

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER
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Department President Marva Kasl ~ ~ Department Secretary Jacki O'Neill

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, Marva Kasl

Our year is coming to a close. Hopefully we have pieced our projects together "Piece by Piece" for a successful year. Yes, spring is here, although it doesn't seem like it now with the cold temperatures but soon we will be outdoors.

Now is the time to take one more look at your membership and check for anyone not yet renewed, we don't want to lose them. Also, check for the possibility of any eligible members. We need to keep working on membership all year to keep our Legion's Auxiliary the Largest Women's Patriotic Organization.

Now let's take a look at our projects, "Piece by Piece", and see if we have done all we can and what we can still focus on. Leadership is a big important piece. We will soon be electing our officers for next year. Members, please consider stepping up to the plate. You all work – have family and NO TIME! There's always a way to make it work, CHANGES can be made in meeting schedules. We need younger officers to keep our organization going. So many members have done more than their share. These members are willing to share their knowledge and take part, but we need new leaders!

Girls State, you have selected your Girls Staters, now don't forget them. Pack a goodie bag for them to take and when you deliver it, ask her if she needs transportation or anything else for the week. Tee shirts will be available for the girls to buy. Why not offer to buy one for her? Help is needed at the Girls State event. Why not volunteer to help for a couple hours with elections or other sessions? Visit a session, you will enjoy it!

Juniors still have a lot of activities coming up. The Department Junior meeting is in Cook, May 16th with AshLynn Albers as Junior Department President. This is a fun day, so plan to take the Juniors, active or not. So get your daughter(s), granddaughter(s) or neighbor(s) and come on down to Cook, Nebraska. You'll enjoy it too! There's also a fun time being planned at the Department Senior Convention in Columbus on June 26th and 27th for the Juniors. So plan to bring some of your Juniors to Columbus. Let's keep our Juniors busy, they are our future.

Poppies, most Poppy Days are or will soon be over. Let's not forget to use poppies all year long. Give everyone a Poppy at Memorial Day services. Don't forget to be on the lookout for Veterans that would like to be Poppy Makers that can make poppies in their homes.

Americanism, hopefully you all have some Americanism essay winners. Use them, and have the students read their essays at your Memorial Day services or at your meetings. Keep stressing Americanism all year by taking part in a parade, Flag Retirement Ceremony and other special events.

Children and Youth and Education, work for your youth all year long and help where or when needed. Start making plans for your youth projects next year now. A little bit of out time can make a big difference for a child.

Community Service, we all need to be part of our community events as much as possible, no matter if you are in a big or small community. Make sure you let know you are a part of the American Legion Auxiliary. There might be someone interested in being a part of us!

UD&R, (Unit Development and Revitalization), always support your fellow Units close to you in their activities. Always be on the lookout for a Unit that might be struggling, and if you see one contact UD&R.

Public Relations, now you have so much of this in your Units. As we toured many Units and Posts I

have seen what all you do. Do you publicize all you do? This is important to let everyone know. Sometimes we are so busy we do not realize what all we do. So let's take a look at all you do month by month for our Veterans, Community, Education, Youth , Americanism and other projects. Be sure to publicize all. Remember to send Unit news articles to Helen Kottas, 1229 Jasmine Avenue, Crete, NE 68333, by June 1.

Now a good way to learn about projects and get enthused about the American Legion Auxiliary is to attend the Department Convention. It will be held June 26th, 27th and 28th, in Columbus.

We are planning an educational and enjoyable time. A mini Las Vegas night is being planned for Friday's fun night. Tickets will be \$5 prior to the event or at registration. The top prize will be a night and meal at Harrah's in Council Bluffs for two or the money to match the value of the room and meal. Every ticket is a winner! Everyone present with their ticket will win a prize.

We are accepting donations of prizes for this fun fundraising event. If you have a business in your community that would like to donate and get a little free advertising or if your Unit has some extra items to use for prizes worth \$5 or more call the Department Headquarters at 402-466-1808 with the information.

Help is also needed on some committees for the convention including registration, elections and more. Call the Department Headquarters if you can help in any areas.

Don't forget my challenge of sending \$5.00 for each Permanent member in your Unit. Also remember the Nebraska Life Magazine sales go until May 31, 2009.

