dues \$ _____ (renewal notice)

*there was no change to the National Jr. Dues

(Name of individual to receive membership dues) (Member ID #)

(Address where membership dues are to be sent)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Telephone Number) (Unit Email if Available)

(Signature) (Title) (Date)

Return completed form by **April 1st, 2015** to:
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
PO BOX 2760
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43702-2760



THE STRATEGIC PLAN GAZETTE

Get the latest Updates and Information on Ohio's Strategic Plan! With your help we can accomplish anything!

Goal #1: Attain One Million Members by 2019

Who: Goal Captain:
Donna Ray—5724 Willnean Drive—Milford, Ohio 45150
ph: 513-720-0525 email: rrayent@aol.com

Team Members: Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
Martha Thatcher
Beth Toalston

Plan: Achieve new ideas for Membership and Implement Them
Over a Period of 5 years

While we may think that this Goal cannot be achieved—it can with the HELP OF ALL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMBERS. If each of the units would get 3 new members per month—we can work closer to this goal. The following information can be achieved with all of us working together. We need to work to accomplish this year's goal by May 31, 2015. Let us know what you're doing in your district to attain your goal for this year. How are you contacting the members to either retain, rejoin or to attract new members? Some of your ideas could help another District with attaining their goal. We need to continue working and National will be a Million strong by 2019.

Engage to Retain:

- Be welcoming, kind and respectful to members of all ages and backgrounds. (SIMPLE RIGHT?) • Don't expect all members to attend meetings or chastise them for not doing so. Be positive.
- Identify and offer a variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities in which members can participate, at times convenient to them, to support and deliver the Auxiliary's mission.
- Ask for and be open to new and different ideas.
- Encourage personal contact with all members at the unit level. • Personally contact new member shortly after joining.
- Provide a New Member Packet, available on the national website, and personalize for your unit and department.
- Assign a "big sister" or mentor to each new member.

Rejoin Former Members:

- Identify former members & reach out to them & Set up a committee to contact former members
- Send letters; Make phone calls; establish a phone bank of members to call former members
- Meet periodically to make calls - monthly, quarterly, semi-annually
- When they did belong, did they find Auxiliary membership meaningful?
- Did they feel engaged in unit activities, a part of the unit and Legion family?
- Are there certain programs or activities in which they are particularly interested?

- Do they need a ride to meetings and events?

Attract New Members:

- Increase community involvement by using Auxiliary programs that encourage responsible, active citizenship supporting our military service members and their families.
- Engage other community-based organizations in Auxiliary projects such as welcome home/deployment events, support of active-duty families and providing services that may include plumbing, carpentry, childcare, etc. for families of those deployed. Volunteer at schools, giving flag demonstrations and serving as mentors, with a special emphasis on military children and the issues they face with deployments and transfers.
- Identify girls to participate in Unit events to build junior membership.
- Be welcoming, kind and respectful to persons of all ages and backgrounds.
- Promote the many Auxiliary opportunities for service, fun and life-long friendships
- Promote how shared patriotic and family values honor the service of veteran family members.
- Explain Auxiliary benefits, including scholarships
- Identify recruitment target groups such as female veterans, active military families, relatives of Legion members, Girls State alumnae and local colleges.

GOAL #2 – Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill

Strategy A: Build trust within the American Legion Auxiliary with the American Legion

Building trust between organizations and members can take time and effort. Hopefully, this work will result in better understanding, better communication, and a stronger relationship that provides an atmosphere for positive outcomes.

Initiative 1: Showing respect within the organization of the Legion Family by working together in a positive environment. (focus on what needs to be done that will benefit all members, be part of the solution)

Expected Outcome: Improved understanding of each organization that will hopefully result in maintaining a strong working membership.

Initiative 2: Units continue to offer assistance by volunteering their help and support to the Legion Family. (provide support at Post, with functions etc.)

Expected Outcome: To help create better working relationships between the organizations.



