



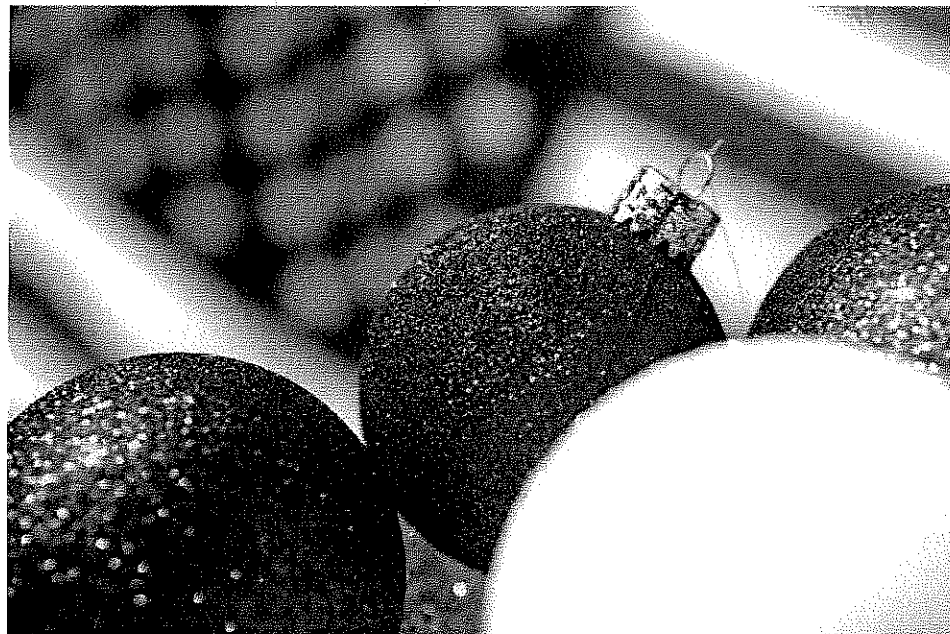
OHIO

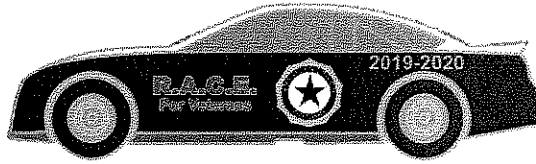
BULK MAILING FOR DECEMBER 2020

To: Unit Presidents Dept. Executive Committee
 District Chairmen Hospital Representatives & Deputies
 Department Chairmen Past Department Presidents

Included in this mailing:

- President's Message – all members
- Mid-Winter Conference Information (revised) – all members
- Americanism (pink)
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund (green)
- Buckeye Girls State (buff)
- Chaplain (goldenrod)
- Historian (tan)
- Leadership (green)
- Legislative (pink)
- Junior Activities (yellow)
- Membership (tan)
- National Security (blue)
- Poppy (cherry)
- Public Relations (yellow)
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (blue)





Kristen McLaughlin
Department President
17324 Independence Ct.
Brook Park, OH 44142
KLL721@yahoo.com
216-265-9611 (home)
440-781-1327 (cell)

Greeting Auxiliary Members,

I know that our Auxiliary Units have been working hard on their programs and RACE (ing) for our Veterans. Just when we thought we were back to green flag racing; we had another flat tire that put out the caution flag again.

Mid-Winter Conference has been rescheduled to the weekend of March 12 & 13, 2021. There will still be a Buckeye Girl State information session on Friday afternoon along with the basket raffle and information tables from the chairman. Please watch the Auxiliary website for information and updates should we need to make any further changes.

Please continue to read your plans of actions and bulk mailings and watch for any possible changes that might come out. I hope everyone sent in mid-year reports to their chairmen. Without Units reporting National will not know all the excellent work that Ohio does. National has updated their website so I encourage members to go check it out. Our office staff has been doing "Wednesday Wisdoms" on Facebook. Please go and check them out as each week a different topic (chairmanship, helpful tips on filling out forms, membership, etc.) is discussed.

