



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

## Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2016

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### Auxiliary President Tammy - Installation Address



Tammy Wright  
2015 - 2016



Hello American Legion Auxiliary Stars! Is it spring yet? Thank you for all you do as we continue "Honoring our Veterans – Past, Present and Future!" I have been to Mission Training in Bloomington, MN; National Convention in Baltimore, MD; Story County Meeting, 5th, 2nd and 1st District Meetings, and toured the Iowa Veterans Home. Bruce and I were in Eldridge and Waverly for a very well done Veterans Day Dinner. I spent Veterans Day in casinos . . . Prairie Meadows for the Legion Vets of Valor Radiothon and later that night Riverside Casino for a Veterans Day banquet. (No, I didn't win!) Bruce and I went to Keystone for their meeting and soup supper and we participated in the Iowa Public Television's Telethon featuring Quilts of Valor. I joined the Johnson County American Legion Auxiliary for the Iowa City VAMC Christmas Party, went to the Quilts of Valor Retreat in Lone Rock. Commander Jim and I attended the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve Open House in Iowa City, the Iowa Home Show at the State Fairgrounds and attended a luncheon to honor our Department Junior Auxiliary President, Constance (C C) Schlitter where she received a "Service Above Self" award from the Rotary. We're so proud of how she is representing Iowa this year! I was spotted at Legislative Day at the State Capitol as well as Midwinter Conference and as I type, suitcases are getting repacked for the Washington, D. C. conference. I appreciate all of the hospitality that has been shown to me and my traveling companions.

As I write, Iowa still leads the nation in membership, however, we NEED your help in order to continue! Really ladies, I beg of you to work membership! If you don't who will? If we don't keep our organization strong and vital, who will be here to take care of our veterans in the future? We need to make goal so the plans that are being made for the Red Carpet Gala at Department Convention will come to fruition!

Special thanks to all who made Midwinter Convention a great success! Your committee chairmen and committee members did an outstanding job presenting their programs and sharing their knowledge. I hope that you got a lot out of it and if you weren't able to attend, I hope those who did attend will share their experience. I hope you all had an uneventful trip home, enjoyed Diva Day, the breakout sessions, all of our great speakers, the Poker Walk and all that Midwinter had to offer. Our National Executive Director/Secretary Dubbie Buckler gave a presentation that focused on how we need to work toward not just getting members, but keeping them and how we need to foster a spirit of good will always remembering why we joined and what our great organization represents. Remember that it is not about us, it's about THEM, those who have served our great country, who are serving and those who have yet to take the oath. We need to keep our organization strong so we are here into the future to continue "Honoring Our Veterans – Past, Present and Future!" We also had our National Central Division Vice President Lynda Lancaster with us from West Virginia. It was a great honor to have these two guests with us. Please refer often to our website, our Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for ideas and suggestions.

We look forward to our National President, Sharon Conatser of Illinois, joining us in April as we travel from Omaha to Iowa City touring our veterans' facilities. Watch the website for her itinerary as it gets finalized so you can visit her if she is in your neighborhood. A big thank you to all who have supported the 2015-2016 theme and projects this year, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and the Iowa American Legion Foundation. We need to keep working on good communication within our organization and our Legion Family, sharing knowledge all while enjoying each other and a little fun too. We have inherited a wonderful legacy, it's up to us to carry it forward. Thank you for all that you do!

### Jr. Camp

Kathy Wilkerson, Junior Camp Director

Be your own kind of STAR and make plans now to attend the 2016 Junior Camp at the Christian Conference Center, Newton. **Junior STARS** (aka Junior Auxiliary members) ages 8-18 are eligible. Arrival/check-in will be Sunday evening, June 5. Camp will end with the close of Department Junior Convention, Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Registered campers will receive a letter after the middle of May with more specifics including what to pack and what to leave at home. Updates will be communicated via the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary website and/or the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Junior Camp Facebook page.

Monetary contributions to support crafts and other special camp projects and speakers are ALWAYS welcome! Any District, County, Unit or Individual contribution is greatly appreciated. Make your **rock star** donation directly to Department Office earmarked Iowa Junior Auxiliary Camp (4403).

