

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska NOVEMBER 2009 Newsletter

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Department President Carol Ulrich ~ ~ Department Secretary Jacki O'Neill

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, Carol Ulrich

Hello, young Auxiliary ladies from the lovely state of Nebraska. Because of you we were recognized as one of the top 5 winners for membership with 57.56%, at President and Secretary's Banquet October 12, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. Thank you for sending in your Unit memberships early to Department.

Remember the Veterans; they need our help from your donations for Gifts for Yanks and Dollar Days events, which are held at hour Veterans Facilities across Nebraska.

Mid-Year Conference is scheduled for January 8-10, 2010, and will be held at The Lodge in Norfolk, please come and get energized with new ideas from the Chairmen on their plans of action, during the brake-out sessions, on Friday and Saturday.

National President, Rita Navarette will be attending this conference. President Rita's project is for donations to go to the National Creative Arts Festival and Ride to Recovery project. So we are having an auction to raise money for her project. Bring a new item to be auctioned off, and the proceeds will be split between National President Rita's and Department President Carol's projects.

The new ABC Books are out so please read them for information on witch program you want to excel in. After you have done your program, right up a report from it, and submit it to your chairman, so you could win an award for doing your good deed.

The American Legion Auxiliary 90th Birthday: November 10th - Happy Birthday! There will be a special gift presented to the Units who submits a report to me, by December 15th, on how your Unit celebrated the birthday. (see insert)

Please go to www.nebraskalegionaux.net 4 more information about the Auxiliary.

Future dates:

October 24, Make a Difference Day

November 1, Poppy orders are due at Department

November 10, American Legion Auxiliary Birthday

November 11, Veterans Day, Remember the Veterans

November 15-21, American Education Week

American Education Week theme: *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*

November 22-28, National Family Week

November 26, Thanksgiving Day

November, get your Unit History books ready for your District Convention competition, (rules r in 2008- 2009 ABC book)

December 7, Pearl Harbor Day

January 8-10, 2010 Mid - Year Conference, Norfolk

January 2010, Girl State mailings out

Thank you to all that remembered me at my homecoming whether in person or other ways. I was so happy to see everyone there. Below is a short report on the donations that were received.

Personal items; 45 T-shirts, 36 briefs, 76 pairs of socks, gloves, a hood, assorted hotel soaps.

Money donations: Stand down - \$185.00 – Norfolk Veterans Home - \$25.00 President's Project \$235.00

I hope to see most of you soon – until than God Bless You, **Carol Ulrich**

Chaplains Corner

The reason many of us do not know and understand God better is that we do not heed His gentle “checks”---- - His delicate restraints and constraints. His voice is “a gentle whisper.” A whisper can hardly be heard, so it must be felt as a faint and steady pressure upon the heart and mind, like the touch of a morning breeze calmly moving across the soul. And when it is heeded, it quietly grows clearer in the inner ear of the heart.

Let Us Pray: Heavenly father, we thank you for the gift of life and for blessing us with love and joy. Thank you for our service men and women and keep them safe until they return home again. We ask this in God’s name. Amen

Scripture: 1 John 4:8

God is love and if you want to know Him and His voice, you must continually listen to His gentle touches.

Cheryl Vap, Department Chaplain

CHILDREN & YOUTH

The American Legion National Commission on Children & Youth (C&Y), held their 3rd annual National Conference on September 18-20, 2009, in Indianapolis at the Sheraton Hotel. I was privileged to attend with the Legion Department Chairman, Don Suchy and Legion Committee Member Jim Linkletter.

On Friday we toured both The Legion and Auxiliary Headquarters. The highlight of the day was attending the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the War Memorial on the Plaza.

The Conference began at 7:00 p.m. with 100 registered Legion and Auxiliary Chairmen hoping to gain knowledge from the National Officers and Chairmen and to interact with other Department Chairmen.

On Saturday the 1st speaker spoke about “Security Dads” and “Caring Moms”. A volunteer group of parents that attend their children’s school monitoring halls and classrooms. These volunteers become mentors and tutors. These men become involved in fatherless boys lives to help keep these kids on track. The “Caring Moms”, were helping rear not raise young girls by mentoring and tutoring also. Another good session was Operation Military Kids/Speak Out for Military Kids. As an organization we can help bring awareness to the community and schools about Military Kids and their feelings. We need to partner with the State Department of Education to increase educators’ awareness regarding the unique issues facing Military Kids and their families through resource development, sharing and training. On this same note, our own Mary Ann Otte is serving as the North Western Divisional C&Y Chairman. She reminds us to respond to the increasing needs of our Military personnel and their families through The Family Support Network. You can call 1-800-504-4098 or go online at www.legion.org/fsn.