Thank you all for the super hospitality at meetings and suppers, all our experiences have been very special and will always be remembered. Thanks for supporting my project, "The Windmill" at the Hero's Garden at the Norfolk Veterans Home. Thank you also for the use of my theme. "Piece by Piece, we serve our Veterans for Peace" and my symbol, the Dove. Keep working, and I hope to see you in Columbus in June

Piece By Piece we Serve Our Veterans for Peace

NEWS FLASH

SAVE THE DATES

KEEP THE 1ST WEEKEND OF AUGUST OPEN

*Nebraska is pleased to announce
the upcoming visit from
National President, Desiree Stoy*

The details of this exciting event will be shared at the
2009 Department Convention in Columbus.

Let's show Desi our Nebraska, "down home hospitality!"

CHAPLAIN, Bonnie Erickson

I'd like to start by saying thank you to all that have sent prayers, poems and inspirational thoughts to help me in preparing a Memorial Prayer Book for President Marva. I have received many but I could still take more. If you haven't submitted anything for the Prayer book there is still plenty of time. Send yours today. I have received some of the winning Prayer Books that were submitted for judging at your District Conventions. There is still time to get those mailed to me too. Please send your prayers and the District Prayer Books to me at 35373 Creek Road, Wallace, NE 69169. May your way be blessed with all of our Lords love. God Bless

MEMBERSHIP “VETERANS – OUR SOUL & INSPIRATION “, Beverly Neel

I've just been reading through the newest edition of the Unit Handbook. The cover itself will take your breath away. Even though I have read this Handbook on an annual basis, I am pleased to know I still can learn something new and prepare myself to ask questions and find the answers.

Therefore, in our Membership Journey we need first to begin at the basics and this Handbook is your guide. Every Unit NEEDS at least ONE copy if not more. I draw your attention to Page 72 – Leadership – where you will be able to access the American Legion Auxiliary Correspondence Course by visiting www.legion-aux.org. This too is a MUST for that well seasoned or new novice member wanting to bone up on her knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary. I have taken this course twice and passed so challenge yourself. You can do it.

Secondly, Pages 75-76 – Membership – “Preparing for the Campaign.” This is Membership in growth in a nutshell. Read It, Do It, Brag on It. It can be done, YOU can do it!!!

Lastly, Pages 70-71 – Junior Activities – Education is a very strong tool in keeping our Junior members involved with, in love with and in unison with our American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Each Junior member should be **gifted** a copy of the Junior Activities Handbook and be instructed according to the Junior Leadership Course in the Handbook. Senior Leaders your tasks are obvious, your motivation is contagious and your willingness to serve these young gals is greatly appreciated. Get your Unit involved with the Juniors.

Chapter VI – Unit Meeting – provides the most senior to the newest novice Unit Officer the basics of our Unit. Read it through, challenge members to educate themselves, and together grow and Brag on It. In the Suggested Order of Business outline I do not see where the POW/MIA flag (chair cover) is advanced and respected as given in guidelines, that at all gatherings of The American Legion Family this symbol should be included. Perhaps that is something YOU can research and report your findings next time around.

I have not completely read this newest edition, but it will be done. I have my red and blue ink in hand and a few highlighters and sticky notes to mark essential reference points. As always keep our military, their families and our members in prayer. We all can use it, so share yours.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, Helen Kottas

I am checking my mailbox daily looking for your “Public Relations” articles that I can place in Department President, Marva’s Publicity Keepsake Book. Any news worthy article will be appreciated, also if you have not already done so, please submit copies of photos, articles, etc from Marva’s visit to your Units, Counties, Districts and special events.

It time once again for recognition and awards. The current ABC book has the awards listed on page 105. Please submit your entries to me at 1229 Jasmine Avenue, Crete, NE 68333.

<p>An emergency notice was sent with the last newsletter asking for information on the 2010 Unit membership chairman. I am very pleased to announce that before the National deadline we had 211 Units reporting!! It is very important to send all your chairman changes into Department headquarters as soon as you can so all the files can get updated and information can be directed to the proper chairmen. Thank you for your prompt response!</p>
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DEADLINE: June 1, 2009
National President's Project

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary – PAFE, 8945 N Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260
Or electronically submit to natlpres@legion-aux.org

Create a Plan of Work

UNIT AWARD – National wants to have an outline from Units on three (3) of their programs that they are able to briefly detail –

GOALS (what Unit intends to accomplish) –

TACTICS (steps Unit uses to work the program) –

MEASURABLE OUTCOME (successful results).