Camper registration is now available online. The link may be found in the forms section or on the Junior Camp page of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa website, [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org). After registering online please send the \$125 camp fee directly to Department Office along with the completed 2016 parental waiver form. At the time of this article writing the correct parental waiver form can be found on the Junior Camp page, please do not use the 2015 form found in the forms section. Reminder - Camp registration is not complete until the camp fee and parental waiver are received at Department. Don't delay; deadline for camper registration is April 1, 2016. Counselor/staff registration is also available online in the forms section or on the Junior Camp page. Please note: the counselor/staff registration deadline is March 15. So get your applications filled out and mark your calendars for a **STAR** filled fun week of Junior Camp June 5 - 10, 2016.

### THANK YOU

*I would like to thank the Iowa American Legion Family for the hospitality extended to me you Mid-Winter Conference. Thank you Secretary Marlene, President Tammy, NEC Ann and my two escorts Michele and Fran for the courtesies and hospitality given me.*

*My delayed flight that was to leave on Monday at 5 a.m. finally left five hours later. I got home late Monday evening.*

*It was a pleasure meeting the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary and Family. I enjoyed my visit and seeing first-hand what you are doing! Keep up the great work. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. It's truly an honor and blessing.*

Lynda Lancaster  
Central Division National Vice President

### Children and Youth

Mary Sypherd,  
Department Chairman

Well just got home from the Mid-Winter conference. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Children and Youth breakout session. I think it was a great success. I hope everyone has positive feedback.

We had a lot of interesting stories about what the Units have done for their Youth.

Central Division Children and Youth chairman; Jacquelynn Boughner and National Children and Youth chairman; Kathy Dungan congratulated us on 100% reporting. Great job.

Remember we need to support ALL the Legion family programs. We have Girls state, promote boys state and junior camp.

Promote oratorical contest. Star spangled kids, supporting military children, 5th grade essay, flag education, all scholarships, youth hero award and the good deed award.

So keep track of everything you do for our children, send to me; the deadline is April 30th 2016. But if you do something and would like to send to me sooner that would be great.

Looking forward to seeing you at the summer convention.

Our children are our future, the shining stars of tomorrow.

*To all Units and Posts that have paid for a girl to go to Girls State: You still have to register online at [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org). Go to 'forms' and 'Girls State' 2016 Unit registration. Click on link.*

## Auxiliary Membership Standings

<u>Standing</u>	<u>Members/Percentage</u>	<u>District</u>
First Place	2,340 76.20%	Eighth District
Second Place	2,669 76.06%	Ninth District
Third Place	3,665 77.53%	Sixth District
Fourth Place	3,258 77.74%	Fifth District
Fifth Place	1,687 78.43%	Second District
Sixth Place	2,262 72.83%	Fourth District
Seventh Place	2,003 77.43%	Seventh District
Eighth Place	2,409 78.91%	First District
Ninth Place	3,166 76.67%	Third District
Department Totals: 23,677 76.67%		



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### Quilts of Valor

**Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director**

Quilts of Valor was showcased during a recent taping of the National Public Television's Winter Friends of Public Television Festival, scheduled to air on IPTV in March, with the Iowa Legion Family accepting phone pledges.

The annual Quilts of Valor Foundation conference will be held on May 24-25, 2016 at the Iowa Events Center followed by the America Quilts Expo in support of Quilts of Valor on May 26-28, 2016. During this five day span, 50 quilts will be awarded to veterans.

"It will be a time to honor service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor," said Executive Director, Ann Rehbein.



**A Quilt of Valor was awarded to Earl Jacobson of Menlo, Iowa, on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2015, during a beautiful award ceremony at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky. The ceremony marked the closing of the Quilts of Valor display which had hung there since August. Earl is a 58-year member of Fontanelle Post #247 in Menlo. He was joined by his two sons for the ceremony, along with Executive Director Ann Rehbein (far left), and PNC Dave Rehbein, Iowa Foundation President.**

### 2015 - 2016 Obligations

All Units, Counties, and Districts sending in monies for donations, memorials, etc. please note on the check the Unit number or corresponding County or District. Believe it or not there are checks coming in that it is not apparent on the check. To get credit for your Unit properly we need to know this information! Do not staple or tape checks onto any form.

