



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2016

Page 7

Auxiliary President Sharon Anderson

Acceptance Speech from 2015-2016 Convention



Thank you Past President Lillian for being my installing President. Lillian was Department President from 1995-1996. She was my Department President when I was District President. Over the years we have developed a very special bond. I wanted to say thank you Lillian. Other people I would like to thank and acknowledge are: Martha Foster for being my installing Chaplain & being my friend. Thank you Rhonda Siefering, for being my soloist. You have a beautiful voice & a special thank you to Jackie Burke for filling in as my pianist at the last minute. To Marlene Valentine for all of the endless questions that you have answered for me during this time period.

"Hearts on Fire for Veterans"

Several years ago, some very special friends of mine; Ray and Ann Dutton when they found out that my name had been submitted for Department President, Ann had Ray made me something very special for me to use during my year. Unfortunately Ann passed away last year. At her funeral Ray stopped greeting people and went and got the item he had made & said "Sharon I have something for you" he made me this special gavel to use throughout my year. Thank you to Ray and Ann Dutton.

WOW! Can you believe it! 7 years ago I put my name in to be Department President. I figured, I would probably be dead but here I stand as your Department President. Just a minute.... (PUT ON MY CROWN) so here I am "Queen Department President Sharon" Let's practice our Queen wave." (remove crown) I know we will work hard & have fun this year while we are working our programs and serving our Veterans.

My Theme is: *"Hearts on fire for Veterans"*. I feel everything we do is for our Veterans and to keep the fire burning in all we do. To treat everyone the way we want to be treated & to be open to each other's suggestions and to work as a team.

My favorite songs are: Amazing Grace & God Bless America.

My favorite scriptures are: *"Well done my good & faithful servant. Enter into the kingdom of God."* My second one is John 3:16 & 17: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son. That everyone that believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. The catcher in verse 17 is God did not send His son into the world to condemn it but that the world might be saved through Him."*

My projects are: The Des Moines V.A. & Gold Club.

We need to become familiar with the Blue book & Policy book. We all need a good working knowledge of all of the American Legion Auxiliary programs and Governing Documents.

I know you get tired of hearing about membership but it is one of our most IMPORTANT programs. If we don't have the financial support from the membership dues we CAN NOT support our programs. We need to RENEW & RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. To be extremely proud of our family who made us eligible to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. We need to be ACTIVE volunteers at our unit and the V.A. Hospital's and Veteran's Home in your area and keep us abreast of all their needs so we can advise our membership We have active teen's that can be a great help there.

(ASK RHONDA SIEFERING TO SING: AMAZING GRACE.) Thank you, Rhonda, for sharing your beautiful voice with us.

I hope that anytime you see a veteran that you thank him/her for their service because of their service we have the rights & freedoms that we have today. Some have paid the supreme sacrifice.

This would be a good time to hear; "GOD BLESS THE U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood. Thank you, Lee, for that inspiring song.

I am eligible to be a member through my father, a WWII Army Veteran and my husband Richard; a Vietnam Era Army Veteran. He has been a member 51 years in the Legion. I have been a member for 39 years in my Unit.

I think it is time I introduce my family. This is the love of my life Richard. He is a Past Department Service Officer. I am the youngest of 5 girls. My Sister Doris, who lives in Puyallup WA, is my last living sibling. My Niece Donna Kennedy from Knoxville, Illinois, my oldest daughter is; Kathy & her Husband Jeff. Their children are; Kate & her boyfriend Jacob from Arizona and Ashley, son's Mike and Levi. Levi is currently in basic training at Fort Jackson right now. Our youngest daughter is Kim, her daughter Emily & son Aaron. Then we have Richard's Son's; Scott & Lynn and his wife Mindy and their children Laina, Justin, Therish and Harley. We have 10 grandchildren & welcomed our first Great Grandchild; Jeremiah in April. So this is our clan! We are very proud of our family! Most all of them are in the Legion Family Do any of you have something to say? Guess not.

I am very proud to be serving as your Department President. God Bless our troops. God Bless America, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L) & the American Legion Riders. I wish much success to the American Legion Family this year.

You are invited to a reception on Sunday September 25th from 2-4. it will be held at my Post & Unit; Baldwin Patterson American Legion #274 at 2211 E. 42nd Street in Des Moines, IA. Cake and ice cream, punch, coffee, mints and nuts will be provided. Hope to see you all there.

I am sorry that I did not have members of my unit Baldwin Patterson # 274, Des Moines and all members of Sixth District stand up. Without your love, friendship and guidance, I would not be standing here today. Thanks to all of you.

Your Department President, Sharon

2016 - 2017 Obligations

All Obligations, Poppy Orders and Gold Club Membership are due to the Iowa Department Office October 20, 2016.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Mary Jo McLaughlin, Department AEF Chairman
marymlaughlin@iowatelecom.net

Members helping members during an emergency is the purpose of this fund. Begun in 1969 by ALA member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin, it is able to continue today only through your generous donations. With the many fires, floods, tornados, etc. striking our members we need to show them we care. I am asking each unit to contribute \$1.00 per member or \$50.00 per Unit to this fund. **Send the check to the Department Office earmarked Auxiliary Emergency Fund.** Last year's National Goal was \$232,500 but in the year 2013, \$550,000 was given out to help members. You can see how your contribution is desperately needed to keep this program going strong to assist our members.

Our main purpose is to help our veterans but if we were hit with a disaster we would not be able to help them. Let's give to this fund to enable members who have been struck with a disaster to get back on their feet with this temporary emergency assistance. We are a caring organization and we need to show all members that we care about them when an emergency strikes.

Education

Sue Schlitter, Department Education Chairman

For some, Fall is their favorite time of year....cooler temps, beautiful colorful leaves, hot apple cider. For others, it means back to school and back to the comfortable routines. Schools have started and as always, teachers and students alike can use our help.

In the National Plan of Action, there are many ideas of ways we can all take part in the Education program. The nice part is, it lists suggestions for the Department, the Unit, AND the individual! Such wonderful ideas that can be a jumping-off point for your own plans and activities. There are ideas on how to create a local scholarship or merit award. This is the time to start working on that fund-raising. A few dollars here and there add up quickly! Go to www.ALAFORVeterans.org and click on "members only" at the top. It will ask you to create an account (you will need your Auxiliary membership number) and then you can read the entire National Plan of Action. If you don't have computer access, contact me and I will be happy to send the Education ideas to you.

Get all the scholarship information to the school's guidance office. Check the Plan of Action or the Department website for the list that the Auxiliary gives. They are also listed in your Blue Book. Students need to plan ahead and they will be able to see if there are requirements they need to fulfill.

One of the easiest ways to take part is to **"Give 10 to Education"** - donate items in groups of 10 to your local schools. Kids are always losing pencils, and crayons break. Look for sales and stock up. Items needed include, pencils, pens, erasers, glue, glue sticks, notebooks, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, etc. Or check with a teacher and see what they could use most.

As you are doing these things, jot them down on your calendar or in a notebook so end-of-year reporting will be easier. Keep track of your time, money spent, and the activity. Please let me know if I can help you with information. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHARON'S RECEPTION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RECEPTION HONORING
PRESIDENT SHARON ANDERSON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

BALDWIN PATTERSON POST #274
2211 EAST 42ND STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50317

CAKE AND ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED