

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND
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MISSION STATEMENT: To raise funds for and awareness of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, to promote knowledge about the program, to disseminate information to the member about the application process, and to assist needy members in that process.

I. Goals

In keeping with the Mission Statement, the three main goals of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) for this year are to; (1) Educate members on the benefits and services of the AEF, (2) Increase the level of funding for the AEF, and (3) Assist eligible members suffering a financial crisis, weather-related catastrophes, or life changes requiring training to re-enter the workforce to obtain financial support through the AEF.

To accomplish these goals, we must:

- A. Open the lines of communications with Units and members and provide them with all current information possible.
- B. Encourage and solicit financial contributions from individuals and Units to keep adequate funds available.
- C. Encourage Units to sponsor fund raising events, such as walk-a-thons, car washes, carnivals, tournaments, raffles, etc. and enlist other groups to assist (Ex. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, ROTC groups, schools, etc.)
- D. Encourage Units to thank participating helpers at parties and socials and with certificates of appreciation and articles in the local paper, etc.
- E. Ensure Units are aware of awards and recognition available for AEF contributions.

The following core rules that apply to the AEF fund are:

- a. Temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, food and utilities.
- b. Temporary assistance for food and shelter to eligible members related to weather-related emergencies and natural disasters.
- c. Temporary assistance for educational training for eligible members who lack the necessary skills for employment or to upgrade competitive workforce skills.
- d. Assistance will not be granted to pay accumulated debts.

The intent is to help members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is reestablished.

Eligibility: Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years AND whose current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years' dues) may apply for assistance.

Assistance Provided: The maximum grant amount is \$2400 disbursed as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

Awards: There are 6 National awards this year, as follows:

- I. **Citation Plaque Recognition:** Mailed to one unit and one department contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- II. **Lapel Pin Recognition:** Presented to any individual contributor donating \$25 or more.

- III. **Citation and Lapel Pin Recognition:** Presented to any Department, Unit or individual contributing \$100 or more to the AEF.
- IV. **Individual Ribbon Recognition:** Each member contributing \$25.00 or more to the AEF will be recognized at Awareness Assembly and National Convention with a blue ribbon to be worn on her name tag.
- V. **AEF 40th Anniversary “Kickoff” Recognition Certificate:** Presented to one Unit or Department in each Division contributing the largest amount by November 10, 2009. Recognition will be given at the Awareness Assembly.
- VI. **Certificate and Recognition at National Convention:** One individual member from each Division contributing the largest amount will receive a certificate and special recognition at National Convention. Donation must be certified by Department Secretary and mailed to the respective Divisional Chairman by June 1, 2010. Gertrude Johansen, 10102 North 156th, Bennington, NE 68007.

Resources:

1. www.211.org Basic needs physical and mental health resource, employment support and more.
2. www.fema.gov Support preparing, preventing and responding to disasters.
3. www.redcross.org Disaster relief focusing on meeting immediate disaster-related needs such as food, shelter, health, and mental health services.
4. www.fns.usda.gov/fsp This program enables low-income families to purchase nutritious foods.
5. ww.legion-aux.org Additional resources

CITATION POINTS 5 points assigned

5 pts... Unit or individual contributions of \$25 or more to AEF