National C&Y Chairman Peggy Thomas spoke to the assembly about recognizing our youth for the good things they do. Enclosed is a Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nomination form. This award is for children under 18 years of age. This form and a news clipping must be mailed to Dept. Secretary, Jacki at Headquarters, she will then send it to National to be reviewed for the Award distribution.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is asking each Post and Unit to contribute \$1 per member.

Halloween is upon us. Has your Unit planned a safe and fun Halloween Party for youngsters in your community? Go to The American Legion website and download brochures on Halloween safety and fun to distribute to schools, clubs and community organizations.

Plan an activity for National Family Week, November 22-28. My hope is you stay involved in your children’s lives in a positive way, no matter how old they are! **Shari Luther**

NOTE: Did you notice the way the Department President misused some words? She wants to be sure you are reading her article, if you missed the mistakes you did not read it thoroughly ...go back and reread it.

NATIONAL SECURITY

An informative Leadership Session and a great homecoming for President Carol, is now History. Fall round-ups have been held, so now it is time to get down to business and get busy on projects. Yes, this year you're going to hear allot about National Security from me and its important goals for the year.

Preparing A.L.A. members, families and members of the community for natural disasters such as tornadoes, floods, blizzards, etc are the main focus. This requires taking CERT, (Community Emergency Response Team), training and training others. The CERT Program, Ready Program for Kids, FEMA, Fire Prevention and Red Cross information can be obtained on websites. Check the ABC book for information on this.

Military families are also a main emphasis of National Security this year. Contact families of the deployed troops and offer assistance. Use the Blue Star and Gold Star Banners. Yes, our troops that are deployed should always be our main concern. Plan send off and homecoming activities. The coupon clipping is still very much needed (see insert for new address information), and pocket flags are very much appreciated. Keep packing and sending care packages to the troops.

Our program of National Security work is to be simplified, but it is hard to shorten since it is all very important. The main plan for the Units is to choose the part of the project that works for their Unit and really focus on those goals. Keep records, report and apply for awards. If you have "all" that extra time, work on other parts of the project. The main focus is "Let's Support Our Troops!" Keep doing what you are doing! **Marva Kasl**

POPPY

Every day is Poppy Day! The poppy is the emblem of sacrifice so make every effort to teach the public the true meaning of the flower.

Make plans now for your poppy day – place your orders today. As you make out your order notice there is an increase in the price of small poppies. With that increase we are able to give the poppy maker an increase per poppy made in hopes that more Veterans will help in the making of poppies.

I have some poppy posters left over from Department Convention. I will be sending them to your District President so she can get the posters to the right unit. Happy Poppy Day, **Barb Skillman**

MEMBERSHIP

WOW!!! What a ride!

The hill has been long and a little bumpy, but we are past the halfway point. National has Nebraska at 62.289% (as of October 14th) and we are in 2nd place overall. We are number one in the Northwest Division with North Dakota close behind. Jacki's membership report has us a little higher with 65.74%. We aren't sure why hers and National's are different but we are hoping that National catches us up. According to Jacki we made our first 2 target dates early. Let's hit the 3rd one early also!

On a Greater note: We have 211 new Senior members and 118 new Junior members. **Welcome to all of you.** You are now members of a great organization. I know you will find something that strikes your interest and gets you involved.

I have a story to tell you...

I have a set of highlighters on my desk, yellow, green, blue, and pink. Every week I pull them out when I get the weekly membership analysis. I use yellow to highlight the 0% turned in. Blue highlights 90%+. Green marks the ones to watch at 89%. Pink is done; they are sitting at 100%+. I have an issue that only you ladies can help me with. My yellow highlighter is dying. Yes, it is drying out from so much use. If you have memberships to turn in, please do so. Do not hold anyone's check. People like to balance their checkbooks. Make it a ritual to turn in paid memberships at least once every two weeks. Everyone's checks clear and you add numbers to your totals and my yellow highlighter will get a break.

Just as fast as the 55% Depot and the 65% Depot got here we are looking towards the 75% Depot. Our arrival at this one is December 28th!! What a great stocking stuffer...your 2010 membership paid to the American Legion Auxiliary. Keep on chuggin'!!! Just remember the Little Engine, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..." Let's Do It!!! **Lisa Moore**

The Honorary Junior President is asking the Units to help her raise funds to purchase books for Veterans. A sheet of tickets is included with this newsletter for you to make copies of and sell to your members for a chance to win a beautiful quilt. The tickets and dollars should be sent to the Department Bookkeeper, be sure to earmark the junior project when sending donations to Department. **Jessica Hansen**

SPECIAL NOTICES FOR 2010 MID YEAR EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Every member is encouraged to attend the annual Mid Year Educational Conference. If you have not attended this yearly event please consider attending. This conference is meant to be a fun and educational experience, not just meetings, meetings and more meetings. At this conference the Department Chairmen come prepared to share their knowledge of their program with you. The chairmen should have brochures and pamphlets available for you, but... National Headquarters has informed us that they are in the process of updating and improving the current ones. Every chairman on every level can have access to what is available to order or to download by going to the National websites: www.legion-aux.org or www.legion.org.