The holiday season was certainly different, no holiday parties at Unit meetings or at most of the VA Hospitals and Outpatient Clinics. I was happy to attend the drive through distribution at the Columbus Outpatient Clinic. The veterans were truly appreciative of the gifts that they received. I am grateful for the creative way that some of the holiday pass outs were done at other facilities. Once again, your generosity of monetary and donated gifts put smiles on the faces of the Veterans.

Congratulations to the Units that have made goal and I know that several more are awfully close to being goal. Keep up the excellent work on renewing, retaining, and recruiting members.

With much appreciation,

Kristen



***** Revised*****

2021 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

March 12-13, 2021

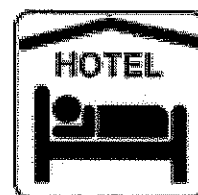
Crowne Plaza Columbus North

6500 Doubletree Ave

Columbus, Ohio 43229

By Phone (614) 885-1885

Select Option #2



Please call for reservations and refer to the American Legion Group or reference the new three-letter code AME. Be sure to ask for a confirmation number and if you need to cancel, please secure a cancellation number.

Price: \$103.00 plus tax

Reservation Cut-Off Date – Wednesday February 25, 2021

Buckeye Girls State Workshop

Due to the postponement of Mid-Winter Conference, there will be no Buckeye Girls State Workshop held.

Legion Department Awards Banquet

March 13, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Legion Department Awards Banquet is a formal banquet hosted by the Legion Department of Ohio to present Membership Awards to all mid-year winners.

The Department of Ohio will be hosting a special guest from Legion National Headquarters. Auxiliary Members are encouraged to attend.

Dress is Semi-Formal.

Silent Auction and social hour start at 5 pm in the foyer with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6 pm.

Reservations Cut Off: March 5th, 2021

Please visit <https://www.ohiolegion.com/events/department-mid-winter-conference/> and complete the banquet registration form.

Cost is \$38.00 per person

Dinner options are Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Picada, Salmon, or Vegetarian Lasagna.

****Due to the current pandemic, you must register online for this event.
All tickets must be reserved in advance. ****



♪♪Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life. ♪♪

AMERICANISM

Thank you to all that sent me a mid-year report. During this pandemic, it's wonderful to see that Americanism is still going strong throughout your Unit and community. You all have been so creative from having zoom meetings, to volunteering at the polls during this election year, placing flags on graves for Memorial Day, sprucing up your POW/MIA table, participating in a city wide banner program, ordering and assisting in the administering the A&G Tests. You all have been so busy!

Please remember to utilize your Juniors and continue to spotlight Star Spangled Kids. I know it's difficult right now, but try your best to involve the youth in your community to promote the Constitution.

It's disappointing that we had to postpone Mid-Winter Convention, January will be lonely without seeing all of you but when we meet in March, we will be stronger than ever.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Renee Kohl, Chairman
rckohl@aol.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Chairman: Mindi Rue
mindi1036@gmail.com

#membershelpingmembers

The Five W's and H of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Who:

Who is eligible? Persons who have been a member for the past two consecutive years and is current on dues for the membership year in which the emergency occurs. (Three consecutive years' dues)

Who funds this program? This program was created in 1969 and is supported by donations from units and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

What:

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is the program that embodies our devotion to our members. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was created to provide temporary assistance to eligible members during financial crisis when no other readily available source of aid is available for food, shelter, or utilities. It is also available for temporary assistance for educational training, for eligible members who, because of some change in their life, are now the main means of support for their family. This facet is aimed at preparing a member to re-enter the workforce or upgrade their skills for a better paying position. Applications for the disaster grant or temporary assistance can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/aef>.

When:

This program needs your support all year long. Disasters and financial crisis know no season.

Where:

This program should be supported in every unit across the state. These are our sisters, friends, and family that we are supporting. Maybe the person sitting next to you at your last meeting has benefitted or will benefit from the AEF.

Why:

Because it is who we are and what we do. We are a community of volunteers dedicated to serving our veterans, active duty military and their families, our children and youth, and our communities, including our own members.

How:

Be creative! You still have time to wrap gifts before Christmas for donation. Do a water bottle coin collection with a porch pick-up at a determined time. Did you know that a 20 oz. water bottle filled with dimes is approximately \$100? Partner with Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, or another restaurant in your town for an Eat for A Cause to benefit AEF. Please consider a project for AEF this year, big or small; all donations are needed. Donation form can be found at <http://www.alaohio.org/Forms>.

