

LEADERSHIP
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“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”.

– John F Kennedy

A leader can be defined as someone who inspires others to follow her direction toward a common goal. The purpose of the Leadership Committee on all levels is to motivate, educate and inspire Auxiliary members of all ages to expand their leadership abilities, enabling them to have more confidence in every area of their lives.

As leaders in the American Legion Auxiliary, we must continue to move forward in our quest for a stronger organization filled with potential future leaders. "Reconnect and Energize!" is the national President's theme. What a challenge that is and should be not only to Department and Unit chairmen, but all Auxiliary members. As seasoned Auxiliary members, we must be diligent in offering new and non-traditional leadership roles to help other members to recognize and use their skills and energy. Auxiliary members show many leadership skills in various areas that is often disguised as simply ordinary day to day events and are not even aware that they are truly "leading the way". We must help members recognize their talent and be constantly looking for and encouraging those with the potential and heart to become tomorrow's leaders for our Auxiliary.

The term leadership could be misleading to new members. They often incorrectly think they must hold an office and assume great responsibility as soon as they join. It is the Unit's job to let them know that the leadership goal is to familiarize them with our programs and to assist them in getting involved at their own pace. Regardless of their level of participation, however, our goal is that all members be familiar with the mission and goals of the American Legion Auxiliary, proper parliamentary procedures, protocol and the art of communication that holds our organization together. This all ties into our Department President's theme: “Awareness-Action-Auxiliary-Awards. We teach and learn the information that is basic to the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary, we act on what we have learned, those actions strengthen our Units and the organization at all levels which show up as "acts of kindness and support for our Veterans". Our "Veterans" are truly what we must hold dear and strive to support.

The responsibility of the Unit Leadership Chairman is to:

- Inform new members of the availability of the Unit Handbook and Manual of Ceremonies
- Give them a copy of the Unit Constitution and Bylaws.
- Encourage members to take the Leadership Courses available to Senior and Junior members.
- Promote the Mentoring Program within the Unit with Junior and Senior members.
- Honor members of the Unit who display outstanding leadership qualities that have been developed by their involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Send a Mid-Year Report to this Department Chairman by January 4, 2010

LEADERSHIP RESOURCES: Resources available from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050 or call toll free 1-888-453-4466 for information on ordering and possible price changes.

Order online at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

\$9.95	Unit Handbook...355.200	\$1.50	Junior Activities
	Handbook...355.208		
\$1.95	Manual of Ceremonies...355.201		
\$1.50	National Constitution & Bylaws...355.202		
\$1.25	Preamble to the Constitution ...333.130		
\$9.95	Policies & Procedures...355.204		
\$1.50	Let's Be Proper...355.205		
\$0.80	Parliamentary Procedures...755.203		
\$1.00	Let's be Right – Flag Etiquette...755.200		
\$1.50	Guide to Guest Protocol...355.207		
\$2.95	Jr. Leadership Course...355.209		
\$2.95	Sr. Leadership Course...355.210		
\$4.95	Leadership Manuel...355.211		
\$12.95	Public Relations Handbook...355.212		
\$6.95	Legion Extension Institute Course...755.210		
\$13.95	A.L.A. History Book (1980-90)...355.213		

Various brochures on Auxiliary programs are available free.
Call your Department Headquarters for information.

Additional Resources:

Books-

Leadership in the Spotlight,–Nat'l Association of Parliamentarians
Overview of Leadership in Organizations, Carter McNamara, PhD
On Becoming a Leader, Warren Bennis
Smart Moves for People in Charge, Sam Deep
The 5 Seconds to Becoming a Leader, Alan Nelson
The Top 10 Mistakes Leaders Make, Hans Finzel
Learning to Lead, Robert Heller

Websites –

www.parliamentarians.org - Parliamentarians
www.myskillsprofile.com – Test your leadership
www.leadershipnow.com – Attitude, motivation
www.mapnp.org/library/ldrship.htm - Library
www.legion.org – The American Legion website
<http://emblem.legion.org> – Emblem Sales

CITATION POINTS - 15 points assigned
5 pts...Unit members attended Department Informational Meeting

5 pts...Unit members (Senior and/or Junior) took the National Leadership Correspondence Course

5 pts...Promoted Mentoring Program and/or honored a member with outstanding leadership qualities