As President Carol announced our National President will be attending our Conference. That is so exciting. She is a lovely person and Nebraska is honored to have her visit our state.

President Carol is also making plans for some fun money making events. As mentioned earlier she has definitely decided to have an auction to receive money for the National President's projects, as well as her own. She has requested that everyone bring a "New" item to be auctioned off. Who doesn't like to "shop" while away from home?

Department Secretary Jacki will be on hand to reveal and answer any questions you may have on the new American Legion Auxiliary Membership system that will be put into action for the 2011 membership year. The *ALAMIS* stands for American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System. This is going to be an awesome change and will be available to any member that has access to the World Wide Web. The incoming Department President, Membership Chairman and Secretary will be attending a workshop the first week in May and the Department will have a training workshop scheduled during the June Department Convention. Not everyone will be excited by this change; in no way will we ask any member to change to something that they are not comfortable with.

The 2009 – 2010 ABC Books are available. All Department Officers, Department Chairman, Department Executive Committee members, Honorary Department Executive Committee members and Unit Presidents were given a complimentary copy. (If you are listed above and did not receive your copy contact Jacki or Donna at Department Headquarters.) The books are priced at \$5.35 this year, which does include tax. If you would like a book mailed to you it will be an additional \$2.00 per copy to cover shipping rates. The ABC Books will be available to purchase at the Mid Year Conference also.

Some of the Units have updated their Constitution and Bylaws and submitted them to the Department. If your Unit is planning to raise your membership dues you must make changes to your Bylaws. When figuring the amount of dues needed, be sure to consider the \$2.00 increase to the Department beginning with the 2011 Membership year. In order for your Unit to break "close to" even is to charge according to the following info:

\$13.25 sent to Department for dues- (\$5 goes to National, \$8.25 stays in Department to cover many expenses.) Your Unit is asked to fulfill many assessments on the Department and District levels. For example each year the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman ask for 10 – 20 cents per member for Gifts for Yanks donations, along with 25 cents per member for Veterans Home Assessments and 40 cents per member for Gift Shop Assignments. Your District will request anywhere from 20 cents to 50 cents per member, and that's not all. With these few examples, and of course depending on your unit size, you can see that increases are in order for many Units. \$14.00 per member will barely cover the above example for the smallest Unit. FYI

NATIONAL COMMANDER WILL VISIT NEBRASKA

Clarence Hill, National Commander for The American Legion plans to make an official visit to Nebraska

MONDAY, November 2, 2009

National Commander Hill will begin his tour at the newest Veteran's Home in Nebraska, The Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

His next stop will be at the Gretna Legion Post 216, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Gretna Legion and Auxiliary plan to serve a meal for the National Commander Hill and for anyone else that would like to join him. There will be a minimum cost for the meal for the Legion family members attending.

TUESDAY, November 3, 2009

8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. - Arlington Legion Post 71

10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. - Tekamah Legion Post 15

12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. – West Point Legion Post 70

2:30 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. – Wakefield Legion Post 81

4:15 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. – Homer Legion Post 97

6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. – South Sioux City Legion Post 307

WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2009

9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. – Coleridge High School

11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. – Crofton Legion Post 128

12:30 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. – Niobrara Community Center

2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. – Spencer Legion Post 78

4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. – Chambers Legion Post 320

THURSDAY, November 5, 2009

9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. – Osmond Legion Post 326

10:15 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. – Pierce Legion Post 72

11:30 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. – Norfolk Legion Post 16

1:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. – Norfolk Veterans Home

5:15 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. – Omaha Legion Post 1

If you have questions on the National Commander's visit please contact your Legion Post Commander or the Department Adjutant. The Nebraska Department of the American Legion Auxiliary does not have any other information than what is posted above.

If the Department Secretary / Treasurer filed your Unit's 990 E- Postcard last year she will file for you again this year. Your Unit contact person will be notified when this filing is completed, either by Email or USPS. If your Unit filed without the Department's assistance be sure to find out when your deadline to file is.

Some of the Units have updated their Constitution and Bylaws and submitted them to the Department. If your Unit is planning to raise your membership dues you must make changes to your Bylaws. When figuring the amount of dues needed, be sure to consider the \$2.00 increase to the Department beginning with the 2011 Membership year. In order for your Unit to break "close to" even is to charge according to the following info:

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Unit Membership chairmen requests:

Please send in your Permanent/Life cards to Department. Those were to be sent as soon as you received your packets in June or July.