Buckeye Girls State
Rene' Reese, Director
(216) 362-0609

The 2021 session of Buckeye Girls State will be held on the campus of the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio the week of June 13-19, 2021 – Celebrating 75 yrs!!

Important points to remember:

1. Since Mid-Winter has been moved to March, we will not have the benefit of the yearly workshop, so it is important that you go over your instructions and pay attention to deadline dates that will be approaching.
2. We are still dealing with issues related to the COVID-19, so things may still be somewhat different this year when it comes to reaching out to the schools and interviewing girls. Be open and flexible when possible and make sure that you follow guidelines for safety.

Units should be:

- Ordering the applications – remember that the deadline is March 1st and then the price goes up.
- Working closely with the school(s) to get the names of potential delegates.
- Making plans as to when and where you will conduct the interviews. Remember that it is up to the Unit to decide who will be the delegates and alternates.

Next Steps –

- Contact each girl to let her know when and where the interview will be held and to make sure she is available to be there. If she has a conflict, please make every attempt to reschedule her so that she has the opportunity to be interviewed.
- Keep the parents informed of what is happening.
- Make your final decisions and contact the girls to let them know. It is the **Unit's** responsibility to:
 - Make sure all parties receive the applications and that all parties complete and sign them.
 - After applications are completed and signed, be sure they are sent to Vicky Buck at the Department office.

The Board of Directors is excited and looking forward to the upcoming 2021 session. While things make look a little different, our core program has not changed, and we hope to make this session the best it can be! As we continue to move forward, we will keep you informed of any changes and it is our hope that all members and volunteers will embrace this coming year as you have in the past. It is, as always, our goal to provide a week of government learning, citizenship, and patriotism; and that the delegates come back with life-long friends and a renewed sense of their own strength and future goals.

Please contact the office or myself if you have any questions.

12/15/20



American Legion Auxiliary
 Buckeye Girls State
 Post Office Box 2760
 Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760
 vicky@alaohio.org
 www.buckeyegirlsstate.org
 (740) 452-8245 fax (740)452-2620

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE 2021 Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Action or Document</u>
By March 1, 2021	Request Applications @ \$275.00	<i>"2021 Application Request Form"</i>
After March 1, 2021	Request Applications @ \$300.00	<i>"2021 Application Request Form"</i>
By April 1, 2021	Return Completed Applications	<i>"2021 BGS Application"</i>
May 1, 2021	Delegate to Return Medical Record & Consent Form to Dept. Hqtrs.	
May 31, 2021	Reminder Call to Delegates	Ensure Delegate attendance
By June 1, 2021	Make Replacements	<i>"2021 Replacement Notification Form"</i>
By June 1, 2021	Request Application Refund	<i>"2021 Application Refund Request"</i>
By June 1, 2021	Required Online Orientation Completed by Delegates	
June 9, 2021	Coordinator in Transit to Site	Begin Setup Operations
June 6-12, 2021	Unit Confirmation Call to Delegates	Make sure they are attending
June 11, 2021	Staff Arrival at BGS	Majority of Staff Arriving
June 13, 2021	Delegates Arrival at BGS	Registration from 1:00 – 2:30 PM
June 13-19, 2021	Buckeye Girls State is in Session	
June 19, 2021	Delegates Depart BGS	Parents may pick up at 12:15 PM

CHAPLAIN
Carol T. Robinson, Chairman
abernia@aol.com
937-602-9365

I have a project in mind, and I need your help. The project is called "Love Packages." All churches and individuals have extra Christian Literature they don't use anymore: Bibles, Sunday School curriculum, Christian books and paperbacks, daily devotionals, magazines, CDs, DVDs, etc.

The "Love Packages" ministry collects and sends the above mention materials to missionaries and ministries around the world to use in their work furthering the gospel of Christ.

The New Freedom Church of Lebanon, OH, is the Regional Collection Center in Southwest and Central Ohio for Love Packages. Visit www.lovepackages.org for more information about this international ministry based in Butler, IL.

Would you consider donating the above mention items? I hope so! I will have a table at our Mid-Winter conference for donations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

During this holiday season, I send you prayers for peace of heart, mind, and soul; and renewed hope and joy for the dawning of a New Year.