Consoldated District Summer Convention Schedule 2015

Dist	Date	Registration Time	Meeting Convences	City	Host Unit/Meeting Place	Hostess	Address and Driections	Lunch	Resv By Date	Send Resv To	Address	Phone
1	Saturday, 6/6/2015	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Toledo	Conn-Weissenberger Post #587	Kristen Lyell	2020 W. Alexis Rd, Toledo OH 43613	\$6.00	N/A	Pam Brenneman	1467 Gage Rd, Toledo OH 43613	419-476-6832
2	Sunday, 6/14/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Sidney	Sidney Post #217	Mary Kies	1265 N. 4th St, Sidney OH 45365	No Chg	Saturday, 5/30/2015	Mary Kies	1823 Daniel Place, Sidney OH 45365	937-492-1887
3	Saturday, 6/6/2015	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	New Carlisle	New Carlisle Post #286	Sharon Pletcher	2251 N. Dayton-Lakeview, New Carlisle OH 45344-Rt 3235 North continue off Rt #4	\$6.00	Saturday, 5/30/2015	Sharon Pletcher	7290 Studebaker Rd, Tipp City OH 45344	937-845-1324
4	Sunday, 6/7/2015	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Milford	Victor Stier Post #450	Carmella Fugate	450 Victor Stier Way, Milford OH 45150	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Saturday, 5/9/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	New London	Broome-Wood Post #292	Nancy Longbrake	185 N. Main St, New London OH 44851	\$6.00	Friday, 5/1/2015	Nancy Longbrake	169 New London Ave, New London OH 44851	567-215-7386
6	Sunday, 5/3/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Cardington	Jenkins-Vaughan Post #97	Amy Carroll	307 Park Ave, Cardington OH 43315	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Sunday, 6/7/2015	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Circleville	Hall-Adkins Post #134	Kim Sinnock	23363 US Rt 23 S., Circleville OH 43113	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2015

Dist	Date	Registration Time	Meeting Convenes	City	Host Unit/Meeting Place	Hostess	Address and Directions	Lunch	Resv By Date	Send Resv To	Address	Phone
8	Sunday, 5/17/2015	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Lancaster	Fairfield Post #11	Jodie Keels	279 Canal St, Lancaster OH 43130	Snacks	Friday, 5/15/2015	Tammy DeRosier c/o ALA Post #283	7725 Refugee Rd, Pickerington OH 43147	N/A
9	Saturday, 5/16/2015	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Conneaut	American Legion Cowle Post #151	Terrie Pongrass	272 Broad St, Conneaut OH 44030-190 E. to Exit 241, Rt for OH-7 Conneaut/Andover, then Lt onto OH-7 N., turn Rt on US-20/OH-7 St, Lt on OH-7 248 ft to 272 Broad St, Conneaut.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Wednesday, 6/3/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Massillon	Massillon Post #221	Merrilee 'Happy' Morotto	427 Lincoln Way East, Massillon OH 44646-Rt 71 N, 30 E and 21 N toward downtown Massillon. Take exit Lillian Gish Blvd, turn rt & proceed approx. 5 blocks. Post is 3 story bldg w/lge porch & cannon.	\$6.00	Thursday, 5/28/2015	Peggy Bigler	8211 Walter St NW, Massillon OH 44646 330- 833-7720	Martha L. Thatcher email- thatcher_m@abc global.net
11	Saturday, 6/6/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Beallsville	Beallsville Post #768	Nicole Kinney	52651 Broad St, Beallsville OH 43716-Travel East on Rt #145 from Malaga to top of hill & Post on left.	\$8.00	Monday, 5/18/2015	Beallsville American Legion	PO Box 265, Beallsville OH 43716	740-926-1850 or 740-359-6291
12	Saturday, 5/16/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Columbus	Southway Post #144	N/A	3253 S. High St, Columbus OH 43207	\$5.00	N/A	Carolynn Sue Robeson	N/A	614-254-9144
13	Saturday, 6/6/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Parma Hts	American Legion Parma Hts #703	Danielle Zaremba	7667 York Rd, Parma Hts OH 44130	\$5.00	Saturday, 5/30/2015	Danielle Zaremba	7667 York Rd, Parma Hts OH 44130	440-842-0703
14	Saturday, 5/30/2015	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Hudson	Western Reserve Christian Church	Judy Bradley	516 W. Streetsboro OH 44236 Rt 8 N. to Rt #303, turn rt and church on the rt.	\$6.00	Saturday, 5/23/2015	Renee Kohl	13 W. Prospect St, Hudson OH 44236	330-802-2845

SEE ADDITIONAL FILE ATTACHED
TO EMAIL FOR THE END OF YEAR
REPORTS