The following are still on our list of not paid obligations as of today. They cannot be a viable Unit if Obligations are not paid and membership not sent in. These obligations were due October 20. Units amounts vary. Questions – call Traci at the Department Office – 515-282-7987. Thank you.

- District 1 #309 Mechanicsville**
- District 2 #259 Wyoming**
- District 3 #304 Eagle Grove, #370 Goldfield, #523 Dows**
- District 5 #340 Mystic, #541 Ellston**
- District 6 #260 Slater**
- District 7 #117 Corning, #210 Anita, #314 Persia, #556 Carson**
- District 8 #383 Kiron, #90 Algona**
- District 9 #115 Storm Lake, #367 Linn Grove, #64 Sioux City**

### From the National Auxiliary President . . .

At this time in the Auxiliary year, there should be no units with zero membership for the 2016 membership year. Every unit should have some membership turned in. However, our numerous phone calls revealed that there are several units who have not yet transmitted any dues for 2016.

We had expected that there would be an influx of members paid after the last renewal notice went out. But this week's comparison report

shows that we are approximately 13,000 behind last year.

Every department and unit with access to ALAMIS can pull a "2016 Unpaid Dues Roster" or a "2016 Unit Unpaid Dues Roster" at any time to see who has not yet paid their 2016 membership dues. We encourage departments and units to use the resources made available to reach out to those units that are struggling and to the individual members who have not yet renewed.

At this time we feel personal contact works the best. Remind units of who we are, what we do and why we matter!

If there is anything we can do to help, we are just a phone call away, willing to help in any way we can.

We appreciate everything that you have done so far and are continuing to do in promoting membership for this great organization!

### Chaplain's Corner

**Vickie Klinkhammer  
Department Auxiliary Chaplain**

#### *'Let Tomorrow Take Care of Itself'*

Spring and Summer are fast approaching; District conferences will soon be here. Junior Camp and Girls State will be close behind and on its heels will be Department Convention. We will worry that there is not enough time to get all the work done for each of these events. We will worry about tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow.....

**Matthew 6:34.** "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (I would also advise going back and reading verses 25-33).

As I thought more and more and pondered on this passage, I realized that I don't worry about tomorrow as much as most people do as they age. I have been of the mindset that what will be will be, God holds my future in his hands. Sure, I have a 5 year plan, goals in life that I still want to achieve, but I am not worried that these plans or goals may change along the way. I worry enough just to get through each day as it comes for as we all know, tomorrow never arrives, with each new day, it is today. I feel this was God's way of

telling us "DON'T WORRY!"

**Philippians 4: 6-7** states "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **READ** verse 6 again: "**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**"

When each new day arrives with its own troubles, you can be sure that God is listening to our pleas for help. This not only holds true for us as individuals but also as we work for The American Legion Auxiliary. God is listening as we ask for help in supporting our veterans and active duty military.

At the time of this writing, I have received just a small supply of Prayers and Inspirations for President Tammy's book. I know we can do better than this. Everyone is capable of writing down a prayer that is special to them. What about your favorite Bible Passage? Write these words down, be creative when

doing so such as fancy lettering, decorative paper, clipart, anything that might correspond with that passage, make it special coming from you.

Is there a special poet you admire? Find some words or inspirations from their works that inspires you and pass it on. Have you put together a special memorial service? Send that memorial program/service on to me and I can incorporate that service in President Tammy's book. So many ideas are out there. Use the internet or google ideas and let's make this the best Prayers and Inspirations book to show President Tammy what her year has meant to us. District Chaplains remember to send me names of those deceased members from your District with all the required information. As for the Chaplain contests, deadline is April 30, 2016. Please see the Plan of Action for all the rules!

God Bless us and our country as we foremost Honor God and secondly as we Honor our Veterans, Past, Present, and Future.

### Coupon Clipping?

**Susan Selk  
Department Auxiliary National Security Chairman**

Coupon clipping – if your units are clipping coupons, be aware that a lot of the military commissaries are no longer accepting paper coupons and they are using electronic coupons instead.