Remember, the most important part about **Christmas** is the first six letters!



Mrs. Dayna Beyer, Historian
Department of Ohio
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Bellville, Ohio 44813
419-566-9395 Cell / 888-225-3180 Fax
mrsdaynabeyer@gmail.com

I hope that you and your members had a wonderful, safe and memorable Christmas and celebration of the New Year 2021!

THANK YOU TO ALL UNITS THAT HAVE SUBMITTED A MID-YEAR REPORT ON THE HISTORY OF YOUR UNIT'S EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES!

As of this writing, December 15th, I have received 25 History reports, and still receiving them through email!

ALL history reports received are entered into our FREE Emblem Sales gift incentive drawing and we will draw the Junior and Senior names at Mid-Winter in March! If for some reason we don't have our face to face conference, we will do a Live Zoom to do the drawing. Good Luck everyone!

Now as we push forward to get through our program year 2020-2021, how can I help?

If you have questions on how to write your narrative or how to put your history book together – just call, email, text, fax or snail mail me! I would be happy to share examples of how to:

- 1) Complete your Plan of Action;
- 2) Write a narrative of 1,000 words or less; and
- 3) Put together a History or Scrapbook.

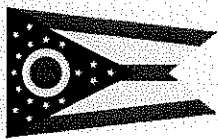
Next month we will introduce our Annual History Program FREE gift incentive to get you motivated. EVERY correctly completed Plan of Action, Narrative and History or Scrapbook received will be entered into the drawing.

Let's do what we can while we are shut-in, quarantined, or masked up at our events, activities and meetings.

Post on Facebook or in the Buckeye Messenger. WHATEVER your Unit is doing in National Security, Americanism, Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation, and Children and Youth (NAVY) as well as Community Service, Buckeye Girls State, Chaplain qualifies to be reported in your History program.

If you need any assistance, I am always available to help!

For God and Country - Dayna Beyer



IMPROVISE (use what is available)

ADAPT (adjust to new conditions)

OVERCOME (succeed)

2020-2021 BULLETIN #4

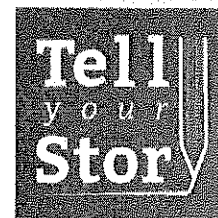


LEADERSHIP

PAM BATES, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

pamelabates9@gmail.com

937-974-2316



REPORTING & WRITING A NARRATIVE

Mid-Year and End Year Reports

- Review & read the OHIO Plan Of Action (POA) to determine the objectives to accomplish during the year. They were mailed to the Unit President to distribute to the Unit Chairman or you can find them online at www.alaohio.org or you can request an email copy from the Department Chairman. To locate this information go to the POA – What Can You Do? – Ideas for the member and the unit.
- It is **IMPORTANT** to read thoroughly and completely as each program has different criteria. Some require dollar values; number of volunteers; number of veterans served (be specific - “many” is not numerical); impact reports some require totally different information. One size does not fit all.
- Compile data, total numbers, activities from your members and treasurer and then determine where the information fits the Ohio POA objectives.
- If an activity crosses several Programs, decide to use the numbers on one or distribute them across the Programs that are involved.

Writing Your Unit Narrative STORY

- Think of a member you have not seen for a long time. Here’s your chance to tell that member what has been happening in the unit for the year. Tell your Unit story for that particular program.
- Review and read the OHIO POA for program awards. Each has different criteria. Some require impact reports in order to be considered. **READ CAREFULLY!**
- Where to start: (hint: as leadership chairman this is what I look for)
 - Go to the POA – What Can You Do? – Ideas for the member and the unit.
 - When you find the “What Can You Do” section, you will see there are subtitles on what to accomplish...go to the ideas for members and unit under that subtitle. Then decide if the unit has accomplished any of those activities in that section.
 - Once you have gone through all the subtitles and determine the activities the unit has accomplished start writing...who, what, when, where and how.
 - Be very specific for the program you are writing about.
 - Keep in mind that the Department Chairmen, are looking for the criteria specific to their program. If in doubt what to write, contract the Department Chairman and ask for advice.
 - Trust me...you will not get it right on the first writing...it may take 3 or more times...start early...write then walk away...come back reread and rewrite...suggest you put a Revision on each copy just in case you removed something and now you want it back.
 - In Leadership, I look for information in the narrative as organized in the POA “What Can I Do”.