Many Junior cards are being submitted with no birthdates or with birthdates that reflect the Junior to be over 18 years of age in that membership year. The change from Junior to Senior does not get done automatically by National or by Department it must be done on the Unit level. There is a box on the A and B stubs to mark Jr. to Sr. status.

Name changes can be made directly on the card so you do not need to send in a Data form with the card. Preferably in pencil, cross out the name you need changed and clearly write it correctly on the card. There is a box to check so the card reader can let a human know that there is a change to be made.

Inserts with the November 2009 newsletter:

Christmas Candle Lightening Service provided by Department Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary Hero/Good Deed Award

Pamphlets with Mission Driven Program information

Coupon Clipping program with updated addresses

90th American Legion Auxiliary Birthday Celebration ideas

Junior Presidents' Quilt Raffle tickets sheet

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY TO ATTEND THE 2010 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

The Department will **NOT** be making any room reservations for the 2010 January Mid-Year Conference.

It is your responsibility to reserve a room for any upcoming Department events, per the Department Adjutant.

The Mid-Year Conference will be held at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites, 4200 West Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, NE.

The room rate is \$69.99 per night if you inform them you are with the Legion Family. This hotel has continental breakfast, 2 restaurants on site, exercise room, pool and hot tub, also easy parking and accessibility.

All the meetings will be held in the DIVOTS Conference Center adjoined to the "Lodge".

Call 402-371-4520 or 1-888-335-0553 to reserve your room.

Other rooms available in Norfolk

Holiday Inn Express – 402-379-1524

Hampton Inn – 402-379-3585

Country Inn – 402-371-4430

Rodeway Inn – 402-371-9779

Super Eight – 402-379-2220

Victorian Inn – 402-379-3035

CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE for 2010

The 2010 Cornhusker Girls State session will be held June 6 - 12 on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln City campus. We have been busy making plans for an exciting and eventful week that the girls will carry with them through out their lives.

Girls state is an all-volunteer program and does rely on volunteers from all units to carry out the weeklong program. We are always looking for energetic and enthusiastic Auxiliary members to share their week as a Senior Counselor with female juniors from all across the State of Nebraska. We are never too old or too young to learn new items each and every day of our lives. If there is another area in which you would be willing to help, please let us know. This is an educational opportunity for all of us to share and to have lasting relationships with the young people of our state. Please give this a major thought in your units and for yourself.

If you need more information or are interested, please contact me or Gwen Reynolds, the Director of Counselors. Our contact information is shown below.

Charlotte Zieg
2010 Girls State Chairman
402-532-5170
charlottezieg@hotmail.com or
charlotte.e.zieg@usps.gov

Gwen Reynolds
2010 Director of Counselors
402-614-3909
pengwen76@cox.net

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American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska
2009 Candle lighting Service for Christmas

(A small table can be set with three candles on it with a wreath of poppies)

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, (which means "God with us").

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and "Prince of Peace".

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.
(Light a candle)

Song: "Away in a Manger"

A number of years ago a remarkable Christmas card was published by the title "If Christ Had Not Come." It was based on our Savior's own words, "If I had not come," in John 15:22.

The card pictured a minister falling asleep in his study on Christmas morning and then dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream, he saw himself walking through his house, but as he looked, he saw no stockings hung on the chimney, no Christmas tree, no wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort and gladden our hearts or to save us. He then walked onto the street outside, but here was no church with its spire pointing toward heaven. And when he came back and sat down in his library, he realized that every book about our Savior had disappeared. Finally he realized that Christ had not come, and burst into tears, weeping bitterly in his sorrowful dream.

Then suddenly he awoke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard his choir singing these words in his church nearby: (Light a candle)

Song: "O, Come All Ye Faithful"

Luke 2:10-11 Let us be glad and rejoice today, because He has come. And let us remember the proclamation of the angel: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Light a candle)

Song: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Let us pray: Our Heavenly Father, on this holy Christmas day, our hearts are filled with solemn joy and gratitude for the gift of the Savior, Christ the Lord. For the Fullness of His grace, and for His redeeming love, we humbly join in ceaseless praise and thanksgiving. Amen

Let us sing, "Joy to the World" and let the love of Jesus Christ into our Hearts.

Have a very wonderful Christmas
Cheryl Vap, Department Chaplain

CORRECTION TO ABC BOOK

**Page 108-109 of the 2009 -2010 Department ABC Book under the past President's Parley Awards
Last years essay topic was accidently left in the instructions in National's Plan of Action.**

The topic for this year is "Service in the U.S. Armed Forces: A source of Personal Pride"