You can still cut and mail coupons and a lot of units are still doing just that. Just make sure you validate that the commissary they are sending to still accepts them. We had heard reports that units had received their boxes back with a not so nice letter – and we don't want anyone wasting their money and/or time.

Here are websites that you can find commissaries that are still collecting – **just check your addresses before you send your packages out.**

<http://www.military-money-matters.com/expired-coupons.html#axzz3svZg2raA>

<http://grocerycouponsforfree.org/military.html>

<http://www.grocerysavings.com/p/military-family.html>



### Auxiliary Emergency Fund

When a tornado or other disaster hits, we see firsthand the devastation that it can bring. Unit members helping unit members is what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is all about – that uplifting action so desperately needed during a low moment.

National President Sharon Conatser has set a goal of raising \$232,500 fundraising goal for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Your donation will not only help, but also provide hope to a member in need.



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### Membership

*Shooting for the Moon . . . Land Among the Stars!*

**Kim Dixon** (kj Dixon@mahaska.org or 641-660-8220)  
**Dawn Aberle** (wwnme2@msn.com or 319-213-1018)  
**Mary Bryan** (m vb9855@aol.com or 319-981-1265)

Greetings Iowa All Stars! It was fantastic seeing you at the Mid Winter conference in Des Moines. Hopefully all the predictions those crazy wizards made at Mid Winter will come true!

Congratulations to all of the units who reached the incentives and to those individuals who have already turned in those Rejoin 1, Recruit 1, Recruit 10, and Silver Brigade award forms. Units there is still plenty of

time to attain that 105% award by June 14, 2016 for department and 102% by July 30, 2016 for National. Members you too have plenty of time to get in those National incentive forms for the great merchandise by May 1, 2016 and to the department by May 31, 2016 for the Star For A Day Contest.

And we as a Department still have plenty of time to reach goal at which time the membership team and

Department of Iowa will be throwing a Red Carpet Gala at convention in Coralville. It can be done!! All it takes is each and every one of us sharing our story with someone we think may be eligible to join. Few people say no when they know who we are, what we do, and why we matter!

Keep Shooting For The Moon, You'll be sure to Land Among The Stars . . . . Your Membership Team



### Junior Activities

**Donna Flewelling, Department Chairman**

#### Call to Department of Iowa Junior Convention

Mid-winter Conference is over so spring is in the air and the stars of Iowa are shining bright. With Spring comes District Conferences and the Department of Iowa Junior Convention. The Junior Convention will be on Friday, June 10, 2016 at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa at the close of Junior Camp. Department of Iowa Honorary Junior President, Constance Schlitter, will be presiding the convention and would like to remind you to bring your Junior scrapbooks to the convention for judging. Follow the rules in the plan of action or locate them on the department website at iowaala.org.

Send your pictures and newspaper clippings about your junior activities to the Junior Historian, Anna Dolan, 16520 390<sup>th</sup> St., Strawberry Point. IA 52076, Dolanan@edge-cole.k12.ia.us. Send your prayers and inspirations to the Junior Chaplain, Mary Seehusen, 50382 160<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pocahontas, IA 50574, rdseehusen@gmail.com. Mary and Anna will make scrapbooks for Department Junior President, Constance, but they need your help! Don't forget to put names and activities on your pictures. My travels this spring will take me to the 5<sup>th</sup> District Junior Conference at Lorimor on March 5 and Iowa City on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the 1<sup>st</sup> District Conference. March 13 is the date for two conferences, 4<sup>th</sup> District in Calmar, and 8<sup>th</sup> District in Varina. As other juniors get their plans made I'm sure other dates will be filled in.

Remember to report your Junior Activities to me. Use email vs snail mail when sending me your activities. Be sure to have all your narratives sent to the correct program chair by April 30, 2016. Don't forget the cover sheet! Without a cover sheet they can't be considered for a national award. I will accept entries for the best overall junior activities, joining our juniors, junior member of the year, and the million member award. Include your cover sheet and email me at flewcake@wiatel.net or snail mail Donna Flewelling, 1241 Hancock Ave., Merville IA 51039.