This needs only to be in outline form such as power point presentation. Need ONE page per program, but any Unit entering must describe three (3) programs. Program examples: Americanism, Poppy Membership, Children & Youth, etc. Pictures may be included but not required.

This is NOT a narrative report.

Junior Department Convention will be held on May 16th in Cook, Nebraska

Contact Barbara Washburn for more details.

Department Convention will be held June 25-28, 2009 in Columbus Nebraska

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PLANS

There will be one more newsletter before the convention that will include the “draft” schedule.

Thursday: Department Executive meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Registration and the onsite office will open at noon Thursday until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

2010 Membership cards can be picked up from the onsite office until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Friday: General session begins at 8:00 a.m.

Children & Youth Banquet begins at 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

Joint Session & Memorial Service begins at 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

General session continues following the joint session until 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. the fun begins with the MINI Las Vegas Night!

Saturday: General session begins at 8:00 a.m.

Meet the Candidates reception at 2:00 p.m.

Catholic Mass will be at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: The American Legion Family Religious Service begins at 8:00 a.m.

General Session begins following the religious service.

Election of officers and installation will be held.

Post D.E.C. meeting will be held following the adjournment of the 2009 Department Convention.

Please encourage your members to attend. This is an opportunity for your members to hear about our accomplishments as a Department (State). How together we can and do make a difference. How piece by piece we helped our Veterans, our communities and our children and youth.

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Attention Units:

The IRS 990 E – Post cards have been filed for every Nebraska Unit **except for the following:** ARCADIA, BRISTOW, BRUNSWICK, DALTON, DWIGHT, ELKHORN-WATERLOO, ELMWOOD, GENEVA, HERSHEY, JUNIATA, LINDSAY, LISCO, ORLEANS, PILGER, RAVENNA, SCOTTSBLUFF, SHICKLEY, SILVER CREEK, STAPLETON, VIRGINIA, WILCOX, WINNEBAGO.

Please contact Department Headquarters for information on how to correct the problem.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING

The 2009 Department Scholarship judging date was set for Friday, April 24th. The winners will be notified by letter from the Department Headquarters Staff with a courtesy copy sent to the Unit along with a Scholarship Certificate for the Unit to present to your winning applicant. Unfortunately not all applicants are chosen. The applicants that were not chosen will receive a letter explaining the judging process and wishing them success in their continuing education. Many Units sent in applications this year and it is great to see how qualified our youth of today are. Thank you for taking the time to help!

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!

The reports are pouring in. The numbers are being tallied. You need to get your reports in so your numbers can be tallied also. The deadline was May 1, 2009. The chairmen have reports to compile to get information to headquarters for the Convention Annual and also the National Organization counts on our reports to “brag” about how well we serve as volunteers for our nation.

Friday Night at the Department Convention FUN FUNDRAISING EVENT “Mini Las Vegas Night”

Just by purchasing a \$5 ticket and attending this event and you could be the lucky winner of an evening for two at Harrah’s Casino, (or the cash value of the evening).

An advertisement was placed in the April/May “STAR” newspaper. You did see it, didn’t you?

Because this is a fundraiser we sure could use donations. Where do you fit in?

1. We need prizes from members.
2. We need prizes from Units.
3. We need prizes from businesses in your local areas.
4. We need members to promote ticket sales.
5. We need members to purchase tickets.
6. We need **volunteers** to make this a fun and successful fundraiser.

The inserts included with this newsletter are:

2009 – 2010 Unit Officers mailing List
Units hold elections of officers in May and June so have this form available at your meeting to fill in and return

Map of detour in Columbus Nebraska
Columbus is hosting the June, 2009 Department Convention, this shows the detour if you are traveling from the north.

POPPY PROCEEDS DONATION SHEET
Please fill out this form and send ½ of your Poppy donation proceeds to Department Headquarters.