HINTS

Just thought I'd give you some HINT of what this chairman is looking for in YOUR narrative. Pick the areas you did something in and explain **how** you accomplished them. This is just the tip of the iceberg...CHECK the POA for more details. Some narratives count as End of Year Reports...CHECK the POA. Some Chairmen would prefer the reports emailed...Check the POA.

- How did you get to know the members of your unit?
- How did you Survey members to identify their interests and skills?
- How did you develop a plan to incorporate at least one aspect of leadership learning at meetings?
- Did you hold a workshop/brunch focusing on preparation of reports and applying for awards?
- Was a membership pin and/or governing documents provide to new members and do you discuss these documents at meetings?
- Was a Unit Guidebook purchased to share at meetings?
- Have you encouraging members to enhance their education by using the ALA online Academy and resources?
- Are you teaching members how to help other members to use computer and social media skills?
- Are you initiating new members and offering every new member an orientation packet?
- Are you offering an ALA information refresher course for all members?
- Are you encouraging members to take *Welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary Senior Auxiliary Basics, A Course on our History and Legacy* at www.ALAforVeterans.org under the Leadership tab and recognizing those achievements?
- Are you encourage members to participate in Mission Training or other national events?
- Are you developing a plan to assist Junior members in learning about the referenced documents?
- Are you setting aside a "show me where it's printed" at meetings where members can ask why something is done the way it is or where in the governing documents it says we have to do it this way?
- Are you asking members to review all ALA documents at all levels?
- Are you using positive, experienced members to train and guide new members?
- Do you Invite new members to participate in meetings and events?
- Do you provide unit officers/board of directors contact information?
- Do you listen and respect what other members have to say and thank them for their ideas?
- Do you provide a positive attitude and solutions to issues?
- Do you give praise and recognition when members do what is asked or go beyond what was expected?

WIN A PRIZE

PRINT IN YOUR RESPONSE: YOUR NAME – ADDRESS - PHONE- EMAIL - DISTRICT – UNIT – BULLETIN #

1. Name all the Chairmen's bulletins in this Bulk Mail.
2. Write a short paragraph how you or your unit has ADAPTED; IMPROVISED; AND CAME a situation.
3. List 5 words that come to mind when someone says "Leadership".



Legislative

Thank you to all those who sent me a mid-year report. This has been a challenging time for everyone, but I am so glad to see that members are still working to promote our legislative objectives. In person visits are not possible but phone calls, emails, and good old fashion letters still can get the job done. The following is from the Central Division newsletter and contains some valuable information. Please pass it on to your unit members.

Health care for women veterans is a major concern. There are roughly 2 million living women Veterans. The VA Mission Act increased Veterans access to healthcare, adding some new benefits like "easier access, high quality care at VA facilities, virtually through telehealth and in the community", but did not specifically cover issues for women.

H.R. 3224, known as the Deborah Sampson Act, has passed the House. S. 514, known by the same name, passed through the Veterans' Affairs Committee with an amendment and has been placed on the Senate calendar under general orders (Calendar #536).

The **Deborah Sampson Act** aims to make invisible women veterans visible and to create equitable access to healthcare, housing, legal services, and other resources and benefits. Deborah Sampson was a Massachusetts woman who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. She is one of a small number of women with a documented record of military combat experience in that war. She served 17 months in the army under the name "Robert Shurtleiff" of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was wounded in 1782, and was honorably discharged at West Point, New York, in 1783.

Not all services are available to women or are gender specific. Many are not enrolled in the VA system because they do not know services are available to them or they do know and are not enrolled for various other reasons.

S. 514 has 54 co-sponsors. You can look up the sponsor and co-sponsors so you can see who you need to write, call, or email. Let's push to get this passed.

Second, if you know any women veterans you could bring up a conversation to ask if they are enrolled. If they are not, suggest they might want to look into it.

Our Women Veterans deserve the benefits that are given through the VA and at least deserve the option if they want to utilize them.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year!

