



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

## *Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2017*

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### Leadership

**Vickie Klinkhammer, Department Vice President**

Goal 3 of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan is to develop leadership at all levels. As an American Legion Auxiliary Member and as a Unit, there are many ways that you can achieve this goal. Let us start with you as a member. A great way to build your leadership skills as a member is to volunteer to chair a short-term project for your unit. What might that be you ask? Does your unit have bake sales or other fundraising avenues to raise money for your unit projects that help our veterans and active duty military? Volunteer to head that up! Be in charge!! Make those phone calls to unit members to donate the bake goods, or to come and shop at your fundraising event. Does your unit adopt a family at Christmas time? Offer to go shopping for that family! What about a food drive for your local pantry, especially over the holidays when food pantries get depleted of supplies? Offer to organize that event! Don't sit back and let the same members do everything over and over again. Instead, ask them to be a mentor to you, to work beside you. If you have questions, they will be right there to guide you. Hone in on your particular skill and run with it! Be a leader! You will be glad you took the initiative to volunteer for that particular project.

As for Units, one way officers can help other members to be leaders in your unit is to get to know your members. Help to identify their skills that can be put to use in your unit and as a service to our veterans. Skills can include those with musical or art backgrounds, organizational skills, writers, cooks to work with your kitchen and organize a fundraising luncheon, or bakers to organize a bake sale. I would suggest passing out a sheet during a meeting asking members to write down their interests and hobbies to help identify their skills and strengths. Then use your members! Let their particular skill show that they, too, can be a leader not only for your unit, but as members of The American Legion Auxiliary at all levels.

### Welfare Fund (Poppy Fund):

#### **To Spend or Not To Spend . . . That is the Question**

**Diana Shadduck, Department Parliamentarian**

Now that you have money in your Poppy Fund or Welfare Fund, how can you use the funds? The answers can be found in the American Legion Auxiliary Guide Book, page 78-79:

**Poppy funds (or Welfare Funds) CAN be used for:**

- For the rehabilitation of veterans and welfare of the families of veterans.
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

**Poppy funds of Welfare Funds CANNOT be used for:**

1. Any general operating fund of a department, Unit or Post.
2. Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/ military service member or the welfare of his/her family.
3. General maintenance, beautification or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home.
4. Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.
5. POW/MIA programs.
6. Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
7. Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
8. ALA Girls State/Girls Nation fees.
9. Flags or flagpoles
10. Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military service members or their children, or where the financial need is not evident.
11. Mileage, travel or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person – including ALA members, volunteers and staff — to attend any meeting, conference or event about veterans.
12. Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business. Use of Poppy funds is allowable for care packages only when it is for a welfare need, as opposed to a comfort need, such as first aid topical treatment or vital hygiene items and not comfort/ leisure items such as baked goods or books.

### Junior Activities & Junior Convention

**Mikayla Wicker, Department Junior Activities Chairman  
Kayla396@hotmail.com**

The flaming hearts of our Juniors have been burning with the desire to help our veterans under the leadership of Junior President Josie Houseman. We encourage you to keep your Junior's hearts burning for our veterans by involving them in meetings, activities, projects, and contests. These can be found in the Programs Action Plan on the Auxiliary website.

I am sure our Juniors are busy getting ready for District Junior Conferences as they are right around the corner. Poppy Posters and Poppy Corsages are judged at District Junior Spring Conferences. The winners of the Poppy Posters will need to be sent to Carol Walthart, 28676 Colesburg RD, Colesburg, IA 52035. The winners of the Poppy Corsages will be sent to Mikayla Wicker, 1022 Crest Drive, Creston, IA 50801. The winners will be sent on to Department for

further judging.

Please refer to the Auxiliary website for all deadlines for Junior Contests. By April 30th, I need to receive from all Units all entries for the following contests: Junior Public Relations Award, Unit Award, Department Award, Junior Member of the Year Award, and Poppy Corsages.

Junior Convention will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Chapel Building in the gym at the Newton Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa at the close of Junior Camp. **Call to order will be at 9:30 a.m. with Department Junior President Josie Houseman presiding. Breakfast will be provided for the campers and counselors, but there will be no lunch served on Friday June 9, 2017.** See you at Convention!

Remember to send photos and clippings to Department Junior Historian Hailey Clemons, 210 West Center St. Apt. 12, Conrad, IA 50621, email hailey\_clemons@bcluw.org. Also send prayers and inspirations to Department Junior Chaplain Anna Dolan, 16520 390th St, Strawberry Point, IA 52076, email ddan@edge-cole.k12.ia.us.

If you have any questions, please contact: Mikayla Wicker, 1022 Crest Drive, Creston, IA 50801; 515-468-5217; or Kayla396@hotmail.com.

**www.iowaala.org**

### How is your VA Money Being Spent?

Do you as a member sometimes wonder if the donations are going to the proper VAMC or IVH? We can assure you that the Department office is very good of getting the money you donate to the proper facilities. At the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference the DEC approved these funds to be spent at each of the facilities:

- Omaha - \$545 for monthly birthday cake and \$500 for model and craft kits for the therapy department for a total amount of \$1,045.

- Sioux Falls - \$3236 for a Catricle Trail Bike and accessories for a total amount of \$3,326

- Iowa City - \$250 each for gas cards at Casey's, Hy-Vee and Wal-Mart and \$320 for 10 30-day Iowa City bus passes for a total amount of \$1,070.

- Des Moines - \$1,000 for the Sticks project to be located in the CLC for a total amount of \$1,000.

- IVH - 4 IPads with adapters, HDMI cords & Cases @ \$400.91 for Recreation Therapy for a total of towards a \$1,603.64 with another 4 IPads from the IVH account and over \$5,500 was spent on Gift Shop for a total amount \$8,707.28.

- \$250 for the National President's project

- \$500 for Veterans to go the National Creative Arts Festival

- \$500 - Gold Club - TBA at Department Convention

The total comes to \$15,808.28.

That's amazing because of your donations. The Department of Iowa thanks each and every member that pays their dues!

### What is the Gold Club?

**The Gold Club is an annual giving program which Auxiliary members, friends and family donate \$50.00 or more to become a member. Contributions are distributed at Mid-Winter Conference and used to support the programs of the Auxiliary. If you are not a member, have you considered joining? Gold Club membership is due October 20 of each year. Please send your donation to the Iowa Department Office earmarked "Gold Club." New members receive a special Gold Club pin. Think about joining and helping Auxiliary programs. Thank you.**