How many Juniors are working on the patch program? Remember to send your completed sheets to me so I will have the patches in time to hand out at the Junior Convention. Increase the junior membership in your units, engage them in all your programs, encourage their participation in service projects for the legionnaires and veterans, and increase the awareness of the scholarships available. Remember the juniors are the Future of the American Legion Auxiliary.

### \* \* \* \* \* Calendar of Events \* \* \* \* \*

#### MARCH

**March 15, 2016** – All National Scholarship Applications are due in the Department Office

#### APRIL

**April 1** – Jr Camp fee and application (**\$125.00**) due in office – late checks and applications will not be accepted

**April 1** – Junior Camp and Girls State Counselor applications must be in – form on website under forms

**April 30** – 2016-2017 District, County, and Junior Officers forms due in the Department Office

**April 30** – Impact Reports due to County President.

**NOTE: All Unit Narrative Reports are to be sent to the appropriate Department Chairman for their reports and awards. These reports must be sent in to the appropriate Chairman by the deadline or they WILL NOT be considered for judging. DO NOT send narratives to the Department Office. No Impact reports are accepted at the Department Office except for the 9 District Presidents.**

**April 30** – Last day to request a refund for Junior Camp or Girls State. Must use request form online.

#### MAY

**May 20** – Department Convention Delegates/Alternates Form, Unit Officer Form, and other material needed to begin the new administrative year mailed to Unit Presidents from the Department Office

**May 30** – Memorial Day, Department Headquarters Office is closed

#### JUNE

**June 1** – Iowa Merit Award application packets due to the Department Education Chairman Jackie Burk

**June 5** – Poppy Proceeds check and report due in the Department Office

**June 5-10** – Junior Camp, Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

**June 10** – Department Junior Convention, Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

**June 12-17** – Iowa Girls State at Drake University, Des Moines, IA (note change in location and date)

**June 17** – Girls State Inauguration at Drake University, Des Moines, IA

**June 15** – National Convention Delegates/Alternates/Guests/Hotel forms due in Department Office

**June 15** – Top three top narratives chosen by Department Chairmen due to Department President

**June 15** – Suggested Governing Document changes due to Marilyn Block. Copies of suggestions are to be sent to the Department Office attention Marlene Valentine

#### JULY

**July 1** – Department Convention Delegates/Alternates forms due in Department Office

**July 1** – 2016-2017 Unit Officers form due in the Department Office

**July 14-17** – Department Convention, Coralville, IA - Installation of new officers

**Please note: Many forms were in the Unit/County/District Packets distributed at Department/District/County Leadership Workshops held in August 2015. Do not call the office if you don't have the proper forms as they were in the packets you should have picked up when attending the appropriate Leadership Workshop. Check out the ALA Communique in the center of your Iowa Legionnaire for more valuable Auxiliary information. The Iowa Legionnaire and the ALA Communique will cover three months. Also check out our website: Programs and form information will be found on the website. All deadlines are firm! www.iowaala.org.**



**New Auxiliary Website  
(Effective February 12, 2016)**

**www.iowaala.org**

**Shop at AmazonSmile  
and Amazon will make  
a donation to:**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Foundation Inc**





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## Education: Helping Military Children with Educational Opportunities

**Ann Rehbein,**  
National Auxiliary Education Vice Chairman

Children of military servicemen and women make many sacrifices as their parents serve on active duty. Their lives are uprooted, and they are often separated for long periods of time. Finding financial aid can be an added stress.

The good news is that in-state tuition is now available in some states for servicemembers' children who couldn't get these lower rates before, and a once-a-year travel benefit is available for some students with military parents assigned outside the continental United States.

The American Legion will be publishing an Education Development Guide which has many resources available. Look for it soon!

In the meantime, the following sources can be used to inform and help children of the military find financial aid.

**Pell Grant** - This federal grant does not need to be repaid, and the award amount varies based on a number of factors. The most important of which is a student's income to cost of attendance ratio. For 2015-2016, the maximum award amount is \$5,775. <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>.

**Post-9/11 GI Bill** - This complex but extremely worthwhile program allows servicemembers on duty after September 10, 2001, to receive money to cover most tuition, fees, books, and living expenses at state colleges and universities. An applicant for this program should work with a veteran service officer and/or a given school's VA administrator to apply for and receive benefits. In some cases, these benefits may be passed to qualifying spouses and children.\*\*

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\\_gibill.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp).

**Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry Scholarship** - also known as the Fry Scholarship. This program grants the surviving children and spouses of deceased servicemembers to receive up to 36 months of education benefits at the 100-percent level. As with the GI Bill, these benefits should be explored and applied for with the assistance of a VSO or VA administrator.

\*\*A servicemember must make elections to pass on their benefits to a dependent after meeting a certain time-in-service mark. See the Fry Scholarship homepage for more information.

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry\\_scholarship.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf)

Many programs require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form ([www.fafsa.educationconnection.com](http://www.fafsa.educationconnection.com)).

Families also may find helpful information at FinAid: The SmartStudent@Guide to Financial Aid ([www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)) and Scholarshiphelp.org.

Collegescholarships.org offers a comprehensive review of college scholarship websites.

Several scholarships focus on military children. They include scholarships sponsored by:

- Air Force Aid Society. The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program gives grants to children of active duty Air Force members, as well as some Reservists and retirees. Grants are need-based. See Air Force Aid Society ([www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)).

- Army Emergency Relief. The MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund offers scholarships for children of

active duty Soldiers, retirees, or those who died in service. These scholarships can be used for undergraduate studies, vocational training, or to help a student prepare to enter a military academy. See Army Emergency Relief ([www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org))

- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The Vice Admiral E.P. Travers Scholarship and Loan program provides financial aid to children and spouses of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines. There are also scholarships for the children of those killed in action. See Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society ([www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org))

- Scholarships for military children. Every commissary gives at least one scholarship. The scholarships of at least \$1,500 per student are supported by the companies that sell goods to the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). See Scholarships for Military Children ([www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org))

- Last month's e-bulletin included available American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, so rather than repeat that information, please see below under additional resources for link to those.

Additional resources:

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships: ([www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships](http://www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships)) Department of Education Student Aid on the Web ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)).

<http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/E0EDF61B/Military-Children-Education-Benefits/> [http://www.militaryonesource.mil/k-12-and-college-education?content\\_id=268720](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/k-12-and-college-education?content_id=268720).

## Mission & Vision

### Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

### Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

## What We Do

Our members do incredible work. On average, each year, they...

- Help nearly 3 million veterans
- Contribute \$36 million toward veterans and military families
- Volunteer 9.3 million hours to support veterans programs
- Contribute more than \$2 million to programs benefitting children and youth
- Volunteer 630,000 hours for active-duty military

## Why We Matter

The 2014 estimated value of one hour of volunteer service is \$23.07, according to the Independent Sector, a coalition of charities, foundations, and corporations that publishes research important to the nonprofit sector. **American Legion Auxiliary members have volunteered more than 10 million hours for a collective value of service to our veterans, servicemembers, and their families of more than \$3.1 billion.** That's quite a global impact, and a powerful number that accentuates who we are, what we do, and why we matter!



## Advocating for Veterans

*Every day, hundreds of thousands of service members are fighting for our freedom across the globe. At the Auxiliary, we never stop thinking about what they face while deployed and what they will need when they return home. As advocates for our veterans, we encourage our members to contact their elected officials by phone, email, or letter to implore them to keep the needs and sacrifices of our military and their families front and center as they go about their legislative work on behalf of their constituents – that's all of us!*

*The American Legion Auxiliary supports the legislative priorities adopted by The American Legion. The American Legion's Legislative Division in Washington, D.C., keeps abreast of current legislation related to veterans' benefits, national security, and children and youth. Auxiliary members are encouraged to subscribe to the Legion's legislative ebulletins to keep the Legion Family aware of legislative issues and the official positions of The American Legion on those issues.*

*Each year, the Auxiliary convenes its Washington DC Conference in conjunction with The American Legion's annual meeting in our nation's capital to review The American Legion's legislative priorities and advise members how to be better advocates for those issues with their own state's legislators. Armed with information and enthusiasm, Auxiliary members take to the Hill to make their voices heard. The Legislative Program periodically provides members with specific reasons to contact their legislators and provides them with summaries about issues of importance to our veterans.*