Diann Long
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Brook Park, Ohio 44142
216-267-4711
ken17402@yahoo.com

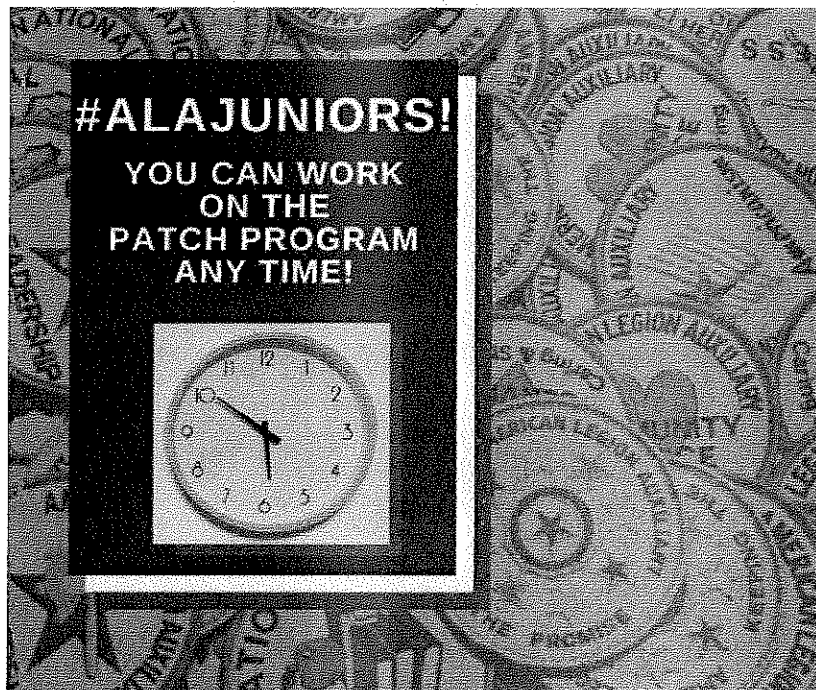
Junior Activities

Many thanks to the Units and Districts who sent a mid-winter summary of their activities. Many of you are finding ways around our social distancing in some very creative ways and we appreciate you sharing your ideas.

There does not need to be a structured meeting with your Juniors to show your gratitude to our Veterans or to help someone in your community. Encourage the Junior members to make and/or sign cards to distribute to your local Veteran Hospitals and Clinics. Sign Valentine's Day Cards and pass out little bags of candy. Take cards to the nursing homes. Help a classmate who is struggling with schoolwork. Be creative with your ideas!

With the postponement of Mid-Winter Conference, it is even more practical to get the items your Units and District may have collected for the "Color Your World" Special Project. Put the items together and deliver to Veterans who need something to do during this Pandemic.

Carmella Fugate, Chairman Junior Activities
carmella.fugate@yahoo.com



While We are still Social Distancing the Juniors can still find ways to earn Their Patches! Safety comes 1st but some of the requirements may have already been done! A Junior Unit Chairman can send a request for 1 patch earned or all! Please send Request and the Juniors completed forms to Me not National! Thank You Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!

Kat Richardson, 2nd Chairman Junior Activities
kats889@aol.com



December Bulk Mail



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Department Contacts

[+]

CHAIRMAN

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2nd MEMBER

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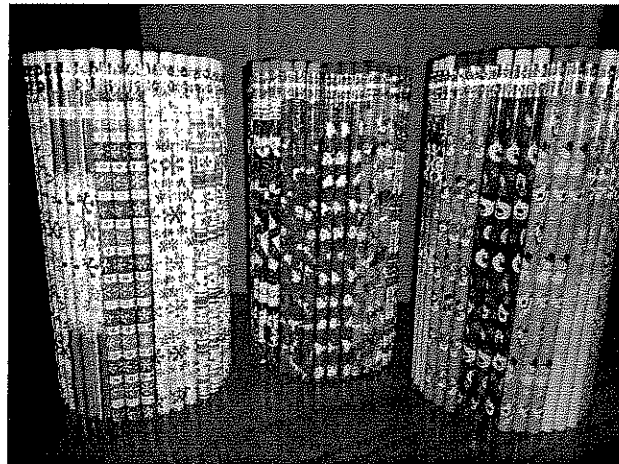
3rd MEMBER

Michelle Zayakosky
7400 Johnnycake Ridge
Mentor, OH 44060-7518
(216) 337-3178 (cell)
Email – post214michellez@gmail.com

Michelle Zayakosky
3rd Chairman Junior Activities

As we close out this calendar year, let's look to new beginnings but there's still time to make some crafts! Here is a fun little project with a vase from Dollartree, a bunch of pencils and a glue gun. This does require some patience. Please contact me if you have any questions, post214michellez@gmail.com or 216-337-3178.

