

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## *Serving Veterans, Their Families and Their Communities*

The American Legion Auxiliary enriches the quality of life  
of those we serve and our members.

Department of Nebraska

NOVEMBER 2008 \*\* NEWSLETTER

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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME Piece-by-Piece We Serve Our Veterans for Peace

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Everyone! The Holidays are about upon us. The ghosts and goblins will soon appear. The Thanksgiving Turkey will soon be on the table! The Christmas festivities will begin. We will soon be in the hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping, baking, and etc. Right now harvest is in full swing. I'm writing this in between waiting to give rides to the field. Can't waste time!

The Educational meeting and Homecoming was a success. Thank you to all who took part, and to all who donated to the Junior's. Thank you for the gifts and well wishes. I will always remember your kindness.

Our theme this year is "Piece by Piece, we serve our veterans for peace." Now is the time to start piecing our year together.

One of our pieces is the Children and Youth of our communities. We work for children and youth all year. Now is the time to check with schools. Make sure your projects are on their schedule, including the Americanism Essays, scholarships, Poppy Posters and other projects. Help with activities in your community for the children.

Community Service is an important piece of our projects. Plan now to help with the activities in your town. Adopt a family of someone in the service for Christmas. Help make the holidays special for them.

A lot of you will be working this piece as you hold you're County Governments in the fall. Plan to take part and attend, or help support your youth.

Cavalcade of Memories is a project so easily forgotten. If you haven't already, plan a visit to our Department's Cavalcade in Lincoln. Get some ideas. As the year goes on, you might find something at your Unit that could add to their display. Add to or start your own cavalcade of memories at your post.

Americanism, there are so many pieces of ways to stress Americanism. Order some of the Patriotic Flag books listed in the ABC Book. Present them to a class in school or go into a class and talk to students on flag etiquette and give each student a flag.

Veterans a "big" piece of our projects. We work all year for our Veterans. Veterans Day is coming up; plan a Veterans Day program, or celebration or both. Make plans to attend and help with gift shops. You'll enjoy it as much as the Veterans.

We are always working with Education. We need to stress scholarships available. Encourage participation in the Oratorical Speech Contest on the Constitution, in November. Remember your faculty during Education Week in November in a special way.

Juniors are always a special piece of our projects. Include the junior's in your projects, active or not. Plan a special activity for them during the holidays.

Membership is a piece we can't do without, and can always use new ones. Always carry an application blank in your purse-be ready- you never know when a possible member may appear. Remember, membership is everyone's job. We also all need to help with the Nebraska Life Magazine campaign Feb. to May. Send in your form before Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Music is a fun piece. Don't forget to use music at your meetings. It adds so much if you don't have piano, use tapes or CD's. Plan to enjoy music during the holidays. Use Bonnie's Candle Lighting Service.

Home Service is Helen's piece. The signup sheet for centerpieces or favors still have open spaces. Plan to sign up for some of the spots. Now would be a good time to get a sewing assignment. Be ready when the snow starts to fly and there's more time for projects.

Public Relations are always an important piece. Publicize what you do and let the public know. If you don't, no one will come!! We had a reason to publicize since our Northwest Divisional Vice President, Thelma Fueller and her husband Larry of North Dakota attended our Educational meeting and homecoming. How special this was!! Here are a few pieces for our year. Let's all get busy and use all of these. We can add more later and keep saying "Piece by Piece, we serve our Veterans for peace."

*It takes all the programs to build a quilt*

## **AMERICANISM**

Just a reminder that Americanism is 24/7 (twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week), which means promoting it should be easy. With the upcoming election, your Unit can easily achieve an Americanism project. Members might work at the election polls and others could volunteer to provide a ride for the disabled and elderly to the polling places.

Kids Voting USA is a national project of the Auxiliary. However, Nebraska as a state is not registered. I have not been successful in finding out more information on this project other than Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota have programs in place.

Another project is to promote your community to fly our flag daily; and if not daily, at least on flag-flying holidays (National Election Day—November 4; Marine Corps Day—November 10; Veterans Day—November 11; and Thanksgiving Day—November 27).

Nebraska had a national winner in the Americanism Essay Contest. Amber Himmelberg of Lawrence won in Class V. I hope to share her essay with you some time. A reminder to read your Newsletter and THE STAR to keep abreast of any changes in the information that is made available to you via them and The ABC Book.

**Americanism Chairman, Vicki Ozenbaugh**

**Americanism Youth Conference - Topic: "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants – How America's Veterans have Shaped the World"**

Deadline to this Chairman is December 10, 2008 (see pages 37-38 of the new ABC Book)

## **CHAPLAIN**

Ten of the most powerful words are, "If it is to be it is up to me. We never know what is around the corner for us. And what ever it is we must make the most of it. We can always hope for the best but sometimes we find a stumbling block. This year is a season of change. Don't miss the opportunity to go out and vote. We will have a change and as Auxiliary members it is up to us to encourage everyone to get out and vote. If there is someone who needs a ride be the first to offer it to them. Always remember to support our leaders for our Nation needs all of us to remember we are One Nation under God with Liberty and Justice for all. Our Veterans have given their lives for our freedoms. We must never let them down.

Please remember to send prayers and devotionals for both our Department President's prayer book and our National President's prayer book.

Mail them to me...Bonnie Ericson, 37373 W. Creek Rd, Wallace, Ne 69169

Now is a good time to begin thinking about preparing your Unit Prayer book for District competition. The guidelines are in the 2008 - 2009 ABC Book.

**Department Chaplain, Bonnie Erickson**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Recently I mailed out collection cans for Child Welfare Foundation. If you have not received yours please contact your district president. Our goal this year is \$4.00 per unit. I can already hear you saying "we give more than that", and many of you do. Some of you have already sent yours in to Department. Wonderful! But some of you need a bit of help and perhaps collecting coins at every meeting is the answer. Like "Mikey", try it and see.

I am also making a request for something very dear to my heart and that is CMN. We were issued a challenge at the Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis, for a "special" one-time donation of \$1.00 per active member either during the October meeting or the November meeting. Your district presidents also have that information. Please help me turn a really great report in December, but more importantly, please help the children!!!!!!

Don't forget National Family Week, the week of Thanksgiving. A time for all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

Did You Know?

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals:

- ❖ Provide \$2.5 billion in charity (uncompensated) care each year.
- ❖ Treat 98% of all children needing heart and lung transplants.
- ❖ Treat 88% of all children with cancer.
- ❖ Treat 76% of all children with cystic fibrosis.
- ❖ Treat 90% of all children with sickle cell anemia.
- ❖ Treat 72% of children with pediatric AIDS.
- ❖ Devote 60% of their services to children under age six and 25% to newborns.
- ❖ Train 60% of pediatricians and 80% of all pediatric specialists.
- ❖ Educate families about issues like child safety seats, helmet and bicycle safety.
- ❖ Devote nearly a quarter of their care to newborns, who require the most intensive nursing and medical care of all patients.
- ❖ Treat 6 million children for accident trauma each year.
- ❖ Treat 49,000 children with cancer each year.
- ❖ Treat 45,000 children for heart defects and problems each year.
- ❖ Treat 1,300 children for sickle cell anemia each year.
- Asthma is the leading serious chronic illness among children.
- Cancer is the chief cause of death by disease in children under 15.
- Approximately 123,000 children in the United States have diabetes.
- Congenital heart disease is the most common of all major birth defects.
- On an average day in the U.S. 411 babies are born with a birth defect.
- An estimated 150,000 babies are born each year with birth defects.
- One in five children have a minor chronic illness.
- Almost 80% of children with cancer will survive today due to advances in diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cancer.
- The oldest children's hospital in the U.S. and Canada is The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. It was founded in 1855.

**Children & Youth Chairman, JoAnn Ward**  
**EDUCATION**

How is the "Give 10 to Education" program in your Unit coming along? I'm waiting to hear from your Unit on how you participated.

November 11<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it. Our schools can honor our Veterans in many ways. Arrange to host "Veterans in the Classrooms", as our community school does. Meet with your school officials and the teachers of History or Civics to make this happen. The DVD's "American's Veterans" and "For Which it Stands" are two great teaching tools. Order them from Emblem Sales.

American Education Week – November 16-22, 2008. This is a favorite of the Units according to the annual reports in May. AN easy project is to have your Juniors bake cookies and take them to school lounges with a note of appreciation, or why not have a "Teacher of the Year" award ceremony?