Pencils purchased from
Dollartree and Oriental
Trading. Make a red-
white-blue pencil holder
or one with flag pencils!





Membership



Auxiliary Friends - I hope you are staying well. This has been such a challenging time. Even with this time of Coronavirus and all the challenges many of you are still helping our Veterans and Active Duty Military and their families.

I did receive some Mid-year reports and would like to share a few ideas from some units. Officers split up membership list and make sure each member is called once a month, then if they haven't paid their dues, they find out why. But since they have been having monthly conversations it has helped members feel positive about our American Legion Auxiliary Organization. Several units hold a drawing of all those members that have paid their dues by Veterans Day and the winner receives a gift card for a local store or restaurant. Several units pay the dues of the members in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living as a thank you for all the years these members have contributed to the success of the Auxiliary Unit.

The goal units have several things in common - they communicate with their members, they let their members know they care about each member and our veterans and active duty military and spread good will with their dedication to our theme of Service not Self. They realize membership is not one person's job but everyone working together. They show TEAMWORK; Together Everyone Accomplishes more.

When I read this, I thought of all our American Legion Auxiliary's successful units with wonderful officers and mentors:

Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high, and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine. *Chris Hadfield*

Each of you have a special talent you bring to the American Legion Auxiliary Just know you do not have to do everything but if you use your special talents you can make a difference!

At your next meeting review your unit's project's and share what each of you are doing, keep a list to help recruit new members. Keep a positive attitude. **Lou Holtz** said: " Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

We know that many more units can achieve goal soon; but yes, it will take each member working together to make it happen. You do have the ability to make it happen. Work together with your Legion and SAL {many Sal wives are eligible through parents} don't be discouraged by those that will not join, just be encouraged by all the good we do and remember we need to keep signing up new members to stay strong and keep our American Legion Auxiliary helping others.

John Wooden said it well: "Be true to yourself, help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendship a fine art, drink deeply from good books - especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day."

We are an organization of caring individuals that work together for the good of others. You are special people and let's get more folks to sign up and see what a special group we are and while we are doing this, we will make our organization stronger.

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals." **Melody Beattie**
Each Unit has their goal lets do all we can to reach and exceed that goal.

The ball is in your court. I know that you can do this. It is not easy but read your Plan of Action and use the ideas that will work in your area.

Caring & Sharing Award – April 1 – 7, 2021 • Purpose: Unit members and leaders organize during this one designated week to contact and check in with EVERY possible unit member, past and present, to let everyone know their membership is valued and/or they are missed while we continue to celebrate our 100th anniversary. • Award: Unit to be entered into a drawing for \$25.00 Emblem Sales Gift Card One per Unit. • Deadline: April 9, 2021 • Send form to Department Headquarters to be verified.

Respectfully Submitted, Colleen K Phillips Membership Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY

In memory of Martha Setlock and her love for Homeless Veterans, this is an activity that anyone can work on or help others work on. Several years ago, some of these mats were made and were distributed to our homeless veterans.

You can help homeless veterans AND benefit the environment at the same time. By collecting plastic bags and crocheting them in to sleeping mats, you can give a homeless veteran a soft place to lay his or her head and help keep plastic bags out of oceans and landfills.

Maria Mendez-Young and other American Legion Auxiliary members in California are part of an initiative to create and provide these sleeping mats to homeless veterans in their community.

Each 6-foot-by-2½-foot mat is made from 600 to 700 recycled plastic grocery bags and takes about 50 hours to make. “They are lightweight, waterproof, and, from what I hear, bugs stay away from them,” Mendez-Young said.

Other groups across the country are doing similar projects. Interested in learning how a crocheting or knitting craft can help homeless veterans? Follow these steps:

1. **Be a collector** – Collect clean plastic bags from the grocery store and other places. The bags should be in good shape and not full of holes.
2. **Be a folder** – Return the bags to their original shape.
3. **Be a cutter** – Cut off the bags’ handles, as well as an inch from the bottom of the bags. Then cut the bags into 2½-inch loops.
4. **Be a “plarn” maker** – Link the loops to form plarn (plastic yarn) and roll them into balls like you would with a ball of yarn.
5. **Crochet OR knit the rows:**
 1. **Crochet** the mat into a 6-foot-by-3-foot mat. It is a single crochet with a size P or Q hook.
 - Make a chain 36 inches long, which is about 66 chains. Make the loops loose with a little space between each one.
 - Make an extra loop at the end to use as your turning point.
 - Start at the third loop to make your second row.
 - Continue until the mat is 6 feet long.
 - Crochet from front to back so that it does not pucker up.
 - Crochet two rows of a single crochet to form a tie that is 80 inches long. Connect the tie to the mat so the mat can be rolled up and carried like a sleeping bag.
 2. **Knit** the mat using size 19 knitting needles. Knit approximately 50 stitches until it reaches about 2½ feet wide. Keep knitting until it reaches 6 feet long. Cast off, and you’re done!



Respectfully submitted by Vicky Buck, Programs Coordinator

POPPY
KAREN PEEL – CHAIRPERSON

Thank you to all the Poppy Chairmen who have sent me a Mid-Winter report! I am expecting a lot more to come before the deadline.

Don't forget to get your poppy orders into Department by December 31st. You must purchase poppies by December 31st for your Unit to qualify for a Citation of Merit.

Calling all crafters!!!

Are you working on your items for the Poppy corsage and usage contest??? Mid-Winter has been moved to March. This will give you more time to work on items for the Poppy usage contest! Remember that the contest is open to both Juniors and Seniors. They will be judged separately. But – most of all – don't forget your dollars to vote! All donations will benefit the National Creative Arts Festival.

If your Unit has used poppies in decorations, wreaths, etc. for the holidays or a special event, please take pictures and send them to me. I would love to share your creations in my Poppy report!

We have a date for Poppy Shop! Poppy will be held on Sunday April 18, 2021. I hope that we will be able to hold Poppy Shop. Further details will be coming out in January. Say some prayers that the COVID-19 numbers go down so that it will be safe to hold our event.

As 2020 ends, I hope that each one of you achieved everything that you hoped you would despite COVID-19. I know that COVID-19 has changed our everyday life but be thankful for what we have. May each of us strive to make a difference every day in the lives of those we encounter. Please stay safe and healthy! God Bless you all!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,

Karen



“Ohio Advocate News”

What's suppose to be “the Festive Time of the Year” isn't. Covid-19 has put a strain on the Holiday Cheer. It has kept away from our Veterans parties, family get togethers and our own Post/Auxiliary functions.

No matter what we still need to find a way to communicate to our members, our Veterans, Military, Children and Communities. Social Media seems to be the best way these days.

Some District and Units are following the Pace Car down the track while others taking long pit stops. Although I haven't received a lot of Mid-year reports, I have been receiving lots of newsletters by email. Members are making phone calls, checking on their members and families and sending out “Thinking of You” cards. Auxiliary members are collecting non-perishables for food banks for their communities or for food banks at the local VA facilities. Working on toy drives for their communities.

As we move forward in to the new year, let's keep on communicating to our members, our Veterans, Military, our Children and our Communities and their needs. We can keep this race going at a steady pace and on track. Let's get ready for the home stretch.

Cindy Masowick

Public Relations

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Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

As we come to the end of the year, we have learned so much during the pandemic. Zoom, is not just a word to refer to speed, and that we can continue our mission of “Who We Are, What We Do, And Why We Matter”.

I want to thank all the units who have turned in their mid-winter reports.

Several units have participated in the contest with National Security and VA&R by making and distributing preparedness kits. Also, units are making donations to the VA, driving veterans to appointments, shopping for veterans, providing items to homeless veterans, and the list goes on...

As we come to the end of the year, check your list. Remind members to continue to track their hours, activities/projects, money spent and estimated value. When the end of year reports are due, you will be ahead of the game.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy and Healthy New Year.

In memory of Martha Setlock



Friend and Advocate of Veterans

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