The scholarship applications have been sent to the Unit Presidents and school counselors. Please review the rules carefully and encourage student participation.

**Education Chairman, Shari Luther**

**LEGISLATIVE**

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary stand side by side with the American Legion Family when it comes to supporting the well being of our veterans and their families. Currently S. 1084, the "Homes for Heroes Act" introduced earlier this year would provide shelter for homeless veteran families and help prevent low-income families from falling into homelessness.

This bill is close to being presented to the President for signing. If this bill is not passed before the end of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress the process will need to be started from the beginning in January. Our veterans deserve more. The American Legion Auxiliary supports the passage of S. 1084 and I encourage each of you to contact their senators to support this bill.

Get Out the Vote Campaign President Dwight D Eisenhower said, "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter". Citizens must be reminded that good government is established when concerned citizens participate in the electoral process. With issues like homeland security, veterans' health care, illegal immigration and military readiness, the 2008 election is the historic importance.

**Betty Staal, Legislative Chairman**

**990 E-FILE**

Notice to all Units--- **If you DO NOT want me to attempt to file for your unit call or write to me before December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.** I need the following information:

1. Is the business still active? **yes**
2. Did this business make more than 25, 000? **no**

If your EIN number is correct the process takes me less than one minute to complete.

I have filed for 25 units to date and would enjoy doing all of the Nebraska units.

After I have e-filed you will receive a note in the mail stating the date you filed and I will inform you of what the IRS has on file for your unit's fiscal year. I plan to use the address that this newsletter was mailed to. **Department Secretary, Jacki O'Neill.**  
**Amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions and Recommendations were as follows:**

National Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 amended to read: (Finance) No appointee having served two or more terms on the Committee shall be eligible for reappointment. Persons already appointed who have exceeded the limit shall complete their present term. Five- year terms must be separated by at least two years off the Committee.

National Bylaws, Article IX, Section 3 amended to read: Words changed to read, and shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary ~~National News~~—national magazine.  
Standing Rules, Article IX, Section 3 amended to read: same change as above.

Standing Rule VIII Number 12- "Department Presidents will receive a copy of all Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at each National Convention immediately after said convention. It is the duty of the Department President to see that all Department Officers and Chairmen be advised of these changes.

Girls State Resolution – Many members were concerned about a decision to not hold the Girls State Conference in Indianapolis this fall; and it was resolved that the National American Legion Auxiliary will hold a Girls State Directors meeting every year in the Fall in Indianapolis and the National American Legion Auxiliary will financially support this annual conference beginning in 2009.

Historian Resolution – III. re: Appearance,2. Whereas, Plain white bond paper is not a typical shelf item at office supply stores. Resolved, that Plain white ~~bond~~ paper will be used effective with the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Junior Activities – Correction on the patch colors with the different age groups.

Membership 1 of 2 –Resolved that national send all Senior members the first dues reminder notice no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> each year, to be effective with 2009-2010.

Membership 2 of 2 - Resolved that national refrain from sending the 2nd dues reminder notice until after January 1; and not later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, to be effective with 2009-2010 administrative Auxiliary year.

Poppy 1 of 3 - (submitted by Nebraska) Resolved that the poster competition classification have class V as grades 10 & 11 and class VI as grade 12. 2008-2009.

Poppy 2 of 3 - Resolved that the poppy poster size be reduced to 11 x 14 poster size, This change becomes effective with the 2008-2009 administrative year.

Poppy 3 of 3 - Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee for consideration that a USPS Poppy Stamp be sold at a price higher than face value with proceeds going to benefit specific Veterans Affairs programs.

## **INSERTS**

**Thanksgiving Holiday recipes**

**The Emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary**

**Unit Narrative History Guidelines**

**Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form**

**Information & Donation sheet for Salute-A-Vet (Freedom's Foundation)**

**Sneak preview of the Unit Citation Points available to your Unit this year.**

(Gives your unit a chance to earn a certificate)

**Junior Patch Program and Junior Program Suggestions**

**Americanism Youth Conference Brochure w/ requirements & coversheet**

**Americanism Essay Coversheet** refer to pages37-38 for deadlines and instructions on entering

**Martin Luther King (MLK) - Day of Service Information w/ Project form**  
*Department President will present an award for best reported project on MLK Day for Veterans*